

Deuteronomy 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I besought the LORD at that time, saying,

Analysis

Moses' personal plea—"I besought the LORD at that time"—reveals his deep longing to enter Canaan. Despite 40 years of faithful leadership, Moses desperately wanted to complete the journey with his people. The timing 'at that time' (after Transjordan victories) shows that even seeing partial fulfillment intensified his desire for full completion. Godly leaders care deeply about finishing well, not just starting strong.

Historical Context

This references Moses' earlier sin at Meribah (Numbers 20:7-12) where he struck the rock instead of speaking to it, failing to honor God's holiness before the people. This single failure, though forgiven, had lasting consequences—Moses wouldn't enter the Promised Land. Even great faith doesn't erase all consequences of disobedience.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What unfulfilled longings do you bring persistently to God in prayer?
2. How do you balance accepting consequences with continuing to serve faithfully?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶתְחַנֵּן	אֶל	יְהוָה	בְּעֵת	הַהִיא	לֵאמֹר:
And I besought	H413	the LORD	at that time	H1931	saying
H2603		H3068	H6256		H559

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