

Deuteronomy 1:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.

Analysis

Caleb stands as the exception—'unto him will I give the land' and 'to his children.' The phrase 'he hath wholly followed the LORD' translates Hebrew 'male acharei' (fully filled after), indicating complete devotion and perseverance. Caleb's faith distinguished him from the faithless generation. This verse illustrates the Reformed doctrine of perseverance—true faith endures to the end (1 John 2:19). Caleb's reward extends to his children, demonstrating covenant continuity and the blessing of godly parenting. His wholehearted following becomes the standard for genuine faith.

Historical Context

Caleb the Kenizzite was 40 years old at Kadesh-barnea (Joshua 14:7). Unlike his fellow spies, Caleb urged Israel to possess Canaan immediately, trusting God's promise (Numbers 13:30). His faith was rewarded 45 years later when, at age 85, he conquered Hebron and the hill country (Joshua 14:6-15). His descendants included Othniel, Israel's first judge (Judges 3:9).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Caleb's example teach about the nature of faith that God rewards with inheritance?
2. How does wholehearted following of the Lord manifest in your daily life and long-term faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

Save	Caleb	and to his children	of Jephunneh	he shall see			
H2108	H3612	H1121	H3312	H7200			
אֶלְיוֹן	יְרָא בָּהּ	זָוֶלֶת	וְלֹבֶן	וְאֶפְנָה	הַ	וְאֶ	וְאֶלְעָנָה
it and to him will I give	the land	that	he hath trodden upon	the	in	the	that he has
H5414	H853	H776	H834	H1869	H0	H0	H3068
and to his children	that	because he hath wholly	followed	the LORD	יהָנָה:	אֶחָר	מִלְאָכֵל
H1121	H834	H4390	H310	H3068	לֹבֶן	רָא	עָלָיו

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 14:24 (Parallel theme): But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 32:12 (Salvation): Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.