

Deuteronomy 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the LORD thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers;

Analysis

And if the LORD thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers (וְאִם־יִרְחִיב יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־גְּבוּלְךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם, ve'im-yarchiv YHWH Elohecha et-gevulcha ka'asher nishba la'avotecha)—rachav (enlarge) envisions territorial expansion beyond initial conquest. This refers to the full Abrahamic promise: 'from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates' (Genesis 15:18).

And give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers— God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob guaranteed territorial inheritance contingent on obedience. The land promise was never fully realized until Solomon's reign (1 Kings 4:21), and even then, not permanently possessed. Verse 9 makes the expansion conditional: 'If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them.' Israel's failure to fully obey meant the promise remained partially unfulfilled, pointing forward to the eternal inheritance believers receive in Christ.

Historical Context

The expanded borders described here were largely achieved under David and Solomon (circa 1000-930 BCE), when Israel controlled territory from Egypt's border to the Euphrates River. However, this was brief—the kingdom divided after Solomon, and neither northern nor southern kingdoms ever regained such extent. The conditional nature of land possession runs throughout Deuteronomy:

obedience brings blessing and expansion; disobedience brings exile. The Babylonian exile (586 BCE) proved this principle tragically true.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do God's conditional promises reveal the connection between obedience and blessing?
2. In what ways do Old Testament land promises find their ultimate fulfillment in the new creation and eternal inheritance believers receive in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם יִרְחַ יְבֹאֶשׁ רָגְבְּ לָבֶּ אֶת אֱלֹהֵי יָכֹ
 H518 **enlarge** H7337 **And if the LORD** H3068 **thy God** H430 H853 **thy coast** H1366 H834
 כָּל אֶת לָבֶּ לָתֵת וְנִשְׁבַּע עַל אֲבֹתֶיךָ
 as he hath sworn H7650 unto thy fathers H1 and give H5414 H0 H853 H3605 thee all the land H776
 אֲשֶׁר רָבֵב רָבֵב לָתֵת וְנִשְׁבַּע עַל אֲבֹתֶיךָ
 H834 **which he promised** H1696 **and give** H5414 **unto thy fathers** H1

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:31 (Parallel theme): And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver

the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

Exodus 34:24 (References God): For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year.

Deuteronomy 12:20 (Covenant): When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

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