

Deuteronomy 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

Analysis

The phrase 'Behold, I have set the land before you' emphasizes God's sovereign initiative in giving the land. The Hebrew 'nathan' (set/given) indicates an irrevocable gift already determined by God. Moses reminds Israel that their inheritance flows from God's covenant faithfulness to the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—not from their own merit. This underscores the principle that salvation and blessing come through God's promise, not human achievement.

Historical Context

This reiterates the Abrahamic covenant established 600+ years earlier (Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 17:8). The land promise was unconditional, based solely on God's oath to the patriarchs, demonstrating the unchangeable nature of God's covenantal commitments.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding grace as God's initiative change your relationship with Him?
2. In what areas are you trying to earn what God has already freely given?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה וַיַּרְשֵׁהָ וְבַאֲוֹתֶךָ אַתָּה לְפָנֶיךָ מִלְּתָתָךְ רֵא הָאָרֶץ
Behold I have set before the land you go in and possess H853 H853
H7200 H5414 H6440 H776 H935 H3423

לְאַבְרָהָם לְאָבָּבָה מִן הַשְׁבָּעָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע עַל הָאָרֶץ
the land sware which the LORD unto your fathers Abraham
H776 H834 H7650 H3068 H1 H85

אַחֲרֵיכֶם: לְיַצֵּף קְרֵב וְלִיעַקְבּוּ לְמִצְפָּה מִלְּתָתְךָ
Isaac and Jacob I have set after unto them and to their seed
H3327 H3290 H5414 H0 H2233 H310

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 12:7 (References Lord): And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Genesis 15:18 (References Lord): In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: