

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

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

אַל	יָבֹא	אַל
H408	H4994	Depart
	H4185	H2088
		H5704
		not hence I pray thee until I come
		H935
		H413
וְהִצְאָתִי	אַתָּה	לֹפֶנְךָ יְבֹא
unto thee and bring forth	my present	וְהִנְחַתָּה
H3318	H853	H4503
		H3240
		and set
		H6440
		it before
		H559
		thee And he said
שׁוֹבֵבָה	עַד	אָשָׁב אָנֹכִי
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.

