

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 (אָמַן פְּנֵם וְשָׁמְעוּ פִּידְּפָקֵד וְהִתְּהִנֵּן אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל)—Israel's response: **the people believed** (אָמַן פְּנֵם). Despite Moses' fears (4:1), Israel accepts his message. **The LORD had visited** (פִּידְּפָקֵד וְהִתְּהִנֵּן, fakad YHWH)—divine visitation for redemption (cf. Genesis 50:24-25 where Joseph prophesied this). **Looked upon their affliction** (רָאָה אֶת-עֲבָדִים) echoes 3:7—God's compassionate awareness. Their response: **bowed their heads and worshipped** (לִקְרָב וְשִׁתְּפָה) —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

יְהִי הָרָקֵד תְּאַמֵּן |
believed And the people and when they heard H3588 had visited that the LORD
H539 H5971 H8085 H6485 H3068

אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יְכִי בָּאָה אֶת
the children of Israel and that he had looked H853 H3588 H7200 H853
H1121 H3478

עַל־מִשְׁפְּתִּים תַּלְמִידִים
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.

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