

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

לִּמְ עַן H4616	תִּקְוָם H6965	אֶתְךָ H853	הִי וּמִן H3117	לִּי H0	לְעַם H5971	וְהָיָא H1931
That he may establish thee to day for a people						
וְהָיָא H1961	לְבָ H0	לְאֱלֹהִים יִמְ H430			בְּאִשְׁרִי H834	
unto himself and that he may be unto thee a God						
דָּבָר H1696	לְ H0	וּבְאִשְׁרִי H834	נִשְׁבַּע H7650		לְאַבְתֶּי יִי H1	
as he hath said unto thee and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers						
לְאַבְרָהָם H85	לְיִצְחָק H3327	וּלְיַעֲקֹב: H3290				
to Abraham to Isaac and to Jacob						

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.