

Numbers 15:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land whither I bring you,

Analysis

When ye come into the land whither I bring you—the emphasis on divine agency ("I bring you") reminds Israel that Canaan entry depends on God's power, not their merit. The verb "bring" (bo, בּוֹ) implies God as the active agent leading them into the land. Despite their recent rebellion and forty-year judgment, God still speaks with certainty: not "if" but "when" you enter.

This forward-looking promise follows immediately after the wilderness wandering sentence (ch. 14), demonstrating that God's purposes cannot be thwarted by human failure. The next generation will inherit what the rebellious generation forfeited. This pattern anticipates the new covenant: Israel's unfaithfulness doesn't nullify God's faithfulness (Romans 3:3-4).

Historical Context

Spoken approximately 1444 BC after the Kadesh-barnea rebellion, this promise gave hope to the younger generation who would actually enter Canaan 38 years later. The phrase "the land whither I bring you" connects to Abrahamic covenant promises (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:18-21). Archaeological evidence shows Canaan in the Late Bronze Age (1550-1200 BC) was a land of fortified Canaanite city-states, making divine assistance essential for conquest.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's certainty about Israel's future encourage you when facing consequences of past failures?
2. What do these forward-looking promises teach about the relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility?
3. How does this pattern of judgment-then-restoration prefigure the gospel message?

Interlinear Text

דַּבֵּר	אֶל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאָמַרְתָּ	אֵלֶיָּהֶם
Speak	H413	unto the children	of Israel	and say
H1696		H1121	H3478	H559
	מֵבֹאֵי	אֶל	הָאָרֶץ	אֲנִי יְיָ
	unto them	When ye come	into the land	
	H935	H413	H776	H834
	מֵבֹאֵי	אֶתְכֶם	שְׁמָהּ:	
	unto them	When ye come		
	H935	H853	H8033	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 15:2 (References Israel): Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you,