

Deuteronomy 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

Analysis

The purpose clause: 'that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.' Obedience brings longevity—both individual and national. The poetic phrase 'as the days of heaven upon the earth' (כִּימֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ) suggests permanence: as long as heaven endures over earth, so will obedient Israel endure in the land. This recalls the Noahic covenant's stability (Genesis 8:22). However, history proved conditional—disobedience led to exile. New Testament reapplies this to eternal life: obedient faith leads to imperishable inheritance (1 Peter 1:4).

Historical Context

The patriarchal promises (Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 15:18-21) guaranteed land possession to Abraham's descendants. This verse reaffirms that covenant while clarifying the conditional nature: permanent possession requires generational obedience. Israel's exile (722 BC, 586 BC) demonstrated covenant curses' reality. Restoration under Ezra-Nehemiah showed God's faithfulness, but second-temple period Jews never achieved full independence until the nation's ultimate failure at AD 70.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does obedience to God's word lead to personal and family flourishing?
2. What is the relationship between Old Testament land promises and New Testament spiritual inheritance?
3. How can we apply the principle of generational faithfulness to our families and churches?

Interlinear Text

לִמְ עַן	יִרְבּוּ	כִּימֵי י	כִּימֵי י	בְּנֵיכֶם	עַל
H4616	may be multiplied	That your days	That your days	of your children	H5921
	H7235	H3117	H3117	H1121	
הָאֲדָמָה	אֲשֶׁר	נִשְׁבַּעַ ע	יְהוָה	לְאֲבֹתֵיכֶם	לָתֵת
in the land	H834	sware	which the LORD	unto your fathers	to give
H127		H7650	H3068	H1	H5414
לָהּ	כִּימֵי י	הַשָּׁמַיִם	עַל	הָאָרֶץ:	
H0	That your days	of heaven	H5921	upon the earth	
	H3117	H8064		H776	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:10 (Parallel theme): Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

Proverbs 3:2 (Parallel theme): For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Psalms 72:5 (Parallel theme): They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

Proverbs 9:11 (Parallel theme): For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Deuteronomy 4:40 (References Lord): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

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