

# 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 (קָם, 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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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לְמַעַן	H4616	תִּמְשָׁלֵךְ	H853	אַתָּה	H7621	אֲשֶׁר	H834	נִשְׁבַּעַתִּי	H7650
That I may perform				the oath				which I have sworn	
	H6965				H776				
unto your fathers	H1	to give	H5414	them a land	H1992	flowing	H2100	with milk	H2461
								and honey	H1706
as it is this day	H3117	Then answered	H2088	I and said	H6030	So be it	H559	O LORD	H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.