

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

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

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

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

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

תַּשְׁלַח

But thou shalt in any wise

H7971

תַּשְׁלַח

But thou shalt in any wise

H7971

אַתְּ

לְאַתְּ

let the dam

אַתְּ

H853

the young

the young

וְ

וְ

וְ

לְמַעַן

H4616

וְ

לְתֵבֶת

H3190

וְ

H0

וְאֶרְבֶּכֶת

with thee and that thou mayest prolong

H748

יְמִים:

thy days

H3117

Additional Cross-References

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org