

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

לְבָנִיךְ מִתְּהִלָּה וְבָנִיתֵיכֶם אֶל תִּתְּהִלֵּן וְאֶל
not your daughters H1323 H408 Now therefore give H5414 to your children H1121

תִּדְרַשׁ וְאֶל וְבָנִיתֵיכֶם אֶל תִּשְׁאֵל לְבָנִיךְ מִתְּהִלָּה וְאֶל
not your daughters H1323 H408 neither take H5375 to your children H1121 nor seek H1875

תִּפְרֹץ וְלֹמְעָן עַלְמָם שְׁלָמָם מִשְׁלָמָם
their peace H7965 or their wealth H2896 for H5704 ever H5769 that ye may be strong H2388

וְהִרְשַׁת מִאָכְלָתֶךָ תְּבִרְכֶּתֶךָ אֶת אֶת וְבָנֵיכֶם
and eat H398 the good H853 of the land H2898 and leave it for an inheritance H3423

עַלְמָם: עַד לְבָנִיךְ מִתְּהִלָּה
to your children H1121 for H5704 ever H5769

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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