

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 כֹרֵת, berit ani koret—literally 'I cut a covenant'). This covenant renewal includes promises of unprecedented wonders (נִפְלְאוֹת, nifla'ot) before all nations. God emphasizes that these acts are 'terrible' (נֹרָא, 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

Psalms 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

כָּל	נְגִד	בְּרִית	כִּי ת	אֶנְכִּי	הֵן ה	וַיֹּאמֶר
H3605	H5048	H1285	H3772	H595	H2009	H559
		a covenant	Behold I make			And he said
וְנִבְרָא ו	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	רַ	נִפְלְאָה	תַּ	עֲשֵׂה ה
H1254	H3808	H834		H6381	H6213	H5971
	such as have not been done			marvels	I will do	and all the people
כָּל	וְכֹא ה	הַגּוֹיִם	וּבְכָל	הָאָרֶץ	בְּכָל	
H3605	H7200	H1471	H3605	H776	H3605	
	which thou art shall see	nor in any nation		in all the earth		
כִּי	יְהוָה	מַעֲשֵׂה ה	אֶת	בְּקִרְבִּי ו	אֶת ה	אֲשֶׁר
H3588	H3068	H4639	H853	H7130	H859	H834
	of the LORD	the work		among		and all the people
עֲמָךְ:	עֲשֵׂה ה	אֲנִי	אֲשֶׁר	רַ	ה וַא	נֹכַח
H5973	H6213	H589	H834	H1931		H3372
	I will do					for it is a terrible thing

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.