

Exodus 34:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

Analysis

The prohibition extends beyond humans to include flocks and herds—absolute solitude is required. Even throughout the mountain, nothing may approach. This underscores God's transcendent holiness and the danger of presumptuous approach to His presence. The severe restriction demonstrates that covenant renewal, like covenant-making, requires divine initiative and proper mediation.

Historical Context

Mount Sinai (also called Horeb) had been declared holy ground earlier (3:5). The entire mountain served as God's earthly throne-room during the wilderness period.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the prohibition of even animals near the mountain teach about God's holiness?
2. How should this affect our approach to worship and prayer today?

Interlinear Text

אֲלֵא	אֲלֵא	וְיַעֲלֶה	וְיַעֲלֶה	וְיַעֲלֶה	וְיַעֲלֶה	אֲלֵא	אֲלֵא
And no man	H3808	shall come up	H5927	וְיַעֲלֶה	H5973	וְיַעֲלֶה	H1571
H376							And no man
							with thee neither
H408							H408
אֲלֵא	אֲלֵא	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	וְבְכָרְבָּר	וְבְכָרְבָּר
be seen	H3605	that mount	H2022	neither let the flocks	H6629	nor herds	H1241
H7200							
אֲלֵא	אֲלֵא	מִלְּאָלֵא	מִלְּאָלֵא	מִלְּאָלֵא	מִלְּאָלֵא	פְּנֵי אֶלְאָלֵא	פְּנֵי אֶלְאָלֵא
with thee neither		feed	H413	before	H4136	that mount	H1931
H408		H7462		H2022			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:21 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

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