

Exodus 32:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Analysis

Moses' stand at the **gate of the camp** (sha'ar hamachaneh, שער המחנה) created a decision point. His cry **Who is on the Lord's side?** (mi l'ihyu al, מִי לִיהְיוֹ אֶל) forced binary choice—there's no neutrality regarding God. The response 'all the sons of Levi' (kol-benei Levi, כָל-בָנֵי לֵבִי) showed the Levites' collective loyalty. Their immediate gathering (elav, אֶלָיו) demonstrated decisive commitment. This separation prefigures God's consistent call to His people: be separate from the world's rebellion (2 Cor 6:14-18).

Historical Context

The Levites' loyalty here earned them the priesthood (Deut 33:8-11). Their willingness to execute judgment even on family members demonstrated covenant love exceeding natural affection—precisely what Jesus later required (Matt 10:37).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'gates' in your life demand you declare whose side you're on?
2. How does true loyalty to God sometimes require separation from even close relationships?

Interlinear Text

מִן־לֵבֶן אָמַר בְּפָמָתָן הַמִּשְׁעָם דָּמֶשֶׁק
stood Then Moses in the gate of the camp and said H4310

לִיהְיוֹת הַלְּבָנִי אֶל־יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוָה
Who is on the LORD'S gathered H413 H413 H3605

בְּנֵי לֵבֶן
side let him come unto me And all the sons of Levi
H1121 H3878

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:32 (Parallel theme): And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.

Matthew 12:30 (Parallel theme): He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Joshua 5:13 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

2 Samuel 20:11 (Parallel theme): And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab.

