

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-têlēḵ ‘immānū wəhāyāh haṭṭôḇ hahû’) emphasizes certainty and reciprocity. Ṭôḇ (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

וְהָיָה	כִּי	תֵּלֵךְ	נִוְעַמְךָ	וְהָיָה	הַטּוֹב
H1961	H3588	H1980	H5973	H1961	
				with us yea it shall be that what goodness	H2896
וְהָיָה	אֲשֶׁר	נִוְעַמְךָ	וְהָיָה	נִוְעַמְךָ	לָךְ
H1931	H834			H5973	H0
		shall do	the LORD	shall do	
		H3190	H3068	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.

