

Deuteronomy 26:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

Analysis

The LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders—the liturgy climaxes with God's powerful deliverance. The fourfold description emphasizes comprehensive divine intervention: beyad chazaqah (mighty/strong hand), bizroa netuyah (outstretched arm), uvemora gadol (great fear/terror), uve'otot uvemoftim (signs and wonders).

The **mighty hand and outstretched arm** imagery appears over 15 times in Deuteronomy, depicting God as divine warrior fighting for Israel. The "hand" suggests power and control; the "outstretched arm" implies reaching down from heaven to intervene in history. This anthropomorphic language makes transcendent reality tangible—God acts in space and time, not merely as abstract force.

The phrase **great terribleness** (mora gadol) refers to the terror God inflicted on Egypt through the plagues—terror that produced reverence in Israel but judgment on their oppressors. The **signs and wonders** (otot umoftim) are the ten plagues and Red Sea crossing, supernatural acts validating YHWH's supremacy over Egyptian gods. This confession declares that Israel's existence depends entirely on God's miraculous intervention, not natural evolution or human effort.

Historical Context

The exodus (circa 1446 BCE traditional dating, 1260 BCE alternative) was Israel's formative event, referenced throughout Scripture more than any other historical occurrence. The ten plagues demonstrated YHWH's sovereignty over Egyptian deities: the Nile (Hapi), sun (Ra), fertility (Hathor), etc. Pharaoh's magicians could replicate early signs but ultimately failed (Exodus 8:18-19), proving YHWH's superior power. The Red Sea crossing completed Israel's deliverance while destroying Pharaoh's army—military victory without Israelite weapons, accomplished entirely by divine power.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's mighty deliverance of Israel from Egypt encourage you when facing impossible circumstances?
2. In what ways have you witnessed God's 'signs and wonders' in your life, and do you regularly rehearse them as Israel did?

Interlinear Text

וּצִיאָנוּ	יְהוָה	מִמִּצְרַיִם	בְּיָד	חֲזָקָה	וּבְזֶרַעַ
brought us forth	And the LORD	out of Egypt	hand	with a mighty	arm
H3318	H3068	H4714	H3027	H2389	H2220
נִטְוֶה	וּבְמִחָא	גָּדֹל	וּבְאֵתֹת		
and with an outstretched	terribleness	and with great	and with signs		
H5186	H4172	H1419	H226		
וּבְמַפְתִּימִם:					
and with wonders					
H4159					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:34 (References Lord): Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?