

# Deuteronomy 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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* (בְּרָכָה, blessing) and *qelalah* (קִלְלָה, curse) represent opposite covenant outcomes. This anticipates Deuteronomy 28's extended blessings and curses. The word 'behold' (re'eh, רְאֵה, '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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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הָאֵלֹהִים	אָנֹכִי	נִתַּן	לְפָנֶיךָ	הַיּוֹם	בְּרִכָּה	וְקִלְלָה:
<b>Behold</b>	<b>I set</b>	<b>I set</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>you this day</b>	<b>a blessing</b>	<b>and a curse</b>
H7200	H595	H5414	H6440	H3117	H1293	H7045

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.