

Exodus 34:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Analysis

Moses' physical response demonstrates the only appropriate reaction to divine self-revelation: immediate prostration and worship. He 'made haste' (וַיַּמְהֵר, vayemaher), showing urgency and holy reverence. This contrasts with Israel's hasty turn to idolatry (32:8, same Hebrew root). True worship flows from beholding God's character, not from ritual obligation.

Historical Context

Prostration (bowing with face to the ground) was the standard ancient Near Eastern response to encountering deity or royalty, expressing total submission and humility.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your understanding of God's character affect your worship?
2. What does Moses' 'haste' to worship teach about proper priorities?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּמְהֵר	מֹשֶׁה	וַיִּקֹּד	אֶרְצָה	וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה
made haste	And Moses	and bowed his head	toward the earth	and worshipped
H4116	H4872	H6915	H776	H7812

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 4:31 (Worship): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Genesis 17:3 (Parallel theme): And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

2 Chronicles 20:18 (Worship): And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.