

Exodus 4:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:

Analysis

And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel—(וְלֹא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וְאַסְפּו אֶת-כָּל-זִקְנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) Moses and Aaron's first action: convene **the elders** (זִקְנֵי, ziknei), Israel's leadership structure. Working through existing authority shows wisdom—Moses doesn't bypass established leaders but partners with them. **Gathered together** (וְאַסְפּו, vaya'asfu) suggests assembly for important announcement. The elders represent the tribes/clans; convincing them wins popular support. This approach (leadership-first, then people) establishes proper governmental structure that Moses will develop further (18:25-26, Numbers 11:16-17). God's deliverers work with, not against, existing legitimate authority structures.

Historical Context

Israel maintained tribal elders even during Egyptian slavery, preserving their social structure. These elders traced authority through patriarchal lines and clan leadership. Moses' respect for this existing framework helped unify Israel behind his leadership. Later, the elders would accompany Moses to Pharaoh (3:18), witness Sinai's theophany (24:1, 9-11), and serve as Israel's representative council.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' working through existing elders teach about respecting established authority structures when initiating change or reform?
2. What legitimate 'elders' or leaders should you partner with rather than bypass when pursuing God's vision?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּגַּד H1980	וְאַבְרָהָם H4872	וְאַרְנָן H175	וְאֶסְפָּרָה H622	וְאֶת H853	כָּל H3605	זָקָן H2205
And Moses of the children	and Aaron of Israel	and gathered together				all the elders

וְאֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל:
H3478

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:16 (References Israel): Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: