

Psalms 78:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased.

Analysis

And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. The destination of the exodus was not merely freedom but **worship**—God brought them to **his sanctuary** (gevul kodsho, גְּבוּל קֹדֶשׁ), the holy territory of Canaan. The ultimate goal of redemption is always fellowship with God in His holy place, a truth fulfilled in Christ who brings us into God's presence (Hebrews 10:19-22).

This mountain refers to Mount Zion and, by extension, all Canaan as God's holy mountain-land (har-zeh, הַר־זֵה). The phrase **his right hand had purchased** (kanetah yemino, קָנְתָה יְמִינוֹ) uses conquest language—God's powerful right hand (yamin, יָמִין) signifies strength and victory. He 'purchased' or 'acquired' the land through military triumph over Canaanite nations.

This verse anticipates the psalm's climax (vv. 68-69) where God chooses Zion as His dwelling place. Redemption always has a destination—not aimless wandering but purposeful movement toward God's chosen location. For Christians, this destination is the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24).

Historical Context

The conquest of Canaan under Joshua fulfilled God's promises to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21). Mount Zion became the political and religious center under

David, where Solomon later built the temple. Asaph, a Levitical musician, served in this temple, experiencing daily the reality of God dwelling among His people.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding worship as the ultimate goal of salvation affect your priorities?
2. In what ways does Christ's work 'purchase' our entrance into God's presence?
3. What does it mean for believers to live in God's 'holy territory' now while awaiting the full heavenly Zion?

Interlinear Text

וַיְבִיֵאם	אֶל	גֹּב וּלְ	קֹדֶשׁ וְ	הָרִ
And he brought	H413	them to the border	of his sanctuary	even to this mountain
H935		H1366	H6944	H2022
הָ	יְ	קָנָה הָ	יְמִינוֹ:	
H2088		had purchased	which his right hand	
		H7069	H3225	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:3 (Parallel theme): For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.

Exodus 15:17 (Temple): Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

