

Deuteronomy 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

Analysis

The LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods (vehotirka YHWH letovah)—the verb yatar means "to be left over, to have surplus." God promises not mere subsistence but abundance, more than enough. The blessings are comprehensive: **fruit of thy body** (children), **fruit of thy cattle** (livestock), and **fruit of thy ground** (crops). This threefold abundance encompasses all aspects of agrarian life—family, herds, and agriculture.

The phrase **in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee** grounds blessing in covenant promise, not in Israel's worthiness. The land itself is oath-bound gift (nishba, "swore"), emphasizing God's unbreakable commitment to the patriarchal covenant. Blessing flows from relationship with the land-giving God, not from the soil's intrinsic properties.

This verse appears in Deuteronomy 28's blessing section (vv. 1-14), which promises prosperity contingent on covenant obedience (28:1: "if thou shalt hearken diligently"). The blessings aren't unconditional but covenantal—they operate within the "if-then" framework of Deuteronomy's covenant structure. Obedience yields abundance; disobedience brings the curses that follow (28:15-68).

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 28's blessings and curses follow the structure of ancient Near Eastern suzerainty treaties, particularly Hittite treaties (14th-13th centuries BCE). These treaties listed benefits for vassal loyalty and consequences for rebellion. Israel's covenant with YHWH adapts this format, but with crucial differences: YHWH isn't a human overlord but the Creator God, and the covenant relationship is grounded in grace (exodus deliverance) before law. The blessings described agricultural and reproductive prosperity, the primary concerns of ancient agrarian societies.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does viewing material abundance as covenant blessing (rather than entitlement) affect your stewardship of resources?
2. In what ways do Jesus's teachings on kingdom priorities (Matthew 6:19-34) reframe Old Testament promises of material prosperity?

Interlinear Text

וְהִתְרַבֵּ	יבָּרֵךְ	יְהִי הָ	לְטוֹבָה	וּבְפִרְ	בְּצִדְקָה
shall make thee plenteous	And the LORD	in goods	and in the fruit	of thy body	
H3498	H3068	H2896	H6529		H990
בְּמִתְהָרֵב	וּבְפִרְ	בְּאָדָם הָ	עַל	בְּאָדָם הָ	בְּאָדָם הָ
and in the fruit	of thy cattle	and in the fruit	in the land	in the land	in the land
H6529	H929	H6529	H127	H5921	H127
רָאשֵׁךְ עַ	לְאָבָתֶךָ יְ	יְהִי הָ	נְשָׁבֵעַ	לְתַתְ	לְרָאשֵׁךְ עַ
swear	And the LORD	unto thy fathers	to give		
H834	H7650	H3068	H1	H5414	H0

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 30:9 (Good): And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

Proverbs 10:22 (References Lord): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Deuteronomy 28:4 (Parallel theme): Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Leviticus 26:9 (Parallel theme): For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

Psalms 132:11 (References Lord): The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

Job 19:17 (Parallel theme): My breath is strange to my wife, though I intreated for the children's sake of mine own body.