

Deuteronomy 32:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people:

Analysis

And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people—the Hebrew phrase *wē'āsaptā 'el-'ammêkā* (וַעֲסַפְתָּ אֶל־עַמְּךָ, 'and be gathered to your people') is a euphemism for death used of Abraham (Genesis 25:8), Ishmael (Genesis 25:17), Isaac (Genesis 35:29), and Jacob (Genesis 49:29). It implies conscious afterlife and reunion with ancestors. **As Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people** (Numbers 20:22-29)—Moses will die as Aaron did, on a mountain, outside the Promised Land.

The parallel between Moses and Aaron is intentional—both sinned at Meribah (Numbers 20:10-12), both were denied entry to Canaan, both died on mountains within sight of the land. Yet 'gathered unto thy people' suggests death is not annihilation but transition. God Himself will bury Moses (Deuteronomy 34:6), an extraordinary honor. Despite judgment, Moses remains God's servant.

Historical Context

Aaron died on Mount Hor in 1407 BC at age 123 (Numbers 33:39). Moses died the following year at 120. Both deaths occurred just before Israel's entry into Canaan, symbolizing that the old generation under law could not enter the rest—only Joshua (whose name means 'Yahweh saves,' Greek Iesous/Jesus) could lead Israel in.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the phrase 'gathered unto thy people' teach about the Old Testament view of afterlife?
2. How do Moses's and Aaron's deaths demonstrate that even great leaders face consequences for sin?
3. In what ways does Joshua leading Israel into Canaan typify Christ leading us into heavenly rest?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּמָת	בְּהָרֵי	אֶשְׂרָא	אֶתָּה	עַל־הַ	שָׁמָּה
And die	in mount			whither thou goest up	
H4191	H2022	H834	H859	H5927	H8033
וַיִּקָּרְבֵּן	אֵלָיו	עַמּוּיוֹ:	כְּאַשֵּׁר	וַיָּמָת	אֶת־אָהֳרָן
and be gathered		unto his people		And die	as Aaron
H622	H413	H5971	H834	H4191	H175
					thy brother
					H251
וַיָּמָת	בְּהָרֵי	וַיִּקָּרְבֵּן	אֵלָיו	עַמּוּיוֹ:	
Hor	in mount	and be gathered		unto his people	
H2023	H2022	H622	H413	H5971	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 25:8 (Parallel theme): Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Numbers 33:38 (Parallel theme): And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there, in the fortieth year after the

children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first day of the fifth month.

Genesis 49:33 (Parallel theme): And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Genesis 15:15 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

Genesis 25:17 (Parallel theme): And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.

Daniel 12:13 (Parallel theme): But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.