

Exodus 24:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

Analysis

And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

Moses takes Joshua (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, Yehoshua, 'YHWH saves')—his assistant and eventual successor. Joshua climbs partway but doesn't enter the cloud (v. 15-18 shows Moses alone in glory). This begins Joshua's preparation for leadership—he observes Moses' intimacy with God. Joshua later meets the Commander of the LORD's army (Joshua 5:13-15)—his own divine encounter. The 'mount of God' (הר, ha'Elohim) designation shows Sinai's sacred status. Mountains repeatedly serve as divine encounter sites: Moriah (Abraham), Sinai (Moses), Carmel (Elijah), Transfiguration (Jesus). Mountaintops signify meeting between heaven and earth.

Historical Context

Joshua served as Moses' aide from Egypt through wilderness to Canaan's conquest. His presence here begins training for future leadership. Joshua means 'YHWH saves,' the Hebrew equivalent of Greek 'Jesus'—both deliver God's people.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does Moses bring Joshua partway up the mountain—what leadership training does this provide?
2. How do mountaintop encounters with God throughout Scripture reveal God's pattern of revelation?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 33:11 (References Moses): And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Numbers 11:28 (References Moses): And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

Exodus 3:1 (References God): Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.