

Deuteronomy 9:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin:

Analysis

Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin.

Moses appeals to the patriarchal promises as basis for Israel's preservation. This demonstrates covenant theology - God's promises to the fathers obligate Him to the children regardless of the children's merit.

The command Remember thy servants does not imply God has forgotten, but uses covenant language requesting God to act consistently with His promises. Remembering in biblical usage means acting in accordance with prior commitments. Moses asks God to fulfill His sworn oath to the patriarchs.

Moses explicitly requests God look not unto Israel's actual character - their stubbornness, wickedness, and sin. This is crucial theology - preservation comes not from Israel's worthiness but from God's covenant faithfulness. If God judges by what Israel deserves, they merit destruction; only if God acts by His promises can they be saved.

Reformed theology sees here the principle that salvation depends entirely on God's sovereign grace and covenant promises, not on human merit or achievement. The covenant of grace rests on God's commitment, not human performance.

Historical Context

God made unconditional promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their descendants would become a great nation, possess the land of Canaan, and bring blessing to all nations. These promises, confirmed by divine oath, could not fail despite Israel's unworthiness.

Paul later argues (Romans 11:28-29) that God's gifts and calling are irrevocable - His covenant with the patriarchs ensures Israel's ultimate preservation and restoration.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do the patriarchal promises demonstrate the unconditional nature of God's covenant grace?
2. What does it mean to ask God to 'remember' His promises?
3. Why is it crucial that salvation depends on God's faithfulness rather than human worthiness?
4. How should awareness of our own stubbornness and sin drive us to depend on God's covenant promises?
5. In what sense are Christians recipients of the Abrahamic promises?

Interlinear Text

זָכֹר	לַעֲבָדֶיךָ יְיָ	לְאַבְרָהָם	לְיִצְחָק	וּלְיַעֲקֹב	אֵל	תִּפְּן	אֵל
Remember	thy servants	Abraham	Isaac	and Jacob	H408	look	H413
H2142	H5650	H85	H3327	H3290		H6437	
	קִשִּׁי	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	וְאֵל	רָשָׁע	וְ	
	not unto the stubbornness	of this people	H2088	H413	nor to their wickedness		
	H7190	H5971			H7562		
וְאֵל	חַטָּאתָם:						
H413	nor to their sin						
	H2403						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 14:21 (Parallel theme): Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.
