

Deuteronomy 1:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us; and we came to Kadesh-barnea.

Analysis

The comprehensive scope—'between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him'—extends justice beyond blood relations to include foreigners residing among Israel. This reflects God's concern for the vulnerable and marginalized, as strangers lacked family protection and tribal advocacy. True righteousness transcends ethnic and social boundaries, treating all image-bearers with equal dignity under God's law.

Historical Context

The inclusion of strangers ('ger') in legal protections was revolutionary in ancient Near Eastern law codes. This principle flows from Israel's own experience as strangers in Egypt and God's command to remember and care for the vulnerable (Exodus 22:21; 23:9).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you treat those who lack social standing or family connections?
2. In what ways can you extend justice and kindness to 'strangers' in your community?

Interlinear Text

וַנֵּס ע	מִחֹרֵב	אֶת וַיֵּלֶךְ	כָּל	הַמִּדְבָּר	הַגָּדוֹל	
And when we departed	from Horeb	H1980	H853	H3605	wilderness	all that great
H5265	H2722			H4057	H1419	
וְהַנּוֹכָא	הָהּ וְאֵלֶּיךָ	רָאִיתָם	דְּרַכָּהּ	הָרֶם		
and terrible	H1931	H834	which ye saw	by the way	of the mountain	
H3372		H7200	H1870	H2022		
הָאֱמֹרִי	כְּאֵשׁ ר	צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	אֵתנוּ	
of the Amorites	H834	commanded	as the LORD	our God	H853	
H567		H6680	H3068	H430		
וַנָּבֹא	קָדְשׁ שׁ ע ד	בְּרִנְעָה:				
us and we came	H5704	H0	to Kadeshbarnea			
H935			H6947			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:2 (Parallel theme): (There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.)

Jeremiah 2:6 (References Lord): Neither said they, Where is the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?

Deuteronomy 8:15 (Parallel theme): Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Deuteronomy 32:10 (Parallel theme): He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

Numbers 13:26 (Parallel theme): And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

Numbers 10:12 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.