

Exodus 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

Analysis

There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

Even the executioner cannot touch the violator—the contamination is so severe that stoning or shooting from distance is required. The impartiality ('beast or man') shows holiness violations transcend intent—even an unwitting animal crossing the boundary dies. This underscores holiness as objective reality, not subjective feeling. The extended trumpet blast (תְּרִבּוֹל, hayovel) signals when boundaries lift—God Himself determines when approach is safe. The trumpet connects to the ram's horn (yovel = jubilee), pointing forward to ultimate liberation. When Christ the Mediator comes, the trumpet sounds and we CAN approach—but only through Him.

Historical Context

The severity of these measures is unprecedented in ancient covenant ceremonies. The use of rams' horns (shofars) for sacred announcements becomes a lasting feature of Israelite worship and eschatological imagery (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why must even animals that touch the mountain die—what does this teach about holiness?
2. How does the trumpet blast that permits approach to the mountain foreshadow gospel access to God?

Interlinear Text

לֹא תִתְגַּע בְּ אֶת־
H3808 touch H0 There shall not an hand H3027
H5060 H3588 be stoned H5619 H5619 H176
or

וְאִלּוּ הַ
shot shot or whether it be beast or man H3808 it shall not live
H3384 H3384 H518 H929 H518 H376 H2421

בָּמָשָׁר
soundeth long when the trumpet H1992
H4900 H3104 H5927 H2022
they shall come up to the mount

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:20 (Parallel theme): (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

Exodus 19:19 (Parallel theme): And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

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.

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