

Deuteronomy 26:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us.

Analysis

I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us—the Hebrew higgadti ("I profess/declare") makes the offering an act of public testimony. This isn't silent ritual but verbal confession acknowledging God's covenant faithfulness. The declaration connects present blessing to ancestral promise, rooting individual experience in corporate salvation history.

The phrase **which the LORD sware unto our fathers** invokes the patriarchal covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:7, 26:3, 28:13). Each Israelite farmer confesses that land possession fulfills ancient oath, not recent achievement. The formula asher nishba YHWH la'avoteinu ("which YHWH swore to our fathers") appears over 20 times in Deuteronomy, underscoring that Israel's present derives from God's past promises.

Addressing **the priest that shall be in those days** acknowledges mediatorial priesthood. The worshiper doesn't approach God directly but through Levitical ministry—a typological pattern fulfilled in Christ's superior high priesthood (Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:23-28). The ceremony trains Israel to recognize covenant blessings rather than assume entitlement.

Historical Context

This confession would be recited at the central sanctuary during the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost), seven weeks after Passover, celebrating the wheat harvest. The timing links agricultural blessing to exodus deliverance—the same connection Acts 2 makes when the Spirit is poured out at Pentecost, creating the new covenant harvest. The priest receiving the confession represented the entire Levitical order, which had no land inheritance but depended on offerings from the other tribes (Deuteronomy 18:1-8).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you regularly confess God's covenant faithfulness in your life, or do you silently take blessings for granted?
2. How does remembering God's promises to previous generations strengthen your own faith during trials?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהְיֶה הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶתְנָה	הַיּוֹם	וְיִהְיֶה הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶתְנָה	וְיִהְיֶה הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶתְנָה
And thou shalt go	H413	unto the priest	H834
H935		H3548	H1961
			that shall be in those days
			H3117
וְיֹאמֶר תְּבֹא מִן־אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ			
and say	H1992	unto him I profess	H413
H559		H5046	H3117
			that shall be in those days
וְיַעֲשֶׂה תְּבֹא מִן־אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ			
unto the LORD	H3068	thy God	H430
		H3588	
		And thou shalt go	H413
		H935	H834
			H776
וְיַעֲשֶׂה תְּבֹא מִן־אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ			
swear	H7650	unto the LORD	H3068
		unto our fathers	H1
		for to give	H5414
			H0
לְנַשְׁׁבֶּע עַל־תְּתִת לְאָבָתֵּינוּ יְהִי הַיּוֹם			

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