

Joshua 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

Analysis

Divine promise recalled: 'And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.' Moses's oath guaranteed Caleb's inheritance—specifically the land he'd personally scouted (Hebron area). The phrase 'whereon thy feet have trodden' uses symbolic language of possession—walking the land signified claiming it. The promise extends to perpetuity ('thy children's for ever'), creating lasting legacy for faithfulness. The rationale: 'thou hast wholly followed the LORD' (male acharei YHWH, מַלְאָ אַפְּכִי יְהָוָה—fully followed after the LORD). This phrase appears multiple times regarding Caleb (Numbers 14:24, 32:11-12; Deuteronomy 1:36; Joshua 14:8-9, 14), emphasizing complete, undivided loyalty. Half-hearted service doesn't merit kingdom inheritance; wholehearted devotion does. Caleb models the 'good and faithful servant' (Matthew 25:21) who receives reward.

Historical Context

The specific territory Caleb scouted included Hebron (verse 13), ancient city associated with Abraham (Genesis 13:18, 23:2). Hebron's significance made it valuable inheritance—historically important, strategically located in Judah's highlands, and home to Anakim giants that terrified the ten spies but didn't

intimidate Caleb. Moses's oath, sworn in God's name, was legally and religiously binding. Ancient Near Eastern culture took oaths with utmost seriousness—violating them brought divine curse. The promise's fulfillment forty-five years later demonstrates covenant faithfulness spanning generations. Caleb's descendants indeed possessed Hebron (15:13-14; Judges 1:20). The city later became one of Judah's principal cities and briefly served as David's capital (2 Samuel 2:1-4, 5:5). The promise's fulfillment across generations teaches that faithful service creates legacy—your obedience blesses not just you but your children and children's children. Conversely, unfaithfulness curses descendants.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does 'wholly following the LORD' look like practically in your life and generation?
2. How does your faithfulness (or unfaithfulness) create legacy blessing (or cursing) for your descendants?
3. What territory (ministry, calling, opportunity) has God shown you that requires faithful claiming across time?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר	לֹא	אָמַן	בַּהֲוָא	בַּיּוֹם	מִשְׁהַ	הָיָה	וַיֹּשֶׁב	עַ
sware	And Moses	on that day						
H7650	H4872	H3117	H1931					
say			saying					
			H559					
תְּהִלִּה	לְבָנָה	בְּהַ	בְּ	רָצֶ	בָּאָ	רָצֶ	תְּהִלִּה	הָ
Surely the land	have trodden	whereon thy feet						
H776	H834	H1869	H7272					
לְגַטְלָה	וְלִבְנֵי	עַד	כִּי	עוֹלָם	וְלִבְנֵי	וְלִבְנֵי	תְּהִלִּה	הָ
shall be thine inheritance	and thy children's	for						
H5159	H1121	H5704						
מַלְאָתִ	יְהִי	אַחֲרֵי	אֱלֹהִים					
because thou hast wholly	followed	the LORD	my God					
H4390	H310	H3068	H430					

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:3 (References Moses): Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

Deuteronomy 1:36 (References Lord): Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.