

Exodus 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

Analysis

And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known (וַיֹּאמֶר מִי שָׂמְךָ לְאִישׁ־שָׁר וְשֹׁפֵט עָלֵינוּ, vayomer mi samkha le'ish-sar veshofet aleinu)—The Hebrew's challenge cuts deep: **Who made thee a prince and a judge?** Moses has no delegated authority, only self-appointed intervention. Stephen later cites this rejection (Acts 7:27-28, 35), showing Israel's pattern of rejecting God's deliverers until He validates them. **Intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?**—the secret is out. **Moses feared** (וַיִּיכָר, vayira)—now Moses fears man rather than acting courageously. **Surely this thing is known**—discovery brings consequences (v. 15).

Historical Context

The question "Who made thee a prince and judge?" anticipates Moses' later divine commission (3:10-12). What Moses attempted through human zeal, God would accomplish through supernatural calling. The 40-year gap between this rejection and Moses' return (Acts 7:30) represents God's patient preparation of His chosen deliverer.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Hebrew's challenge expose the difference between self-appointed mission and divine calling?
2. When has your premature attempt to serve God resulted in rejection, and how did God use that to prepare you for later effectiveness?

Interlinear Text

עַל יְנוֹ	וְשֹׁפֵט	שֶׁ רַ	לֹא יֵשׁ	שׁוֹמֵר	מִי וַיֹּאמֶר רַ
H5921	H8199	H8269	H376	H7760	H4310
and a judge		a prince	thee	Who made	And he said
					H559
אֶת	הֵכַל גִּתִּי	כָּאֲשֶׁר רַ	וַיֹּאמֶר רַ	אֶת הֵ	הֵכַל גִּתִּי
H853	H2026	H834	H559	H859	H2026
me as thou killedst		me as thou killedst	And he said		me as thou killedst
					H4713
הַדָּבָר:	נוֹדָע	אֲכִי	וַיֹּאמֶר רַ	מֹשֶׁה	וַיִּירָא
H1697	H3045	H403	H559	H4872	H3372
this thing	is known	Surely	And he said	And Moses	the Egyptian

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:14 (Judgment): And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

Matthew 21:23 (Parallel theme): And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Proverbs 19:12 (Judgment): The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

Genesis 19:9 (Judgment): And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

Luke 19:14 (Parallel theme): But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

Acts 7:35 (Judgment): This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

Genesis 13:8 (Parallel theme): And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

Numbers 16:3 (References Moses): And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

Numbers 16:13 (Parallel theme): Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?