

Jeremiah 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

This verse explains covenant purpose: '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.' The Hebrew *qum* (קִיּוּם, perform, establish) indicates God's commitment to His sworn promises. 'Fathers' (*avoth*) refers to the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. The 'land flowing with milk and honey' (*erets zavath chalav udevash*) is the standard description of Canaan's fertility (Exodus 3:8, 13:5). 'As it is this day' affirms fulfillment—they possess the land, proving God kept His oath. Jeremiah's response 'Amen, O LORD' (so be it) accepts the covenant terms as prophet and as Israelite.

Historical Context

The promise of land to Abraham (Genesis 12:7, 15:18-21) was foundational to Israelite identity. By Jeremiah's day, Israel had possessed Canaan for approximately 800 years—clear evidence of divine faithfulness. The phrase 'milk and honey' describes agricultural abundance: milk from livestock, honey from bees or date syrup. Archaeological evidence confirms Canaan's productivity compared to surrounding regions.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to oath-promises create obligation for the covenant partner's faithfulness?
2. What does Jeremiah's 'Amen' signify about prophetic identification with the message proclaimed?

Interlinear Text

לַמַּעַן H4616	הֶקֶן יִם That I may perform H6965	אֶת H853	הַשְּׁבוּעָה הַזֹּאת the oath H7621	אֲשֶׁר H834	נִשְׁבַּע עָתִידִי which I have sworn H7650	
לְאֲבוֹתֶיךָ unto your fathers H1	לָתֵת to give H5414	לָהֶם H1992	אֶרֶץ them a land H776	זֹבַח flowing H2100	חֵלֶב בָּר with milk H2461	וְדֹבֶשֶׁן and honey H1706
כִּי הַיּוֹם as it is this day H3117	הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה H2088	וַאֲנִי עָנִיתִי Then answered H6030	וְאָמַרְתִּי I and said H559	אָמֵן So be it H543	יְהוָה: O LORD H3068	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 28:6 (References Lord): Even the prophet Jeremiah said, Amen: the LORD do so: the LORD perform thy words which thou hast prophesied, to bring again the vessels of the LORD'S house, and all that is carried away captive, from Babylon into this place.

Exodus 13:5 (References Lord): 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 sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

1 Corinthians 14:16 (Parallel theme): Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

Matthew 6:13 (Parallel theme): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Deuteronomy 6:3 (References Lord): Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Leviticus 20:24 (References Lord): But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.