

Exodus 19:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

God insists on Moses' descent and return with Aaron—this isn't busywork but establishing Aaron's role as co-mediator and future high priest. Moses must 'come up' (בִּלְטָא, ve'alita) with Aaron—the partnership begins here. The warning is reiterated with threatening verb 'break forth' (יִפְרוֹץ, yifrotz)—God may 'burst out' against presumption. Three groups are distinguished: Moses (unique access), Aaron (priestly access), priests/people (restricted access). The gradations of holiness (most holy place, holy place, court, camp) that will structure the tabernacle are here spatially depicted on the mountain. Access corresponds to consecration; intimacy requires purity.

Historical Context

Aaron's inclusion here foreshadows his appointment as high priest (Exodus 28). The command structure establishes the mediatorial hierarchy that will govern Israelite worship—Moses supreme, Aaron priestly, people separated by degrees of holiness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why does God require Aaron to accompany Moses this time when Moses previously ascended alone?
2. How do the different levels of access (Moses, Aaron, priests, people) prefigure the tabernacle's structure?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר said H559	אֵל יוֹ H413	יְהוָה And the LORD H3068	לָךְ H1980	רֵד get thee down H3381	לָעֹלָת and thou shalt come up H5927
אֶת־הָ H859	אֶהְרֹן thou and Aaron H175	עִמָּךְ H5973	וְהַכֹּהֲנִים with thee but let not the priests H3548	וְהָעָם and the people H5971	
אֶל־ H408	יִקְרַס וְ break through H2040	לָעֹלָת and thou shalt come up H5927	אֶל־ H413	יְהוָה And the LORD H3068	פֶּן־ H6435
יִפְרָץ lest he break forth H6555	בָּם: H0				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 12:29 (Parallel theme): For our God is a consuming fire.

