

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 swear 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

Psalms 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

אַם	יֵרָא ו	הָאָנֹשׁ יִם	הָעֵלָ יִם	מִמִּצְרַיִם	מִן	עֶשְׂרֵי יָמִים
Surely	shall see		that came up	out of Egypt	old	from twenty
H518	H7200	H376	H5927	H4714	H1121	H6242
שָׁנָה	וּמֵעַלָּה	אֶת	הָאֲדָמָה	אֲשֶׁר	נִשְׁבַּעַתִּי	לְאַבְרָהָם
years	and upward		the land		which I swear	unto Abraham
H8141	H4605	H853	H127	H834	H7650	H85
לְיִצְחָק	וּלְיַעֲקֹב	כִּי	לֹא	מֵלֵא ו		אַחֲרָי:
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.