

Exodus 34:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Analysis

Moses was with God 'forty days and forty nights' without eating or drinking—sustained supernaturally during extended communion with God. He wrote the covenant words (the Decalogue) on tablets. When descending, Moses' face radiated (קָרַן, qaran—shone/had horns of light) from being in God's presence. The verb qaran creates a wordplay: Moses' face had 'horns' (rays) of light from beholding God's glory (2 Cor 3:7-18). This transformation prefigures Christ's transfiguration (Matt 17:2) and our transformation into His image.

Historical Context

This is Moses' third forty-day period on Sinai. The radiance was so intense that Israel feared approaching him, requiring a veil (v. 30-35). Michelangelo's famous statue depicts Moses with horns due to translating qaran literally.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does extended time in God's presence transform you visibly to others?
2. In what ways should believers today reflect Christ's glory through transformation rather than merely external religiosity?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרְאוּ	בְנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	פָּנָיו	מֹשֶׁה	כִּי	קָרַן
saw	And the children	of Israel	H853	face	and Moses	H3588	shone
H7200	H1121	H3478		H6440	H4872		H7160
עַל	וְהָיָה	מֹשֶׁה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה	הַמָּסָה		
that the skin	face	and Moses	again	and Moses	H853	the veil	H5921
H5785	H6440	H4872	H7725	H4872		H4533	
פָּנָיו	עַד	בָּא	לְדַבֵּר	אֵתוֹ			
face	H5704	until he went	in to speak	H854			
H6440		H935	H1696				

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