

Exodus 4:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Analysis

And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped (וַאֲמֵן הָעָם וַשְּׁמָעוּ כִּי־פָקַד יְהוָה אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל (וְכִי רָאָה אֶת־עֲנָתָם וַיִּקְדּוּ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ).—Israel's response: **the people believed** (וַאֲמֵן הָעָם). Despite Moses' fears (4:1), Israel accepts his message. **The LORD had visited** (פָּקַד יְהוָה, fakad YHWH)—divine visitation for redemption (cf. Genesis 50:24-25 where Joseph prophesied this). **Looked upon their affliction** (רָאָה אֶת־עֲנָתָם) echoes 3:7—God's compassionate awareness. Their response: **bowed their heads and worshipped** (וַיִּקְדּוּ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ)—physical prostration in worship. This is Israel's first recorded corporate worship of YHWH in Egypt. They believe the message, trust the messenger, and worship the God who sees and acts. This initial faith will be tested through coming trials, but for now, hope dawns in the darkness of slavery.

Historical Context

Israel's positive reception of Moses contrasts with the Hebrew's earlier rejection (2:14). The difference: divine credentials (signs) and divine timing (their cry reached God, 2:23-25). This initial enthusiasm would waver during the wilderness (Exodus 16-17, Numbers 14), showing that crisis-faith requires cultivation into mature trust. But this moment of unified worship marked the birth of Israel's national consciousness as YHWH's covenant people.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Israel's worship response to God's visitation teach that true faith leads naturally to worship and submission?
2. What does this verse teach about God's faithful response when His people cry out in affliction—He visits, sees, and acts to deliver?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲמַן	וְהָעָם	וַיִּשְׁמָעוּ	כִּי	פָקַד	יְהוָה
believed	And the people	and when they heard	that	had visited	that the LORD
H539	H5971	H8085	H3588	H6485	H3068
אֶת	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְכִי יִשְׁכָּחָה	וְכִי יִשְׁכָּחָה	וְכִי יִשְׁכָּחָה	אֶת
H853	the children	of Israel	and that he had looked	and that he had looked	H853
	H1121	H3478	H3588	H7200	
עַל	אֲפַתָּהּ	וַיִּקְדּוּ	וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ		
upon their affliction	then they bowed their heads	and worshipped			
H6040	H6915	H7812			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:18 (References Lord): And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

Exodus 12:27 (Worship): That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

Exodus 3:16 (References Lord): 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:

Exodus 2:25 (References Israel): And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Genesis 24:26 (Worship): And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD.

Luke 8:13 (Faith): They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.