

# Deuteronomy 1:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.

## Analysis

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The children, originally cited as potential captives (Numbers 14:3), become the covenant heirs who 'shall go in thither.' Their innocence—'had no knowledge between good and evil'—doesn't imply sinlessness but rather lack of covenant accountability at Kadesh-barnea. God's promise to give them the land demonstrates that His purposes span generations. The Reformed doctrine of covenant succession appears: God's promises extend to believers' children, who receive the inheritance their parents forfeited through unbelief. This prefigures the New Covenant principle that God saves households (Acts 16:31).

## Historical Context

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Refers to all Israelites under age 20 at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 14:29-31), approximately 600,000+ individuals who would enter Canaan 38 years later. This included future leaders like Joshua, who was exempt due to his faithful spy report. The phrase indicates these children, now adults, would conquer Canaan under Joshua's leadership circa 1406-1400 BC.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

### Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to the children demonstrate His covenant faithfulness across generations?
2. What does this verse teach about God's view of covenant children and their inclusion in redemptive promises?

### Interlinear Text

וַיַּטְפַּךְ	רָאשׁ	מִן	אֲמָרָת	לְבָבְךָ	וְיָתַר
Moreover your little ones	H834	which ye said	should be a prey	H1961	
H2945		H559		H957	
בְּנֵיכֶם					
לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יְדַעַת	בַּיּוֹם	
and your children	H834	H3808	had no knowledge	which in that day	
H1121			H3045	H3117	
בּוֹטֵחַ	בְּרֵאשִׁית	בְּרֵאשִׁית	בְּרֵאשִׁית	בְּרֵאשִׁית	
between good	and evil	H1992	they shall go in	H8033	H0
H2896	H7451		H935		
אֶתְתֶּן	לְךָ	וְלֹא	יְרַשְׁוּ		
thither and unto them will I give	H1992	it and they shall possess	H3423		
H5414					

### Additional Cross-References

**Numbers 14:3** (Parallel theme): And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

**Romans 9:11** (Evil): (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

**Jonah 4:11** (Parallel theme): And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

**Numbers 14:31** (Parallel theme): But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.