

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

וַתֵּעַן הוּא	וַתֹּאמֶר ו	אֵלַי	חָטֵאנוּ
Then ye answered	and said	unto me	We have sinned
H6030	H559	H413	H2398

יְהוָה ה	אֲנִי חִנּוּ	לָעֹלָת	וְנִלְחָמֵנוּ	כֹּכ ל	אֲשֶׁר
according to all that the LORD		to go up	and fight		
H3068	H587	H5927	H3898	H3605	H834

צִוָּנוּ	יְהוָה ה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	וַתַּחְגֹּר ו
commanded	according to all that the LORD	our God	us And when ye had girded
H6680	H3068	H430	H2296

אֵל יִשׁ	אֶת	כָּל י	מִלְחָמָת ו	וַתֵּה יִנּוּ	לָעֹלָת
on every man		his weapons	of war	ye were ready	to go up
H376	H853	H3627	H4421	H1951	H5927

הַקֶּבֶה:
into the hill
H2022