

Exodus 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

Moses enters 'the midst of the cloud' (בְּתוֹךְ הָעָנָן, betokh he'anan)—into the fire the people saw. He survives forty days and nights without food or water (Deuteronomy 9:9)—supernaturally sustained. Forty is the number of testing: rain for forty days/nights (Noah), Israel wanders forty years, Elijah fasts forty days, Jesus fasts forty days. Moses' forty-day absence creates crisis below—Israel makes the golden calf (ch. 32). His prolonged intimacy with God contrasts their impatient idolatry. The forty days produce the law and tabernacle plans—comprehensive revelation requiring extended communion. Transformation takes time in God's presence.

Historical Context

Moses' two forty-day periods on Sinai (24:18 and 34:28) frame the golden calf apostasy. The forty-day duration reappears throughout redemptive history as a period of testing and preparation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Moses need forty days and nights with God—what does extended time in His presence accomplish?
2. How does Moses' forty-day intimacy with God contrast with Israel's impatient idolatry below?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּלֶךְ א	מֹשֶׁה	בְּתוֹךְ	הָעָנָן	וַיַּעַל	אֵלָיו
went	And Moses	into the midst	of the cloud	and gat him up	H413
H935	H4872	H8432	H6051	H5927	
בְּהָרַ	יְהוָה	מֹשֶׁה	בְּהָרַ	וְאַרְבָּעַ	יָמִים
into the mount	H1961	And Moses	into the mount	and forty	days
H2022		H4872	H2022	H705	H3117
וְאַרְבָּעַ	לַיְלָה:				
and forty	nights				
H705	H3915				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:9 (Parallel theme): When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:

Exodus 34:28 (Parallel theme): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Deuteronomy 10:10 (Parallel theme): And I stayed in the mount, according to the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also, and the LORD would not destroy thee.

Deuteronomy 9:25 (Parallel theme): Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

Deuteronomy 9:18 (Parallel theme): And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

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