

Deuteronomy 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baal-peor: for all the men that followed Baal-peor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you.

Analysis

The reference to Baal-peor—'Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor'—invokes recent judgment as warning. The contrast 'the LORD thy God hath destroyed them... from among you' versus those who 'clave unto the LORD your God are alive' emphasizes that faithfulness preserves life while idolatry brings death. Past judgment should inform present obedience—God's holiness and justice remain constant.

Historical Context

The Baal-peor incident (Numbers 25) occurred shortly before this address, where 24,000 Israelites died in a plague after engaging in sexual immorality and idol worship with Moabite women. This fresh memory made Moses' warnings vivid and powerful. Those who remained faithful survived; those who compromised perished. The contrast was undeniable and recent.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What recent examples of sin's consequences should warn you toward faithfulness?
2. How does 'claving unto the LORD' manifest practically in your daily life?

Interlinear Text

פָּע וֹר	בָּב עַל	יְהוָה	עָשָׂה	אֲשֶׁר	אֵת	הָרָא	וְעֵינֶיכֶם
Baalpeor		the LORD	did			have seen	Your eyes
H1187	H0	H3068	H6213	H834	H853	H7200	H5869
פָּע וֹר	בָּעַל	אֲחֵרֵי	הֵלֵךְ	אֲשֶׁר	הָאִישׁ	כָּל	כָּי
Baalpeor		that followed				for all the men	
H1187	H0	H310	H1980	H834		H376	H3605
מִקִּרְבָּם:	אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ	יְהוָה	הַשְׁמִיד וְ				
them from among	thy God	the LORD	hath destroyed				
H7130	H430	H3068	H8045				