

Exodus 4:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

Analysis

So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision (וַיִּרְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ אֵז אֶמְכָּה חֵתַן יְדָמִים לַמּוּלֹת)— **So he let him go** (וַיִּרְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ, "and He released him")—God withdraws the threat once circumcision occurs. Immediate obedience averts judgment. Zipporah repeats **bloody husband**, clarifying **because of the circumcision** (לַמּוּלֹת, lamulot). The crisis passes, but the family dynamic is strained. This incident establishes a crucial principle: covenant markers matter, especially for covenant leaders. Moses learned that God's grace doesn't nullify obedience requirements. Covenant relationship demands covenant faithfulness. This painful encounter prepared Moses for leading Israel into covenant at Sinai.

Historical Context

The incident's placement between Moses' commission and arrival in Egypt emphasizes that personal consecration precedes public ministry. Moses would later enforce circumcision for all males before Passover (12:48) and for the generation entering Canaan (Joshua 5:2-9). His own near-death experience over this issue gave him authority and urgency to maintain covenant distinctiveness among Israel.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this near-death experience teach that God takes covenant signs and obedience seriously, especially among leaders?
2. What areas of your life require immediate obedience to avoid discipline or disqualification from ministry?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּרְךָ	מִמֶּנּוּ	אָז	אָמְרָה	חֵתָּן	דָּמַיִם
So he let him go	H4480	H227	then she said	husband	A bloody
H7503			H559	H2860	H1818

לְמוֹלָתָּ:

thou art because of the circumcision

H4139