

Deuteronomy 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

Analysis

God promises to put 'dread of thee and fear of thee upon the nations' who hear of Israel. This divine terror goes beyond natural military intimidation—it's supernatural fear that God Himself places on Israel's enemies (as with Rahab's testimony in Joshua 2:9-11). The phrase 'under the whole heaven' emphasizes the universal scope—news of God's acts on Israel's behalf would spread throughout the known world. This fulfilled the promise to Abraham that through his seed all nations would be blessed (or in this case, warned of God's power).

Historical Context

This promise was fulfilled repeatedly: Rahab's confession (Joshua 2:9-11), the Gibeonites' deception to make peace (Joshua 9:9-10), and various Canaanite nations' fear (Joshua 5:1). The exodus from Egypt, Red Sea crossing, and victories over Sihon and Og created widespread awareness of Israel's God. Ancient Near Eastern records confirm that significant military events and religious claims spread rapidly through trade routes and diplomatic channels.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to fight for His people encourage you when facing overwhelming opposition?
2. What does the spreading 'fame' of God's works teach about the evangelistic impact of God's mighty acts?

Interlinear Text

עַל	וַיַּרְא	תְּכַ	בְּ	הַ	בַּיִ	וּמְ	בַּזְהַ	אֲמָלָ	תִּתְ	תִּתְ	פְּחַדְךָ	פְּחַדְךָ	וְ	יְמִינְךָ	וְ	מִפְנִיךָ:	
This day	H2088	will I begin	H2490	to put	H5414	the dread	H6343	of thee and the fear	H3374					עַל	וַיַּרְא	תְּכַ	
H3117																	
because of thee	H5971	that are under the whole heaven	H8064											אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	הַשְׁמָמָה	וּמְ
H6440																	
who shall hear	H8085	report	H8088	of thee and shall tremble	H7264	and be in anguish	H2342							אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	הַשְׁמָמָה	וְ
because of thee	H6440													מִפְנִיךָ:	וְ	יְמִינְךָ	וְ

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 11:25 (Parallel theme): There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

Deuteronomy 28:10 (Parallel theme): And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

Exodus 23:27 (Parallel theme): I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

Revelation 3:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Psalms 105:38 (Parallel theme): Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them fell upon them.

Joshua 9:24 (Parallel theme): And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

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