

Exodus 32:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

Analysis

God redirects Moses: God redirects Moses: Now therefore go, lead the people) to the promised land (asher-dibbarti lach, of which I have spoken to you). God reaffirms His covenant promise while maintaining distance— hinneh mal'achi yelech lefanecha, behold, My angel shall go before you). This 'angel' (mal'ach) may be the Angel of the Lord (Ex 33:2), but the shift from God's personal presence (Ex 33:3) indicates strained relationship. The warning pokdi ufakadti alehem chattam, nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them) promises future reckoning—sin's consequences aren't eliminated even when immediate judgment is stayed.

Historical Context

This 'visiting' occurred repeatedly in Israel's history (wilderness deaths, exile, etc.). Forgiveness doesn't always remove temporal consequences, teaching that sin is serious even under grace.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does deferred judgment demonstrate both mercy and justice?
2. What does the distinction between immediate forgiveness and future 'visiting' teach about sin's consequences?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר אֶל בָּעֵם אֶת נַחַת הַלְּכוֹן וְעַתָּה

H6258

H1980

lead

H853

the people

H413

H834

דְּבָרַתִּי

unto the place of which I have spoken

H1696

הַיְהֵה לְךָ

H0

H2009

מֶלֶךְ

unto thee behold mine Angel

H4397

לִפְנֵי יְמִינְךָ יְלִילָה

H1980

before

thee nevertheless in the day

H6440

וְבַיִם

H3117

I will visit

H6485

I will visit

H6485

עַלְמָם וְפִקְדָּת וְפִקְדָּת

H5921

חַטָּאתָם

their sin

H2403

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:35 (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Exodus 23:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

Matthew 23:35 (Parallel theme): That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org