

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

Psalms 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

הִי וּמִ	אַרְבַּע יָמִים	אֵת	יְהוָה	לִפְנֵי י	הִתְנַפֵּּ לְתִי
days	and forty	H853	at the first because the LORD	before	Thus I fell down
H3117	H705		H3068	H6440	H5307
אָמַר	כִּי	הִתְנַפֵּּ לְתִי	אֲשֶׁר	הָלַלְתִּי	אַרְבַּע יָמִים וְלַיְלָה
had said	H3588	Thus I fell down	H834	nights	H853
H559		H5307		H3915	H705
אֶתְּכֶם:	לְהַשְׁמֵ יָד	יְהוָה	אֶתְּכֶם:	אֶתְּכֶם:	
H853	he would destroy	at the first because the LORD			
	H8045	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.