

Deuteronomy 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

Analysis

The promise: 'There shall no man be able to stand before you.' This assures military invincibility under covenant obedience. The mechanism: 'the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land.' God will fight psychologically before Israel fights physically—supernatural terror will paralyze enemies. The Hebrew *pachad* (פָּחַד, fear) and *mora* (מוֹרָא, dread/terror) indicate paralyzing fear. This strategy appeared at Red Sea (Exodus 15:14-16), with Rahab's testimony (Joshua 2:9-11), and Gibeonite surrender (Joshua 9:24). Divine terror is spiritual weapon that defeats enemies before battle begins.

Historical Context

Rahab confessed: 'the terror of you is fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you' (Joshua 2:9). The Canaanite coalition 'melted' in fear (Joshua 5:1). Exodus 23:27 promised 'I will send my fear before thee.' This psychological warfare reflects ancient Near Eastern concept of divine terror (*melammu* in Akkadian) associated with deity presence. Israel's victories often came through enemy panic (Judges 7:22; 1 Samuel 14:15-20) rather than superior force.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God fight spiritual battles on our behalf before we engage visible challenges?
2. What role does fear (reverential awe of God) play in Christian spiritual warfare?
3. How can we cultivate confidence that no enemy can 'stand before' us when we walk in obedience?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יִתְּצֵב	אִישׁ	פְּנֵי	פֶּחַדְךָ	וּמֹרְאֶךָ		
H3808	be able to stand	There shall no man	before	the fear	of you and the dread		
	H3320	H376	H6440	H6343	H4172		
יִתְּנוּ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	עַל	פְּנֵי	כָּל	הָאֲרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר
shall lay	you for the LORD	your God	H5921	before	H3605	all the land	H834
H5414	H3068	H430		H6440		H776	
תִּדְרֹכוּ		כַּאֲשֶׁר	דִּבֶּר	לָכֶם:			
that ye shall tread	H0	H834	upon as he hath said	H0			
H1869			H1696				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:27 (Parallel theme): I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

Deuteronomy 7:24 (Parallel theme): And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

Joshua 1:5 (Parallel theme): There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 2:25 (Parallel theme): This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

Joshua 5:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.

Joshua 2:9 (References Lord): And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.