

Numbers 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

Analysis

Moses intercedes: 'Then the Egyptians shall hear it... And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land.' Moses appeals to God's reputation among nations - if God destroys Israel, pagans will conclude He lacked power to complete what He started. This argument proves effective (v.20). Moses understood that God's glory among nations matters supremely. His concern wasn't Israel's comfort but God's name. This illustrates proper prayer motivation - seeking God's glory, not our ease. Jesus taught us to pray 'Hallowed be thy name' (Matt 6:9) before personal requests. Missions exists because worship doesn't.

Historical Context

Moses referenced the Exodus' fame among nations (Ex 15:14-16, Josh 2:10-11). Egypt and Canaan had heard of Yahweh's mighty acts. If Israel perished in wilderness, nations would attribute it to divine weakness, not Israel's unbelief. Moses' argument reflects his transformation from reluctant leader to one passionate for God's glory. His intercession parallels Abraham's (Gen 18:23-32) and anticipates Christ's (John 17). The successful appeal demonstrates that prayers aligned with God's purposes and character prevail. God delights when His people care supremely about His reputation among nations.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do your prayers focus primarily on your comfort or on God's glory being displayed?
2. How can you develop Moses' passion for God's name being honored among unbelievers?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	מִצְרַיִם	וְשָׁמַע וְ	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	וַיֹּאמֶר
H3588	H4714	H8085	H3068	H413	H4872	H559
	Then the Egyptians	shall hear	unto the LORD	And Moses	said	
מִקִּרְבּוֹ:	הִזָּה	הָעַם	אֶת	בְּכֹחַךְ	הָעַל יָדְךָ	it (for thou broughtest up
H7130	H2088	H5971	H853	H3581	H5927	
from among	this people	in thy might	it (for thou broughtest up			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:23 (References Moses): Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

Deuteronomy 32:27 (References Lord): Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and the LORD hath not done all this.

Ezekiel 20:9 (References Egypt): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:14 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

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