

# Deuteronomy 28:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

## Analysis

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**The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up.** The phrase *am asher lo-yada'ta* (עַם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יָדָעְתָּ, a nation which thou knowest not) identifies foreign invaders as culturally alien enemies—not neighboring peoples but distant empires like Assyria and Babylon. This intensifies the horror: conquered by strangers whose language and customs Israel didn't understand.

**And thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway** uses *ratzatz* (רָצַץ, crushed/shattered), depicting grinding oppression without relief. **Alway** (*kol-hayamim*, כָּל־הַיָּמִים, all the days) indicates perpetual subjugation, not temporary setback. Isaiah 1:7 describes this exact scenario: "Your country is desolate, your cities burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence."

## Historical Context

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Written circa 1406 BC, this prophecy precisely described the Assyrian invasion (722 BC) that deported the Northern Kingdom, and the Babylonian conquest (586 BC) that exiled Judah. Both empires were distant foreigners who confiscated agricultural produce while crushing Israel under tribute and forced labor.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why does God specifically send unknown foreign nations rather than familiar neighboring enemies?
2. What does perpetual oppression without relief teach about the duration of covenant judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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פֶּרִי י	אֲדָמָתְךָ	וְכָל	יָג יַעֲבֹד	יֹאכֵל	עַם	אֶשׁ ר
<b>The fruit</b>	<b>of thy land</b>	H3605	<b>and all thy labours</b>	<b>not eat up</b>	<b>shall a nation</b>	H834
H6529	H127		H3018	H398	H5971	
לֹא	יָדָעְתָּ	יְהוָה יִתֵּן	בְּקִי	וְעַשׂ וְלֹא		
H3808	<b>which thou knowest</b>	H1961	H7535	<b>and thou shalt be only oppressed</b>		
	H3045			H6231		
וְכָצוּץ	כָּל	הַמַּיִם:				
<b>and crushed</b>	H3605	<b>always</b>				
H7533		H3117				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 5:17** (Parallel theme): And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish thy fenced cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword.