

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 אֲלֵי מֹשֶׁה בָּמָדָן לְךָ שׁוּב מִצְרַיִם כִּי־מָתָתוֹ—God gives Moses the all-clear: **all the men are dead which sought thy life** (כִּי־מָתָתוֹ כָּל־הָאָנָשִׁים הַמְבָקְשִׁים אֶת־נֶפֶשׁךְ). 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

מִצְרַיִם	שׁׁבַּלְתִּי	בְּמִדְיָן	לְרַקְעַנְתִּי	מִשְׁאָה	אֶל	יְהֹוָה	וְאָמַרְתִּי	אָמַרְתִּי
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	H4872	in Midian	H4080	return	into Egypt
H559	H3068						H7725	H4714
כִּי	מִתּוֹךְ	כָּל	מִתּוֹךְ	בְּאָנָשָׁים	בְּאָנָשָׁים	בְּמִבְקָשׁ	אֶת	בְּפִנְךָ
H3588	are dead	H3605	H4191	for all the men	H582	H1245	H853	thy life
								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.