

Deuteronomy 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Analysis

The self-identification formula 'I am the LORD thy God' establishes covenant relationship and divine authority. The redemptive basis 'which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage' grounds all commandments in grace —God redeemed first, then gave law. This order is crucial to Reformed covenant theology: salvation precedes obedience, not vice versa. Law flows from relationship, not as means to establish it. The phrase 'house of bondage' (Hebrew 'beit avadim') emphasizes both slavery's horror and God's delivering power. Obedience is the grateful response of the redeemed, not the means of earning redemption.

Historical Context

Prefaces the Ten Commandments given at Sinai (Exodus 20:2) and here rehearsed at Moab circa 1406 BC. Egypt's 'house of bondage' involved 430 years of slavery (Exodus 12:40-41), intensifying to forced brick-making and infanticide before the Exodus. God's deliverance through plagues, Passover, and Red Sea crossing demonstrated His sovereign power and covenant faithfulness to Abraham's descendants. This redemptive act became Israel's foundational salvation event.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's self-revelation as Redeemer before giving commandments establish grace as the foundation of obedience?
2. In what ways does the Exodus typify Christian redemption from sin's bondage, grounding ethics in gospel gratitude?

Interlinear Text

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| מֵאֶתְךָ | הַצִּאתִיךְ | יְהוָה | אָנֹכִי |
| H595 | I am the LORD | thy God | H834 |
| H3068 | | H430 | |
| of Egypt | from the house | of bondage | |
| H4714 | H1004 | H5650 | |

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