

Exodus 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Analysis

Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנָכִי אֱלֹהִי אָבִיךְ אֱלֹהִים אֲלֹהִי אַצְפָּק וְאֱלֹהִי יַעֲקֹב וְפַתַּח מֹשֶׁה פָּנָיו כִּי) vayomer anokhi Elohei avikha Elohei Avraham Elohei Yitschak vElohei Ya'akov vayaster Mosheh panav ki yare mehabit el-ha'Elohim)—**I am the God of thy father**—God identifies Himself through covenant relationship. The threefold repetition **God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob** emphasizes covenant continuity (cf. Matthew 22:32). Jesus uses this verse to prove the resurrection—the living God is God of the living. **Moses hid his face**—(פָּתַח פָּנָיו) reverential fear replaces curiosity. **Afraid to look upon God** acknowledges the ancient belief that seeing God meant death (Exodus 33:20, Judges 6:22-23). Moses' fear demonstrates proper response to theophany—awe, reverence, and holy fear.

Historical Context

God's self-identification through the patriarchs anchors Moses' call in redemptive history. The covenant promises to Abraham (Genesis 12, 15, 17), reiterated to Isaac (Genesis 26:3-4) and Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15), are now being fulfilled through Moses. This continuity shows God's faithfulness across generations and prepares Moses to lead Israel in covenant relationship with YHWH.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's self-revelation as 'God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob' assure you of His faithfulness to covenant promises?
2. What does Moses' hiding his face teach about the balance between intimate relationship with God and reverent fear of His holiness?

Interlinear Text

Moreover he said	H559	אַנְכִּי	בָּאֱלֹהִים:	אָבִיךָ	בָּאֱלֹהִים:	אָבִיךָ	מִבָּאֱלֹהִים:	אָבָה	מִבָּאֱלֹהִים:
	H595	H430	H1	H430	H430	H85			
I am the God	H430	of Isaac	H3327	I am the God	of Jacob	H430	hid	And Moses	his face
H430	H3327	H430	H3290	H5641	H4872	H6440			
for he was afraid	H3588	to look	H3372	אֶל	מִתְבָּבֵט	H413	I am the God		
				אָל	מִתְבָּבֵט	H430			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 22:32 (References God): I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Luke 20:37 (References God): Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Mark 12:26 (References God): And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

Exodus 4:5 (References God): That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

Acts 7:32 (References God): Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

Genesis 28:13 (References God): And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

Revelation 1:17 (Parallel theme): And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

1 Kings 18:36 (References God): And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Judges 13:22 (References God): And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

Psalms 132:2 (References God): How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob;