

Exodus 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Analysis

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites (וַאֲנִי לְהַצִּילוֹ מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וְלִהְעֲלֹתוֹ מִן־הָאֶרֶץ הַהִוא אֶל־אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה וְרַחֲבָה אֶל־אֶרֶץ זָבֶת) va'ered lehatsilo miyad Mitsrayim ulha'aloto min-ha'arets hahi el-erets tovah urechavah el-erets zavat chalav udevash)—**I am come down** (וַאֲנִי, va'ered)—God actively intervenes in history. **Deliver** (נָצַל, natsal, "snatch away/rescue") is salvation language. The dual purpose: **deliver** (from bondage) and **bring up** (to blessing). **Good land and large** (טוֹבָה וְרַחֲבָה) contrasts with Egypt's oppression. **Flowing with milk and honey** (זָבֶת חָלָב וּדְבַשׁ)—the famous metaphor denoting fertility and abundance (used 20x in Torah). The list of seven nations occupying Canaan (Canaanites through Jebusites) previews conquest challenges but also God's comprehensive gift.

Historical Context

"Milk and honey" described agricultural richness—goat/sheep milk from pastoral land, honey from date palms and bees from wild sources. Canaan's fertility contrasted with Egypt's dependence on Nile irrigation and with Sinai's wilderness. The seven nations represent entrenched opposition God will overcome (Deuteronomy 7:1). This promise fulfills Genesis 15:18-21 and 17:8—the land covenant to Abraham.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the two-part promise—deliverance from bondage AND blessing in the land—reflect the fullness of salvation (justification and sanctification)?
2. What 'promised lands' of spiritual abundance is God calling you toward after delivering you from bondage?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵנִי ד	לְהַצִּיל וְ	מִיָּד	מִמָּצַר יִם					
And I am come down	to deliver	them out of the hand	of the Egyptians					
H3381	H5337	H3027	H4714					
וְלְהַעֲלֹתוֹ	מִן	אֶרֶץ	אֶל	אֶרֶץ	טוֹבָה	וְרַחֲבָה		
and to bring	H4480	land	H1931	H413	land	unto a good	and a large	
H5927		H776		H776	H2896	H7342		
אֶל	אֶרֶץ	זָבֵת	בְּ	חֵלֶב	וְדָבָר	שֶׁ	אֶל	מָקוֹם
H413	land	flowing		with milk	and honey		H413	unto the place
	H776	H2100		H2461	H1706			H4725
הַכְּנַעֲנִי	וְהַחִתִּי	וְהָאֱמֹרִי	וְהַפְּרִזִּי					
of the Canaanites	and the Hittites	and the Amorites	and the Perizzites					
H3669	H2850	H567	H6522					
וְהַחִוִּי	וְהַיְבוּסִי							
and the Hivites	and the Jebusites							
H2340	H2983							

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.

Exodus 3:17 (References Egypt): 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.

Exodus 13:5 (Parallel theme): And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

Deuteronomy 1:25 (Good): And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the LORD our God doth give us.

Jeremiah 11:5 (Parallel theme): That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD.

Numbers 13:27 (Parallel theme): And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Ezekiel 20:6 (References Egypt): In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

Psalms 34:8 (Good): O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.