

# 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 sware 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 sware 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' (כְּמַיִם הַשָּׁמַיִם עַל־אָרֶץ) 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 reappplies 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

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**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

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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

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עַל בְּנֵיכֶם יְרַב וְלֹמֶד עַל

H4616 may be multiplied H7235 That your days H3117 That your days H3117 of your children H1121 H5921

לֹת תְ לִאְבָתִיךְ מִיְהִינְהָ נְשָׁבֵעַ אֲשֶׁר בָּאָדָם הָ

in the land H127 H834 sware H7650 which the LORD H3068 unto your fathers H1 to give H5414

בָּאָרֶץ עַל הַשָּׁמֶן מִן לְבָם

H0 That your days H3117 of heaven H8064 upon the earth H5921 H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.