

Deuteronomy 28:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

Analysis

And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness. The Hebrew meshashesh (מששש, grope/fumble) depicts helpless searching without direction. **At noonday** intensifies the irony—even with full sunlight, the covenant-breaker cannot find his way, indicating spiritual blindness more devastating than physical sight loss.

Thou shalt not prosper in thy ways (lo tatzliach, לֹא תִצְלַח) means perpetual failure despite effort—divine removal of blessing ensures futility. **Oppressed and spoiled evermore** uses ashaq (אִשָּׁק, exploited/defrauded) and gazal (גָּזַל, robbed), indicating systemic injustice with **no man shall save thee**—no human deliverer can rescue from divine judgment. Isaiah 59:9-10 laments this exact condition during Israel's apostasy.

Historical Context

Moses delivered this warning circa 1406 BC. The book of Judges repeatedly demonstrates this cycle—Israel's apostasy led to oppression by surrounding nations with no deliverer until they repented and God raised up judges. The Babylonian exile (586 BC) fulfilled this comprehensively when Israel groped in spiritual darkness despite possessing Torah.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to grope in darkness at noonday, and how does spiritual blindness exceed physical blindness?
2. Why does divine judgment remove prosperity despite human effort and ingenuity?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי יֶתֶדֶד	יִמְשֹׁשׁ שׁ	בְּצָהָר יוֹם	כְּאֶשׁ ר	יִמְשֹׁשׁ שׁ
H1961	And thou shalt grope	at noonday	H834	And thou shalt grope
	H4959	H6672		H4959
הָעֵוֶר	בְּאֶפְלַי ה	וְלֹא א	תִּצְלַח יוֹם	אֶת דְּרֹכַי יְיָ
as the blind	in darkness	H3808	and thou shalt not prosper	H853 in thy ways
H5787	H653		H6743	H1870
וְהִי יֶתֶדֶד	אֶת הַיָּד	עָשׂ וְלֹא	וְגֵז וְלֹא	כָּל הַיּוֹם יוֹם
H1961	H389	and thou shalt be only oppressed	and spoiled	H3605 evermore
		H6231	H1497	H3117
וְאֵין	מוֹשִׁיעַ:			
H369	and no man shall save			
	H3467			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 59:10 (Parallel theme): We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.

Job 5:14 (Darkness): They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.

Judges 13:1 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

Judges 10:8 (Parallel theme): And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.

Judges 3:14 (Parallel theme): So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

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