

Deuteronomy 28:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

Analysis

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure (אֶת־אוֹצְרוֹ הַטּוֹב, et-otzaro hatov)—God's 'treasure house' (otzar) refers to the heavenly storehouses from which rain and blessing flow (cf. Job 38:22). This covenant promise inverts the curse of drought; obedience unlocks divine provision.

The heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season—Seasonal rainfall (yoreh and malkosh, early and latter rains) was essential for Canaan's agriculture, unlike Egypt's Nile irrigation. Blessing means dependence on God's direct provision, not human systems. **Thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow**—Economic sovereignty was the visible sign of covenant blessing (cf. Deut 15:6). Israel as creditor-nation would demonstrate Yahweh's superiority over pagan gods. Tragically, disobedience reversed this: 'The stranger...shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him' (v. 44).

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 28 presents the blessings (vv. 1-14) and curses (vv. 15-68) of the Mosaic covenant, delivered by Moses on the Plains of Moab before Israel entered Canaan (circa 1406 BC). The agricultural promises reflect Canaan's dependence on rainfall, contrasting with Egypt's irrigation. Israel's history tragically fulfilled

the curses—Assyrian exile (722 BC), Babylonian captivity (586 BC), and Roman destruction (AD 70).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's control of 'the heaven' challenge modern self-sufficiency and trust in human economic systems?
2. In what ways does Christ fulfill this promise as the one who opens heaven's treasures (Matthew 6:19-21; Philippians 4:19)?

Interlinear Text

יִפְתֵּחַ	יְהוָה הוּא	לְךָ	אֶת	אֲצֻרָה	הוּא וְ	אֶת	הַשָּׁמַיִם
shall open	The LORD	H0	H853	treasure	unto thee his good	H853	the heaven
H6605	H3068			H214	H2896		H8064

לִתְּ	מָטָר	אֶרֶץְךָ	בְּעֵתוֹ	וּלְבָרְכָךָ	אֶת	כָּל
to give	the rain	unto thy land	in his season	and to bless	H853	H3605
H5414	H4306	H776	H6256	H1288		

מְעֹשֵׂה	יְדְךָ	תְּלוּהָ:	גוֹיִם	רַבִּי	יָמָיו	וְאֶתְּ
all the work	of thine hand	and thou shalt lend	nations	unto many		H859
H4639	H3027	H3867	H1471	H7227		

לְךָ	תְּלוּהָ:
H3808	and thou shalt lend
	H3867

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 15:6 (Blessing): For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (Blessing): Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

Proverbs 22:7 (Parallel theme): The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Deuteronomy 11:14 (Parallel theme): That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

Deuteronomy 14:29 (Blessing): And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

Leviticus 26:4 (Parallel theme): Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

Psalms 135:7 (Parallel theme): He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.

Deuteronomy 28:44 (Parallel theme): He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.