

# 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

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The command 'Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments' connects obedience directly to covenant history. The Hebrew *shamar* (שמר, '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

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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

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**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

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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

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וְשָׁמְרֵתֶם	אֶת	כָּל	הַמִּצְוָה	אֲשֶׁר	אֲנִי
Therefore shall ye keep	H853	H3605	all the commandments	which	H595
H8104			H4687	H834	
מֵצִוָּה	הֵי יוֹם	לִמָּעַן	תִּחְזְקוּ וְ	וּבְאַתֶּם	לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:
I command	you this day	H4616	that ye may be strong	and go in	and possess
H6680	H3117		H2388	H935	H3423
אֶת	הָאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	אֵת מְ	עֲבַר יָם	שָׁמָּה
H853	the land	which	H859	whither ye go	H8033
	H776	H834	H5674		H3423
					and possess

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 swore 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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