

Exodus 33:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken—Complete victory for intercession! God grants Moses' request, explicitly citing two reasons: 'thou hast found grace in my sight' and 'I know thee by name.' Grace (יָחַן, chen) is unmerited favor, while being known by name indicates intimate, personal relationship. Moses' bold intercession succeeded not through manipulation but through relationship. This demonstrates prayer's power when aligned with God's glory and grounded in grace. The phrase 'this thing also' shows God delighting to exceed requests for those who seek His face.

Historical Context

This affirmation comes after Moses' sustained intercession through chapters 32-33. God's willingness to change His stated intention (33:3) demonstrates that intercessory prayer genuinely affects divine action within His sovereign plan.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that prayer works through relationship, not technique, change your approach to intercession?
2. What does God's response teach about His desire to be moved by the prayers of those He knows intimately?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	גַּם	אֶת	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה
said	And the LORD		unto Moses			this thing	
H559	H3068	H413	H4872	H1571	H853	H1697	H2088
אֲשֶׁר	דָּבַרְתָּ	אֶעֱשֶׂה	כִּי	מָצָאתָ	חֵן		
	also that thou hast spoken	I will do		for thou hast found	grace		
H834	H1696	H6213	H3588	H4672	H2580		
בְּעֵינַי	וְאֵדָעָךְ	בְּשֵׁם:					
in my sight	and I know	thee by name					
H5869	H3045	H8034					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 65:24 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Exodus 33:12 (Grace): 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.

Genesis 6:8 (Grace): But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 19:21 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

John 16:23 (Parallel theme): And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

James 5:16 (Parallel theme): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

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