

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 (בַּיּוֹת, '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

לְאָרֶץ בָּן אֶתְּנָאָתְּ וּמִן
 H4310 for a people even like Israel from the nations And what one for thy land
 H5971 H3478 H1471 H259 H776

עַמְּךָ אֲשֶׁר פָּלָכוּ יְהִי אֱלֹהָיו:
 H834 went and their gods to redeem for a people
 H1980 H430 H6299 H5971

בְּגִדְעֹל הַנְּצָרָת וְלֹא שָׁמַע לְאָרֶץ
 to himself and to make him a name and to do for you great things
 H7760 H8034 H6213 H1420

לְבָנָה אֲשֶׁר פָּדָית מִפְנֵי לְאָרֶץ בָּן וְנִגְּרָאֹת
 and terrible for thy land before for a people to redeem
 H3372 H776 H6440 H5971 H834 H6299 H0

מִמִּצְרָיִם גּוֹיִם אֱלֹהָיו:
 to thee from Egypt from the nations and their gods
 H4714 H1471 H430

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;