

# Deuteronomy 22:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days.

## Analysis

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**But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days.** The command let the dam go is emphatic - releasing the mother is not optional suggestion but firm requirement. Obedience to this seemingly minor law carries promise of blessing.

The promise that it may be well with thee connects faithful stewardship with personal flourishing. How we treat creation affects our own welfare. Wise resource management produces ongoing blessing; exploitation brings eventual scarcity.

The additional promise that thou mayest prolong thy days links this commandment to the fifth commandment's promise of long life for honoring parents. Paul notes this is the first commandment with promise, though this bird's nest law also promises extended life.

This teaches that God's law operates holistically - obedience in small matters contributes to comprehensive flourishing. No commandment is too minor to matter; all reflect God's wisdom for human thriving.

## Historical Context

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Paul refers to the fifth commandment as the first with promise (Ephesians 6:2), though this law also promises prolonged days. Both emphasize that obedience to God's wise ordering of relationships (human and environmental) produces blessing.

The connection between stewardship and longevity demonstrates practical wisdom - societies that exhaust their resources through exploitation suffer scarcity and decline.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does promise of blessing for obeying this minor law teach about comprehensive obedience?
2. How does wise environmental stewardship contribute to personal and societal flourishing?
3. Why does God connect treatment of creation with human welfare?
4. What does this reveal about the importance of obeying even seemingly small commandments?
5. How should the promise of prolonged life motivate sustainable rather than exploitative resource use?

## Interlinear Text

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תִּשְׁלַח	תִּשְׁלַח	אֶת	הָאֵם	אֶת־	
But thou shalt in any wise	But thou shalt in any wise	H853	let the dam	H853	
H7971	H7971		H517		
הַבָּנִים	וְתָקַח	לְךָ	לְמַעַן	אֵל יָטֵב	לְךָ
the young	and take	H0	H4616	to thee that it may be well	H0
H1121	H3947			H3190	
	וְהִאָּרְכְּךָ	יָמֶיךָ:			
with thee and that thou mayest prolong	thy days				
H748	H3117				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 4:40** (Parallel theme): 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.