

Numbers 14:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Analysis

God swears that the faithless generation 'shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers.' The irony is profound: they refused to enter when commanded, now they cannot enter when willing (v. 40-45). This illustrates the tragedy of missed opportunity when God's patience expires. Yet He remains faithful to covenant promises—their children would enter (v. 31).

Historical Context

The land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:7, 26:3, 28:13) would be inherited not by the Exodus generation but by their children. God's faithfulness spans generations even when individuals fail.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What opportunities to obey God might you forfeit by delay and unbelief?
2. How does God's faithfulness to His promises comfort you even when individuals fail?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	שָׁבַע	נָשַׁבַּע
Surely they shall not	me see	which I sware
H518	H853	H7650
בְּאַשְׁר	רַצְחָנָה	רַצְחָנָה
the land	that provoked	which I sware
H776	H5006	H3808
לְאָבָתָם	מִתְאַצֵּן	רַצְחָנָה
unto their fathers	neither shall any of them that provoked	me see
H3605	H1	H7200

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 32:11 (Parallel theme): Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

Numbers 26:64 (Parallel theme): But among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.

Ezekiel 20:15 (Parallel theme): 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;