

Deuteronomy 28:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Analysis

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. The imagery of blessings coming on thee and overtaking thee pictures abundance pursuing and catching the obedient person. Blessings are not merely received passively but actively pursue those who walk in covenant faithfulness.

This reverses the typical human pursuit of blessing. Rather than anxiously striving after prosperity and success, the obedient find that blessing pursues them. This demonstrates that true flourishing flows from relationship with God, not self-effort.

The repetition if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD reinforces the condition. These blessings are covenant promises, not universal principles - they apply specifically to those in faithful relationship with God.

Jesus teaches similar principle - Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33). Prioritizing God results in provision of needs.

Historical Context

Israel's early history under Joshua and the faithful judges demonstrated this principle - when they obeyed God, blessing overtook them through military victories, agricultural abundance, and peace with neighbors.

The image would resonate in agricultural society where harvest abundance came as gift from God's blessing on faithful labor.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does blessing overtaking the obedient teach about pursuing God versus pursuing blessing?
2. How does covenant faithfulness result in abundance pursuing the faithful?
3. Why are these conditional covenant blessings rather than universal prosperity principles?
4. How does Jesus' teaching about seeking first the kingdom parallel this principle?
5. What is the difference between anxiously striving for success and finding blessing through obedience?

Interlinear Text

וְהַשִּׁיג בָּנָה אֶל יְהָוָה כִּי כָל שְׁלֹמָה וְבָרְכָה
shall come H5921 H3605 And all these blessings H1293 H428 on thee and overtake H5381

אֱלֹהִים הָיָה וְלֹקֶת עַל תִּשְׁמַע עַל כִּי
thy God H430 of the LORD H3068 unto the voice H6963 if thou shalt hearken H8085 H3588

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 1:6 (References Lord): But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

Deuteronomy 28:15 (References God): But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

1 Timothy 4:8 (References God): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Deuteronomy 28:45 (References God): Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

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