

Exodus 32:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Moses' second appeal is to זָכַר (zechor, remember)—covenant faithfulness to the patriarchs אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיִשְׂרָאֵל (Avraham Yitzchak v'Yisra'el, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel). He specifically mentions they were עַבְדֶּיךָ (avadecha, Your servants), emphasizing their faithful relationship. Moses quotes God's own promise regarding seed multiplication (like stars) and land inheritance לְעוֹלָם (le'olam, forever). By appealing to covenant oath נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לָהֶם (nishba'ta lahem, You swore to them) בָּךְ (bach, by Yourself), Moses invokes God's unbreakable commitment—God cannot deny Himself (2 Tim 2:13).

Historical Context

The Abrahamic covenant (Gen 12, 15, 17) was unconditional, depending solely on God's faithfulness. Moses wisely grounds his plea not in Israel's merit but in God's immutable promises.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding covenant faithfulness strengthen your assurance of salvation?
2. What promises of God can you 'remember' to Him in prayer during crisis?

Interlinear Text

זָכוּר	לְאַבְרָהָם	לְיִצְחָק	וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל	עַבְדֶּיךָ	אֲשֶׁר
Remember	Abraham	Isaac	and Israel	thy servants	
H2142	H85	H3327	H3478	H5650	H834
נֶשְׁבַּעְתָּ	לָהֶם	בְּרַךְ	וּבְתוֹכְךָ	אֵלֶיךָ	
to whom thou swarest			by thine own self and saidst		
H7650	H0	H0	H1696	H413	
אֲרֹכָה	אֶת	לְיִרְעָכָה	כְּכּוֹכְבֵי	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וְכָל
unto them I will multiply		unto your seed	as the stars	of heaven	
H7235	H853	H2233	H3556	H8064	H3605
וְהָאָרֶץ	הַזֹּאת	אֲשֶׁר	אָמַרְתִּי	אֶתֵּן	לְיִרְעָכָה
and all this land			that I have spoken	of will I give	unto your seed
H776	H2063	H834	H559	H5414	H2233
וְנָחֲלוּ	לְעֹלָם:				
and they shall inherit	it for ever				
H5157	H5769				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:13 (References Abraham): For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

Genesis 12:7 (Parallel theme): And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Genesis 22:16 (Parallel theme): And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

Genesis 15:18 (Parallel theme): In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Genesis 15:5 (Parallel theme): And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Genesis 48:16 (References Abraham): The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

Genesis 15:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 9:27 (References Abraham): Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin:

Deuteronomy 7:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

Leviticus 26:42 (References Abraham): Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.