

Exodus 24:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

God summons Moses higher and longer—'be there' (וְהָיָה־שָׁם, veheyeh-sham) suggests extended stay. God will give stone tablets (לְחֹת הָאֲבָנִים, luchot ha'even)—permanent, imperishable record. 'Law and commandments which I have written' (הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוֹת אֲשֶׁר כָּתַבְתִּי, hatorah vehammitzvah asher katavti)—God Himself writes, not Moses. The ten words are literally inscribed by God's finger (31:18, Deuteronomy 9:10). Purpose: 'that thou mayest teach them'—Moses receives revelation to transmit. The stone tablets endure (until Moses breaks them, 32:19); the written word outlasts oral tradition.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern law codes were often inscribed on stone (like Hammurabi's stele). God's stone tablets signified permanence and divine origin. Moses' extended time on the mountain (40 days, v. 18) creates crisis below (golden calf, ch. 32).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does God write the law on stone rather than leaving oral tradition—what does written revelation accomplish?
2. How does God writing with His own finger emphasize the law's divine origin?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֵל	מֹשֶׁה	עָלֵה	אֵלַי	קָהָה
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	Come up	H413	to me into the mount
H559	H3068		H4872	H5927		H2022
וְהָיָה	שָׁם	וְאָתָנָה		לָב	אֶת	לַחֲתָת
H1961	H8033	and be there and I will give		H0	H853	thee tables
		H5414				H3871
						of stone
						H68
וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	אֲשֶׁר	כָּתַבְתִּי			
and a law	and commandments	H834	which I have written			
H8451	H4687		H3789			
לְהוֹרֹתָם:						
that thou mayest teach						
H3384						

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.

Exodus 31:18 (References Moses): And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Hebrews 9:4 (Parallel theme): Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Jeremiah 31:33 (Word): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 3:3 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Exodus 24:18 (References Moses): And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24:15 (References Moses): And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

Exodus 24:2 (References Lord): And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.

2 Corinthians 3:7 (References Moses): But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

Deuteronomy 4:14 (References Lord): And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.