

Exodus 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Analysis

And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain (וַיֹּאמֶר פָּנָא הָיָה עַפְرֹת וְזַהַלְךָ בְּקָאוֹת כִּי) —God's answer shifts focus from Moses to divine presence: **I will be with thee** (אֶהָּיָה עֲמָךְ, ehyeh immakh). The verb **I will be** (אֶהָּיָה) is the same as in the divine name (v. 14). God's presence is Moses' sufficiency. The **token** (תְּוִיֵּן, ot, "sign"): **ye shall serve God upon this mountain**—after the Exodus, Israel will worship here (Exodus 19-24). This unusual sign (fulfilled after the mission) requires faith—Moses must trust God's promise before seeing its fulfillment. The purpose of deliverance: **serve God** (עֲבֹד, avad), not mere political freedom but covenant worship.

Historical Context

The sign's fulfillment came at Sinai (Exodus 19:1-2) when Israel camped at this mountain and received the Law. God's promise that they would worship here sustained Moses through the difficult confrontations with Pharaoh. The emphasis on worship as deliverance's goal establishes that the Exodus wasn't humanitarian rescue but covenant formation—God delivered Israel to bring them into relationship with Himself.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise 'I will be with you' address your feelings of inadequacy for His calling more than self-improvement or skill development could?
2. What does the future-oriented sign teach about faith that trusts God's promise before seeing evidence?

Interlinear Text

לֹבֶן יְהוָה עַמּוֹנָה אֲהֵי הַכִּי וְאָמַר
And he said unto thee that H1961 H5973 H2088 H0
H559 H3588

בָּאַ וְתָ	כִּי	אָנֹכִ
Certainly I will be with thee and this shall be a token unto thee that		H595

שְׁלַחַת יְה	בְּהַזְיָאָב	אֶת	בְּנָם	מִמִּצְרָיִם
I have sent	thee When thou hast brought forth	H853	the people	out of Egypt

בְּהַר עַל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ תַּעֲבֹד אַתָּה יְהוָה תְּבִרְכֵנִי
upon this mountain serve you shall H5647 H5921 H2022 H2088 H430 H5647

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:5 (Parallel theme): There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Romans 8:31 (References God): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Deuteronomy 31:23 (Parallel theme): And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.

Genesis 31:3 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

Exodus 4:15 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

Exodus 4:12 (Parallel theme): Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 11:21 (Parallel theme): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.