

Numbers 10:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee.

Analysis

And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee—Moses offers covenant inclusion: the Hebrew repetition (wəhāyāh kî-tēlēk ‘immānū wəhāyāh haṭṭōb hahū’) emphasizes certainty and reciprocity. Ṭōb (טוֹב, 'goodness') refers not merely to material blessing but to covenant participation in God's promises to Israel.

This principle anticipates the grafting of Gentiles into Israel's olive tree (Romans 11:17-24). Hobab wasn't offered mere employment as a guide, but full participation in Israel's destiny. The offer transforms potential exploitation ('use his skills') into genuine covenant fellowship—a pattern for how God's people should welcome outsiders who join themselves to the Lord (Isaiah 56:3-8).

Historical Context

This promise echoes God's covenant with Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed (Genesis 12:3). Hobab's potential inclusion demonstrates that even in the Old Covenant, non-Israelites could participate in God's promises through faith and alignment with His people. The Rechabites (descendants of Hobab, Judges 1:16) later received divine commendation (Jeremiah 35).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does your church or community extend 'the same goodness' to newcomers and outsiders that you yourselves have received from God?
2. What would change if you viewed welcoming others not as charity but as inviting them into covenant blessing?
3. How does this passage challenge individualistic Christianity that sees faith as purely personal rather than communal?

Interlinear Text

בְּטַבְדֵּל נָא כְּלָל הַיְלָדִים וְבְנֵי הָאָדָם
H1961 H3588 H1980 H5973 H1961 H2896
with us yea it shall be that what goodness

לֹא: וְהַעֲשֵׂה בְנֵי הָאָדָם יְהִי הַעֲשֵׂה כְּלָל
H1931 H834 shall do the LORD H5973 H0
H3190 H3068 shall do H3190

Additional Cross-References

Judges 1:16 (Parallel theme): And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which lieth in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.

Judges 4:11 (Parallel theme): Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh.

