

Numbers 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

Analysis

God distinguishes Moses' unique prophetic ministry from other prophets who received visions and dreams. While these indirect revelations were common, Moses enjoyed face-to-face communion with God. This direct communication established Moses' authority and prefigured Christ, who has seen the Father and makes Him known (John 1:18). The phrase 'if there be a prophet' acknowledges other legitimate prophets while elevating Moses' unparalleled intimacy.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern prophets typically received messages through dreams, visions, or ecstatic states. Moses' unique access to direct conversation with God set him apart as unmatched mediator until Christ, 'a prophet like unto Moses' (Deuteronomy 18:15).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' unique access to God point forward to Christ as the ultimate Mediator?
2. What difference should it make that you have direct access to God through Christ?

Interlinear Text

תְּבִאָכְךָ מִן־יְהוָה אֶת־אֶתְרָה	If there be a prophet
And he said	Hear
H559	H4994
now my words	
H1697	H518
unto him in a vision	
H4759	H1961
will make myself known	
among you I the LORD	
H3068	H413
unto him in a dream	and will speak
H2472	H1696
unto him in a dream	and will speak
H2472	H1696

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 46:2 (Parallel theme): And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

1 Kings 3:5 (References Lord): In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

Luke 1:22 (Parallel theme): And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

Luke 1:11 (References Lord): And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Daniel 10:8 (Parallel theme): Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

Ezekiel 1:1 (Parallel theme): Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Acts 10:11 (Parallel theme): And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Matthew 1:20 (References Lord): But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Daniel 8:2 (Parallel theme): And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.

Psalms 89:19 (Parallel theme): Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.