

Deuteronomy 1:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill.

Analysis

Israel's presumptuous response—"We have sinned...we will go up and fight"—reveals superficial repentance and self-sufficiency. True repentance submits to God's declared will; false repentance tries to earn restoration through religious activity. The phrase 'ye were ready to go up' (Hebrew 'tahinnu') suggests reckless presumption. They had refused to advance in faith when God commanded; now they presume to advance after God forbade it. This illustrates the Reformed doctrine that genuine conversion involves submitting to God's sovereign timing, not manipulating circumstances through presumptuous works.

Historical Context

Occurred immediately after God's judgment at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 14:39-45). Despite Moses' warning that the LORD was not with them, Israel presumed to attack the Amalekites and Canaanites dwelling in the hill country. This battle happened circa 1445 BC, shortly after the failed spy mission.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Israel's presumptuous 'repentance' warn against trying to earn God's favor through self-directed religious activity?
2. What does this verse teach about the importance of submitting to God's sovereign timing rather than presuming upon His grace?

Interlinear Text

וְתָמַר וְיִתְעַבֵּד אֶל־יְהוָה
Then ye answered and said unto me We have sinned

H6030 H559 H413 H2398

אֲשֶׁר כִּכְלִים מִנּוּ לְעֹלֶת אֶבֶן כָּבֵד
according to all that the LORD to go up and fight H3605 H834

אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה כָּבֵד יְהוָה
commanded according to all that the LORD our God us And when ye had girded H6680 H3068 H430 H2296

לְעֹלֶת וְתָהַיְתְּ אֶת־אֲשֶׁר
on every man his weapons of war ye were ready to go up H376 H853 H3627 H4421 H1951 H5927

בְּרַבָּה:
into the hill
H2022