

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' (עַלְעַל, ve'alita) with Aaron—the partnership begins here. The warning is reiterated with threatening verb 'break forth' (יִפְרֹץ, 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

לְעֹלָת	לְגַעַת	לְגַעַת	לְעֹלָת	לְעֹלָת
said	And the LORD	get thee down	and thou shalt come up	
H413	H3068	H1980	H3381	H5927
H559				
אַתָּה	אַתָּה	עַתָּה	וְפָקַדְתָּ	וְפָעַלְתָּ
thou and Aaron		with thee but let not the priests	and the people	
H859	H175	H5973	H3548	H5971
אַל	לְעֹלָת	אַל	יְהֹוָה	פָּנָים
break through	and thou shalt come up	H413	And the LORD	H6435
H408	H2040	H5927	H3068	
בְּמַ	אִפְּרָץ			
lest he break forth		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.

