

Deuteronomy 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Analysis

Moses urges 'Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it.' The imperative to hear (shema) appears again, emphasizing that hearing must lead to doing. The promised result—'that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily'—connects obedience to flourishing. The description of Canaan as 'a land flowing with milk and honey' uses covenant language from God's promise to the patriarchs (Exodus 3:8). Milk and honey represent agricultural abundance—milk from livestock, honey from date palms and bees—indicating a land capable of supporting numerous people.

Historical Context

Canaan's fertility contrasted sharply with Egypt's dependence on Nile irrigation and the wilderness's barrenness. The land's abundance would be a constant reminder of God's provision and faithfulness. However, prosperity also brought spiritual danger—forgetting God in times of abundance (Deuteronomy 8:10-14). Israel's history shows cycles of obedience/blessing and disobedience/judgment.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does prosperity tempt you to forget dependence on God?
2. What does God's promise of abundant blessing teach about His desire for His people's flourishing?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁמְעָת	אָשָׁר	לְעֹשֶׂת	וְשִׁמְרָת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	תְּהִרְאֵן	וְשִׁמְעָת
Hear	therefore O Israel	and observe	to do			
H8085	H3478	H8104	H6213			
בְּעֵיטָה	רָאשָׁה	לְבָבְךָ	וְתַּרְבֵּבְךָ	רָאשָׁה	מָאֵד	
it that it may be well	H0	H834	with thee and that ye may increase	H7235	mighty	
H3190					H3966	
כִּאָשָׁר	לְךָ	יְבָתֵּחַ	יְבָתֵּחַ	אֱלֹהִים	אָבֹתֶיךָ	מָאֵד
H834	hath promised	as the LORD	God	of thy fathers	H0	
H1696	H3068	H430	H1			
אַתָּה	בְּעֵדֶת	מָלֵךְ	וְלִבְשָׁן			
thee in the land	that floweth	with milk	and honey			
H776	H2100	H2461	H1706			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 22:17 (Parallel theme): That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Genesis 28:14 (Parallel theme): And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 26:4 (Parallel theme): And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Genesis 15:5 (Parallel theme): And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Isaiah 3:10 (Parallel theme): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Acts 7:17 (Covenant): But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

Ecclesiastes 8:12 (References God): Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Exodus 1:7 (References Israel): And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Genesis 13:16 (Parallel theme): And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.