

Deuteronomy 29:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Analysis

That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. God's purpose in covenant making is to establish thee...for a people unto himself. The covenant creates special relationship where Israel belongs uniquely to God as His treasured possession.

The reciprocal formula he may be unto thee a God establishes God's commitment. He will be their God - providing, protecting, guiding, and blessing them. This mutual belonging defines covenant relationship: I will be your God, you will be my people.

The phrase as he hath said...and sworn connects Mosaic covenant to patriarchal promises. God's commitment to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob obligates Him to their descendants. Divine faithfulness spans generations.

This covenant formula recurs throughout Scripture, finding ultimate fulfillment in New Covenant - I will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31:33; Revelation 21:3).

Historical Context

God's covenant with the patriarchs was promissory and unconditional - based solely on divine commitment. The Mosaic covenant added conditional elements but remained rooted in the unconditional Abrahamic promises.

The tension between unconditional promise and conditional blessing creates the framework for understanding Israel's later exile and restoration.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does mutual belonging (God's people, their God) define about covenant relationship?
2. How does Mosaic covenant connect to patriarchal promises?
3. What is the relationship between unconditional Abrahamic covenant and conditional Mosaic covenant?
4. How does this covenant formula find fulfillment in New Covenant?
5. What does divine faithfulness spanning generations teach about covenant reliability?

Interlinear Text

וְהִיא לְעֵם אֶתְתָּב לְזַיְתְּנוּ אֶתְתָּב לְעֵם אֶתְתָּב

H4616

That he may establish

H6965

בְּקִים

H853

תְּהִי יֹמָן

H3117

לְעֵם

for a people

H1931

בְּאֵשׁ רְאֵה יְהִי לְבָבְךָ וְיְהִי לְאֱלֹהִים

H1961

H0

unto himself and that he may be unto thee a God

H430

בְּאֵשׁ רְאֵה

H834

דָּבָר יְהִי לְבָבְךָ וְכָאֵשׁ רְאֵה יְהִי לְבָבְךָ וְנִשְׁבַּע

as he hath said

H0

H834

unto thee and as he hath sworn

H7650

לְאָבֹתֶיךָ וְלְאָבֹתֶיךָ וְנִשְׁבַּע

H1

וְלִיעְקֹבָן לְיַצְּצָה קָרְבָּה מְ

to Abraham

to Isaac

and to Jacob

H85

H3327

H3290

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:7 (References God): And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Genesis 17:7 (References God): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Deuteronomy 28:9 (References God): 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.