

# Deuteronomy 11:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

## Analysis

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The consequence of apostasy: 'the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you' uses the Hebrew *charah aph* (חָרָה אֵף, literally 'burn nose/anger'), vivid imagery for divine fury. The judgment is environmental: 'he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain.' The Hebrew *atsar* (אַצַּר, 'restrain, close') indicates deliberate divine action withholding blessing. The result: agricultural catastrophe—'the land yield not her fruit'—leading to death: 'ye perish quickly from off the good land.' Covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:23-24) would be enforced. This establishes the prophetic pattern: apostasy → drought → famine → death/exile.

## Historical Context

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This judgment materialized repeatedly in Israel's history. Elijah's drought (1 Kings 17-18) punished Ahab's Baalism. Jeremiah warned Judah of coming judgment through drought and exile (Jeremiah 14). The seventy-year exile fulfilled covenant curses. Post-exilic Haggai explained poor harvests as divine discipline (Haggai 1:9-11). Weather became theological barometer of covenant status.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

### **Study Questions**

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1. How does this passage challenge modern assumptions that natural disasters are religiously neutral events?
2. What does God's jealousy (willingness to judge apostasy severely) reveal about His love and holiness?
3. How should Christians understand divine discipline and consequences in the New Covenant age?

### **Interlinear Text**

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| אֶת<br>be kindled<br>H2734              | אֵף<br>wrath<br>H639                   | יְהוָה ה'<br>And then the LORD'S<br>H3068   | בְּךָ מ'<br>H0                             | וְעָצָר<br>against you and he shut up<br>H6113 | אֶת<br>H853                            |
| נִתְּן לֵא<br>the heaven<br>H8064       | וְלֹא הַשָּׁמַיִם<br>H3808             | יְהוָה ה'<br>H1961                          | מָטָר ר'<br>that there be no rain<br>H4306 | וְהָאֲדָמָה ה'<br>and that the land<br>H127    | נִתְּן לֵא<br>H3808<br>giveth<br>H5414 |
| אֶת<br>H853                             | יְבוֹלָהּ ה'<br>not her fruit<br>H2981 | וְאֲבִדְתֶּם מ'<br>and lest ye perish<br>H6 | מְהֵרָה ה'<br>quickly<br>H4120             | מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ<br>H5921<br>land<br>H776         |  |
| הַטֹּב ה'<br>from off the good<br>H2896 | אֲשֶׁר ר'<br>H834                      | יְהוָה ה'<br>And then the LORD'S<br>H3068   | נִתְּן לֵא<br>H0<br>giveth<br>H5414        |  |  |

### **Additional Cross-References**

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**1 Kings 8:35** (Parallel theme): When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:

**Deuteronomy 4:26** (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

**Deuteronomy 6:15** (References Lord): (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

**Amos 4:7** (Parallel theme): And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.

**2 Chronicles 6:26** (Parallel theme): When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them;

**1 Kings 17:1** (References Lord): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

**2 Chronicles 7:13** (Parallel theme): If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;