

Deuteronomy 28:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.

Analysis

Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of—the Hebrew kol-maḏwēh miṣrayim (כָּל־מַדְוֵה מִצְרַיִם, 'every disease of Egypt') refers both to the ten plagues and to the endemic diseases Israel witnessed in Egypt. **And they shall cleave unto thee** (וַיִּדְבְּקוּ בָּךְ, wəḏāḇəqû ḥāḱ)—the verb 'cleave' is used positively for marriage (Genesis 2:24) and covenant loyalty (Deuteronomy 10:20), but here for clinging disease.

This reverses the Exodus promise in Exodus 15:26: 'I will put none of these diseases upon thee.' What God prevented, He will now inflict. The 'diseases of Egypt' Israel 'feared' would now become their punishment. The verb 'cleave' suggests permanence—these diseases won't be temporary like Egypt's plagues but chronic. This includes leprosy, blindness, and other afflictions prevalent in Egypt.

Historical Context

Leviticus 26:16 similarly threatened wasting diseases. During the Babylonian siege, plague accompanied famine (Jeremiah 21:6-7). The Roman siege likewise brought epidemic disease due to crowding and starvation. Throughout the diaspora, Jewish communities suffered disproportionately from medieval plague outbreaks.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage demonstrate that God's deliverance is conditional on covenant faithfulness?
2. What does the reversal of Exodus 15:26 teach about the nature of blessing and curse?
3. In what ways does Christ's healing ministry demonstrate the reversal of these curses?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה יִב	כָּל	אֵת	בְּךָ	מִדּוֹ הַ	מִצָּרַיִם
Moreover he will bring				upon thee all the diseases	of Egypt
H7725			H0 H853 H3605	H4064	H4714
אֲשֶׁר	יָגִדְתָּ	מִפְּנֵי הָ	וְיִדְבְּקוּ	בְּךָ:	
H834	which thou wast afraid	of	and they shall cleave		
	H3025	H6440	H1692	H0	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:15 (References Egypt): And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.