

Deuteronomy 28:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness,
and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

Analysis

Moses identifies the root cause of judgment: 'Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things.' The issue isn't merely disobedience but attitude—serving God grudgingly or mechanically rather than joyfully. The phrase 'for the abundance of all things' reveals the problem: prosperity led to complacency and ingratitude rather than increased devotion. Joyless religion indicates heart disconnection from God, even when outward forms are maintained.

Historical Context

Israel's history repeatedly demonstrated this pattern—prosperity bred spiritual apathy. Solomon's reign saw material abundance but growing idolatry (1 Kings 11). The pre-exilic prophets condemned formalistic religion lacking genuine devotion (Isaiah 1:10-17; Amos 5:21-24). Jesus warned against serving God for material gain rather than heartfelt love (Matthew 6:24). True worship combines right practice with right heart attitude.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can prosperity lead to joyless, perfunctory religion rather than grateful devotion?
2. What does God's desire for joyful service reveal about His character and His design for worship?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	אָשֶׁר	תַּחַת	עַבַּדְתָּ	אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ
H3808	H834	H8478	H5647	H853	H3068	H430
			Because thou servedst		not the LORD	thy God
בְּשִׂמְחָה	וּבְטוֹב	לֵב	מִרְבַּ	כָּל:		
H8057	H2898	H3824	H7230	H3605		
with joyfulness	and with gladness	of heart	for the abundance			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 16:11 (References God): And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.