

Ezra 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.

Analysis

The prohibition continues: 'Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever.' This quotes the principle from Deuteronomy 7:3 and 23:6. The prohibition extended beyond marriage to political alliance ('seek their peace') and economic partnership ('their wealth'). The phrase 'for ever' shows this wasn't temporary strategy but permanent principle of covenant distinctiveness. The purpose: 'that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.'

Historical Context

The intermarriage prohibition aimed to prevent religious syncretism, as Israel's history proved (Solomon's foreign wives, Ahab's marriage to Jezebel). The command not to 'seek their peace or wealth' prohibited alliances that would compromise covenant faithfulness for political or economic gain. The promised blessing (strength, prosperity, inheritance) showed that obedience brought security—they didn't need pagan alliances. The 'for ever' inheritance promised perpetual possession conditional on covenant faithfulness, pointing ultimately to Messiah's eternal kingdom.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does prohibition of both marriage and economic alliances demonstrate that covenant faithfulness affects all life areas, not just worship?
2. What does promised blessing (strength, prosperity, inheritance) teach about trusting God's provision over worldly alliances?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה H6258	וּבְנֵיהֶם H1323	אֶל H408	תִּתֵּן וְ H5414	לְבָנֶיךָ H1121
not your daughters			Now therefore give	to your children
וּבְנֵיהֶם H1323	אֶל H408	תִּשָּׂא וְ H5375	לְבָנֶיךָ H1121	וְלֹא H3808
not your daughters		neither take	to your children	nor seek
שְׁלָמָם H7965	וְסוּבָתָם H2896	עַד H5704	עוֹלָם: H5769	לִמָּעַן H4616
their peace	or their wealth	for	ever	that ye may be strong
וְאָכְלָתָם H398	אֶת H853	טוֹב H2898	הָאָרֶץ H776	וְהִירְשָׁתָם H3423
and eat		the good	of the land	and leave it for an inheritance
לְבָנֶיךָ H1121	עַד H5704	עוֹלָם: H5769		
to your children	for	ever		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:3 (Parallel theme): Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

Deuteronomy 23:6 (Peace): Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.

Proverbs 13:22 (Good): A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

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