

# Deuteronomy 28:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

## Analysis

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**The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.** Complete reversal of promised social order—the ger (sojourner/alien) who should have dwelt under Israel's blessing would instead rise above them. The contrast very high/very low emphasizes extreme status reversal. Where Deuteronomy 28:1 promised Israel would be "set on high above all nations," now foreigners within their own land would dominate them.

This curse reverses Genesis 12:3's promise that nations would be blessed through Abraham's seed. Instead, the stranger prospers while covenant people languish. Nehemiah witnessed this in post-exilic Jerusalem—Gentile governors ruled while Jews struggled. It ultimately pictures the church (wild olive branches) being grafted in while natural branches were broken off (Romans 11:17-24).

## Historical Context

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This was fulfilled during Babylonian and Persian rule when foreign-appointed governors (like Tattenai, Ezra 5:3) held power over Judah. In the intertestamental period, Greek and Roman overlords ruled the promised land. Even today, modern Israel navigates complex relationships with resident populations—echoes of ancient covenant curses.

## Related Passages

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does status reversal with resident aliens teach about covenant blessings being conditional, not automatic?
2. How does Paul's olive tree metaphor (Romans 11) connect to this Deuteronomic curse?

## Interlinear Text

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רִגְרָא	רַבְבָּה	בְּקָרְבָּה	עִלְלָה	עַלְלָה	עַלְלָה
<b>The stranger</b>	<b>H834</b>	<b>that is within</b>	<b>thee shall get up</b>	<b>H5921</b>	<b>above thee very</b>
H1616		H7130	H5927		H4605

  

עַלְלָה	עַלְלָה	עַלְלָה	מְטָה	מְטָה	מְטָה
<b>above thee very</b>	<b>H859</b>	<b>and thou shalt come down</b>	<b>low</b>	<b>low</b>	<b>low</b>
H4605		H3381	H4295		H4295

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 28:13** (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: