

Deuteronomy 34:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Analysis

Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. The phrase lo-khahah eno (his eye was not dim) and lo-nas lekho (his vigor/moisture had not fled) emphasize Moses' supernatural preservation despite advanced age. The 120 years divide neatly into three 40-year periods: Egyptian prince, Midianite shepherd, and Israel's deliverer—each phase preparing him for the next in God's providence.

This vigorous health at death highlights that Moses died by divine appointment, not natural decline. His unimpaired faculties meant he could have continued leading, but God's timing is sovereign—removal from leadership comes not from incapacity but from God's purposes. The contrast between Moses' physical vitality and his exclusion from Canaan underscores that spiritual consequences transcend physical circumstances. His strength served Israel to the very end, yet sin's consequences remained.

Historical Context

The 120-year lifespan became proverbial (Genesis 6:3), though not a strict limit. Moses' three 40-year periods parallel Israel's testing periods. His vigor at death contrasts sharply with Isaac's blindness (Genesis 27:1) and Jacob's frailty (Genesis 48:10), emphasizing that God sustained Moses uniquely for his unique calling. Ancient Near Eastern literature sometimes attributed exceptional longevity to heroes, but Moses' account is presented as straightforward history, not legend.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's sustaining of Moses' strength throughout his service encourage you to trust Him for the resources needed for your calling?
2. What does Moses' removal while still vigorous teach about God's sovereignty over timing in leadership transitions?

Interlinear Text

וְמֹשֶׁה	הָיָה	מֵא	הָיָה	וְעֶשֶׂר	יָמִים	שְׁנַת	וְבָמָת	לֹא
And Moses	old	was an hundred		and twenty	years	when he died		H3808
H4872	H1121	H3967		H6242	H8141	H4194		
בָּבִיאָה	וְבָבִיאָה	בָּבִיאָה	וְבָבִיאָה	בָּבִיאָה	וְבָבִיאָה	בָּבִיאָה	וְבָבִיאָה	בָּבִיאָה
was not dim	his eye	H3808	abated	nor his natural force				
H3543	H5869		H5127	H3893				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:2 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Genesis 27:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.

Acts 7:36 (Parallel theme): He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Genesis 48:10 (Parallel theme): Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

Acts 7:30 (Parallel theme): And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

Acts 7:23 (Parallel theme): And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org