

Deuteronomy 5:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.

Analysis

The people's confession 'the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness' acknowledges theophany as divine self-revelation. The Hebrew 'kavod' (glory) signifies God's weighty, majestic presence. The phrase 'we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire' validates that God speaks, establishing verbal revelation as primary means of knowing Him. The observation 'we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth' demonstrates that divine encounter doesn't automatically destroy—God can communicate without consuming. This prefigures the Incarnation where God speaks definitively through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Historical Context

The Sinai revelation circa 1446 BC was unprecedented—God speaking audibly to an entire nation. This distinguished Israel from all nations whose deities communicated through omens, dreams, or oracles. Israel heard God's actual voice proclaiming the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Moses later reminded Israel that no other nation experienced such direct divine communication (Deuteronomy 4:32-34). This unique revelation established Israel as covenant people possessing God's authoritative Word.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse establish verbal, propositional revelation as the primary means by which God makes Himself known?
2. What does the possibility of hearing God's voice 'and living' teach about His gracious condescension in communicating with sinful humanity?

Interlinear Text

כָּבֵד	וְ	אַתָּה	אֱלֹהִים	כִּי	יְתַאַמֵּר	אֵלֶיךָ
And ye said	H2005	hath shewed	Behold the LORD	our God	H853	us his glory
H559		H7200	H3068	H430		H3519
וְאֵת	גָּדוֹלָה	וְאֵת	קָלָה	שְׁמָעָנָה	מִתְּוֹךְ	
H853	and his greatness	H853	his voice	and we have heard	out of the midst	
	H1433		H6963	H8085		H8432
בְּאֵשׁ	בְּהַיְם	בְּהַזָּה	בְּאֵינוֹ	כִּי	יְדַבֵּר	אַתָּה
of the fire	this day	H2088	hath shewed	H3588	doth talk	our God
H784	H3117		H7200		H1696	H854
בְּאֵד	בְּאֵד					
with man	and he liveth					
H120	H2425					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:19 (References God): And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Deuteronomy 4:33 (References God): Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?

Exodus 33:20 (Parallel theme): And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

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