

Deuteronomy 34:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.

Analysis

And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel—concluding Moses's epitaph, emphasizing the comprehensive power displayed through his ministry. The Hebrew yad chazaqah (יָד חֶזֶקָה 'mighty hand') and mora gadol (מֹרָא גָדוֹל, 'great terror/awesome deeds') summarize both the Exodus deliverance and Sinai theophany. **In the sight of all Israel**—these weren't private mystical experiences but public demonstrations witnessed by the entire nation.

The 'mighty hand' motif appears throughout Deuteronomy (4:34, 5:15, 6:21, 7:8, 26:8), always referring to God's powerful acts through Moses at the Exodus. The 'great terror' likely includes the Red Sea crossing, the Sinai manifestation, and perhaps judgments like Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16). Moses's ministry was public and verifiable—Israel saw these events collectively, creating national memory that couldn't be dismissed as legend. This eyewitness testimony pattern continues in the New Testament: apostles testified to Christ's resurrection as public fact (1 Corinthians 15:6—'most of whom are still living').

Historical Context

Written circa 1406 BC as Deuteronomy's closing verse, finalizing Moses's legacy. The book ends not with sentimental biography but theological assessment: Moses mattered because God worked powerfully through him. Deuteronomy 34:10 already stated 'no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew

face to face'—the highest possible tribute until Christ came. Moses died at 120 with undiminished strength (34:7), was buried by God Himself in an unmarked grave (34:6), and was mourned for thirty days (34:8). His life framed the Pentateuch; his death marked transition to Joshua's conquest and Israel's new chapter.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Moses's epitaph emphasize God's acts through him rather than Moses's personal qualities or achievements?
2. How does public, witnessed supernatural intervention function differently than private spiritual experiences?
3. In what ways did Moses's ministry prepare for Christ's greater ministry, and where did it fall short?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יָד	וְلֹכֶד	הַמּוֹעֵד	אֵלֶּךָ לְ	פָּנִים	בְּ	פָּנִים	אֵלֶּךָ לְ	בְּ גָדְדָן וְלְ
H3605	hand	And in all that mighty	H3605	terror	and in all the great			
H3027		H2389		H4172				H1419

עָשָׂה הָ אָשָׁר	לְעֵינֵי מֹשֶׁה	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל:
H834	shewed	which Moses	in the sight

H6213 H4872 H5869 H3605 H3478