

Exodus 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings.

Analysis

Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings—Aaron's call to 'come near' (בָּקַר, qarav) before YHWH is not invitation to intimacy but summons to stand before divine judgment tempered by mercy. Their murmurings have been 'heard' not because they are righteous complaints but because God chooses to respond with provision rather than wrath. This anticipates the greater priesthood where Christ brings rebellious people 'near' to God through His blood (Eph 2:13). The congregation must face God before receiving His gift, learning that divine presence both exposes sin and provides grace.

Historical Context

Aaron's priestly role begins to emerge before formal consecration at Sinai. His invitation to 'come near' uses priestly language that will later define his office.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does 'coming near' to God both expose our sin and reveal His grace?
2. What does God hearing our murmurings teach about His attentiveness even to unfaithful prayers?

Interlinear Text

כָּל אֶל אֶמְרֶת אֶל מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת אָמֵר רְאֵבָר |
Say And Moses unto Aaron Say Come near before the LORD
H559 H4872 H413 H175 H559 H413 H3605
עַדְתָּךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל קָרְבָּנִי לְפָנֵי הָיְהִי |
unto all the congregation of the children of Israel Come near before the LORD
H5712 H1121 H3478 H7126 H6440 H3068
כִּי שָׁמַע אַתָּה תְּלִבְתִּיכֶם: שְׁמַע עֲלֵיכֶם |
for he hath heard your murmurings H8085 H853 H8519

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 16:16 (References Lord): And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, to tomorrow:

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