

Psalm 105:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labour of the people;

Analysis

This verse describes the conquest of Canaan under Joshua. 'Gave them the lands of the heathen' refers to God's gift of the Promised Land, fulfilling the Abrahamic covenant. 'They inherited the labour of the people' means Israel received established cities, vineyards, and olive groves they didn't build or plant (Deuteronomy 6:10-11). This demonstrates grace: unmerited inheritance of blessings. The verb 'gave' (nathan, יָנַת) emphasizes divine gift, not human conquest. Though Israel fought battles, victory came from God. This principle applies spiritually—believers inherit salvation and spiritual blessings not through personal labor but through Christ's finished work (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Historical Context

The conquest of Canaan (circa 1406-1400 BC) under Joshua fulfilled promises made centuries earlier to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The land's inhabitants were judged for wickedness (Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 9:4-5), while Israel received grace. Archaeological evidence confirms the sudden appearance of a new culture in Canaan during this period, consistent with Israelite settlement. The inheritance of others' labor illustrates sovereign grace—receiving what one didn't earn.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Israel's inheritance of unearned blessings illustrate salvation by grace?
2. What does God's gift of the Promised Land teach about covenant faithfulness?
3. In what ways do believers today 'inherit the labor' of previous generations of faithful Christians?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹם יְמִינָה לְפָנֶים אֶרְצֵי הָעָם גּוֹיִם לְעָמָקָה יְמִינָה לְעָמָקָה

And gave them the lands of the heathen the labour of the people

H5414 H1992 H776 H1471 H5999 H3816

וְיָשָׁבוּ:
and they inherited

H3423

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:55 (Parallel theme): He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

Joshua 24:13 (Parallel theme): And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

Joshua 11:23 (Parallel theme): So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

Joshua 24:8 (Parallel theme): And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them

into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

Psalms 80:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

Joshua 23:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward.

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