

Deuteronomy 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

Analysis

The command 'Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments' connects obedience directly to covenant history. The Hebrew shamar (שָׁמַר, 'keep/guard') implies careful, diligent, protective observance. The purpose clause 'that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land' links obedience to conquest success. This isn't magical thinking but covenant theology: God's blessing on obedient Israel would include victory over enemies. Military strength flows from spiritual faithfulness. The conquest depends not primarily on superior weapons or numbers but covenant loyalty.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern treaty documents (Hittite suzerainty treaties, 14th-13th centuries BC) similarly connected vassal loyalty to prosperity and protection. God's covenant follows this recognizable form but with crucial differences: Yahweh had already redeemed Israel before demanding obedience (grace precedes law), and the relationship was personal, not merely political. Israel's strength wasn't autonomous but derived from covenant blessing.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's past faithfulness motivate present obedience?
2. What is the connection between spiritual faithfulness and effectiveness in life's battles?
3. How does grace preceding law affect our motivation for obedience?

Interlinear Text

אָנֹכִ יְשִׁמְרֹתֶם	בְּמִצְרָיִם	אַתָּה	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	אֲנֹכִ יְשִׁמְרֹתֶם	בְּמִצְרָיִם	אֲשֶׁר
Therefore shall ye keep				all the commandments		which	
H8104		H853	H3605	H4687		H595	
I command	you this day		H4616	that ye may be strong		and go in	and possess
H6680	H3117			H2388		H935	H3423
אָתָּה אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר מֵעֶבֶר יַם מִצְרָיָם לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם	לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם	בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר מֵעֶבֶר יַם מִצְרָיָם	לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם	לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם	לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם	לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם	לְמִן עַד מִצְרָיָם
H853	the land	which	H859	whither ye go	H8033	and possess	H3423
H776		H834		H5674			

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 6:10 (Parallel theme): Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 3:16 (Parallel theme): That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Deuteronomy 31:23 (Parallel theme): And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

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