

Joshua 24:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

Analysis

The LORD our God, he it is that brought us up...out of the land of Egypt—Israel grounds their covenant loyalty in remembered redemption, reciting the Exodus (yetsi'at Mitzrayim) as their foundational identity. The phrase **from the house of bondage** (מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים, mibbeit avadim) is covenant formula language (Exodus 20:2, Deuteronomy 5:6), literally 'house of slaves,' defining Israel's past and obligating grateful service.

Those great signs (הָאוֹת הַגְּדֹלוֹת הָאֵלֶּה, ha'otot haggadolot ha'eleh) refers to the ten plagues—God's visible demonstration of power over Egyptian gods. The people's recitation follows Deuteronomy's pattern of teaching children redemptive history (6:20-25). Yet memory alone doesn't guarantee faithfulness—these same people who 'saw' God's works rebelled repeatedly (Psalm 78:32-37).

Historical Context

The Exodus (circa 1446 BC) occurred approximately 40 years before this covenant renewal. The generation making this confession were children or unborn during Egypt's bondage—their testimony depends on transmitted memory and Passover

rehearsal, not personal experience. This demonstrates covenant faith's intergenerational nature.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you 'remember' redemptive acts of God you didn't personally witness—through Scripture, testimony, sacraments—and how does this remembered grace shape present obedience?
2. What role does regular rehearsal of God's past faithfulness (in corporate worship, family devotions, personal reflection) play in sustaining covenant commitment during present trials?
3. Why did visible demonstration of God's power ('great signs') fail to produce lasting faithfulness in Israel, and what does this teach about the relationship between evidence and genuine faith?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	הוא	הַמַּעַל	ה	אֶת־נוֹ	יְאֹשֶׁר־
H3588	For the LORD	our God	H1931	he it is that brought us up		H853	H853
	H3068	H430		H5927			
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	מֵאֶרֶץ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	מִבֵּית	עֲבָדֵי	יָם	יְאֹשֶׁר־	
and our fathers	out of the land	of Egypt	from the house	of bondage			H834
H1	H776	H4714	H1004	H5650			
עָשָׂה	לְעֵינֵינוּ	אֶת־	הָאֵתֹת	הַגְּדֹלוֹת	הָאֵלֶּה		
and which did	in our sight		signs	those great			
H6213	H5869	H853	H226	H1419	H428		
וַיִּשְׁמֶר־נוֹ	בְּכָל־	הַדֶּרֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר־	הָלַכְנוּ	בָּהּ	וּבְכָל־	
and preserved		us in all the way		wherein we went			
H8104	H3605	H1870	H834	H1980	H0	H3605	
הָעָם־כָּל־	אֲשֶׁר־	עָבַרְנוּ	בְּקִרְבָּם־				
and among all the people		whom we passed	through				
H5971	H834	H5674	H7130				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:4 (References Egypt): Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.