

Exodus 34:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

Analysis

God promises to eliminate miscarriage (שָׁכֵל, shakal—to lose offspring/be bereaved) and barrenness (עֲקָרָה, aqarah). Full longevity is guaranteed: 'the number of thy days I will fulfil.' In the ancient world with high infant and maternal mortality, this promise was revolutionary. It demonstrates God's sovereignty over life itself and His desire to bless covenant faithfulness with abundant life—a principle finding ultimate fulfillment in eternal life through Christ.

Historical Context

Barrenness was considered a curse or divine displeasure in ancient cultures (Gen 30:1-2, 1 Sam 1:5-8). God's promise here reverses the curse and grants covenant communities fruitfulness as a sign of blessing.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over life and death comfort you in uncertain circumstances?
2. What does this promise of fullness of days teach about God's desire for abundant life for His people?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹל אֲבֹרֶר | אֶל יְהוָה מֵשֶׁה וְיִשְׁאָל בָּו מֵשֶׁה הָאֱלֹהִים וְיָקֹב אֶלְקָנָה
called H413 And Moses returned H413 unto them and Aaron H3605
H7121 H4872 H7725 H175

אֶלְקָנָה יְמִינָה בְּעֵד הַמִּשְׁנָה יְדֵבָר
and all the rulers of the congregation talked And Moses H413
H5387 H5712 H1696 H4872

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