

Exodus 24:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

Analysis

And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

Moses ascends alone into the cloud—the cloud of God's presence (עַנְנָה, anan) that both reveals and conceals. The cloud 'covered' (וַיָּקַח, vayekhas) the mountain—enveloping it in glory. Inside the cloud, Moses meets God face to face (33:11). The cloud imagery runs throughout the Pentateuch: pillar of cloud leading Israel, cloud covering tabernacle, Shekinah glory filling the temple. Jesus is transfigured in a cloud (Luke 9:34-35); He ascends in a cloud (Acts 1:9); He'll return in clouds (Revelation 1:7). The cloud marks divine presence—both comforting (God is near) and terrifying (He's consuming fire within).

Historical Context

Clouds in ancient Near Eastern religions symbolized deity. Israel's cloud was unique—not a god but the veil of God's glory. The cloud both attracted (visible presence) and repelled (unapproachable glory).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God manifest in a cloud—what does the cloud both reveal and conceal?
2. How does cloud imagery throughout Scripture (Sinai, tabernacle, transfiguration, ascension, return) signify God's presence?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַל	מֵשֶׁה	אֶל	בְּרֵרָה:	יָכְרֹב	וְיָכְרֹב	וְיָכְרֹב	אֶת
went up	And Moses	H413	into the mount	covered	and a cloud		H853
H5927	H4872		H2022	H3680	H6051		

בְּרֵרָה:
into the mount
H2022

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:9 (References Moses): And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

Matthew 17:5 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Exodus 19:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

2 Chronicles 6:1 (Parallel theme): Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

