

Numbers 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Analysis

God spoke with Moses 'mouth to mouth' and 'apparently' (Hebrew 'mar'eh', meaning clearly, not in dark speeches). This direct, unambiguous communication surpassed the symbolic visions other prophets received. Moses beheld 'the similitude of the LORD'—not God's full essence (Exodus 33:20) but a visible manifestation. This intimate access made challenging Moses equivalent to challenging God Himself.

Historical Context

The unique intimacy Moses enjoyed began at the burning bush and continued through the tabernacle meetings. No other Old Testament prophet enjoyed such consistent, direct dialogue with God until Christ, who is 'the express image of his person' (Hebrews 1:3).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How should the clarity of God's revelation in Scripture affect your confidence in knowing His will?
2. What does it mean that Christ is the clearest revelation of God, surpassing even Moses?

Interlinear Text

ה פ א ל ה פ	לִזְבָּר	ב ז	וּמְרָאָה	א ל
mouth H413	mouth	With him will I speak	H0	even apparently H3808

יב יט יהי ה ותמן ת בחדת
and not in dark speeches and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold
H2420 H8544 H3068 H5027

לְאֵםָד וְעַל יְרָאָתָם
H4069 H3808 wherefore then were ye not afraid With him will I speak
H3372 H1696

בְּמֹשֶׁה: בְּעָבֶד יְהוָה
against my servant Moses H4872
H5650

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 34:10 (References Lord): And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

1 Corinthians 13:12 (Darkness): For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Exodus 33:11 (References Lord): And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Exodus 33:23 (Parallel theme): And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

John 15:15 (References Lord): Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

2 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

1 Timothy 6:16 (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (References Lord): But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Luke 10:16 (Parallel theme): He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Isaiah 46:5 (Parallel theme): To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?