

Deuteronomy 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Analysis

This verse grounds Israel's election in God's love and covenant faithfulness. The phrase 'because the LORD loved you' (me'ahavat YHWH) makes divine love the ultimate explanation. God's love is uncaused, flowing from His nature not Israel's attractiveness. The 'oath to your fathers' refers to the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18-21; 22:16-18), demonstrating God's covenant immutability. The 'mighty hand' and redemption from Egypt prove God's power to save. This establishes the pattern of redemptive history: God initiates, promises, and accomplishes salvation. The parallel to Christian salvation is exact—saved by grace through faith, not works (Ephesians 2:8-9), based on God's eternal covenant in Christ (2 Timothy 1:9).

Historical Context

God's oath to Abraham occurred around 2000 BC; the Exodus around 1446 BC (traditional dating)—a 600-year span demonstrating God's long-range covenant faithfulness. The 'house of bondmen' refers to Egypt where Israel served as forced laborers for Pharaoh's building projects (Exodus 1:11-14). Archaeological evidence from the Nile Delta confirms substantial Semitic presence during this period. The

Exodus redemption became Israel's foundational salvation narrative, referenced throughout Scripture as proof of God's saving power and faithfulness to promises.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to His ancient promises strengthen your confidence in His current promises?
2. What 'house of bondage' has God redeemed you from, and how should that shape your gratitude?
3. In what ways does recognizing salvation as God's initiative transform how you approach Christian living?

Interlinear Text

מְאֵבֶב תְּכִי	יְהִי הָ	אַתָּכָם	וּמְשֻׁמֵּר וְ
H3588 loved	H3068 But because the LORD	H853 you and because he would keep	
H160			H8104
אַתָּה אֶת	רְשָׁבָע אֲשֶׁר	נִשְׁבַּע	לְאָבָתֶיךָ מְ
H853 the oath	H834 which he had sworn	H7650	H1 unto your fathers brought you out
H7621			H3318
יְהִי הָ	אַתָּכָם	מִיד	יְפָלֵל
But because the LORD	H853	from the hand	מִזְרָב הָ
H3068		H3027	H2389 and redeemed
			H6299
מֵבֵית	עֲבָדֵים	מִיד	מֶצְרָבִים:
you out of the house	of bondmen	from the hand	מֶלֶךְ פְּרַעַם
H1004	H5650	H3027	H6547 of Pharaoh
			H4428 king
			H4714 of Egypt

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 20:2 (References Lord): I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Jeremiah 31:3 (Love): The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Exodus 32:13 (Parallel theme): Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

Isaiah 43:4 (Love): Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

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 Lord): 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 13:3 (References Lord): 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.

Psalms 44:3 (Parallel theme): For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Psalms 105:42 (Parallel theme): For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.

Matthew 11:26 (Parallel theme): Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

