

Exodus 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

Analysis

And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey (וַאֲמַר אֶעֱלֶה אֲתֶכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם ... אֶל־אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ)—God's promise has two parts: **bring you up out of the affliction** (deliverance) and **unto the land** (destination). **I will bring you up** (אֶעֱלֶה, a'aleh)—God as active agent. The list of seven nations (Canaanites through Jebusites) represents complete conquest. **Flowing with milk and honey** (זָבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ)—the promise from verse 8, emphasizing abundance. God's redemption is comprehensive: not just rescue from bondage but blessing in inheritance. This pattern anticipates the gospel: Christ delivers from sin's slavery and brings us into kingdom inheritance (Colossians 1:13-14).

Historical Context

The seven nations listed occupied various regions of Canaan. Their presence represented formidable opposition—fortified cities, iron chariots, giant warriors (Numbers 13:28-33). Yet God promises to bring Israel into this land, fulfilling the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 15:18-21). The journey from promise (Exodus 3) to

fulfillment (Joshua 1-12) spans 40 years, teaching that divine promises are certain but often require patient faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the two-fold promise—deliverance from Egypt AND inheritance in Canaan—illustrate the comprehensive nature of salvation?
2. What 'milk and honey' promised lands is God calling you toward after delivering you from bondage, and how do you trust Him through the journey?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵנִי רֹאֵה And I have said H559	אֶעֱלֶה הָאָרֶץ I will bring H5927	אֶתְכֶם H853	מִמֶּנִּי you up out of the affliction H6040	מִמִּצְרַיִם of Egypt H4714	אֶל H413
אֶרֶץ unto a land H776	הַכְּנַעֲנִים of the Canaanites H3669	וְהַחִתִּים and the Hittites H2850	וְהָאֱמֹרִיתִים and the Amorites H567	וְהַפְּרִזִּים and the Perizzites H6522	
וְהַחִוִּים and the Hivites H2340	וְהַיְבוּסִים and the Jebusites H2983	אֶל H413	אֶרֶץ unto a land H776	זֹבֵחַ flowing H2100	חֶלֶב with milk H2461
					וְדָבָשׁ and honey H1706

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 50:24 (Parallel theme): And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Genesis 46:4 (References Egypt): I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

Joshua 24:11 (Parallel theme): And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand.

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