

Exodus 33:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

Analysis

And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people—Moses' intercession begins with honest wrestling. He points out the tension: God commands him to lead but hasn't guaranteed His presence ('thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me'). Moses refuses to accept leadership without divine presence. The phrase 'I know thee by name' (יְדַעַתִּיךְ בְּשָׁם, yedatikha veshem) indicates personal, intimate knowledge, not mere awareness. Moses boldly appeals to God's own testimony of their relationship, demonstrating that prayer can include candid reasoning with God when motivated by His glory.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern names carried deep significance, representing character and destiny. God knowing Moses 'by name' indicated personal relationship and chosen purpose, contrasting with the distant angelic guidance initially offered.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Do you bring honest questions and tensions to God in prayer, or do you assume He wants superficial compliance?
2. How does Moses' confidence in God's personal knowledge of him embolden your own prayer life?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר מֹשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה יְהוָה רְאֵה אָמַר רְתָבָת
said And Moses H413 unto the LORD See H859 said
H559 H4872 H3068 H7200 H559

אַל יְבִרְאֵל אֶל בְּעֵל אֶת בָּעֵם בְּעֵם הַבָּעֵם אֶת אֶתְּנָה אֶת אֶתְּנָה יְדַעַת יְבִרְאֵל לֹא אֶאָמַר
H413 unto me Bring up H853 this people H2088 H859 H3808 I know
H5927 H5971 H3045

אֶת אֶתְּנָה אֶת אֶתְּנָה יְדַעַת יְבִרְאֵל אֶל תְּשַׁלֵּחַ אֶשְׁר אֶת
H853 H834 whom thou wilt send H7971 H5973 H859 said I know
H3045

בְּעֵינֵךְ בְּשָׁם מֵצָא אֶת יְגִמְלָה
thee by name H1571 and thou hast also found H4672 grace in my sight
H8034 H2580 H5869

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 33:17 (Grace): And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Jeremiah 1:5 (Parallel theme): Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Isaiah 43:1 (References Lord): But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Exodus 32:34 (Parallel theme): Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

Genesis 18:19 (References Lord): For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

2 Timothy 2:19 (References Lord): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Exodus 33:1 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:

Exodus 3:10 (Parallel theme): Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Psalms 1:6 (References Lord): For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.