

Deuteronomy 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.

Analysis

The imminence of conquest: 'For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.' The double use of 'possess' emphasizes certainty and ownership. The Hebrew *yarash* (יָרַשׁ, possess/dispossess) indicates both taking and inhabiting. God 'gives' the land, but Israel must actively 'possess' it—grace enables, effort applies. The sequence: pass over → possess → dwell describes conquest process. The promise combines divine gift ('the LORD giveth') with human responsibility ('ye shall possess'). This partnership of grace and works appears throughout Scripture: God provides what He commands, but we must appropriate what He provides.

Historical Context

Joshua 1-12 narrates the conquest: crossing Jordan (ch. 3-4), Jericho's fall (ch. 6), Ai campaign (ch. 7-8), southern conquest (ch. 10), northern conquest (ch. 11), summary of defeated kings (ch. 12). The process took approximately seven years. However, Judges 1 reveals incomplete conquest—Israel failed to drive out all inhabitants, leading to persistent idolatry. Full possession required full obedience; partial obedience yielded partial blessing and ongoing conflict.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate that God's promises require active faith to appropriate?
2. What 'promised land' blessings has God given you that require effort to fully possess?
3. What are the consequences of partial obedience—settling for less than God's full provision?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	וְיָרֵשְׁתָּ	לְבָא	הַיַּרְדֵּי	אֶת	עֲבַר יָם	אֲתָם	כִּי
H853	H3423	H935	H3383	H853	H5674	H859	H3588
	to possess	to go in	Jordan		For ye shall pass over		
וְיָרֵשְׁתָּ	לְכָם	נָתַן	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	הָאָרֶץ	
H3423	H0	H5414	H430	H3068	H834	H776	
to possess		giveth	your God	which the LORD		the land	
וְיָשְׁבוּ	אֵת	הָאָרֶץ					
H3427	H0	H853					
it and dwell							

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:11 (References God): Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

Deuteronomy 9:1 (Parallel theme): Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

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