

Exodus 20:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God spake all these words, saying,

Analysis

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The simplicity is majestic—'God spake' (בֹּאָה יְהֹוָה, vayedabber Elohim). Not Moses' interpretation, not human philosophy, but direct divine speech. The name 'Elohim' (God) emphasizes transcendent power—the Creator addresses His creatures. 'All these words' (כל פְּנָזְבָּרִים הַאֱלֹהִים) refers to the Decalogue about to be spoken—the Ten Words (not 'commandments' in Hebrew). These words have unmediated authority; they come directly from God's mouth to Israel's ears. Jesus later declares not one 'jot or tittle' shall pass from the law (Matthew 5:18)—the precision of divine speech demands corresponding precision in human obedience.

Historical Context

The Ten Commandments form the covenant core, the summary of God's moral will. Unlike the surrounding laws mediated through Moses, these words God spoke directly to all Israel—unique in biblical revelation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of God speaking directly to all Israel rather than through Moses alone?
2. How does knowing these are God's direct words (not human wisdom) affect their authority over your life?

Interlinear Text

לִאמְרָה בָּא לְהָ פָּזְבָּר יִם יְהִידָּה רַ
spake And God H853 H3605 all these words H1697 saying H559

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:22 (Word): These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

Deuteronomy 5:4 (Parallel theme): The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,

Deuteronomy 4:36 (Word): Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou hearest his words out of the midst of the fire.