

Joshua 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Analysis

The LORD drave out from before us all the people—Israel correctly attributes conquest success not to military prowess but to YHWH's direct intervention. The verb *garash* ('drive out') appears throughout conquest accounts, emphasizing that God expelled Canaan's inhabitants as judge executing sentence on accumulated iniquity (Genesis 15:16).

Therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God—The logical connector 'therefore' (*gam*, 'also/indeed') makes covenant service a response to received benefits. Yet this conditionality exposes the people's shallow theology—they'll serve God because He's proven useful. True covenant love serves God for His own sake, not merely for benefits. When trials came (Judges 2:15), this mercenary devotion collapsed.

Historical Context

The Amorites were a major Canaanite people group. Their expulsion fulfilled God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:16) that judgment would come when 'the iniquity of the Amorites is full.' Archaeological evidence shows widespread destruction of Canaanite cities in the late Bronze Age (circa 1400-1200 BC).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can you tell whether your service to God is motivated by genuine love for Him or primarily by the benefits and blessings He provides?
2. What happens to 'therefore' theology when God's benefits seem to disappear or when faithfulness brings suffering rather than prosperity?
3. How does understanding Canaan's conquest as divine judgment on accumulated wickedness inform Christian views on God's patience, justice, and the reality of final judgment?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּגְדֹּשׁ drave out H1644	יְהוָה ה And the LORD H3068	אֶת H853	כָּל H3605	הָעַמִּים us all the people H5971	וְאֶת H853	הָאֱמֹרִי even the Amorites H567
יֵשׁ ב which dwelt H3427	הָאָרֶץ in the land H776	מִפְנֵי יוֹ from before H6440	גַּם H1571	אֲנִי חֲנוּ H587	נַעֲבֹד therefore will we also serve H5647	
אֶת H853	יְהוָה ה And the LORD H3068	כִּי H3588	ה וְאֵל H1931	אֱלֹהֵינוּ for he is our God H430		

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