

Deuteronomy 30:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Analysis

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. This verse explains the life-path - love the LORD...walk in his ways...keep his commandments. These elements constitute covenant faithfulness that produces life and blessing.

The command to love the LORD thy God places relationship at the center. Obedience flows from love, not mere duty. Heart affection for God motivates and sustains faithful living. Jesus later identifies this as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37).

The promise that thou mayest live and multiply connects obedience with prosperity. This is not health-and-wealth gospel but covenant principle that faithfulness produces flourishing while unfaithfulness produces destruction.

The specific application the LORD...shall bless thee in the land ties blessing to Canaan possession. Covenant obedience ensures secure tenure in the Promised Land; disobedience results in exile.

Historical Context

Israel's history validated this principle repeatedly - faithful periods brought blessing and security; apostasy brought military defeat and eventually exile. The covenant blessings and curses operated as Moses predicted.

The centrality of love distinguishes biblical faith from mere legalism - God desires heartfelt devotion, not grudging compliance.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does love for God motivate and sustain obedience?
2. What is the relationship between covenant faithfulness and prosperity?
3. How is covenant blessing different from health-and-wealth prosperity gospel?
4. Why did secure land tenure depend on obedience?
5. What distinguishes heart devotion from mere external compliance?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	אֲנֹכִי	מִצַּוְיָ	הַיּוֹם	לְאַהֲבָה	אֶת
H834	H595	In that I command	thee this day	to love	H853
		H6680	H3117	H157	
וְהוּא	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	לְלֶכֶת	בְּדַרְכֵי	וּלְשָׁמֹר	מִצְוֹתַי
and the LORD	thy God	H1980	in his ways	and to keep	his commandments
H3068	H430		H1870	H8104	H4687
וְחֻקָּיָי	וּמִשְׁפָּטָי	וְחַיִּי	וְרַב־יֵת	וּבְרַכְךָ	
and his statutes	and his judgments	that thou mayest live	and multiply	shall bless	
H2708	H4941	H2421	H7235	H1288	
וְהוּא	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בָּאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	אֶתְּ	בָא
and the LORD	thy God	thee in the land	H834	H859	whither thou goest
H3068	H430	H776			H935
לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:	שָׁמָּה				
H8033	to possess				
	H3423				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 30:6 (Love): And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

John 14:21 (Love): He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (Love): And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

1 Corinthians 7:19 (Word): Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

