

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* (כָּל־חִלְיָהוּ וְכָל־מַכָּה) means literally 'all sickness and all plague.' **Them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed** (וְהָבִיאָה לְךָ יְהוָה עַד־הִשָּׁמְדֶךָ, '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.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the comprehensive nature of this curse reveal the seriousness of covenant breaking?
2. What does it mean that judgment can take forms we can't anticipate or catalog?
3. How does Christ's exhaustive suffering ('My God, why have You forsaken Me?') cover all possible curses?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	כָּל	חֲלִי	וְכָל	מַכָּה	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
H1571	H3605	Also every sickness	H3605	and every plague	H834	H3808
		H2483		H4347		
כֶּתֹוב	בְּסֵפֶר	הַתּוֹכָה	הַזֹּאת	יָבִיעַ	יְהוָה	
which is not written	in the book	of this law	H2063	bring	them will the LORD	
H3789	H5612	H8451		H5927	H3068	
עַד	עַל יָדְךָ	הַשְׁמָדָה:				
H5921	H5704	upon thee until thou be destroyed				
		H8045				

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