

Deuteronomy 26:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Analysis

Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel—after declaring obedience (26:13-14), the worshiper prayed for divine blessing. The phrase hashqifah mi-me'on qodshekha (הַשְׁקִיףָ מִמְּעַן קָדוֹשָׁךְ) invites God to observe from His heavenly dwelling, similar to Isaiah 63:15. The prayer presumes obedience creates basis for requesting blessing—not earning it but positioning for receiving it. **And the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey**—asking blessing on both people and land, invoking covenant promises to the patriarchs.

The connection between obedience and blessing pervades Deuteronomy. While blessings are unearned grace, disobedience forfeits covenant benefits. The prayer recognizes that faithful tithing—caring for Levites and the vulnerable—merits God's continued provision. The description 'flowing with milk and honey' echoes the promise given to Moses (Exodus 3:8), showing land abundance depends on divine blessing, not merely soil fertility. Covenant faithfulness in giving invites God's faithfulness in providing.

Historical Context

Spoken circa 1406 BC before Israel possessed the promised land. The prayer anticipated settlement and harvest, when tithing would become practical reality. The reference to 'thy holy habitation, from heaven' reflects Israel's theology: God dwelt symbolically in the tabernacle/temple but actually resided in heaven. Solomon acknowledged this at the temple dedication: 'Heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house' (1 Kings 8:27). The dual focus—God transcendent in heaven yet attending to earthly covenant—defined Israel's worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the connection between obedience and blessing avoid works-righteousness while maintaining covenant responsibility?
2. Why does the prayer emphasize God's heavenly dwelling while also asking Him to bless the earthly land?
3. What role does faithful stewardship (tithing) play in positioning believers to receive God's blessing?

Interlinear Text

בְּשִׁקְפָּה	מָעוֹן	קָדְשָׁב	מִן	בְּשָׁם יְם	וְבָכְךָ	אַתָּה
Look down	habitation	from thy holy	H4480	from heaven	and bless	H853
H8259	H4583	H6944		H8064	H1288	
עַמּךְ	אַתָּה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אַתָּה	בְּאָדָם הָ	אָשָׁר	בְּתַתְּהָ
thy people	H853	Israel	H853	and the land	H834	which thou hast given
H5971		H3478		H127		H5414
נָאָשָׁר	לְ	נָשַׁבְעָת	לְאָבֹתֵינוּ	אֶרֶץ	תְּבָרֵךְ	
הָ	H834	us as thou swarest	unto our fathers	a land	that floweth	
H0		H7650	H1	H776	H2100	
בְּרָשֶׁן	כָּל					
with milk	and honey					
H2461	H1706					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:15 (Holy): Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Zechariah 2:13 (Holy): Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

Acts 7:49 (Parallel theme): Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

Jeremiah 31:23 (Holy): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The LORD bless thee, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.

1 Kings 8:43 (References Israel): Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth

may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

1 Kings 8:27 (Parallel theme): But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

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