

Deuteronomy 28:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

Analysis

Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law—the comprehensiveness is staggering: not just the listed curses but every unlisted one too. The phrase *kol-ḥolî wəkol-makkāh* (כל-חלי וכל-מקה) means literally 'all sickness and all plague.' **Them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed** (עד השמדך, 'ad hiššāmədāk)—the goal is complete destruction.

This verse removes any loophole: the curses aren't limited to Deuteronomy 28 but extend to every conceivable calamity. The phrase 'not written in this book' paradoxically expands the written curse to include the unwritten. This ensured that no matter what historical calamity befell Israel, it could be understood as covenant judgment. The repetition of 'until thou be destroyed' (also in vv. 48, 51, 61) emphasizes thoroughness.

Historical Context

Throughout Jewish history, every affliction—from Assyrian conquest to Roman destruction to medieval plague to the Holocaust—was interpreted through the lens of Deuteronomy 28. This chapter became the hermeneutical key for understanding Jewish suffering, for better or worse.

