

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

Psalms 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

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	רְאֵה	קָדַחְתִּי	תֵּת	לִפְנֵי יָדְךָ
said	And the LORD	H413	unto me Behold	I have begun	to give	before
H559	H3068		H7200	H2490	H5414	H6440
אֶת	סִיחֹן	וְאֶת	אֶרְצוֹ	קָדַחְתִּי	לְךָ	שֶׁתִּירָשׁ
H853	Sihon	H853	and his land	I have begun	that thou mayest inherit	
	H5511		H776	H2490	H3423	
לְךָ	שֶׁתִּירָשׁ	אֶת	אֶרְצוֹ			
that thou mayest inherit		H853	and his land			
H3423			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 swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.