

Deuteronomy 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.

Analysis

God's direct speech—"Behold, I have set the land before you"—personalizes the promise and emphasizes divine initiative. The imperative 'go up and possess it' removes all excuse for delay or disobedience. The concluding phrase 'fear not, neither be discouraged' addresses the dual enemies of faith: fear (emotional paralysis) and discouragement (mental defeat). God's command includes both mission and encouragement, showing that He equips what He calls.

Historical Context

This echoes God's encouragement to Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:6-9), establishing a pattern of divine reassurance before daunting tasks. The land was inhabited by fortified cities and powerful nations, making courage and faith essential for obedience.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What mission is God calling you to that requires courage over fear?
2. How does God's past faithfulness strengthen you against present discouragement?

Interlinear Text

הָאֵלֹהִים	נָתַן	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	לִפְנֵי	אֶת	הָאֲרֶץ	עָלֶיךָ
Behold	hath set	it as the LORD	God	before	H853	the land	thee go up
H7200	H5414	H3068	H430	H6440		H776	H5927
וְשָׂא	כְּאִשֹּׁר	דָּבָר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	אֲבֹתֶיךָ	לְךָ	
and possess	H834	hath said	it as the LORD	God	of thy fathers	H0	
H3423		H1696	H3068	H430	H1		
אֶל	תִּירָא	וְאֶל	תִּתַּח:				
H408	unto thee fear	H408	not neither be discouraged				
	H3372		H2865				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:9 (References God): Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Hebrews 13:6 (References Lord): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 46:1 (References God): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Numbers 13:30 (Parallel theme): And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.