

Numbers 32:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

Analysis

Moses recalled God's oath: 'Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land... because they have not wholly followed me.' The phrase 'wholly followed' distinguishes Joshua and Caleb from others. Partial obedience equals disobedience; complete commitment to God's purposes is required. Half-hearted following forfeits promised blessings.

Historical Context

The exception for those under twenty (14:29) meant that the current fighting men were children during the spy incident. They witnessed their parents' failure and its consequences—forty years of wandering and death. Yet here they faced similar temptation: settling for partial fulfillment rather than complete obedience.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'wholly follow' God rather than offer partial obedience?
2. How do you guard against settling for less than God's full promise for your life?

Interlinear Text

שָׁרֵךְ יְמִים מִמְּצָבֵךְ יְמִים יָרָא וְאָמַר
Surely shall see that came up out of Egypt old from twenty
H518 H7200 H376 H5927 H4714 H1121 H6242

לְאַבְרָהָם נִשְׁבֵּעַ עִתִּי אֲשֶׁר בְּאָדָם הָיָה תִּמְעָלָה שְׁנָה
years and upward the land which I swear unto Abraham
H8141 H4605 H853 H127 H834 H7650 H85

אֲפָרֵךְ מִלְאָא וְלִיעַקְבֵּר לֹא כִּי לִיאַצְפֵּךְ
unto Isaac and unto Jacob because they have not wholly followed
H3327 H3290 H3588 H3808 H4390 H310

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 14:24 (Parallel theme): But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 26:2 (Parallel theme): Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel.