

Exodus 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

Analysis

And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

Moses descends to consecrate—the mediator applies God's requirements to the people. His back-and-forth movement (up to God, down to people) dramatizes mediation: he brings God's words down and carries people's needs up. 'Sanctified the people' (שָׁמַדְדָּשׁ, vayqaddesh) shows mediated holiness—Moses, having been with God, makes others holy through transmitted instruction. The people's clothes-washing obeys verse 10's command—they participate in their own consecration. Sanctification involves both divine initiative (Moses sanctifies them) and human response (they wash). The pattern holds: God provides grace, we respond in obedience.

Historical Context

Moses' mediatorial role is unique in the ancient world—he's neither king nor priest yet functions as prophet, mediator, and lawgiver. His person prefigures Christ who perfectly combines all three offices.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' movement between God and people illustrate the nature of mediation?
2. In what ways does sanctification involve both divine action and human response?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּלֶךְ	מֹשֶׁה	מִן	רֶכֶב	אֶל	בָּעֵם	יְקִדּוּשׁ
went down	And Moses	H4480	from the mount	H413	the people	and sanctified
H3381	H4872		H2022		H5971	H6942
אֲתָה	בָּעֵם	יְכַבֵּשׁ	שְׁמַלְתָּמִים:			
H853	the people	and they washed	their clothes	H8071		
	H5971	H3526				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:10 (References Moses): And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

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