

Deuteronomy 28:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. The blessings chapter begins with conditional promise - if thou shalt hearken diligently. Divine blessing flows from covenant obedience; disobedience brings curse (verse 15 onward). This establishes the covenant's bilateral nature - God promises faithfulness, but Israel must respond obediently.

The phrase hearken diligently requires attentive, faithful listening with obedient response. Casual hearing without obedient action does not fulfill the condition. Saving faith always manifests in obedient living.

The scope all his commandments demands comprehensive obedience. Selective compliance with preferred portions while ignoring challenging commands does not satisfy covenant requirements. God expects complete submission to His revealed will.

The promise set thee on high above all nations indicates that covenant faithfulness

results in observable blessing and international influence. Obedient communities experience flourishing that testifies to watching world about God's goodness.

Historical Context

Israel's subsequent history demonstrated this principle - periods of covenant faithfulness (David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah) brought prosperity and international respect, while apostasy brought judgment, defeat, and exile.

This conditional blessing differs from unconditional Abrahamic promises that depend solely on God's faithfulness. The Mosaic covenant operated on do this and live principle.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the conditional nature of these blessings teach about covenant obligations?
2. How does diligent listening differ from casual hearing?
3. Why does God require comprehensive rather than selective obedience?
4. What does observable blessing from obedience testify to watching nations?
5. How do we reconcile conditional Mosaic blessings with unconditional Abrahamic promises?

Interlinear Text

אִם יִהְיֶה ה'		תִּשְׁמַע			
H1961	H518	And it shall come to pass if thou shalt hearken		H8085	
תִּשְׁמַע		בְּקוֹל		יְהוָה ה'	
And it shall come to pass if thou shalt hearken		unto the voice		of the LORD	
H8085		H6963		H3068	
אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ		לְשׁמֹר		לַעֲשׂוֹת	
thy God		to observe		and to do	
H430		H8104		H6213	
		אֶת כָּל		מִצְוֹת יוֹ	
		H853		all his commandments	
		H3605		H4687	
אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ		וְנָתַן לְךָ		יְהוָה ה'	
thy God		will set		of the LORD	
H430		H5414		H3068	
אֲנִי יְיָ		הַיּוֹם		אֲנִי יְיָ	
which I command		thee this day		which I command	
H595		H6680		H3117	
עָלַי וְ		כָּל עַל		גּוֹיֵי יְ	
thee on high		above all nations		of the earth	
H5945		H5921		H3605	
		H1471		H776	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:19 (Parallel theme): If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Exodus 23:22 (Parallel theme): But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Luke 11:28 (Word): But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Exodus 15:26 (Word): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his

commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Psalms 91:14 (Parallel theme): Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Deuteronomy 15:5 (Word): Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day.

Deuteronomy 11:13 (Word): And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Romans 2:7 (Parallel theme): To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Isaiah 3:10 (Parallel theme): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.