

Numbers 32:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying,

Analysis

And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying— God's wrath (aph, אָף, literally "nose" or "nostrils," depicting flared nostrils in anger) blazed against the generation that rejected His promise. The verb "kindled" (charah, חָרַה) means to burn or be inflamed, indicating intense divine displeasure. This occurred at Kadesh-barnea when the spies' evil report caused Israel to refuse entry into Canaan (Numbers 13-14).

God's oath (shaba, שָׁבַע) sealed their judgment—no adult from that generation except Caleb and Joshua would enter the Promised Land. Divine oaths are irrevocable declarations of God's sovereign will. Moses here warns the tribes of Reuben and Gad that their request to settle east of Jordan echoes their fathers' rebellion, risking God's fierce judgment again. The reference establishes that covenant-breaking provokes God's righteous anger.

Historical Context

This refers to events at Kadesh-barnea circa 1445 BC (early chronology), when Israel's refusal to enter Canaan resulted in forty years of wilderness wandering. The request by Reuben and Gad to settle in Transjordan (Numbers 32:1-5) threatened to repeat that unbelief by prioritizing immediate comfort over God's promised inheritance. Moses's rebuke draws the parallel explicitly.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's irrevocable oath against the wilderness generation demonstrate that persistent unbelief exhausts divine patience?
2. What parallels exist between Israel's rejection of the Promised Land and modern Christians who settle for less than God's full purpose?
3. How should covenant communities today guard against corporate decisions that echo past rebellion?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים בְּזֹאת כִּי וְאַתָּה תְּשִׁבְעָנָה
and he sware
H1931
the same time
H3117
And the LORD'S
H3068
anger
H639
was kindled
H2734

לֹאמֶר:
saying
H559

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 14:11 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?