

Numbers 14:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

Analysis

The repetition that these men died 'by the plague before the LORD' emphasizes divine agency in their judgment. Their death was not misfortune but direct divine response to covenant breaking. God takes seriously those who cause His people to stumble, especially leaders whose influence multiplies the damage of unbelief.

Historical Context

The immediacy of judgment contrasts with the delayed consequence for the rest of the generation (who would die over forty years). This differential timing demonstrates that God calibrates His discipline according to degrees of responsibility and influence.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should leaders guard their words when they have influence over others' faith?
2. What responsibility do you bear for how your example affects others?

Interlinear Text

רָעַ הַנָּזֵב עַל הָאָרֶץ יְמִינֵי מֵת

died **Even those** **that did bring up** **report** **upon the land** **the evil**

H4191

H582

H3318

דָּבַת

report

H1681

בְּאֶרֶץ

upon the land

H776

רָעַ הַ

H7451

וְלֹפֶנְתִּי בְּפָגַעַת הָיְהָה:

by the plague **before** **the LORD**

H4046

H6440

H3068

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:10 (Parallel theme): Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Numbers 16:49 (Parallel theme): Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

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

Numbers 14:12 (Parallel theme): I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

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