

Exodus 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

Analysis

The cause of enemy fear: 'Fear and dread shall fall upon them.' The phrase 'by the greatness of thine arm' credits divine power for psychological victory. The result: 'they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.' The repetition 'pass over' echoes Passover —God's people 'pass over' obstacles while enemies are paralyzed. The term 'purchased' (qanah, קָנָה) indicates ownership by right of redemption price paid.

Historical Context

This paralysis of enemies occurred in Joshua's conquests where Canaanite kings were demoralized (Joshua 10:2, 11:20). God's reputation made conquest possible through psychological rather than merely military means.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's psychological defeat of enemies (paralyzing fear) complement physical victory?
2. What does God 'purchasing' you teach about ownership rights over your life and direction?

Interlinear Text

בָּגְדַּל תַּפְלִיכָּם אֵיתֶם מֵתָה יְגַדֵּךְ וְעַלְיָהָם תַּפְלִיכָּם
shall fall H5921 Fear H367 and dread H6343 upon them by the greatness H1419

עַמְּךָ יַעֲבֵר רַעַד כַּא בָּזִים יְדָמָם זְרוּעָב
of thine arm H2220 they shall be as still H1826 as a stone H68 pass over H5704 till the people H5971

קָרְבָּנִים יַעֲבֵר רַעַד עַמְּךָ זְרוּעָב יְהִי הָרָב
O LORD H3068 pass over H5674 till the people H5971 which H2098 thou hast purchased H7069

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 74:2 (Parallel theme): Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.

Deuteronomy 2:25 (Parallel theme): This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

Joshua 2:9 (References Lord): And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

1 Samuel 25:37 (Parallel theme): But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

2 Peter 2:1 (References Lord): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Jeremiah 31:11 (References Lord): For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.

Exodus 11:7 (References Lord): But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Deuteronomy 11:25 (References Lord): There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.