

Ezekiel 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

Analysis

'Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands.' God's oath in the wilderness: the rebellious generation wouldn't enter the promised land. The oath formula ('lifted up my hand') solemnizes the decree. The irony: the land 'flowing with milk and honey' which God 'had given them' was forfeited through unbelief. Unbelief disqualifies from receiving God's promised blessings.

Historical Context

Numbers 14:20-35 records this oath after Israel rejected the promised land based on the spies' report. Despite Caleb and Joshua's faithful testimony, the people believed the fearful majority. God decreed 40 years of wandering until that generation died. This became a warning about unbelief's consequences (Hebrews 3:7-19, 4:1-11).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does unbelief prevent us from experiencing God's promised blessings?
2. What does the wilderness generation teach about the relationship between faith and inheriting promises?

Interlinear Text

וְגַם H1571	אֲנִי H589	נָשָׂא אֶתִּי H5375	יָדִי H3027	לָהֶם H0	בַּמִּדְבָּר H4057	unto them in the wilderness
לְבִלְתִּי H1115	הֵב יָא H935	that I would not bring	אוֹתָם H853	אֶל H413	הָאֲרָצוֹת: H776	of all lands
נָתַתִּי H5414	זֹבַח H2100	with milk	וְדִבַּשׁ H1706	צִבְיָה H6643	הִיא H1931	which is the glory
לְכָל H3605	הָאֲרָצוֹת: H776	of all lands				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 95:11 (Parallel theme): Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Psalms 106:26 (Parallel theme): Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness: