

Exodus 19:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

Analysis

And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

Moses faithfully transmits God's words without addition or subtraction—modeling prophetic fidelity. The phrase 'laid before their faces' (וַיִּשֶׂם לְפָנֵיהֶם, *vayasem lifneihem*) suggests formal presentation, like laying out treaty terms for ratification. The elders represent the people in covenant deliberation—this isn't autocratic imposition but covenant partnership where God proposes and His people respond. Moses mediates revelation downward (from God to people) and will soon mediate response upward (from people to God), anticipating Christ's perfect two-way mediation.

Historical Context

The involvement of elders reflects ancient Near Eastern covenant-making practices where tribal leaders represented their people in treaty negotiations. This participatory structure shows God honoring human agency within His sovereign initiative.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why does God involve human representatives (elders) rather than announcing His covenant unilaterally?
2. How does Moses' faithful transmission of God's words challenge modern communicators of Scripture?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא	וַיָּבֹא	וַיָּבֹא	וַיָּבֹא	וַיָּבֹא	וַיָּבֹא
came	And Moses	and called	for the elders	of the people	and laid
H935	H4872	H7121	H2205	H5971	H7760
לְפָנֵיהֶם	לְפָנֵיהֶם	לְפָנֵיהֶם	לְפָנֵיהֶם	לְפָנֵיהֶם	לְפָנֵיהֶם
before their faces			all these words		commanded
H6440	H853	H3605	H1697	H428	H834
וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר
which the LORD					
H3068					