

Deuteronomy 1:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying,

Analysis

God's anger ('wrath') at Israel's unbelief demonstrates His holiness and justice. The Hebrew 'qatsaph' denotes righteous indignation at covenant violation. God swore in His wrath—divine oaths are immutable (Hebrews 6:17-18). This verse reveals that God's wrath is not capricious but covenantal response to faithlessness. The exclusion of the wilderness generation from Canaan rest typifies the eternal judgment awaiting unbelievers (Hebrews 3:7-11). Yet God's wrath always serves His redemptive purposes—the second generation would inherit the promise.

Historical Context

Occurred at Kadesh-barnea (circa 1445 BC) following the evil report of ten spies. God declared that none of the adults (age 20+) who left Egypt would enter Canaan except Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 14:26-35). This divine oath sentenced an entire generation to wilderness death—approximately 1.2 million people died over 38 years, averaging about 85 funerals daily.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's wrath against unbelief demonstrate both His holiness and the seriousness of covenant faithfulness?
2. What warning does this passage give regarding the danger of hardening your heart against God's promises?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁמַע עֵדָה אֱלֹהִים כְּדֵבֶר מִדְבָּרָה וַיֹּאמֶר
heard And the LORD the voice of your words and was wroth and sware

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לְאָמֵר:

saying

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