

# Deuteronomy 28:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof.

## Analysis

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**Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her**—the Hebrew arash (אֶרְשָׁה, betroth) indicates formal engagement, making this violation especially heinous: covenant-breakers would lose their betrothed to enemy rapists. **Thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein** fulfills the curse of Amos 5:11 and Micah 6:15—labor without enjoyment of its fruit.

**Thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes** inverts the blessing of verse 8. The triple repetition (wife, house, vineyard) emphasizes complete futility in life's fundamental endeavors: family, security, sustenance. This is measure-for-measure justice: Israel enjoyed Canaan's vineyards they didn't plant (Deuteronomy 6:10-11); now others would enjoy theirs.

## Historical Context

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Written circa 1406 BC, this curse found literal fulfillment during the Babylonian conquest (586 BC) when Nebuchadnezzar's armies raped Israelite women (Lamentations 5:11), destroyed houses (2 Kings 25:9), and foreigners consumed Israel's agricultural produce while Jews went into exile.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does covenant judgment reverse the conquest blessings Israel initially received in Canaan?
2. What principle of divine justice appears in experiencing the same treatment Israel inflicted on Canaan?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ יִתְּשַׁגְּלֵבָה אֲשֶׁר שָׁתָּאַרְשֵׁי וְאִישׁ אַחֲרֵי אַחֲרֵי בְּ יִתְּשַׁגְּלֵבָה  
a house and another man and another a wife Thou shalt betroth

H802

H781

H376

H312

H7693

an house

H1004

בְּ בַּיִתְּבָנֵה הַלֹּא תֵּשְׁבֶּה בְּ בַּיִתְּבָנֵה  
a vineyard and thou shalt not dwell and thou shalt build with her thou shalt build

H1129

H3808

and thou shalt not dwell

H0

a vineyard

H3754

תְּמִלְלֵה אַל תִּלְאַל  
and shalt not gather the grapes and shalt not plant therein thou shalt plant

H5193

H3808

and shalt not gather the grapes

H2490

## Additional Cross-References

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**Amos 5:11** (Parallel theme): Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

**Jeremiah 8:10** (Parallel theme): Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto

the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

**Job 31:10** (Parallel theme): Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.

**Jeremiah 12:13** (Parallel theme): They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, but shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

**Hosea 4:2** (Parallel theme): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

**Lamentations 5:2** (Parallel theme): Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

**Micah 6:15** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.

**Zephaniah 1:13** (Parallel theme): Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.