

Exodus 34:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

Analysis

Serving (עבד, avad) the LORD brings multiple covenant blessings: food, water, health. God promises to 'take sickness away' (חִסְרָתִי מִקְלָה, hasiroti machalah), overturning the curse promised for disobedience (Deut 28:22, 27-28, 35, 60-61). The link between covenant faithfulness and physical blessing operates in a theocratic context—God's immediate governance of Israel—though spiritual principles extend to New Covenant believers.

Historical Context

In the theocratic arrangement, national obedience brought corporate blessing (health, prosperity, security). Individual exceptions existed (Job), and the New Testament clarifies that suffering can accompany faithfulness (2 Cor 12:7-10, James 1:2-4).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does faithful service to God bring blessing, even when physical prosperity is not guaranteed?
2. In what ways does obedience to God promote overall health and flourishing?

Interlinear Text

מֵשֶׁה אָתָה יִשְׂרָאֵל מֹשֶׁס
יְרָא אָבָרְךָ | יְכָל בָּנִים
saw And when Aaron H3605 and all the children H1121 of Israel H853 Moses H4872

מִגְשָׁת תִּירְאֵל וְיָמֵן הַיּוֹם
H2009 shone behold the skin of his face and they were afraid to come nigh H5066

אָלֵין
H413

Additional Cross-References

Mark 9:3 (Parallel theme): And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

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