

Deuteronomy 32:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.

Analysis

Yet thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel—the Hebrew conjunction *kî* (כִּי, 'yet/for') introduces a bittersweet concession. Moses will see (*tir'eh*, תִּרְאֶה) but not enter (*lō' tābō'* *śāmmāh*, הַמֵּשֶׁאַת אַתְּ בָּאַל, 'you shall not go there'). The phrase *minneğed* (מִנְגֵּד, 'from before/opposite') means from a distance.

This is simultaneously grace and judgment: grace that Moses sees God's faithfulness to His promises, judgment that he cannot participate. The viewing from Nebo becomes an acted parable of Old Covenant limitations—the law could show God's promises but not bring us into them. Hebrews 11:39-40 applies this principle: Old Testament saints saw promises 'from afar' but didn't receive them, awaiting the better covenant. Yet Moses later appears in the Promised Land—at Christ's transfiguration (Matthew 17:3), showing that God's final word is not exclusion but resurrection.

Historical Context

Moses's death is recorded in Deuteronomy 34:5-7. God buried him in an unknown location to prevent idolatry. Jude 9 records that Michael the archangel disputed with Satan over Moses's body, suggesting spiritual warfare over this unique servant. Moses's appearance at the Transfiguration (AD 29-30) demonstrated that death is not the final word.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Moses's viewing Canaan from Nebo illustrate the limitations of the Old Covenant?
2. What does it mean that Moses later appears in the Promised Land at Christ's transfiguration?
3. In what ways does Christ succeed where Moses failed, bringing us into true rest?

Interlinear Text

ל א יְשַׁפֵּה מִן גָּד כִּי
H3588 H5048 Yet thou shalt see H7200 H853 the land H8033 H3808

נְתַת | אַתְּ אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ אֲלֹהִים
H589 H834 H776 H413 before thee but thou shalt not go which I give
H935 H5414

לְבָנָי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
the children of Israel
H1121 H3478

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:39 (Parallel theme): And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Hebrews 11:13 (Parallel theme): These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Deuteronomy 3:27 (Parallel theme): Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Deuteronomy 32:49 (References Israel): 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:

Deuteronomy 1:37 (Parallel theme): Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither.

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.
