

Deuteronomy 4:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;

Analysis

And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt.

Moses traces Israel's election to its source: *vetachat ki ahav et avotekha* (וְתַחַת כִּי אָהָב אֶת אֲבֹתֶיךָ), 'because he loved your fathers'). Divine love precedes human response; God's choice (*vayyivchar*, וַיַּחֲرֹךְ) flows from affection, not obligation. This sovereign, electing love for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob extended to their descendants (*bezar'o acharav*, 'their seed after them').

The phrase *bepanav* (בְּפָנָיו, 'in his presence/sight') is striking: God personally attended the Exodus, bringing Israel out with His own mighty power (*bekhocho hagadol*, בְּקָחוּ הַגָּדוֹל). This was not delegated work but direct divine action. God saw Egypt's oppression (Exodus 3:7), heard Israel's cries, and acted personally to deliver.

The theological import is profound: Israel's existence depends entirely on divine initiative. They did not earn election through ancestral merit or personal righteousness. God loved the fathers freely, chose their descendants graciously, and delivered them powerfully. This pattern of gracious election reaches its fullest expression in Christ, through whom God 'chose us in him before the foundation of the world' (Ephesians 1:4). Election is always grounded in divine love, not human deserving.

Historical Context

Moses grounds Israel's election in God's love for the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who lived some 400-600 years before this moment. The Exodus deliverance 40 years earlier was the fulfillment of promises made in Genesis. This historical continuity from patriarchs through Exodus to Conquest demonstrated God's faithfulness across generations.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding election as rooted in God's sovereign love rather than human merit change your sense of security in your relationship with Him?
2. What does it mean that God brought Israel out 'in his presence'—personally attending to their deliverance?

Interlinear Text

רִבְקָה	אֶת	אָבָתֶיךָ	רִבְקָה	רַבְקָה
H8478	H3588	And because he loved	H853	thy fathers therefore he chose

בְּכֹחַ	וְ	בְּפָנָי	בְּכֹחַ	וְ	בְּפָנָי
their seed	after	them and brought thee out	in his sight	power	
H2233	H310	H3318	H6440	H3581	

מִמִּצְרַיִם:	וְגַדְלָה	מִמִּצְרַיִם:	וְגַדְלָה
with his mighty	out of Egypt	with his mighty	out of Egypt
H1419	H4714	H1419	H4714

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:15 (Love): Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

Exodus 13:14 (References Egypt): And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:

Exodus 33:14 (Parallel theme): And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Exodus 13:3 (References Egypt): And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Exodus 13:9 (References Egypt): And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.