

Numbers 14:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

Analysis

God promises an unprecedented sign: 'if the LORD make a new thing' (Hebrew 'beriah', create something new) and the earth swallows the rebels, then Israel will know 'these men have provoked the LORD.' This creative miracle would unmistakably demonstrate divine judgment, removing any doubt about who was truly God's representative. The phrase 'go down quick into the pit' (alive into Sheol) indicates conscious descent into death.

Historical Context

No recorded instance exists of the earth opening to swallow people alive prior to this event. This 'new thing' served as supernatural vindication of Moses' authority and warning against rebellion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why does God sometimes use unprecedented miracles to vindicate His servants and judge rebellion?
2. How do divine judgments in Scripture serve as warnings to future generations?

Interlinear Text

בַּמִּדְבָּר	הַ זֶה	יִפֹּל ו	פְּגִרְיֶיךָ	וְכָל
in this wilderness	H2088	shall fall	Your carcasses	H3605
H4057		H5307	H6297	
וְכָל	לְכָל	מִסְפָּרְךָ	מִן	
and all that were numbered	H3605	of you according to your whole number	old	
H6485		H4557	H1121	
עֶשְׂרִים	שָׁנָה	וְעַד עֲלֵה	אֲשֶׁר	הָלִינָה
from twenty	years	and upward	H834	which have murmured
H6242	H8141	H4605		H5921
			H3885	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:45 (Parallel theme): So were all those that were numbered of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel;

Hebrews 3:17 (Parallel theme): But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

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.

1 Corinthians 10:5 (Parallel theme): But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

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