

Amos 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

Analysis

After cataloging Israel's sins, Amos reminds them of God's grace: "Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath." The Amorites, representing Canaan's inhabitants, were formidable enemies—tall, strong, entrenched (Numbers 13:28-33). Israel couldn't have conquered them through human strength. God destroyed them "from above" (fruit) and "beneath" (roots)—comprehensive, total destruction. This reminds Israel that their possession of the land was entirely God's gift, not their achievement. The Reformed doctrine of sovereign grace emphasizes that salvation and blessing originate solely with God's initiative and power (Ephesians 2:8-9). Israel's ingratitude after such grace magnified their sin.

Historical Context

The conquest of Canaan under Joshua involved multiple battles over years (Joshua 6-12). Archaeological evidence shows destructions at key Canaanite cities during this period. Scripture attributes victory to God, not Israel's military prowess (Joshua 1:5, 10:14, 42, 23:9-10). Israel's subsequent apostasy and injustice demonstrated shocking ingratitude—the pattern repeated in church history when blessed peoples forget God's grace and slide into apostasy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 – Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God's past faithfulness combat present presumption and ingratitude?
2. In what ways do believers take credit for blessings that are entirely God's gifts?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	מִצְבֵּחַ	מִן	אֶת	רָצֶה	מִן	הַעַלְתִּי	וְאַתָּחָכְךָ	מִן	אֵת	וְאֵת
H595	Also I brought you up		H853	from the land			of Egypt		H1980	
	H5927			H776			H4714			

אַתָּה	לְךָ	שְׁתַּי	שְׁנַי	הַאֲרָבָעָה	בַּמִּדְבָּר	אַתָּה
H853	through	the	wilderness	you	forty	years
	H4057			H705		H8141

בְּאָמְרִים אֵת הַצְּדָקָה
from the land of the Amorite H776 H567

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 2:7 (Parallel theme): For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Exodus 12:51 (References Egypt): And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

Amos 3:1 (References Egypt): Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

Acts 13:18 (Parallel theme): And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

Acts 7:42 (Parallel theme): Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

Exodus 3:8 (References Egypt): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Amos 9:7 (References Egypt): Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?

Micah 6:4 (References Egypt): For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

Psalms 95:10 (Parallel theme): Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

Nehemiah 9:21 (Parallel theme): Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.