

# Exodus 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.

## Analysis

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**And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.**

Covenant ratification begins with graded access: Moses, Aaron and sons (Nadab, Abihu), seventy elders—but all worship 'afar off' (רֵרֶחֶת, merachok). Only Moses will approach closer (v. 2). The seventy elders represent the nation in covenant witnessing. Nadab and Abihu's later rebellion (Leviticus 10) shows proximity to God doesn't guarantee godliness. The elders see God's glory (v. 10) yet maintain distance—awe and access coexist. The New Covenant removes distance—we approach the throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:16), but reverence remains.

## Historical Context

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The seventy elders (likely tribal and family heads) represent Israel in covenant ratification. Their witnessing role legally validates the covenant. Nadab and Abihu were Aaron's oldest sons, presumptive heirs to high priesthood.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does the graded access (Moses, Aaron/sons, elders, people) teach about holiness levels in the Old Covenant?
2. How does the New Covenant change access to God while maintaining the need for reverence?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל מֶלֶךְ הָאָמֵן אֶל עַל הַיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
unto Moses And he said Come up unto the LORD H859  
H413 H4872 H559 H413 H3068 H859

וְאַבְרָהָן נָדָב וְאַבִּיָּה וְנָצָר וְשְׁבַע יָם מִזְרָחָן לְיִשְׂרָאֵל  
and Aaron Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel H3478  
H175 H5070 H30 H7657 H2205 H3478

מִרְחָק וְהַשְׁתִּיחַת וְאַרְבָּה  
and worship ye afar off H7350  
H7812

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 11:16** (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

**Exodus 6:23** (Parallel theme): And Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife; and she bare him Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

**Exodus 19:24** (References Lord): And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests

and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

**Exodus 28:1** (References Israel): And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

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