

Deuteronomy 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the LORD hath spoken.

Analysis

The promise 'to cast out all thine enemies from before thee' demonstrates God's sovereign intervention enabling covenant obedience and inheritance. The phrase 'as the LORD hath spoken' grounds confidence in divine promise, not human strength. God accomplishes what He commands—He drives out enemies, enabling Israel to possess the land. This verse illustrates the Reformed doctrine of divine sovereignty in sanctification: God commands obedience and supplies enabling grace. The 'already-not yet' tension appears: God promises victory yet requires Israel's faithful engagement. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility cooperate without contradiction.

Historical Context

God promised to drive out Canaanite nations (Exodus 23:27-30, 33:2, Deuteronomy 7:1-2) and fulfilled this through Joshua's conquests (Joshua 1-12). Yet complete possession required ongoing faithfulness. Israel's incomplete obedience left pockets of Canaanites who became snares (Judges 2:1-3). The promise was conditional—persistent disobedience would result in enemies remaining to discipline Israel (Judges 2:20-23). God's promises require faith and obedience, not presumption.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to 'cast out enemies' demonstrate that He enables what He commands?
2. What does the conditional nature of this promise teach about the relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility?

Interlinear Text

לְהַדֹּחַ	אֶת	כָּל	אֹיְבֵי יְיָ	מִפְנֵי יְיָ	כִּי אָמַר	יְיָ
To cast out	H853	H3605	all thine enemies	from before	H834	hath spoken
H1920			H341	H6440		H1696

יְהוָה:

thee as the LORD

H3068

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