

2 Samuel 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

Analysis

And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

This verse contributes to the narrative of Davidic Covenant, emphasizing eternal promises, Messianic hope. The Davidic Covenant represents one of Scripture's most significant theological developments, promising an eternal dynasty culminating in Messiah. The Hebrew bayit (בַּיִת, 'house') functions as wordplay—David wanted to build God a house (temple), but God promises to build David a house (dynasty). Cross-references to Psalm 89, 2 Samuel 23:5, and New Testament passages (Luke 1:32-33, Acts 2:30) demonstrate this covenant's centrality to redemptive history.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 7 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding eternal promises, Messianic hope provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of eternal promises, Messianic hope?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וְיָ H4310	עַמָּךְ H5971	כִּי־שָׂרָא לִ H3478	גּוֹיִם H1471	אֵת דָּ H259	לְאַרְצְךָ H776
	for a people	even like Israel	from the nations	And what one	for thy land
וְיָ H834	הָלַכוּ H1980	וְאֱלֹהֵיהֶם H430	לְפָדְךָ H6299	לְ H0	עַמָּךְ H5971
	went	and their gods	to redeem		for a people
וְלָשׁוֹ H7760	וְלַעֲשׂוֹת H0	שֵׁם H8034	וְלַעֲשׂוֹת H6213	לְ H0	הַגְּדוֹלָה H1420
	to himself and to make	him a name	and to do		for you great things
וְנִכְאוֹת H3372	לְאַרְצְךָ H776	מִפְנֵי H6440	עַמָּךְ H5971	וְיָ H834	לְפָדְךָ H6299
	and terrible	for thy land	before	for a people	to redeem
מִמִּצְרַיִם H4714	מִגּוֹיִם H1471	וְאֱלֹהֵיהֶם H430			
	to thee from Egypt	from the nations	and their gods		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:21 (References God): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Deuteronomy 9:26 (Redemption): I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Psalms 147:20 (Parallel theme): He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 111:9 (Redemption): He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

Nehemiah 1:10 (Redemption): Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

Deuteronomy 15:15 (Redemption): And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (References Israel): Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Psalms 40:5 (References God): Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Ezekiel 20:9 (References Egypt): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Revelation 5:9 (Redemption): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;