

Deuteronomy 12:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

Analysis

The concluding exhortation: 'Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.' The dual command—'observe' (shamar, שָׁמַר, guard/keep) and 'hear' (shama, שָׁמָע, listen/obey)—demands attentive obedience. The result: perpetual prosperity ('for ever') for faithful generations. The phrase 'good and right' (טוֹב וְיָשָׁר, tov veyashar) indicates both moral excellence and covenantal rectitude. This isn't arbitrary rule-keeping but conforming to God's character. Obedience brings blessing not magically but covenantally—God honors faithfulness to His word.

Historical Context

This verse concludes worship centralization instructions, transitioning to Canaanite destruction commands. The perpetual blessing promise is conditioned on perpetual obedience—which Israel failed to maintain. Exile proved the converse: disobedience brings curse. However, God's faithfulness outlasts Israel's failure—the Davidic line preserved through exile, culminating in Christ, ensures ultimate blessing for faithful remnant (Isaiah 10:20-22; Romans 9:27; 11:5). God's promises ultimately rest on His faithfulness, not ours.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that 'good and right' means conforming to God's character affect our approach to obedience?
2. What is the relationship between observing God's commands and experiencing His blessing?
3. How do New Testament promises of eternal life fulfill the Old Testament's 'go well with you forever' blessings?

Interlinear Text

אָנֹכִי אֲשֶׁר הָאֵלֹהִים הַדֹּבְרִים כָּל אֵת וְשָׁמַעְתָּ שְׁמִי
Observe **and hear** **all these words**
H8104 H8085 H853 H3605 H1697 H428 H834 H595

לִבִּי יֵטֵב לְמַעַן אֲמַצְוֶנָּה
which I command **thee that it may go well**
H6680 H4616 H3190 H0

כִּי עוֹלָם אַחֲרַי עַד אַחֲרַי וּלְבָנֵי יְרֵךְ
with thee and with thy children **after** **thee for** **ever**
H1121 H310 H5704 H5769 H3588

אֱלֹהֶיךָ: יְהוָה בְּעֵינֵי וְהַיָּשָׁר הַטּוֹב תַּעֲשֶׂה
thy God **of the LORD** **in the sight** **and right** **that which is good** **when thou doest**
H430 H3068 H5869 H3477 H2896 H6213

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:40 (Word): 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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