

Deuteronomy 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land.

Analysis

But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land.

The stark contrast between Moses' fate and Israel's future underscores a profound theological truth: God's purposes advance beyond any individual servant. The Hebrew construction emphasizes certainty—anoki met (אָנֹכִי מֵת) ('I am dying') and eineni over (אַיְמֵדִי עַבְרֵר) ('I am not crossing')). Moses states his death as present reality, already determined and accepted.

Yet the conjunction ve'atem (וְאַתֶּם, 'but you') pivots to hope: 'ye shall go over, and possess that good land.' Moses' exclusion does not diminish Israel's inheritance. The servant dies; the mission continues. This anticipates the greater truth that no human mediator is ultimately sufficient—Moses, like all Old Testament figures, pointed forward to Christ, the only Mediator who both dies and enters glory on our behalf (Hebrews 9:15).

Moses' willingness to speak of his own death while encouraging others reveals mature spiritual leadership. He does not sulk or diminish their inheritance because he cannot share it. Instead, he prepares them for success without him, modeling the selfless investment every generation must make in the next.

Historical Context

Moses reiterates his impending death on the eastern side of the Jordan, speaking from the plains of Moab around 1406 BC. Despite leading Israel for 40 years through wilderness wandering, Moses would only view Canaan from Mount Nebo (Deuteronomy 34:1-4) while the new generation would possess the land their parents forfeited through unbelief at Kadesh-Barnea.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' example of preparing others for success he will not share challenge your approach to mentoring and discipleship?
2. In what ways does this passage point forward to Christ as the greater Mediator who both dies and enters the promised inheritance on our behalf?

Interlinear Text

עֲבָר יִם אֵין פִּי בְּזַאת בְּאֶרֶץ מֵת אָנֹכִי כִּי
H3588 H595 But I must die in this land H2063 H369 I must not go over
H4191 H776 H369 H5674

בְּאֶרֶץ אֲתָּה וְרַשְׁתָּתִּי מִאֶתְּמָם עֲבָר יִם אֵין פִּי בְּזַאת
H853 Jordan H859 I must not go over and possess H853 in this land
H3383 H5674 H3423 H776

בְּזֹאת הַטּוֹב הַזֶּה
that good H2063
H2896

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 3:25 (Good): I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

Deuteronomy 3:27 (Parallel theme): Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

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