

Deuteronomy 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.

Analysis

The command 'Ye have compassed this mountain long enough' combines assessment (enough circling) with directive (turn northward). God's 'enough' marks the end of one season and the beginning of another. The directive to turn 'northward' points toward Canaan, resuming the interrupted mission. This reveals God's redemptive purposes—discipline is temporary and purposeful, not permanent or vindictive. God always has a 'next step' for His people.

Historical Context

Mount Seir was the territory of Edom (Esau's descendants). Turning northward meant skirting Edom's eastern border and heading toward Moab, bringing Israel progressively closer to the Transjordan region they would eventually possess before crossing into Canaan.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What season in your life has lasted 'long enough' and needs a new direction?
2. How do you respond when God says it's time to move forward from a prolonged season?

Interlinear Text

רַב	לָךְ מַ	סָב	אֶת	הַר הַזֶּה	פָּנֵה וְ	
long enough	H0	Ye have compassed	H853	this mountain	H2088	turn
H7227		H5437		H2022		H6437
לָךְ מַ	צָפֹנָה:					
H0	you northward					
	H6828					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:6 (Parallel theme): The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:

Deuteronomy 2:14 (Parallel theme): 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.