

Exodus 33:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

Analysis

And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock—God prepares a specific location for revelation. The rock (צור, tsur) becomes both physical platform and theological symbol—Christ is identified as the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). The phrase 'a place by me' indicates proximity without complete exposure. God orchestrates the encounter carefully, demonstrating that even privileged revelation comes on divine terms, at divine locations, with divine protection. The rock represents stability amid overwhelming glory, a foundation that won't crumble under the weight (kavod) of God's passing.

Historical Context

Mount Sinai/Horeb's rocky terrain provided natural clefts and outcroppings. This specific location would shield Moses while allowing the theophany. The rock imagery pervades Scripture as a metaphor for God's strength and reliability (Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 18:2).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does standing on 'the Rock' (Christ) enable you to experience God's glory without being destroyed?
2. What does God's careful orchestration of Moses' encounter teach about His attention to our capacity and safety in revelation?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	יְהוָה	הִנֵּה	מָקוֹם	אֵת
said	And the LORD	H2009	Behold there is a place	H853
H559	H3068		H4725	
וְנִצַּבְתָּ	עַל	הַצֹּר:		
by me and thou shalt stand	H5921	upon a rock		
H5324		H6697		

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