

Deuteronomy 28:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

Analysis

And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee—Hebrew *wəhāyû ḥayyeḵā təlû'îm ləḵā minneḡed* (וְהָיָה חַיֶּיךָ תֹלָאִים לְךָ מִנֶּגֶד, 'and your life shall be hanging before you') uses the imagery of something suspended by a thread, precarious. **And thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life**—the phrase *wəlō' t̄a'āmîn bəḥayyeḵā* (וְלֹא תִאֱמִין בְּחַיֶּיךָ, 'and you shall not trust/believe in your life') means constant uncertainty about survival.

This verse captures existential dread: life without security, hope, or assurance. The repetition 'day and night' means unceasing anxiety. No moment is safe. The phrase 'none assurance of thy life' is literally 'no faith in your life'—you can't trust you'll survive the day. This became reality for Jews in diaspora, especially under persecution. Every knock at the door could mean death.

Historical Context

During the Holocaust, Jews lived precisely this reality—daily uncertainty about survival, selection for death without warning, life 'hanging by a thread.' Medieval Jews faced similar conditions during pogroms. Even in peacetime exile, antisemitism created perpetual insecurity. This verse became prophetic of the Jewish condition for 2,000 years.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the loss of security reveal our dependence on God for life itself?
2. What does this passage teach about the psychological consequences of living under judgment?
3. How does Christ's promise of eternal life provide the ultimate 'assurance' that exile destroyed?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי וְ	בְּחַיָּה:	תֵּלֵא יָם	לָךְ	מִן גֹּד	וּפְחָדָךְ
H1961	And thy life	shall hang	H0	in doubt before	thee and thou shalt fear
	H2416	H8511		H5048	H6342
לַיְלָה	וַיּוֹמָם	וְלֹא	תֵּאֲמַר יָן	בְּחַיָּה:	
and night	day	H3808	and shalt have none assurance	And thy life	
H3915	H3119		H539	H2416	