

Judges 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

Analysis

Gideon asks the Angel to wait while he prepares an offering: 'Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present.' The term 'present' (minchah, מִנְחָה) denotes both offerings to God and gifts to honored persons, showing Gideon's growing recognition of his visitor's significance. His request demonstrates hospitality customs and worship instincts—encountering the divine requires appropriate response. The Angel's consent to wait reveals divine patience with sincere seekers. This preparation time allowed Gideon to process the extraordinary encounter and prepare a worthy offering.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern hospitality customs required hosts to provide food and shelter to travelers. Gideon's offering preparation would involve slaughtering a young goat, preparing unleavened bread, and making broth—tasks requiring significant time and resources. That Gideon possessed a young goat despite Midianite depredation suggests either recent respite from raids or careful hiding of livestock. The meal's components parallel later sacrificial elements.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Gideon's desire to prepare an offering demonstrate proper reverence when encountering God?
2. What preparation is appropriate before approaching God in worship?
3. How does God's patience in waiting for Gideon's preparation reveal His grace toward sincere but uncertain believers?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	נָ א	תָּמָּ שׁ	מִזֶּה	עַד	בֹּא י	אֵל יְיָ
H408	H4994	Depart	H2088	H5704	not hence I pray thee until I come	H413
		H4185			H935	
		וְהֵצֵאתִי	אֶת	מִנְחָתִי י	וְהֵנַחְתָּ י	לְפָנַי יְיָ
		unto thee and bring forth	H853	my present	and set	it before thee And he said
		H3318		H4503	H3240	H6440
						H559
		אֲנִי י	אֵשׁ ב	עַד	שׁוּבָךְ:	
		H595	I will tarry	H5704	until thou come again	
			H3427		H7725	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 18:5 (Parallel theme): And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

Genesis 18:3 (Prayer): And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

Judges 13:15 (Prayer): And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee.

