

Exodus 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

Analysis

And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

Moses ascends as mediator between God and people—foreshadowing Christ's superior mediation. The dual naming 'house of Jacob' and 'children of Israel' is deliberate: Jacob represents their natural descent from the trickster-turned-patriarch, while Israel recalls Jacob's wrestling and transformation. God addresses both their origins (Jacob) and their destiny (Israel). The mountain becomes the meeting point—Moses climbing up while God calls down, establishing the pattern of divine-human covenant engagement where God initiates and man responds.

Historical Context

This is Moses' first of many ascents up Mount Sinai during the covenant-making process. Ancient Near Eastern treaties often involved mountain settings as witnesses, but here the mountain itself is the site of divine presence.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God use both 'Jacob' and 'Israel' to address the people, and what does this reveal about their identity?
2. How does Moses' role as mediator prefigure Christ's superior priesthood (Hebrews 3:1-6)?

Interlinear Text

מִן יְהוָה אֶל יְהוָה וּמִשְׁנָה
And Moses went up H413 unto God called H413 and the LORD H4480

בְּרַכְתָּא מְרַאַת כָּה
unto him out of the mountain Thus shalt thou say H3541 Thus shalt thou say H559

לְבֵית יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה
to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel H3478

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:4 (References God): And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

Acts 7:38 (Parallel theme): This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: