

Deuteronomy 33:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this is the blessing of Judah: and he said, Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him; and be thou an help to him from his enemies.

Analysis

And this is the blessing of Judah: and he said, Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him; and be thou an help to him from his enemies.

Moses' blessing of Judah is prayerful intercession rather than direct prophecy. Shema YHWH qol Yehudah ("Hear, O LORD, the voice of Judah") invokes divine attention to Judah's needs, suggesting the tribe will cry out for help—fulfilled in David's battles and Judah's struggles with surrounding nations. Va'hashiveyhu el-amo ("bring him to his people") may reference Judah's geographical separation (southern kingdom) or military campaigns requiring divine protection for safe return.

The phrase yadav rav lo ("his hands be sufficient for him") means Judah's strength will suffice for his tasks—military prowess in warfare, given Judah's role as leading tribe in conquest (Judges 1:1-2). Ve'ezer mitzzarav tihyeh ("and be help from his enemies") acknowledges Judah will face opposition but receive divine aid. This blessing anticipates Judah's preeminence: producing kings (David's dynasty), preserving the line to Messiah (Matthew 1:1-16), and maintaining covenant faithfulness when northern tribes apostatized.

Compared to Jacob's extensive Judah blessing (Genesis 49:8-12) emphasizing royal

authority and Messianic prophecy, Moses' blessing is brief and military-focused. This difference reflects contexts: Jacob prophesied Judah's eventual supremacy, while Moses prays for immediate conquest success. Together, they establish Judah's covenant role: military leadership in conquest, political leadership through Davidic kingship, and spiritual leadership through Messiah.

Historical Context

Judah's tribe numbered 74,600 fighting men at Sinai (Numbers 1:27) and 76,500 forty years later (Numbers 26:22), showing steady growth. During the conquest, Judah led Israel's military campaigns (Judges 1:1-2) and received the largest southern territory. David's kingship (1010-970 BC) and Solomon's united monarchy (970-930 BC) fulfilled Judah's ascendancy. After the kingdom divided (930 BC), Judah remained the southern kingdom while northern Israel fell into idolatry, validating Judah's covenant fidelity.

The Assyrian crisis (701 BC) and Babylonian exile (586 BC) tested Judah's survival, yet the tribe persisted and returned under Ezra-Nehemiah. Ultimately, Jesus Christ descended from Judah (Hebrews 7:14), fulfilling Genesis 49:10's prophecy of the scepter not departing from Judah until Shiloh (Messiah) comes. Moses' prayer for Judah's hands to be sufficient and for divine help against enemies finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Judah's need for divine help despite natural strength teach us about dependence on God even when gifted or capable?
2. What does Judah's role as military leader foreshadow about Christ's warfare against spiritual enemies?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	וְהִנֵּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	שְׁמָע	וְהִנֵּה	וְלֹא
H2063	And this is the blessing of Judah	H3063	and he said	H559	Hear
				H8085	LORD
				H3068	the voice
					H6963
וְהִנֵּה	וְהִנֵּה	וְאֵל	עִם	תִּבְרִא	וְיַדְךָ
And this is the blessing of Judah	H3063	H413	him unto his people	H5971	and bring
				H935	let his hands
				H3027	
בָּזְבָּז	וְעַזְרָה	מִצְבָּח	וְיִתְחַיֵּה		
be sufficient	H0	for him and be thou an help	to him from his enemies	H6862	H1961
H7227		H5828			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:14 (References Lord): For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Isaiah 9:17 (References Lord): Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Psalms 21:8 (Parallel theme): Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.

Psalms 20:2 (Parallel theme): Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;

Psalms 146:5 (References Lord): Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

1 Corinthians 15:25 (Parallel theme): For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Luke 19:27 (Parallel theme): But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.