

Exodus 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

Analysis

And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him (וְתַתְצֹב אֶחָתוֹת) — **His sister** (later identified as Miriam, 15:20) positions herself to observe and act. **Stood** (יָצַב, yatsav) suggests watchful readiness, not passive waiting. **Afar off** (מֵרָחוֹק, merachok) indicates strategic distance—close enough to intervene, far enough to appear inconspicuous. **To wit** (לִדְעָה, lede'ah, "to know") shows intentional intelligence-gathering. Miriam's courage and quick thinking (v. 7-8) will prove crucial to God's plan. This brief verse reveals character: the sister who guards Moses in infancy will lead worship after his greatest triumph (15:20-21).

Historical Context

Young girls were less threatening to Egyptian authorities and could move more freely than adults. Miriam's presence suggests family planning—someone must be ready to retrieve the ark or intervene if needed. Her later role as prophetess (15:20, Micah 6:4) begins with this childhood courage.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Miriam's watchful positioning teach about being ready to act when God provides opportunities?
2. In what situations has God called you to be present and observant, trusting He will show you when and how to intervene?

Interlinear Text

בְּ	עָשָׂה	הַ	מָה	לְדֹעַ הַ	מִרְחָה כְּ	אֶחָת וּ	וּמְתָא בּ	לְ
stood	And his sister	afar off	to wit	H4100		what would be done		H0
H3320	H269	H7350	H3045			H6213		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:59 (Parallel theme): And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amram Aaron and Moses, and Miriam their sister.

Exodus 15:20 (Parallel theme): And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Micah 6:4 (Parallel theme): For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

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