

"God was also setting before them *a theory of history that was both linear and progressive*. They could extend the covenant over centuries. . . .Israel's future would not be cyclical. They would not inevitably lose whatever God had given them. . . .God was giving them a crucial tool of dominion: *long-term future orientation*. He was giving them the psychological basis of an upper-class mentality: *faith in the future*. It is this mentality that provides men with a way out of poverty. . . .Neither linear time nor the concept of compound growth was common in any other ancient society. The concept of cyclical time was all-pervasive in the ancient world. What God was telling Israel was that *continuity through time is provided by the covenant itself*."

Gary North, commentary on Deuteronomy