

# 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

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Prohibition against bowing to or serving (עָבֵד, avad) foreign gods, or following their practices. Instead, Israel must 'utterly overthrow' (מִתְּהִרְאֵס תְּהִרְאֵס, hares teharesem—intensive form) and 'quite break down' (שָׁבֵר תְּשִׁבֵּר, 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

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Standing pillars (matsevot) 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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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בָּרֶךְתִּי וְיָמַשׁ הַר סִינַי  
H1961 came down And it came to pass when Moses from mount Sinai  
H3381 H4872 H2022 H5514

וְמַשֵּׁה הַבְּנֵי שְׁנַי  
with the two tables of testimony hand And it came to pass when Moses  
H8147 H3871 H5715 H3027 H4872

בָּרֶךְתִּי מִן הַר סִינַי  
came down from mount And it came to pass when Moses לא יָדַע  
H4480 H2022 H4872 H3808 H3045 H3588

אָתָּה בְּדִבָּרִי יְדַבֵּר  
shone not that the skin of his face while he talked  
H7160 H5785 H6440 H1696 H854

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 glistering.

**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:

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