

Numbers 14:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as for you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.

Analysis

The rebels 'went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them.' The emphasis on 'alive' (Hebrew 'chai') indicates conscious descent into Sheol, amplifying the terror of divine judgment. That 'they perished from among the congregation' means complete removal—no trace remained except memory. This judgment served as definitive answer to 'who is holy' (16:5).

Historical Context

This unprecedented miracle became proverbial in Israel's history, referenced as warning against rebellion (26:10, Deuteronomy 11:6, Psalm 106:17). The site likely remained visible as a memorial of divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does conscious descent into judgment teach about eternal consequences of rebellion?
2. How should historic examples of God's judgment inform present-day obedience?

Interlinear Text

וּפְגִיזֶיכֶם	אֶתְּ	וּפֹלּוּ	בַּמִּדְבָּר	הַזֶּה:
But as for you your carcasses	H859	they shall fall	in this wilderness	H2088
H6297		H5307	H4057	

Additional Cross-References

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

Numbers 14:29 (Parallel theme): 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,