

Exodus 34:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

Analysis

Prohibition against bowing to or serving (עָבַד, avad) foreign gods, or following their practices. Instead, Israel must 'utterly overthrow' (הָרַס תְּהָרִסֶם, hares teharesem—intensive form) and 'quite break down' (שָׁבַר תִּשְׁבֵּר, shaber teshabber) their pillars. No syncretism, no cultural accommodation, no tolerance of idolatry—complete destruction is required. Half-measures lead to spiritual compromise.

Historical Context

Standing pillars (matsebot) were sacred stones marking worship sites. Early patriarchs erected such stones (Gen 28:18, 35:14), but by the conquest period they were associated with Canaanite Baal worship and forbidden.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why does God require complete destruction of false worship rather than mere avoidance?
2. What spiritual influences or practices in your life require total elimination rather than moderation?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּהִי י' H1961	בָּרָדָתָּו H3381	וּמֹשֶׁה ה' H4872	הָהָר H2022	סִינַי H5514
came down		And it came to pass when Moses	from mount	Sinai
וּשְׁנֵי י' H8147	לְחֵת H3871	הָעֵדֻת H5715	בְּיָד H3027	וּמֹשֶׁה ה' H4872
with the two	tables	of testimony	hand	And it came to pass when Moses
בָּרָדָתָּו H3381	מִן H4480	הָהָר H2022	וּמֹשֶׁה ה' H4872	כִּי יַעֲלֶה H3808
came down		from mount	And it came to pass when Moses	wist
קָרַב H7160	עֹר H5785	פָּנָיו H6440	בְּדַבָּרוֹ H1696	אֲתָו: H854
shone	not that the skin	of his face	while he talked	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 17:2 (Parallel theme): And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Exodus 32:15 (Witness): And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

Luke 9:29 (Parallel theme): And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

Revelation 1:16 (Parallel theme): And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

2 Corinthians 3:13 (References Moses): And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

Revelation 10:1 (Parallel theme): And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: