

Deuteronomy 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;

Analysis

The fortieth year marks the completion of judgment on the exodus generation who refused to trust God at Kadesh-barnea. The eleventh month (Shebat, January-February) sets the time just weeks before Israel would cross the Jordan into Canaan. Moses speaks 'according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment'—he is not innovating but faithfully transmitting divine revelation. This establishes the authoritative nature of Deuteronomy as God's word through Moses, not merely Moses' reflections.

Historical Context

Forty years of wilderness wandering fulfilled God's judgment that the rebellious generation would die in the wilderness (Numbers 14:26-35). Moses himself would also die before entering Canaan due to his sin at Meribah (Numbers 20:12). The eleventh month timing suggests this address occurred shortly before Moses' death and Israel's Jordan crossing in the first month of the following year (Joshua 4:19).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to fulfill both His promises and His warnings demonstrate His character?
2. What does Moses' faithful transmission of God's commands teach about the responsibility of spiritual leaders?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	בְּאַרְבָּעִים	שָׁנָה	בְּעֶשְׂרִי	עָשָׂר	
H1961	And it came to pass in the fortieth	year	in the eleventh		H6240
	H705	H8141	H6249		
לַחֹדֶשׁ	בְּאֶחָד	לַחֹדֶשׁ	דָּבָר	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל
day of the month	on the first	day of the month	spake	that Moses	H413
H2320	H259	H2320	H1696	H4872	
בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	
unto the children	of Israel	H3605	H834	had given him in commandment	H6680
H1121	H3478				
יְהוָה	אֶת	אֱלֹהֵם:			
according unto all that the LORD	H853	H413			
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 33:38 (Word): And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first day of the fifth month.