

Deuteronomy 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

Analysis

The promise 'blessed above all people' establishes Israel's unique status as recipients of God's covenant favor. The absence of barrenness (in humans and livestock) signifies divine blessing and fulfilled purpose. In ancient culture, barrenness was considered curse or divine disfavor (Genesis 30:1-2; 1 Samuel 1:5-8). This promise reverses that curse, showing God's blessing brings fruitfulness. Theologically, fruitfulness symbolizes covenant vitality—God's blessing produces abundance. The New Testament applies this spiritually: believers are blessed 'with all spiritual blessings' (Ephesians 1:3) and called to bear spiritual fruit (John 15:8, Galatians 5:22-23). The ultimate 'fruitfulness' is multiplication of disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

Historical Context

In agricultural societies, fertility (human and animal) determined economic prosperity and social standing. Large families provided labor and security; numerous livestock indicated wealth. God's promise directly addressed ancient Israel's practical concerns. Throughout Israel's history, faithfulness generally correlated with prosperity (Solomon's reign), while apostasy brought barrenness and defeat. Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah, and Elizabeth all experienced God's intervention to reverse barrenness, demonstrating His sovereign power over fertility and life.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you define 'blessing' in your life—by material measures or spiritual fruitfulness?
2. What barrenness (spiritual, relational, ministerial) in your life needs God's intervention?
3. In what ways are you called to be 'fruitful' in bearing witness to Christ and making disciples?

Interlinear Text

בָּרַךְ וְיָהּ הָאֵל	יְהוָה הָאֵל	מִכָּל	הָעַם יָמִים	לֹא	יְהוָה הָאֵל	בָּרַךְ
Thou shalt be blessed	H1961	H3605	above all people	H3808	H1961	H0
H1288			H5971			
וְיִשְׁכַּרְךָ הָאֵל	וְיִשְׁכַּרְךָ הָאֵל	וּבְרִכָּתְךָ:				
or female barren	or female barren	among you or among your cattle				
H6135	H6135	H929				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:4 (Blessing): Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Leviticus 26:9 (Parallel theme): For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

Psalms 127:3 (Parallel theme): Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Deuteronomy 28:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (Parallel theme): Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

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