

Deuteronomy 29:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles:

Analysis

The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles. The great temptations (or trials/testings) refer to the plagues - called temptations because they tested both Egypt (forcing recognition of God's power) and Israel (testing their faith and trust). These divine acts functioned as both judgment and demonstration.

The signs and great miracles describe the supernatural character of God's acts. These were not natural phenomena but obvious divine interventions that defied natural explanation. The plagues' timing, intensity, and selectivity (affecting Egyptians but not Israelites) demonstrated intentional divine action.

Repeating thine eyes have seen personalizes the appeal. Moses addresses people who personally witnessed these events, not merely those who heard reports. Direct observation creates stronger conviction than second-hand testimony.

Jesus later says blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed (John 20:29), indicating that faith based on testimony and Scripture is as valid as faith from direct observation.

Historical Context

The ten plagues progressively demonstrated God's power over Egyptian deities and nature - the Nile (water to blood), frogs, livestock, darkness, etc. Each plague

targeted an aspect of Egyptian religion or life.

The final plague - death of firstborn - was the ultimate demonstration leading to Israel's release and Egypt's devastation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How did the plagues function as both judgment and demonstration?
2. What made these miracles obviously supernatural rather than merely natural events?
3. Why does personal eyewitness create stronger conviction than reports?
4. How does Jesus' blessing on those who believe without seeing apply to believers today?
5. What role do signs and miracles play in establishing faith versus maintaining faith?

Interlinear Text

הַמִּסּוֹת	הַגְּדֹלִים	אֲשֶׁר	כֹּא ו	עֵינֶיךָ	הָאֵת
temptations	The great	H834	have seen	which thine eyes	the signs
H4531	H1419		H7200	H5869	H226
וְהַמִּפְתּוֹת	הַגְּדֹלִים	הֵם:			
miracles	The great	H1992			
H4159	H1419				