

Deuteronomy 33:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.

Analysis

They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness—Moses blesses Zebulun and Issachar together, predicting their commercial prosperity through maritime trade. The Hebrew *har* (mountain) likely refers to Mount Tabor, located at the border of their territories, where pilgrims would gather for worship. *Zivchei tzedeq* (sacrifices of righteousness) indicates offerings given from honest gain, not exploitation—prosperity used for worship, not hoarded.

For they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand—Shefa yamim (abundance of the seas) points to Zebulun's coastal access (Genesis 49:13) and lucrative sea trade. The 'treasures in the sand' may refer to Tyrian purple dye extracted from murex snails, glass-making using coastal sand, or hidden maritime commerce. Their wealth would become a vehicle for calling nations to worship, prefiguring how God's people should use material blessing for missional purposes.

Historical Context

Zebulun's territory included the southern edge of the Jezreel Valley with access to Mediterranean trade routes, while Issachar occupied the fertile agricultural plain. Their commercial success in Moses's blessing was fulfilled during the judges period and David's reign. Archaeological evidence confirms extensive Phoenician

trade networks along this coast. The 'calling peoples to the mountain' finds later echo in Isaiah's vision of nations streaming to Zion (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How should material prosperity and commercial success be directed toward worship and witness rather than personal accumulation?
2. In what ways can your vocation or business 'call people to the mountain' of encountering God?

Interlinear Text

עַמִּים	בְּרֵרָה	שָׁם	זָבְחוּ	זְבַחִי
the people	unto the mountain	They shall call	there they shall offer	sacrifices
H5971	H2022	H7121	H2076	H2077
צְדָקָה	כִּי	שְׁפָעָה	יְמִימָה	יְלִלְתָּה
of righteousness	H3588	of the abundance	of the seas	for they shall suck
H6664		H8228	H3220	H3243
וְשִׁפְנֵי	בְּמֹעֲנֵי	חֹלָה		
and of treasures	hid	in the sand		
H8226	H2934	H2344		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:5 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Psalms 4:5 (Righteousness): Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Isaiah 2:3 (Parallel theme): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Exodus 15:17 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

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