

Deuteronomy 31:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Analysis

I am an hundred and twenty years old this day—Moses' age divides into three perfect forty-year periods: Egypt (Acts 7:23), Midian (Acts 7:30), and wilderness leadership. Despite living to this remarkable age, he acknowledges his limitation: **I can no more go out and come in** (לֹא-אֶחְיֶה עוֹד לֵצֵאת וּלְבוֹא lo-ukhal od latset velavo). This idiom describes military leadership and active service (Numbers 27:17; 1 Samuel 18:13), not mere physical mobility—Deuteronomy 34:7 says "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated."

Moses' inability stems from divine decree, not physical decline: **also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan**. This references Numbers 20:12 where Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it, failing to sanctify God before Israel. The consequence? Exclusion from Canaan despite forty years of faithful leadership. This sobering reality demonstrates that even forgiven sin carries temporal consequences, and leadership requires higher accountability. Moses accepts God's judgment without bitterness, modeling submission to divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

Moses was born in Egypt circa 1526 BC during Pharaoh's infanticide (Exodus 2). After forty years as Egyptian royalty and forty years as Midianite shepherd, he led Israel for forty years (1446-1406 BC, traditional dating). His exclusion from

Related Passages

Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

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Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 34:7 (Parallel theme): And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Numbers 27:17 (References Lord): Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.

1 Kings 3:7 (References Lord): And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

Exodus 7:7 (Parallel theme): And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.

Numbers 20:12 (References Lord): And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.