

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

לְכָל אֲשֶׁר הַפֹּז אֶת לְאָן אָמַם דָּבְרָתִי יְהוָה אָנִי H589 I the LORD have said I will surely H3808 it do H3605 H3202 H1626 H512 H2023 H3212

בְּמִדְבָּר	הַזֶּה	וְתִּזְבַּח	עַל
against me in this wilderness	H2088	they shall be consumed	H8033

מחנה

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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