

To ensure the victory to the Israelites, Aaron and Hur placed a stone under Moses, and supported his hands till the going down of the sun; by which time the Amalekites were totally routed.

At length, on the first day of the third month, after the institution of the passover, the Israelites encamp at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses is commanded to make the people sanctify and purify themselves for two days, and on the third day to bring them forth from their camp, to witness the glorious descent of Jehovah upon the sacred mount. The mount was, in the meantime, to be fenced round, at the place where the people were to assemble, that they might not draw near or touch it. "There shall not a hand touch it," was the solemn warning, "but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live." The third day at length arrives, and is ushered in by thunders and lightnings, and the sound of the trumpet exceeding loud. Sinai quakes, and is covered with thick smoke. The Lord descends upon it in fire, and calls upon Moses to come up. On his return Moses repeats the charge to the people, on no account to break through the enclosures. A solemn voice is then heard to proclaim, "I am the Lord thy God, who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, and out of the house of bondage;" and to rehearse the ten commandments of the moral law. When the voice ceased, the people entreat Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." They accordingly remain afar off, while their leader again ascends into the thick darkness to receive God's further