

Deuteronomy 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

Analysis

The stark choice: 'Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse.' Moses presents binary options with no middle ground. The Hebrew berakah (ברכה, blessing) and qelalah (קֶלָל, curse) represent opposite covenant outcomes. This anticipates Deuteronomy 28's extended blessings and curses. The word 'behold' (re'eh, רֵאֶה, 'see!') demands attention to momentous decision. Life under God's covenant isn't neutral—it's dynamically blessed or cursed based on response to His word. This reflects ancient Near Eastern treaty structure: vassal loyalty brings protection; rebellion brings destruction.

Historical Context

Chapter 27-28 will dramatize this choice: blessings pronounced from Mount Gerizim, curses from Mount Ebal, after Jordan crossing (Deuteronomy 27:11-13; Joshua 8:30-35). This ceremony institutionalized the choice. Moses, about to die, presses Israel toward faithful decision. Similarly, Joshua later challenges: 'choose this day whom you will serve' (Joshua 24:15). Every generation faces this choice. Israel's history validates it: obedience → prosperity; apostasy → exile.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why does God frame His covenant in terms of blessing or curse rather than neutrality?
2. How do modern Christians face similar choice between obedience (blessing) and disobedience (curse/discipline)?
3. What factors influence people to choose curse over blessing when the choice seems obvious?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶלְלוֹתָה: בָּרוּךְ הַיְהוָה וְאֶת־אָנוֹכִי רָאָה
Behold H595 I set before you this day a blessing and a curse
H7200 H5414 H6440 H3117 H1293 H7045

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 30:1 (Sin): And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

Galatians 3:10 (Curse): For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

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