

it is the LORD your God who gives you the power to get wealth, in fulfillment of the covenant that He made on oath with your fathers, as is still the case.

<sup>19</sup>If you do forget the LORD your God and follow other gods to serve them or bow down to them, I warn you this day that you shall certainly perish; <sup>20</sup>like the nations that the LORD will cause to perish before you, so shall you perish—because you did not heed the LORD your God.

**9** Hear, O Israel! You are about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and more populous than you: great cities with walls sky-high; <sup>2a</sup>a people great and tall, the Anakites, of whom you have knowledge; for you have heard it said, “Who can stand up to the children of Anak?” <sup>3</sup>Know then this day that none other than the LORD your God is crossing at your head, a devouring fire; it is He who will wipe them out. He will subdue them before you, that you may quickly dispossess and destroy them, as the LORD promised you. <sup>4</sup>And when the LORD your God has thrust them from your path, say not to yourselves, “The LORD has enabled us to possess this land because of our virtues”; it is rather because of the wickedness of those nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you. <sup>5</sup>It is not because of your virtues and your rectitude that you will be able to

אֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי הוּא הֵנִיחַ לְךָ כֹּחַ לַעֲשׂוֹת חֵיל לְמַעַן הָקִים אֶת־בְּרִיתוֹ אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם בְּיוֹם הַהוּא: פ

<sup>19</sup>וְהָיָה אִם־שָׁכַח תִּשְׁכַּח אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְהִלַּכְתָּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וְעַבַּדְתָּם וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתָ לָהֶם הֵעֲדָתִי בָכֶם הַיּוֹם כִּי אָבִד תֹּאבְדוּן: <sup>20</sup>כַּגֹּוִים אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה מֵאַבִּיד מִפְּנֵיכֶם כֵּן תֹּאבְדוּן עַקֵּב לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּן בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: פ

**ט** שִׁמַּע יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתָּה עֹבֵר הַיּוֹם אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן לְבָא לָרֶשֶׁת גּוֹיִם גְּדֹלִים וְעַצְמִים מִמֶּךָ עָרִים גְּדֹלֹת וּבְצֻרֹת בְּשָׁמַיִם: <sup>2</sup>עַם־גָּדוֹל וְרַם בְּנֵי עֲנָקִים אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ וְאַתָּה שָׁמַעְתָּ מִי יִתְיַצֵּב לִפְנֵי בְנֵי עֲנָק: <sup>3</sup>וַיִּדְעַתָּ הַיּוֹם כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הוּא־הָעֹבֵר לִפְנֶיךָ אִשׁ אֹכֶלֶת הוּא יִשְׁמִידֵם וְהוּא יִכְנִיעֵם לִפְנֶיךָ וְהוֹרֶשֶׁתָם וְהִאֲבִדְתָם מִהָרָּה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה לָךְ: <sup>4</sup>וְאַל־תֹּאמַר בְּלִבְּךָ בַּהֲדָף יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שְׁלִישִׁי אִתָּם | מִלִּפְנֶיךָ לֵאמֹר בְּצִדְקָתִי הִבִּיאֲנִי יְהוָה לָרֶשֶׁת אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וּבִרְשָׁעַת הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה יְהוָה מוֹרִישָׁם מִפְּנֶיךָ: <sup>5</sup>לֹא בְצִדְקָתְךָ וּבְיִשָּׁר לִבְבְּךָ אַתָּה בָּא לָרֶשֶׁת

**18. as is still the case** God is now fulfilling His promise to the patriarchs to give you the land.

**20.** If the Israelites act like the Canaanites, they will suffer the same fate (see Lev. 18:28).

#### AN ARGUMENT AGAINST SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (9:1–10:22)

THEME: VICTORY IS NO PROOF  
OF VIRTUE (vv. 1–5)

**2. you have heard it said** Either by the scouts (1:28, Num. 13:31) or by others describing the Anakites' reputation.

**3. as the LORD promised you** See Exod. 23:23–31, 34:11.

**4. virtues** The word *tz'dakah* is usually translated “righteousness,” but here it probably refers specifically to loyalty or devotion.

**5.** God did not deprive the Canaanites of their land arbitrarily but because of their morally outrageous practices. Israel, however, has not yet earned the right to succeed them. God brings the Israelites into the land only to fulfill the oath He made to their ancestors, the oath that sustains them even when they are devoid of merits. It is “the merit of the ancestors” (*z'khut avot*) that prevents God from forsaking them.