

Numbers 14:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

Analysis

God declares: 'I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation... in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.' The emphatic Hebrew construction 'im lo zot e'eseh' (surely this I will do) guarantees certain fulfillment. God swears by Himself that the unbelieving generation will die in wilderness. The phrase 'I the LORD have said' invokes divine authority - when God speaks, He performs (Isa 55:11). This demonstrates God's word's absolute reliability - both promises and warnings. The fulfillment was exact - all that generation died except Caleb and Joshua (Num 26:64-65). God's threats aren't empty but certain unless repentance intervenes.

Historical Context

This judgment came after Moses' intercession prevented immediate destruction but couldn't prevent consequence for persistent unbelief. The sentence was precise: one year of wilderness wandering for each day the spies searched Canaan (forty days, forty years, v.34). Everyone from twenty years old upward would die; only those younger would enter, plus faithful Caleb and Joshua (v.29-30). The execution took nearly forty years, with the generation gradually dying off until the second census (Num 26) showed complete turnover. Deuteronomy repeatedly references this judgment (Deut 1:34-40, 2:14-16), and Paul uses it as warning for Christians (1 Cor 10:5-10, Heb 3:7-4:11).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Do you take God's warnings as seriously as His promises, recognizing both will certainly be fulfilled?
2. How does this generation's fate warn you against hardening your heart through persistent unbelief?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי יְהוָה	דִּבַּרְתִּי	אֲדַמָּה	לֹא אֶל	הִזְאתָ	אֶעֱשֶׂה	לְכָל
H589	I the LORD	have said	I will surely	H3808	it	do
H3068	H1696	H518		H2063	H6213	H3605
קְהִלָּה	עַד	כָּל הָרָעָה	הִזְאתָ	הַנִּשְׁתַּבְּחָה יַחְדָּם	עַל	י
congregation	unto all this evil	it	that are gathered together		H5921	
H5712	H7451	H2063	H3259			
בַּמִּדְבָּר	הִזְאתָ	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
against me in this wilderness	H2088	they shall be consumed				
H4057		H8552				
וְהָיָה						
and there they shall die						
H4191						

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

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

Hebrews 3:19 (Parallel theme): So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Numbers 26:65 (References Lord): For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

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