

Deuteronomy 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Analysis

Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

This shocking statement tests Moses' faith and reveals both God's righteous justice and His providential plan to preserve a remnant through a faithful mediator.

The phrase Let me alone is remarkable - the sovereign God who needs no permission presents the situation in terms that invite Moses' intercession. This is not divine indecision but a test of Moses' heart and an invitation to participate in the covenant relationship through faithful prayer.

God's proposal to make of thee a nation mightier and greater would technically fulfill the Abrahamic promise - Moses was Abraham's descendant. Yet it would break the specific promises to the twelve tribes and nullify the exodus narrative's purpose. God's offer tests whether Moses will grasp at personal glory or intercede for the guilty people.

Reformed theology sees this as analogous to Christ's mediatorial work. Christ, the faithful mediator, interceded for His people even when we deserved destruction, securing our salvation through His advocacy before the Father.

Historical Context

This pattern of divine threat followed by mediatorial intercession appears repeatedly in Israel's history. Similar exchanges occurred when God threatened judgment at Kadesh-Barnea and during various rebellions.

These incidents demonstrate the power of intercessory prayer and the importance of faithful mediators in God's redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why would God invite Moses to 'let me alone' when He is sovereign and needs no permission?
2. How did Moses' refusal of personal advancement demonstrate genuine shepherd-leadership?
3. In what ways does Moses' intercession for guilty Israel prefigure Christ's mediation for sinners?
4. What does this passage teach about the power and importance of intercessory prayer?
5. How should we respond when God tests our motives through opportunities for personal advancement?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה יִרְדֵּף Let me alone H7503	מִמֶּנִּי H4480	וְאַשְׁמִיד that I may destroy H8045	וְאֶמְחָה them and blot out H4229	אֶת H853	שְׁמֵם their name H8034
מִתַּחַת H8478	הַשָּׁמַיִם from under heaven H8064	וְאֶעֱשֶׂה and I will make H6213	אֹתָךְ of H854	לְגֹי thee a nation H1471	עָצוֹם mightier H6099
וְיִרְבֶּה and greater H7227	מִמֶּנּוּ H4480				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 29:20 (Parallel theme): The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

Psalms 9:5 (Parallel theme): Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

Revelation 3:5 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Acts 7:51 (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Psalms 109:13 (Parallel theme): Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.