

# Deuteronomy 11:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

## Analysis

The curse is the alternative: 'a curse, if ye will not obey...but turn aside out of the way...to go after other gods, which ye have not known.' The condition inverts verse 27: disobedience, specifically idolatry, triggers curse. The phrase 'turn aside out of the way' (sur min-haderek, סור מינ-הדֶּרֶךְ) means departing from God's path. The Hebrew derek (דֶּרֶךְ, 'way') represents lifestyle and conduct (see Psalm 1:6). Following 'other gods' constitutes covenant violation deserving curse. The phrase 'which ye have not known' emphasizes these gods' foreign, alien character—Israel had experienced Yahweh's faithfulness; abandoning Him for unknown gods is ultimate folly and ingratitude.

## Historical Context

This warning proved prescient. Judges records repeated apostasy: 'they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth' (Judges 2:13). Both kingdoms eventually fell to idolatry: Northern Kingdom's golden calves and Baalism led to Assyrian exile (722 BC); Judah's high places and foreign gods led to Babylonian exile (586 BC). The covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 were literally fulfilled in exile horrors. Apostasy's consequences validate God's warning.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'other gods' (money, pleasure, success, ideology) tempt believers away from exclusive devotion to Christ?
2. How does ingratitude (abandoning the God who saved you for unknown alternatives) characterize apostasy?
3. What warning signs indicate we're 'turning aside out of the way' before complete apostasy occurs?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִנֵּה הַמִּצְוֹת  
the commandments of the LORD  
אַל תָּשִׁמְעוּ לֹא אָמַר וּבְקָלְלָה  
if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD  
וְאַל תַּשְׁמַע אָמַר אֶת־בְּקָלְלָה  
And a curse if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD  
אַל־יְמִין מִן־פָּנֶיךָ רַק־בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ  
but turn aside out of the way which I command  
אַל־יְמִין מִן־פָּנֶיךָ רַק־בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ  
you this day after other gods  
וְאַל־יְמִין מִן־פָּנֶיךָ רַק־בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ  
which ye have not known  
H3045 H518 H3808 H8085 H413 H4687 H3068  
H7045 H430 H5493 H4480 H1870 H834 H595 H6680  
H853 H3117 H1980 H310 H430 H834 H3808

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 3:10** (Word): 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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