

Exodus 19:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

Analysis

And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

The 'third day' pattern appears throughout redemptive history: Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:4), Israel's preparation here, Hosea's prophecy (Hosea 6:2), Jonah in the fish, Christ's resurrection—the third day marks divine intervention and new beginnings. God 'coming down' (תָּרַד, yered) reverses Babel's presumption (humans going up to make a name); here God descends in grace to establish His name and covenant. The descent happens 'in the sight of all the people'—this isn't mystical experience for the elite but public revelation witnessed by 600,000+ men plus women and children. God's self-disclosure to Israel is empirically verifiable, grounding faith in historical event, not subjective feeling.

Historical Context

The 'third day' motif carries resurrection significance, though its full meaning wouldn't be clear until Christ. Mount Sinai becomes the stage for the most dramatic theophany in human history, witnessed by potentially two million people.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of the 'third day' pattern throughout biblical history?
2. How does God's public descent before all Israel differ from mystical or private religious experiences?

Interlinear Text

הַשְׁלֵשׁ	בַּיּוֹם	כִּי	הַשְׁלֵשׁ	בַּיּוֹם	נְכַנֵּם	בַּיּוֹם	וְבַיּוֹם
H1961	And be ready	day	against the third	H3588	day	against the third	
	H3559	H3117	H7992		H3117		H7992
will come down	the LORD	in the sight	כל	לְעֵינֵי	יהִנֵּה	הַעֲלֵמָה	עַל ר
H3381	H3068	H5869	H3605			H5921	H2022

סינן:

Sinai

H5514

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:5 (References Lord): And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

Exodus 19:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

Deuteronomy 33:2 (Sin): And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.

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