

Exodus 34:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

Analysis

God responds with 'Behold, I make a covenant', בְּרִית אֲנִי כְּרֹת (berit ani koret—literally 'I cut a covenant'). This covenant renewal includes promises of unprecedented wonders (נִפְלָאֹת, nifla'ot) before all nations. God emphasizes that these acts are 'terrible' (נָרָא, nora—awesome, fear-inspiring), designed to display His power to both Israel and surrounding nations. Covenant faithfulness demands covenant obedience.

Historical Context

Covenant-cutting ceremonies involved animal sacrifice (Gen 15:9-18). This renewed covenant reaffirms Sinai while anticipating the conquest of Canaan.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'awesome' works of God have you witnessed in your life?
2. How should God's covenant promises shape your obedience?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	הִנֵּה	אָנֹכִי	כִּי	תִּמְשָׁלֵךְ	בְּרִית	כָּל	גָּד	וְאֶמְרֶךָ
And he said	H2009	H595	Behold I make	a covenant	H1285	H5048	H3605	
	H559		H3772		H1285			
לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	גַּפְלָא	תְּעַשׂ	הַעֲמָם	נִבְרָא	וְ		
and all the people	I will do	marvels	H834	H3808	such as have not been done			
H5971	H6213	H6381		H1254				
בְּכָל	וְכָא	הַגּוֹן	מִן	בְּאַרְץ	בְּכָל	וְכָא	הָ	כָּל
in all the earth	H3605	H3605	nor in any nation	which thou art shall see	H7200	H3605		
	H776		H1471					
מְעַשֵּׂךְ	הָאָתָה	בְּקָרְבָּן	וְאַפְתָּה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּעַמְּךָ	יְהִי	וְ	כִּי
of the LORD	H3588	H4639	H853	H859	H834	the work	of the	
and all the people	H5971		H7130	H834	H834	among		
עָמָךְ	עַשְׂתָּה	אֲנִי	אֲשֶׁר	הַוְאָה	נוֹתֵךְ	עָמָךְ	וְ	
I will do	H5973	H6213						
for it is a terrible thing	H3372	H1931						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:21 (Parallel theme): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Psalms 77:14 (Parallel theme): Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.

Isaiah 64:3 (Parallel theme): When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.

Psalms 66:5 (Parallel theme): Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

Jeremiah 32:21 (Parallel theme): And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

2 Samuel 7:23 (Parallel theme): And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

Psalms 78:12 (Parallel theme): Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

Psalms 66:3 (Parallel theme): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (References Lord): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Joshua 6:20 (Parallel theme): So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.