

Deuteronomy 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the space in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD sware unto them.

Analysis

The time marker 'the space of thirty and eight years' from Kadesh-barnea to crossing Zered documents the period of wilderness wandering. The sobering fulfillment 'until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host' shows God's judgment was complete and precise. The phrase 'as the LORD sware unto them' confirms God keeps both promises and warnings—His word is reliable for blessing and judgment alike.

Historical Context

This 38-year period (plus the initial 2 years from Egypt to Kadesh) completed the 40-year judgment pronounced in Numbers 14:33-34. The entire generation of fighting men (age 20+) who left Egypt died in the wilderness except Joshua and Caleb. This demonstrates both God's justice in judging rebellion and His faithfulness in preserving a remnant.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness in fulfilling warnings demonstrate His trustworthiness in promises?
2. What consequences of past disobedience are you living with while trusting God for future grace?

Interlinear Text

וְעַד	בְּרֵגֶת	עַד	מִקְדֵּשׁ	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	וְיָתַם	יָמִים
And the space	in which we came	from Kadeshbarnea					
H3117	H1980	H6947	H0				H5704
אֲשֶׁר	שָׁבַע	רְנוּ	אֶת	בְּנֵי	צָדֵקָה	יָמִים	וְשָׁמְנָה
H834	until we were come over	H5674	H853	the brook	Zered	was thirty	and eight
			H5158	H2218	H7970	H8083	
עַד	תְּמִימָה	כָּל	זָהָד	וְרָא	אַנְשָׁה	וְשָׁנָה	הַשְׁמְנָה
years	were wasted out	H3605	until all the generation	H1755	H376	H8141	H5704
H8141							
לְקָם:	וְיָתַן	הַנֶּשֶׁבֶת	בְּאֵשׁ	רַבְבָּחָן	הַמְּלָחָמָה	וְיִהְיֶה	לְקָם:
of war	from among	the host	H834	sware	as the LORD	H3068	H0
H4421	H7130	H4264		H7650			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 95:11 (Parallel theme): Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Ezekiel 20:15 (Parallel theme): Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

Psalms 106:26 (Parallel theme): Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness:

Deuteronomy 1:19 (References Lord): And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us; and we came to Kadesh-barnea.

Deuteronomy 1:2 (Parallel theme): (There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.)

Numbers 13:26 (Parallel theme): And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

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