

Deuteronomy 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

Analysis

Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you. Moses reiterates his extended intercession, emphasizing both its duration and its necessity. The repetition of forty days and nights stresses the costly nature of effective advocacy.

The phrase as I fell down at the first indicates Moses' posture of complete humility and supplication. He prostrated himself before God in earnest pleading for Israel's preservation. This physical position reflected spiritual desperation - Moses threw himself on God's mercy.

Moses' intercession was motivated by imminent judgment - the LORD had said he would destroy you. This was not vague possibility but declared intention. Only faithful mediation stood between Israel and annihilation, previewing Christ's greater mediation that delivers believers from certain judgment.

The fact that Moses repeats this information (verse 18 already mentioned this) emphasizes the severity of Israel's situation and the miracle of their preservation. They owed their existence entirely to mediatorial intercession.

Historical Context

This extended intercession occurred twice - once after the golden calf, once after the Kadesh rebellion. Both times Israel stood under God's declared intention to destroy them and start over with Moses. Both times Moses' faithful advocacy secured their preservation.

These intercessions prefigured Christ's advocacy, which secures not temporary reprieve but eternal salvation for His people.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Moses' forty-day intercession reveal about the costliness of effective advocacy?
2. How does prostration before God reflect the proper posture of intercessory prayer?
3. Why does Moses repeat this information about his intercession?
4. How does Moses' temporary preservation of Israel point to Christ's eternal preservation of believers?
5. What motivates faithful leaders to intercede earnestly for people who repeatedly rebel?

Interlinear Text

פִּי וּמִ אַרְבָּעִים אֶת	לִפְנֵי יְהוָה הַתְּנִפֵּת לְתַיִן	יְהוָה הַתְּנִפֵּת לְתַיִן	תָּהִנְתֵּן אֶת	פִּי וּמִ אַרְבָּעִים אֶת
Thus I fell down	before	at the first because the LORD	H853	and forty
H5307	H6440	H3068		H705
הַתְּנִפֵּת לְתַיִן אֶת רְאֵשׁ רְאֵשׁ כָּל לְיְלָה אַרְבָּעִים וְאֶת	הַתְּנִפֵּת לְתַיִן	אֶת רְאֵשׁ רְאֵשׁ כָּל לְיְלָה אַרְבָּעִים וְאֶת	תָּהִנְתֵּן אֶת	פִּי
H853	and forty	H3915	Thus I fell down	H3588
H705	nights	H834	H5307	had said
				H559
יְהוָה הַתְּנִפֵּת לְתַיִן אֶת רְאֵשׁ רְאֵשׁ כָּל לְיְלָה אַרְבָּעִים וְאֶת	יְהוָה הַתְּנִפֵּת לְתַיִן	אֶת רְאֵשׁ רְאֵשׁ כָּל לְיְלָה אַרְבָּעִים וְאֶת	תָּהִנְתֵּן אֶת	פִּי
at the first because the LORD	he would destroy	H8045	H853	
H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:18 (References Lord): And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Deuteronomy 9:16 (References Lord): And I looked, and, behold, ye had sinned against the LORD your God, and had made you a molten calf: ye had turned aside quickly out of the way which the LORD had commanded you.