

Exodus 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

Analysis

And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee—(ישע משה ויאמר ויהנ לא-יאמינו לי ולא ישמעו בקולי כי יאמרו לא-נראה אליך יהוה) Moses' first objection: credibility. **They will not believe me**—(לא-יאמינו לי) Moses projects his own doubts onto Israel. After 40 years in Midian, he's forgotten Israel's desperation (2:23-25). **The LORD hath not appeared unto thee**—Moses fears they'll think him delusional or fraudulent. This objection reveals Moses' insecurity, a dramatic shift from his youthful overconfidence (2:12). God patiently responds with three authenticating signs (vv. 2-9), demonstrating that He equips those He calls.

Historical Context

Moses' concern was legitimate—false prophets and failed deliverers likely arose during 400 years of bondage. Israel had reason to be skeptical of would-be saviors. Yet God's response shows He provides validation for genuine calls. The signs Moses receives are supernatural credentials that will authenticate his divine commission before Pharaoh and Israel.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' fear of disbelief reflect your own hesitations when God calls you to difficult tasks?
2. What 'signs' or confirmations has God given you to authenticate His calling in your life?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יָאמַר	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	מֹשֶׁה	וְיֹאמֶר	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	לֹא	יָאמַר	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	לֹא
H3808	H2005	H559	H4872	H559	H2005	H3808	H559	H2005	H3808
But behold	they will not believe		and said	and said	But behold	they will not believe		and said	and said
H539	H0		H4872	H559	H539	H0		H3808	H7200
נְרָא	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה
H3808	H3588	H3588	H6963	H6963	H3808	H3808	H3808	H3808	H7200
me nor hearken	unto my voice	and said			hath not appeared				
H8085	H8085	H559			H7200				
וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה	וְיַעֲשֶׂה
H413	H3068	H413	H413	H413	H413	H413	H413	H413	H413
The LORD		The LORD		The LORD		The LORD		The LORD	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:18 (References Lord): And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

