

Exodus 33:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up—The people's response shows reverence and hope. Standing at tent doors, watching Moses' journey to the tent of meeting, they recognize their need for a mediator. They cannot approach directly but must have Moses go for them. Their standing posture indicates respect, anticipation, and implicit prayer that Moses' intercession would succeed. This foreshadows Christ our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) whom we watch by faith entering God's presence for us.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern protocol required subjects to stand when royalty passed. The people's corporate response shows they understood Moses' unique role as mediator between themselves and the offended holy God.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does your awareness of Christ's ongoing intercession for you affect your confidence in approaching God?
2. Do you 'stand at your tent door' in watchful prayer, or have you become complacent about your need for mediation?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּקֶם וַיִּמּוֹ	בְּאֶהְלָהּ:	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	כָּצָא אֶת	וַהֲלֵהּ ה
rose up	at his tent		And it came to pass when Moses	went out	
H6965	H168	H413	H4872	H3318	H1961
וַהֲבִיטוּ	בְּאֶהְלָהּ:	פֶּתַח	אִישׁ	וְנִצָּב ו	הָעָם
and looked	at his tent	door	every man	and stood	that all the people
H5027	H168	H6607	H376	H5324	H5971
בְּאֶהְלָהּ:	בָּא ו	עַד	מֹשֶׁה	אַחֲרָי	
at his tent	until he was gone		And it came to pass when Moses	after	
H168	H935	H5704	H4872	H310	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 16:27 (Temple): So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.