

Numbers 14:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

Analysis

As Israel prepared to stone Caleb and Joshua, 'the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle... before all the children of Israel.' God's sudden manifestation stopped the stoning, demonstrating His protective intervention for faithful servants. The Hebrew 'kabod' (glory) suggests visible, weighty presence - possibly the cloud's intensified brightness. God's appearance shows He won't abandon those wholly following Him, even when the majority opposes them. This encourages believers facing persecution - God sees and will vindicate. Christ promised similar protection: 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee' (Heb 13:5), even when the whole world opposes.

Historical Context

This crisis moment came after ten spies gave their bad report and the congregation agreed to choose new leadership and return to Egypt (v.1-4). When Caleb and Joshua pleaded for faith, the people threatened stoning - showing mob mentality's dangerous irrationality. God's glory appearing at this precise moment prevented murder of His faithful servants and initiated judgment on the rebellious generation. Similar divine interventions protected Daniel (Dan 6), Peter (Acts 12), and Paul (Acts 23:11). The pattern continues - God protects His witnesses, though He may allow martyrdom for His greater purposes (Rev 6:9-11).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. When facing majority opposition for your faith, do you trust God's protective presence even if deliverance doesn't come immediately?
2. How does God's intervention for Caleb and Joshua encourage you to stand firm in minority positions when God's truth requires it?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָבִת יְמִין	אַתָּה מִלְּרָגָז וְ	כָּל יְאָמַרְתָּ	בְּעֵד הָעֵד	בְּעֵד הָעֵד	בְּעֵד הָעֵד	בְּעֵד הָעֵד
bade	H3605	But all the congregation		stone	H853	them with stones
H559		H5712		H7275		H68
וְכֹבֵד	וְכֹבֵד	וְכֹבֵד	וְכֹבֵד	וְכֹבֵד	וְכֹבֵד	וְכֹבֵד
And the glory	of the LORD	appeared	in the tabernacle	of the congregation	H413	
H3519	H3068	H7200	H168	H4150		
כָּל	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:				אֵל
before all the children	of Israel					
H3605	H1121	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 17:4 (References Lord): And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

Leviticus 9:23 (Glory): And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.

Exodus 16:10 (Glory): And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

Exodus 16:7 (Glory): And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?

Matthew 23:37 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Numbers 16:42 (Glory): And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

Numbers 16:19 (Glory): And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

Numbers 20:6 (Glory): And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

1 Samuel 30:6 (References Lord): And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.