

Deuteronomy 2:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land.

Analysis

God's promise 'Behold, I have begun to deliver him and his land before thee' emphasizes ongoing divine action—'begun to deliver' points to process, not just event. The present tense invitation 'begin to possess' shows simultaneity of divine giving and human taking. God's action precedes and enables ours, yet both are necessary. This models the synergy between divine sovereignty and human responsibility throughout Scripture.

Historical Context

This conquest pattern—God delivers, Israel possesses—would repeat throughout Canaan under Joshua. The formula established here became the template: God's promise before battle, miraculous intervention during conflict, and human follow-through to secure victory. Neither divine nor human action alone achieves the goal—both coordinate in covenant partnership.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How are you partnering with God's initiative rather than waiting passively or acting presumptuously?
2. What synchronization of divine and human action characterizes your walk with God?

Interlinear Text

לֹפֶת יְהֹוָה תֵּת תְּפִלָּה לְפָנָי יְהֹוָה אֶלָּי
said And the LORD unto me Behold I have begun to give before
H559 H3068 H413 H7200 H2490 H5414 H6440

לְכָךְ שָׁתָּה אֶת סִיחָן אֶת אֶרְצָן אֶת לְפָנָי
that thou mayest inherit and his land I have begun that thou mayest inherit
H853 H853 H776 H2490 H3423

לְכָךְ שָׁתָּה אֶת אֶרְצָן
that thou mayest inherit and his land
H3423 H853 H776

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:8 (References Lord): Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.