

Exodus 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Analysis

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them (וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲשֶׂה אֱלֹהִים) vayar Elohim et-benei Yisra'el vayeda Elohim)—**God looked** (רָא, ra'ah) with attentive, compassionate regard, not mere observation. **Had respect unto them** (וַיַּעֲדַע, vayeda, lit. "and God knew") conveys intimate, covenant knowledge—not information but relationship (cf. Genesis 4:1, Amos 3:2). Some translations render this "God took notice" or "God knew [their condition]." This concludes chapter 2's movement from Moses' preparation to God's initiative. The stage is set for chapter 3's burning bush—God will now act to deliver His people through the man He's been preparing for 80 years.

Historical Context

Chapter 2 spans approximately 80 years from Moses' birth to the eve of his call. The chapter's structure shows God's hidden providence: preserving Moses through infancy, preparing him through Egyptian education, humbling him through exile, settling him through marriage, and positioning him through shepherding near Horeb (3:1). Every detail serves God's redemptive purpose.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'looking upon' and 'knowing' Israel encourage you that He sees your suffering and will act in His perfect timing?
2. What does this chapter's emphasis on God's initiative (hearing, remembering, looking, knowing) teach about the source and nature of redemption?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים: וְיְהִי רָא
וְיְהִי רָא אֱלֹהִים: וְיְהִי רָא
looked And God H853 upon the children of Israel had respect And God
H7200 H430 H1121 H3478 H3045 H430

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 4:31 (References Israel): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Psalms 55:22 (Parallel theme): Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Psalms 1:6 (References God): For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Luke 1:25 (Parallel theme): Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

2 Samuel 16:12 (Parallel theme): It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

Matthew 7:23 (Parallel theme): And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Job 33:27 (Parallel theme): He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

1 Samuel 1:11 (Parallel theme): And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and

not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

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