

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, שָׁמַע, listen/obey)—demands attentive obedience. The result: perpetual prosperity ('for ever') for faithful generations. The phrase 'good and right' (טוב וְיִשְׁרָא, 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

Psalm 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

אָנֹכִ אֶשְׁר פָּאֵל לְהַבְּדִיל אֶת וְשָׁמְעַת שְׁמֵר

Observe and hear H853 H3605 **all these words** H428 H834 H595

H8104

H8085

H1697

מְצַוֵּה

לְמִתְעָן

יְיטַב

לְבָךְ

which I command

H4616

thee that it may go well

H0

H6680

H3190

וְלִבְנֵי

אֶתְכֶם יְבָרֵךְ

עַד

כִּי עַזְלָם

H3588

with thee and with thy children

H310

thee for

ever

H5769

H1121

H5704

תְּعַשָּׂה

בְּטוּבָה

וְהַשְׁרֵךְ

בְּעֵינֵי

יְהִי הַ

אֱלֹהִים

when thou doest

that which is good

and right

in the sight

of the LORD

thy God

H6213

H2896

H3477

H5869

H3068

H430

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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