

Deuteronomy 32:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession:

Analysis

Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo—Hebrew ‘ălēh ‘el-har hā‘ăbārîm hazzeh har-nəbô (עלְה אֶלְ-הָר הָעֲבָרִים הַזֶּה הַר-נְבּוּ). Abarim means 'regions beyond/passages,' and Nebo (possibly from Akkadian nabû, 'to proclaim') rises 2,680 feet above the Dead Sea. **Which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho**—geographically precise, placing Nebo east of Jericho across the Jordan. **And behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession**—Moses will see but not enter.

The command 'Get thee up' ('ălēh) is the same used for going up to worship. Moses's death becomes an ascent—not just geographically but spiritually. He will see the Promised Land from afar, a bittersweet grace. The phrase 'which I give' (present tense) assures Moses that despite his exclusion, God's promise stands. Hebrews 11:13-16 interprets this as Moses looking beyond earthly Canaan to the heavenly.

Historical Context

Mount Nebo is in modern Jordan, overlooking the Jordan Valley. From its summit, one can see Jerusalem 35 miles away on clear days. Archaeological excavations

have uncovered Byzantine churches commemorating Moses's death. The site remains a pilgrimage destination for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Moses's seeing but not entering Canaan reflect the experience of faith under the Old Covenant?
2. What does it mean to trust God's promises even when you won't personally see their fulfillment?
3. How does Moses's exclusion from Canaan foreshadow the greater rest that Christ would bring (Hebrews 4)?

Interlinear Text

Get thee up	H413	into this mountain	Abarim	H2088	into this mountain
H5927		H2022	H5682		H2022
Nebo	H834	the land	of Moab	H5921	that is over against
H5015		H776	H4124		Jericho
and behold	H853	the land	of Canaan	H834	which I give
H7200		H776	H3667	H589	H5414
unto the children	H1121	of Israel	for a possession	H272	
			לְאַחֲרֶה:	ישֶׁבָא לְ	לְבָנֶי

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 27:12 (References Israel): And the LORD said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel.

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