

# Deuteronomy 11:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:

## Analysis

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Moses describes Canaan in contrast to Egypt: 'not as the land of Egypt' introduces a fundamental agricultural difference. Egypt relied on Nile irrigation—'wateredst it with thy foot' refers to foot-powered water wheels (saqiya) or treadmill irrigation systems. The Hebrew regel (רֶגֶל, 'foot') indicates human effort and control. Egypt's fertility depended on human engineering and labor, symbolizing self-sufficiency. The comparison to 'a garden of herbs' evokes controlled cultivation requiring constant human attention. This sets up the contrast with Canaan's rain-dependence in verse 11.

## Historical Context

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Egypt's agriculture centered on the Nile's predictable annual flooding (June-September), supplemented by complex irrigation canals and shaduf (lever-and-bucket) or saqiya (water wheel driven by oxen or humans) systems. This created a reliable, human-controllable food supply, contributing to Egypt's stability and pharaonic power. Egyptian wisdom literature boasted of human mastery over nature.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does dependence on rain (God's direct provision) versus irrigation (human control) illustrate different approaches to life?
2. In what areas are you tempted toward self-sufficiency rather than dependence on God?
3. What systems or technologies give modern people false sense of control over their lives?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי      כָּאֵרֶץ      אֶתְּ הָאֵשׁ      בָּא      לְרִשְׁתָּהּ שָׁמָּה  
H3588      **For the land**      H834      H859      **whither thou goest in**      H8033      **to possess**  
H776      H935      H3423

לֹא      כָּאֵרֶץ      מִצֵּרְיִם      הִיא      אֵשׁ      יֵצְאתָ מִ  
H3808      **For the land**      **of Egypt**      H1931      H834      **from whence ye came out**  
H776      H4714      H3318

אֵשׁ      מִשָּׁם      תִּזְרַע      אֶת      זֶרְעֶךָ      וְהִשְׁקֵה יָת  
H8033      H834      **where thou sowedst**      H853      **thy seed**      **and wateredst**  
H2232      H2233      H8248

בְּרִגְלְךָ      כִּגְן      הֶעָקֵב:  
**it with thy foot**      **as a garden**      **of herbs**  
H7272      H1588      H3419

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 14:18** (References Egypt): And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

