

Exodus 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְיָן לֵךְ שׁוּב מִצְרָיִמָּה כִּי־מָתוּ) —God gives Moses the all-clear: **all the men are dead which sought thy life** (כִּי־מָתוּ כָּל־הַצֹּדֵקִים). Pharaoh who issued the death warrant (2:15) has died (2:23). This echoes Matthew 2:19-20 when God tells Joseph in Egypt that "they are dead which sought the young child's life"—Moses and Jesus both return from exile when enemies die. God's perfect timing protects His servants—He sent Moses away for preparation, now calls him back when safe. Divine providence controls circumstances, opening doors in His perfect time.

Historical Context

Approximately 40 years passed between Moses' flight (at age 40, Acts 7:23) and his return (at age 80, Acts 7:30). The pharaoh who sought Moses' death died, likely succeeded by another who continued oppression (2:23). God's delay served multiple purposes: Moses' character formation, changing political circumstances, and timing Israel's cry (2:23-25) with their deliverer's readiness.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's timing—keeping Moses in Midian until enemies died—encourage you to trust His perfect schedule in your circumstances?
2. What parallels between Moses' return from exile and Jesus' return from Egypt teach about God's consistent protective patterns?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	בְּמִדְיָן	לֵךְ	שָׁב	מִצְרָיִם
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	in Midian	H1980	return	into Egypt
H559	H3068		H4872	H4080		H7725	H4714
כִּי	נָמְוִים	כָּל	הָאָנָשׁ	הַמִּצְרָיִם	אֶת	נַפְשׁוֹ:	
H3588	are dead	H3605	for all the men	which sought	H853	thy life	
	H4191		H582	H1245		H5315	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 2:20 (Parallel theme): Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

Exodus 2:23 (References Egypt): And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

Exodus 2:15 (References Moses): Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.