

Numbers 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Analysis

Moses and Aaron 'fell upon their faces' before the congregation, assuming the posture of intercessory prayer. They addressed God as 'the God of the spirits of all flesh,' acknowledging His sovereignty over life and death for all humanity. Their question 'shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?' appeals to God's justice, asking Him to distinguish individual guilt from corporate punishment.

Historical Context

This intercession demonstrates Moses and Aaron's shepherd-hearts, willing to risk divine wrath to plead for the people who just threatened to stone them. Their selfless mediation prefigures Christ's intercession for enemies.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' intercession for rebels demonstrate Christlike love for enemies?
2. What does it mean to appeal to God's character and justice in prayer?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר בָּזְעָת
H2063 H834

עַד מִתְּעַד
H5704 H4970

לְעַד הַמִּתְּעַד
H5712

בְּרִעָה
H7451

congregation How long shall I bear with this evil

וְשְׁבָא לְבָנִים
H3478

בָּנִים מִלְּגִים
H1121

תְּלֵב וּתְלֵב
H8519

אֶת עַל
H853

מִלְּגִים יִם
H5921

which murmur
H3885

שְׁמֻעָתִי
H8085

עַל
H5921

מִלְּגִים יִם
H3885

which murmur
H1992

אֲשֶׁר
H834

against me I have heard

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:12 (References Israel): I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.

1 Corinthians 10:10 (Parallel theme): Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Mark 9:19 (Parallel theme): He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

Exodus 16:28 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

Numbers 14:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

