

Deuteronomy 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Analysis

The land Israel will 'go over Jordan to possess' requires active conquest—'possess' (yarash, יָרַשׁ) means to dispossess current inhabitants and take ownership. This wasn't vacant territory but land requiring military action under divine warrant. God had promised the land to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21), but fulfillment required Israel's obedient participation. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility intersect in conquest. God's promise guarantees success, but Israel must still fight. This paradox appears throughout Scripture: God ordains ends AND means.

Historical Context

The Jordan crossing (Joshua 3-4) would miraculously repeat the Red Sea event, confirming God's continued presence and power. The conquest, though militarily challenging against fortified Canaanite cities, was divinely ordained judgment on Canaanite wickedness (Genesis 15:16—'the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full') and fulfillment of patriarchal promises given 600+ years earlier.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God typically fulfill His promises through human obedience rather than apart from it?
2. What 'promised land' blessings in your spiritual life require active faith and effort to possess?
3. How do we balance trusting God's sovereignty while taking personal responsibility?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא־עַן	תִּפְאֶרֶת יְכוֹ	יָמִים	עַל	הָ אֲדָמָה הַ	אֲשֶׁר
H4616	And that ye may prolong	your days	H5921	in the land	H834
	H748	H3117		H127	
נִשְׁבַּעַ ע	יְהוָה הַ	לְאֲבוֹתֶיךָ מִ	לֵת תִּ	לֶה מִ	
sware	which the LORD	unto your fathers	to give	H0	
H7650	H3068	H1	H5414		
וּלְזֶרַע מִ	אֶרֶץ	זָבֹת	חֶלֶב	וְדִבְשׁ:	
unto them and to their seed	a land	that floweth	with milk	and honey	
H2233	H776	H2100	H2461	H1706	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Deuteronomy 4:40 (References Lord): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Proverbs 10:27 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Deuteronomy 9:5 (References Lord): Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Deuteronomy 6:2 (References Lord): That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Deuteronomy 5:16 (References Lord): Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Ezekiel 20:6 (Parallel theme): In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands: