

# Exodus 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

## Analysis

**And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God** (וַיֹּדְבַר־הוּא לְךָ אֶל־הָעָם וַהֲיָה הוּא יְהוָה־לְךָ לִפְנֵי וְאַתָּה תְהִיָּה־לּוֹ לֵאלֹהִים)—The relationship defined: Aaron is Moses' **mouth** (פֶּה, peh), and Moses is to Aaron **as God** (לֵאלֹהִים, lElohim). This prophetic pattern appears clearly in 7:1: "I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet." Moses receives revelation; Aaron communicates it. The **instead of God** phrase doesn't make Moses deity but shows his mediatorial role—standing between God and the people, receiving divine word and transmitting it. This foreshadows Moses' unique position as lawgiver and mediator, typologically pointing to Christ (Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Hebrews 3:1-6).

## Historical Context

The prophet-spokesman relationship established here became paradigmatic. Throughout Israel's history, prophets received God's word and spoke it to people. Moses' unique mediatorial position (receiving Law, interceding for Israel, speaking face-to-face with God) set him apart as the foundational prophet, superseded only by Christ, the ultimate Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses' position 'as God' to Aaron illuminate Christ's role as the final and perfect Mediator between God and humanity?
2. What does this arrangement teach about the chain of revelation: God speaks to His chosen vessel, who then speaks to others?

## Interlinear Text

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וְדָבַר	הָוָא	לְךָ	אֵל	הָעָם	יְהוָה
And he shall be thy spokesman	H1931	H0	H413	unto the people	H1961
H1696				H5971	
הוא	יְהוָה	לְךָ	לִפְנֵי		
H1931	H1961	H0		and he shall be even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth	
				H6310	
ה	תְּהִיָּה	לְ	לֵאלֹהִים:		
H859	H1961	H0		and thou shalt be to him instead of God	
				H430	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 18:19** (References God): Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: