

# 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

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**Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings**—Aaron's call to 'come near' (קָרַב, 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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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אָמַר	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל	אַהֲרֹן	אָמַר	אֶל	כָּל
Say	And Moses	H413	unto Aaron	Say	H413	H3605
H559	H4872		H175	H559		
עֲדַת	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	קִרְבִּי	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	
unto all the congregation	of the children	of Israel	Come near	before	the LORD	
H5712	H1121	H3478	H7126	H6440	H3068	
כִּי	שָׁמַע	אֵת	תִּלְוֹתֵיכֶם:			
H3588	for he hath heard	H853	your murmurings			
	H8085		H8519			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 morrow: