

Deuteronomy 28:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

Analysis

The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. God promises to establish Israel as holy people - set apart for His possession and purpose. This establishes both identity (who they are) and obligation (how they must live).

The phrase as he hath sworn unto thee grounds this promise in prior oath - likely referring to patriarchal promises. God's covenant faithfulness obligates His people to covenant obedience. Past grace creates present obligation.

The condition if thou shalt keep the commandments makes covenant status conditional on obedience in the Mosaic framework. While election was unconditional, maintaining covenant blessing required faithfulness. This differs from New Covenant where Christ's obedience secures believers' standing.

The parallel walk in his ways connects belief and behavior. Keeping commandments is not merely external compliance but internal orientation that shapes one's entire path through life.

Historical Context

God swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their descendants would be His special people. This promise provided foundation for the Mosaic covenant's expectations.

Holiness meant separation unto God from pagan nations. Israel's distinct identity required distinct behavior reflecting their consecration.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does being established as holy people teach about identity and obligation?
2. How does God's prior oath create present obligation for His people?
3. What is the difference between Mosaic conditional blessing and New Covenant security in Christ?
4. How does walking in God's ways connect belief with behavior?
5. Why must distinct identity as God's people result in distinct behavior?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יְמִין
shall establish The LORD הָיָה
H6965 H3068 H0

לְעָם לֹא
people thee an holy
H5971 H6918 H834

נִשְׁבַּע
unto himself as he hath sworn
H7650

כִּי לְךָ
unto thee if thou shalt keep
H3588 H8104 H853

מְצֹוֹת
the commandments The LORD יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים
H4687 H3068 H0

וּבְדַרְכָּיו:
and walk in his ways
H1980 H1870

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:6 (Holy): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 13:17 (References Lord): And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

1 Peter 5:10 (References God): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Isaiah 62:12 (Holy): And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Isaiah 1:26 (Parallel theme): And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Psalms 87:5 (Parallel theme): And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

Jeremiah 11:5 (References Lord): That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD.

Deuteronomy 7:8 (References Lord): But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (References Lord): But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

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