

Deuteronomy 34:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I sware 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 sware 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

אָשָׁר	רַא	בְּאַת	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהוָה	הִיא	לְאָמֵן	רַ
said	And the LORD		H413	H2063	unto him This is the land		H834
H559	H3068				H776		
שָׁבַע	לְאַבְרָהָם	לְאַיָּצָח	לְאַבְרָהָם	שָׁבַע	לְיַעֲקֹב	לְאָמֵן	לִזְרָעָךְ
which I swear	unto Abraham	unto Isaac	and unto Jacob		said	it unto thy seed	
H7650	H85	H3327	H3290		H559	H2233	
אֶתְתָּנָהָה	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	רִאָתְךָ	יְבָרַךְ	תְּהִיא	אָתָּה	אָשָׁר	לְאָמֵן
I will give	I have caused thee to see	it with thine eyes		H5869	H8033	H3808	
H5414	H7200						
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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