

Deuteronomy 33:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.

Analysis

Let Asher be blessed with children—Barukh mibanim Asher (blessed from/among sons) can mean blessed with many sons or blessed/favored among his brothers. Given the context emphasizing fraternal acceptance, the latter seems primary. Asher's demographic prosperity would make him influential and welcome.

Let him be acceptable to his brethren—Retzu echav (accepted/pleasing to his brothers) addresses potential tribal jealousy. Asher's coming abundance shouldn't breed resentment but harmony. **Let him dip his foot in oil**—Toval bashemen raglo is hyperbolic imagery of extraordinary olive oil production. Asher's Mediterranean coastal territory in northern Israel became famous for olive cultivation. Oil so abundant you could bathe feet in it! Oil symbolizes anointing, blessing, prosperity, and the Spirit—all flowing from Asher's inheritance.

Historical Context

Asher's territory stretched along the Mediterranean coast from Mount Carmel northward to Phoenicia—ideal for olive cultivation. Ancient sources confirm this region's legendary olive oil production, which became a major export commodity. Asher's prosperity through agriculture and trade with Phoenician cities fulfilled this blessing. The tribe's acceptance among brothers despite wealth suggests they avoided the pride that often accompanies prosperity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can prosperity ('oil') be stewarded in ways that generate 'acceptance among brothers' rather than envy and division?
2. What spiritual 'anointing' does material abundance enable you to pour out on others in service?

Interlinear Text

אֶשֶׁר	אָמַר	בָּרַךְ וְ	מִבְּנֵי יָם	אֶשֶׁר	יְהִי
And of Asher	he said	be blessed	with children	And of Asher	H1961
H836	H559	H1288	H1121	H836	
רָצוּי	אֶל יוֹ	וְטָב ל	בִּשְׁמֶן	בְּגָלוֹ:	
let him be acceptable	to his brethren	and let him dip	in oil	his foot	
H7521	H251	H2881	H8081	H7272	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 49:20 (Parallel theme): Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.

Psalms 128:6 (Parallel theme): Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Romans 14:18 (Parallel theme): For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Psalms 128:3 (Parallel theme): Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

Job 29:6 (Parallel theme): When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;

Acts 7:10 (Parallel theme): And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Psalms 115:15 (Blessing): Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

Exodus 12:10 (Parallel theme): And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.