

Deuteronomy 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,

Analysis

The command 'do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD' requires conduct pleasing to God, not merely conforming to human standards. The Hebrew 'yashar v'tov' (right and good) indicates both just/straight conduct and morally excellent character. The purpose clauses reveal obedience's benefits: 'that it may be well with thee' (prosperity) and 'that thou mayest go in and possess the good land' (inheritance). This verse articulates the covenant principle: obedience enables enjoying God's promises. Yet Israel's failure proved that law reveals duty but cannot enable performance. Only grace produces righteousness.

Historical Context

Israel's possession and retention of Canaan depended on covenant faithfulness (Deuteronomy 4:25-27, 28:15-68). Doing 'right and good' meant: just treatment of poor, widows, orphans; honest commerce; pure worship; and social righteousness. When Israel obeyed, they prospered (Joshua-early Judges, David-Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah). Disobedience brought defeat, oppression, and exile. The land itself 'vomited out' covenant violators (Leviticus 18:24-28), as Canaanites before them. Possession required ongoing faithfulness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does doing what is 'right and good in the sight of the LORD' differ from conforming to cultural standards of morality?
2. What does the connection between obedience and land possession teach about covenant blessing depending on faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וְעָשָׂה יְהוָה	הַיָּשָׁר	הַטֹּב	בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה	יְהוָה		
And thou shalt do	that which is right	and good	in the sight	of the LORD		
H6213	H3477	H2896	H5869	H3068		
לִיטָב	יְהוָה	לְךָ	וְעָשָׂה יְהוָה			
H4616	that it may be well	H0	with thee and that thou mayest go in			
	H3190		H935			
וְיָרְשָׁתָּה	אֶת	הָאֲרָצַת	הַטֹּב	אֲשֶׁר	נִשְׁבַּע ע	יְהוָה
and possess	H853	land	and good	H834	sware	of the LORD
H3423		H776	H2896		H7650	H3068
לְאֲבוֹתֶיךָ:						
unto thy fathers						
H1						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:40 (References Lord): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee,

and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Deuteronomy 12:25 (References Lord): Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the LORD.

Romans 12:2 (Good): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Deuteronomy 5:29 (Parallel theme): O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

John 8:29 (Parallel theme): And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Ezekiel 33:19 (Parallel theme): But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.