

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' (וַיָּצַא, vayatzzem 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

עָשָׂה הָאָשֶׁר רִיסָּפָת מִשְׁהָוּ לְתַנְנָוּ כָל אַתָּה אָשָׂר הָאָשֶׁר
told And Moses his father in law H853 H3605 H834 had done H6213

וְשַׁבָּא לְאָזְדָת עַל לְפָרָעַה הַיְהוָה וְלִמְצָבֵם H5921 sake H182 for Israel's H3478

כָל אֲתָה בְּתַלְאָה אָשָׂר מִצְאָתָם H4672 בְּדַקְתָּה
H853 H3605 and all the travail H834 that had come H1870 upon them by the way

וְהִנֵּה תָאַל מִלְּדָבָר
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:

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