

Exodus 16:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

Analysis

As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept—The phrase 'before the Testimony' (לִפְנֵי הָעֵדוּת, lifnei ha'edut) refers to the tablets of law that will be placed in the Ark. Manna joins the law as 'testimony' to God's character—law reveals His holiness, manna reveals His provision. Aaron's obedience ('as the LORD commanded') contrasts with earlier disobedience (golden calf). The manna's placement with the law tablets shows provision and precept together: God commands obedience but also supplies sustenance. This pairing prefigures grace and truth coming through Christ (John 1:17). The memorial manna testifies against future generations who doubt God's faithfulness.

Historical Context

This storage occurred after Tabernacle construction, though mentioned here proleptically. The Ark containing manna, Aaron's rod, and law tablets became Israel's holiest object.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does manna placed beside the law tablets teach about grace accompanying precept?
2. How does preserved manna 'testify' against unbelief in future generations?

Interlinear Text

כָּאֵשׁ רַ	צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֵל	מֹשֶׁה	וַיִּטֵּה הוּא	אֶהָרַן	לִפְנֵי י
H834	commanded	As the LORD	H413	Moses	laid it up	so Aaron	before
	H6680	H3068		H4872	H3240	H175	H6440
הָעֵדֻת	לְמִשְׁמֶרֶת:						
the Testimony	to be kept						
H5715	H4931						

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 27:21 (Witness): In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

Exodus 25:21 (Witness): And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

Exodus 25:16 (Witness): And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

Exodus 40:20 (Witness): And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:

Numbers 17:10 (Witness): And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.

Exodus 30:36 (Witness): And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

Exodus 31:18 (Witness): And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Exodus 30:6 (Witness): And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.