

Exodus 24:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:

Analysis

Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel;

After covenant ratification, the representatives ascend—Moses, Aaron, his two oldest sons, and seventy elders (74 total). This fulfills verse 1's command. They climb to see God (v. 10), an unprecedented privilege. The number seventy reappears throughout Scripture: seventy nations (Genesis 10), seventy in Jacob's family entering Egypt (Exodus 1:5), Jesus sends seventy disciples (Luke 10:1). Seventy represents completeness, fullness—these elders comprehensively represent Israel. Their witness validates covenant ratification—multiple credible witnesses confirm the event.

Historical Context

Seventy elders likely included tribal heads and family patriarchs. The Sanhedrin (Jewish ruling council) later numbered seventy (plus the high priest), possibly based on this precedent. Multiple witnesses ensured legal validity.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does God allow seventy elders (not just Moses) to see Him—what does multiple witnesses accomplish?
2. How does the number seventy throughout Scripture symbolize completeness or fullness?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַל	מֹשֶׁה	וְאַהֲרֹן	נָדָב	וְאַבִּיהוּ	וְשִׁבְעִים	מִזִּקְנֵי
Then went up	Moses	and Aaron	Nadab	and Abihu	and seventy	of the elders
H5927	H4872	H175	H5070	H30	H7657	H2205
יִשְׂרָאֵל:						
of Israel						
H3478						

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