

Deuteronomy 34:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

Analysis

Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah—Moses's final journey ascends from the Jordan valley (900 feet below sea level) to Nebo's peak (2,680 feet), symbolizing his life's pilgrimage toward but not into the Promised Land. Har Nebo rosh ha-Pisgah (Mount Nebo, head/summit of Pisgah) overlooks the Jordan valley and provides a panoramic view of Canaan. Nebo was the Babylonian deity of wisdom/writing—ironic that YHWH's revelation to Moses culminates here, superseding pagan mythologies.

The LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan—Vayar'ehu YHWH (the LORD caused him to see) indicates supernatural vision. Natural sight couldn't encompass the entire promised territory from one vantage point; God gave Moses a prophetic, panoramic revelation of Israel's inheritance. From Gilead (Trans-Jordan) to Dan (far north)—this is comprehensive grace, letting Moses see what disobedience at Meribah (Numbers 20:12) prevented him from entering.

Historical Context

Mount Nebo is located in modern Jordan, about 10 miles east of where the Jordan River enters the Dead Sea, directly opposite Jericho. This occurred circa 1406 BC (traditional dating) just before Joshua led Israel across Jordan. The 'Dan' reference

is proleptic (anticipatory), as Laish wasn't renamed Dan until Judges 18—either Moses used the later name prophetically, or this phrase was added editorially to clarify geography for later readers (common in ancient historiography).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's grace in showing Moses the Promised Land despite his disqualification demonstrate His compassion within justice?
2. What 'Nebo moments' have you experienced—seeing God's promises from afar without entering, yet trusting His goodness?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל
went up	And Moses	from the plains	of Moab	unto the mountain	of Nebo	
H5927	H4872	H6160	H4124	H2022	H5015	
וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל
to the top	of Pisgah		that is over against	Jericho	shewed	
H7218	H6449	H834	H5921	H6440	H3405	H7200
וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל	וַיַּעַל
And the LORD		him all the land	of Gilead	unto Dan		
H3068	H853	H3605	H853	H5704	H1568	H1835

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:10 (Parallel theme): And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Deuteronomy 32:49 (Parallel theme): 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:

Ezekiel 40:2 (Parallel theme): In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.

Joshua 19:47 (Parallel theme): And the coast of the children of Dan went out too little for them: therefore the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and possessed it, and dwelt therein, and called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.

Numbers 27:12 (References Lord): 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.