

Psalms 135:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And gave their land for an heritage, an heritage unto Israel his people.

Analysis

The conquest narrative reaches its purpose: 'And gave their land for an heritage, an heritage unto Israel his people.' The Hebrew 'nachalah' (heritage, inheritance) appears twice for emphasis, underscoring that the land was divine gift, not human conquest. This inheritance fulfilled the Abrahamic promise (Genesis 15:18-21) and demonstrated covenant faithfulness across centuries. The phrase 'Israel his people' ('amo Yisrael') reinforces the covenant relationship - they received inheritance precisely because they were His people. Land tenure in ancient Israel was theological, not merely economic; the land belonged ultimately to God and was entrusted to Israel. Hebrews 4 reinterprets this inheritance typologically, pointing to the eternal 'rest' believers enter through Christ - our ultimate promised land and eternal heritage.

Historical Context

The land distribution under Joshua (Joshua 13-21) implemented what God promised to Abraham four centuries earlier. Each tribe received its territorial allotment by lot, emphasizing divine determination rather than human preference. The concept of 'nachalah' shaped Israel's understanding of property, family inheritance, and their relationship to the land throughout their history.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should we understand our spiritual "inheritance" in Christ?
2. What responsibilities come with receiving God's inheritance?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַן	אֶרְצָם	נַחֲלָה	נַחֲלָה	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	עַמּוֹ:
And gave	their land	an heritage	an heritage	unto Israel	his people
H5414	H776	H5159	H5159	H3478	H5971

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:55 (References Israel): 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.