

Exodus 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the LORD delivered them.

Analysis

And Moses told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake—Moses' testimony focuses on what 'the LORD had done'—attributing glory to God, not himself. The comprehensive scope ('all that the LORD had done') and specific elements (Pharaoh, Egyptians, 'for Israel's sake') shows detailed recounting of redemptive history. The phrase 'all the travail that had come upon them by the way' includes hardships, not just victories, giving honest account. The conclusion 'and how the LORD delivered them' (וַיַּצִּילֵם יְהוָה, vayatzzilem YHWH) emphasizes divine rescue. This testimony models evangelism: recount what God has done, acknowledge difficulties, emphasize His deliverance. Moses tells redemption story before giving law, showing salvation precedes obedience.

Historical Context

This testimony likely included the ten plagues, Red Sea crossing, manna provision, water from rock, and Amalek victory—a comprehensive salvation history covering approximately one year.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' testimony attributing all to 'the LORD' model proper glory-giving in recounting God's works?
2. What does including 'travail' alongside victories teach about honest testimony versus triumphalism?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּסֶפַּר	מֹשֶׁה	לְחַתָּנוֹ	אֵת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה
told	And Moses	his father in law				had done
H5608	H4872	H2859	H853	H3605	H834	H6213
<hr/>						
יְהוָה:	לְפָנֵי הַ	וּלְמִצְרַיִם	עַל	אֹדֶת	לְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל
all that the LORD	unto Pharaoh	and to the Egyptians		sake		for Israel's
H3068	H6547	H4714	H5921	H182		H3478
<hr/>						
כָּל	הַתְּלָאָה	אֲשֶׁר	מָצָא תָם	בְּדֶרֶךְ		
	and all the travail		that had come	upon them by the way		
H853	H3605	H834	H4672	H1870		
<hr/>						
וַיֹּצִילֵם	יְהוָה:					
delivered	all that the LORD					
H5337	H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 81:7 (Parallel theme): Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. Selah.

Psalms 107:2 (References Lord): Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

Psalms 106:10 (Parallel theme): And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

Nehemiah 9:32 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

Numbers 20:14 (References Moses): And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us: