

Deuteronomy 34:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

Analysis

God shows Moses the Promised Land: 'And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.' The poignant scene reveals both grace (Moses sees the land) and discipline (he doesn't enter). God's oath to the patriarchs reaches fulfillment, though Moses personally experiences consequences of his sin at Meribah (Numbers 20:12). This demonstrates that God's promises don't depend on individual faithfulness—He's faithful even when His servants fail.

Historical Context

Moses views Canaan from Mount Nebo's summit (Deuteronomy 34:1), seeing the entire land by divine enabling—naturally impossible from that vantage point. The land's division among tribes (Joshua 13-21) fulfilled centuries-old promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:7; 15:18-21), Isaac (Genesis 26:3), and Jacob (Genesis 28:13). Moses' death outside Canaan didn't nullify the promise; Joshua led Israel to possess it. This foreshadows greater reality—Moses represents the law's limitation; Jesus brings believers into eternal rest (Hebrews 3:7-4:11).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' exclusion from Canaan demonstrate that sin has consequences even for forgiven believers?
2. What does God's faithfulness to patriarchal promises, despite Moses' failure, teach about covenant reliability?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר	יְהוָה	זֶה	אֶת	אֶל	יוֹ	הָאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר
said	And the LORD	H413	H2063	unto him	This is the land	H834	
H559	H3068			H776			
וְשָׁבַעְתִּי	לְאַבְרָהָם	לְיִצְחָק	וּלְיַעֲקֹב	לֵאמֹר	לְזֶרְעֲךָ		
which I swear	unto Abraham	unto Isaac	and unto Jacob	said	it unto thy seed		
H7650	H85	H3327	H3290	H559	H2233		
אֶתֶּנָּה	הִרְאִיתִי יְךָ	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	לֵאמֹר	וְשָׁבַעְתִּי	לְזֶרְעֲךָ		
I will give	I have caused thee to see	it with thine eyes	H8033	H3808			
H5414	H7200	H5869					
תַּעֲבֹר:							
but thou shalt not go over							
H5674							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:52 (Parallel theme): Yet thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.

Genesis 12:7 (References Lord): And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Genesis 28:13 (References Lord): And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

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