

Deuteronomy 28:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Analysis

The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. God promises military victory over enemies - those who rise up against thee will be smitten before thy face. This visible defeat demonstrates God's protection of His covenant people before watching nations.

The imagery of enemies coming one way but fleeing seven ways indicates complete rout and panic. Organized military advance dissolves into chaotic scattered flight. Seven (number of completeness) suggests total defeat and disintegration of enemy forces.

This promise doesn't guarantee absence of conflict but victory in conflict. Enemies will rise up, but God will defeat them. Covenant faithfulness doesn't eliminate opposition but ensures divine help in overcoming it.

Paul applies this spiritually - we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37). Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan ensures believers' ultimate triumph despite present conflicts.

Historical Context

Israel's history bore this out - when faithful to covenant, they defeated superior enemy forces miraculously (Jericho, Midianites, Assyrians). When disobedient, they suffered defeat by weaker opponents.

The covenant blessing-curse pattern operated militarily as well as agriculturally - obedience brought victory, disobedience brought defeat.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does visible victory teach about God defending His covenant people?
2. How does organized advance dissolving into scattered flight picture complete defeat?
3. Why doesn't covenant faithfulness eliminate opposition but ensures victory over it?
4. How does Paul apply this principle spiritually to Christian spiritual warfare?
5. What does Israel's military history teach about the covenant blessing-curse pattern?

Interlinear Text

שְׁלֹחַ	לְךָ	אֶת	יְהֹוָה	אֶת	אָמֵן	בְּקָרְבָּן	עַל	יְבָשָׁה
shall cause	The LORD	H853	thine enemies	that rise up				H5921
H5414	H3068		H341	H6965				H5921
נִתְקַרְבָּה	לְפָנֶיךָ	בְּפָנָיךְ	אֶת	יְמִינְךָ	אֶת	יְמִינְךָ	אֶת	יְמִינְךָ
against thee to be smitten	before	way	against thee one	they shall come out				
H5062	H6440	H1870	H259	H3318				
וְבַשְׁבַע	יְמִינְךָ	וְבַשְׁבַע	לְפָנֶיךָ	לְפָנֶיךָ	לְפָנֶיךָ	לְפָנֶיךָ	לְפָנֶיךָ	לְפָנֶיךָ
thee seven	way	and flee	before					
H413	H7651	H1870	H5127	H6440				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 89:23 (Parallel theme): And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him.

2 Chronicles 19:4 (References Lord): And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beer-sheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

Joshua 8:22 (Parallel theme): And the other issued out of the city against them; so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side: and they smote them, so that they let none of them remain or escape.

Deuteronomy 28:25 (References Lord): The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Joshua 10:42 (References Lord): And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (References Lord): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

