

# Deuteronomy 30:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

## Analysis

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**I denounce unto you this day**—the Hebrew higgadti (from nagad, to declare, announce solemnly) carries legal force, like a prosecutor's indictment or a prophet's oracle. Moses functions as covenant witness, formally declaring consequences before they occur. **That ye shall surely perish** uses the intensive Hebrew construction avod to'vedun ("perishing you will perish"), emphasizing certainty and totality of judgment. This isn't physical annihilation but covenantal death—exile, loss of land, and subjugation.

**Ye shall not prolong your days upon the land**—ironic reversal of the fifth commandment's promise (Exodus 20:12). Obedience brings longevity in the land; disobedience brings expulsion. The land itself would "vomit out" covenant breakers (Leviticus 18:28), as it did the Canaanites before them. This establishes conditional tenure—Israel possesses the land through covenant faithfulness, not ethnic entitlement. God is sovereign over the land; Israel are tenants, not owners.

## Historical Context

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Spoken in the Moab plains just before Jordan crossing (1406 BC), this warning was fulfilled with devastating precision. The Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria in 722 BC after persistent Baal worship; Judah fell to Babylon in 586 BC after ignoring prophetic warnings. Both kingdoms experienced exactly what Moses predicted—

perishing from the land they were about to possess. This demonstrates Scripture's prophetic accuracy and God's covenant faithfulness (even in judgment).

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the conditional nature of Israel's land tenure inform Christian understanding of blessing and perseverance?
2. What privileges or blessings in your life depend on ongoing faithfulness rather than past commitments?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	תֵּאבֵד וְ	תֵּאבֵד וְ	כִּי	יָמִים	לָכֶם	הַגְּדֹתִי
H3808	perish	perish	H3588	unto you this day	H0	I denounce
	H6	H6		H3117		H5046
אֲשֶׁר	הָאֲדָמָה	עַל	יָמִים	וְ	תִּפְרֹץ	
H834	upon the land	H5921	unto you this day		and that ye shall not prolong	
	H127		H3117		H748	
לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:	שָׁמָּה	לָבֹא	וְ	תֵּרֶד	עָבַר	אֶתְּ
to possess	H8033	to go		Jordan	whither thou passest over	H859
H3423		H935		H3383	H5674	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 4:26** (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go

over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

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