

Numbers 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Analysis

Israel accuses God of bringing them to Canaan merely to die by the sword and have their families enslaved: 'Our wives and our children should be a prey.' They attribute malicious intent to God, suggesting He's leading them into disaster. This perverts God's character—He who delivered them from slavery supposedly plans to enslave their children. Unbelief always misrepresents God's nature and intentions.

Historical Context

God had explicitly promised to drive out the Canaanites and give Israel the land (Exodus 3:8, 17). Their accusation directly contradicted God's sworn oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, showing how fear blinds people to clear revelation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When has fear caused you to question God's good intentions toward you?

2. How does remembering God's covenant faithfulness protect against misrepresenting His character?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא הָ	יְהוָה !	בָּרַךְ יְא	אֶתְנוּ	אֶל	הָאֶרֶץ
H4100	And wherefore hath the LORD	brought	H853	H413	us unto this land
	H3068	H935			H776
הַזֹּאת	לִנְפֹל לְ	בַּיָּד רַב	נָשֵׁינוּ	וְטַפֵּנוּ	וְיָהִי וְ
H2063	to fall	by the sword	that our wives	and our children	H1961
	H5307	H2719	H802	H2945	
לִבִּי ז	הֲלֹא	טוֹב	לָנוּ	שׁוּב	מִצְרָיִם:
should be a prey	H3808	were it not better	H0	for us to return	into Egypt
H957		H2896		H7725	H4714

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:40 (Parallel theme): How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

Jeremiah 9:3 (References Lord): And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.