

Deuteronomy 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Analysis

He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey—the liturgy concludes by connecting exodus deliverance to Canaan possession. The verb *hevi'anu* ("He brought us") attributes the conquest entirely to God's action, not Israel's military prowess. The perfect tense indicates completed action from Moses's perspective (anticipatory) but future reality for his audience—spoken as prophetic certainty.

The phrase **a land that floweth with milk and honey** (*eretz zavat chalav u'devash*) is Canaan's signature description, appearing over 20 times in the Pentateuch. "Milk" represents pastoral abundance (grazing livestock); "honey" represents agricultural fertility (date honey, not bee honey). Together they depict economic prosperity in both herding and farming—comprehensive blessing in an agrarian economy.

This description isn't hyperbole but theological affirmation: the land's fertility flows from covenant relationship, not intrinsic to the soil. Canaanites attributed agricultural blessing to Baal; Israel must recognize YHWH as the source. The same land becomes fruitful under obedience or barren under disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:23-24)—fertility depends on the covenant, not climate.

Historical Context

Canaan's 'milk and honey' description contrasts with Egypt's irrigation-dependent agriculture (Deuteronomy 11:10-12). While Egypt relied on the Nile's predictable flooding, Canaan depended on seasonal rains—requiring faith in God's provision. The land's actual productivity varied by region: the coastal plain and valleys were highly fertile; the Negev and Judean wilderness were marginal. But the liturgy emphasizes theological abundance, not mere geography. Israel's confession links present harvest to God's ancient promise to the patriarchs (Genesis 15:18-21).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you attribute your material blessings to God's gracious provision or to your own effort and skill?
2. How does viewing prosperity as conditional on covenant faithfulness affect your priorities and values?

Interlinear Text

וַיְבִיֹא נֹ	אֶל	הַמָּקוֹם	הַזֶּה	וַיֵּן	אֶת לֵב נֹ
And he hath brought	H413	us into this place	H2088	and hath given	H0 H853
H935		H4725		H5414	
אֶרֶץ	הַזֶּה אֶת	אֶרֶץ	זֶבֶת	חֶלֶב	וְדָבָשׁ:
even a land	H2063	even a land	that floweth	with milk	and honey
H776		H776	H2100	H2461	H1706

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

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