

Deuteronomy 28:65

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

Analysis

And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest—the Hebrew phrase *lō' tarġîa'* (לא תרגיט, 'you shall not find rest') and *wəlō'-yihyeh mănôah ləkap-raġləkā* (ולא יהיה מנוח לך רגלך, 'no resting place for the sole of your foot') recall Noah's dove finding no rest (Genesis 8:9). **But the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind**—three conditions describing chronic anxiety: *lēbāḥ raggāz* (לב רגז, trembling heart/palpitations), *killayyôn 'ênayim* (כליון עינים, failing eyes/despair), *wəḏa'āḇôn nāpeš* (ודאבון נפש, sorrow of soul).

This predicts not just physical exile but psychological torment. Jewish history confirms this—perpetual insecurity, pogroms, expulsions, the Holocaust. The 'trembling heart' describes constant fear of persecution. 'Failing of eyes' means hope deferred and despair. 'Sorrow of mind' is existential anguish. The absence of rest reverses God's Sabbath gift—exiled Israel finds no shalom.

Historical Context

From the Spanish Inquisition to Russian pogroms to Nazi persecution, Jewish exile was marked by chronic insecurity. The Wandering Jew became a medieval trope

reflecting this reality. Even in modern Israel, security remains tenuous. Deuteronomy 28:65 became a lens through which Jews understood their suffering.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does lack of 'rest' symbolize separation from God, the true rest-giver?
2. What does this passage teach about the psychological cost of covenant unfaithfulness?
3. How does Christ's promise 'Come to Me... and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28) reverse this curse?

Interlinear Text

וּבְגוֹיִם	וּבְהֵם	לֹא	תִרְגַּע יָעַ	וְלֹא	יְהִי הָ	
nations	And among these	H3808	shalt thou find no ease	H3808	H1961	
H1471	H1992		H7280			
מִן וְ	לֹכֶךָ	בְּגֵלְךָ	וְנָתַן	יְהִי הָ	לְךָ	שֵׁם
have rest	neither shall the sole	of thy foot	shall give	but the LORD	H0	H8033
H4494	H3709	H7272	H5414	H3068		
לֵב	בָּנָה	וְכָלִי וְ	עֵינַיִם	וְדָאֵב וְ	נַפְשִׁי:	
heart	thee there a trembling	and failing	of eyes	and sorrow	of mind	
H3820	H7268	H3631	H5869	H1671	H5315	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 26:36 (Parallel theme): And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

Romans 11:10 (Parallel theme): Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

Genesis 8:9 (Parallel theme): But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.

Amos 9:4 (Parallel theme): And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.

Leviticus 26:16 (Parallel theme): I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.