

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—(וְיֹאמֶר־הָאֹהֶן לְבָב־עָם וּבֵיתָה הוּא וְיֹאמֶר־לְבָב־לְפָה אַתָּה תְּהִיא־לְנוּ לְאֱלֹהִים) The relationship defined: Aaron is Moses' **mouth** (פֶּה, peh), and Moses is to Aaron **as God** (לְאֱלֹהִים, l'Elohim). 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(receiving Law, interceding for Israel, speaking face-to-face with God) set him apart as the foundational prophet, superseded only by Christ, the ultimate Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וְיִדְבַּר לְבָנָךְ אֶל-עַם יִהְיֶה וְאֶל-בָּנָי יִדְבַּר
And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people H1931 H0 H413 H1961 H1606 H5071

הִיא לְבָבְךָ לְפָנֶיךָ וְהִיא הַוְּאָה
H1931 H1961 H0 and he shall be even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth
H6310

לְאֱלֹהִים: וְאַתָּה תְּהִיא לְזַרְעָךְ H1961 H859 H0 and thou shalt be to him instead of God H430

Additional Cross-References

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: