

# 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

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

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

**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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לְרַשְׁתַּת	הַ	שֶׁ	מִתָּה	לְרַשְׁתַּת	הַ	שֶׁ	מִתָּה
אַתָּה	אֲשֶׁר	כִּאֵן	כִּי	אַתָּה	אֲשֶׁר	כִּי	כִּי
H3588	<b>For the land</b>	H776		H834		H859	
מִצָּבֵךְ	אֲשֶׁר	הָא	מִצָּבֵךְ	אֲשֶׁר	הָא	מִצָּבֵךְ	אֲשֶׁר
H3808	<b>For the land</b>	H776	<b>of Egypt</b>	H4714	H1931	H834	<b>from whence ye came out</b>
							H3318
תִּזְרַעַת	אֲשֶׁר	רָאשֶׁת	מִשְׁמָךְ	תִּזְרַעַת	אֲתָה	תִּרְעַב	וְהַשְׁקֵעַ יְתִתְ
H8033	H834	<b>where thou sowedst</b>	H2232	H853	<b>thy seed</b>	H2233	<b>and wateredst</b>
							H8248
בְּכֶנֶלֶב	בְּגַן	בְּגַן	בְּכֶנֶלֶב				
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.

