

Deuteronomy 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

Analysis

The opening command 'All the commandments... shall ye observe to do' establishes comprehensive obedience as the condition for covenant blessing. The threefold promise—'that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess'—shows that obedience produces life, growth, and inheritance. The Hebrew chayah (live) means not mere existence but flourishing life. Obedience isn't the root of life but the pathway to abundant life. The promise 'which the LORD sware unto your fathers' grounds current blessing in God's ancient covenant faithfulness. This verse introduces chapter 8's theme: remember God's provision to avoid pride in prosperity. The New Testament parallel is Jesus' teaching that obedience demonstrates love (John 14:15) and leads to abiding in His love (John 15:10).

Historical Context

This command comes as Israel prepares to transition from wilderness wandering to settled agricultural life in Canaan. The 40 years of divine provision (manna, water from rock, preserved clothing) would end; Israel would farm, harvest, and accumulate wealth. This transition created spiritual danger—self-sufficiency replacing dependence on God. Moses addresses a generation poised between miraculous provision and ordinary prosperity, warning them to maintain the same dependence in plenty that necessity forced upon them in want.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does prosperity tempt you toward self-sufficiency and away from dependence on God?
2. In what ways does obeying God's commands lead to fuller, more abundant life?
3. How can you maintain spiritual disciplines in times of plenty that were natural in times of need?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	אֲנָכִי	אֲשֶׁר	הַמִּצְרָיִם	מִצְרָא	זַיִם
H3605	All the commands	H834	H595	which I command	thee this day
	H4687			H6680	H3117
וְבָאָתֶם	וְרַבֵּיתֶם	וְגַעֲמֶתֶם			
shall ye observe	to do	that ye may live	and multiply	and go in	
H8104	H6213	H4616	H2421	H7235	H935
וְיִרְשֶׁתֶת	וְהַבָּתִים	וְהַבָּתִים			
and possess	the land	swear	which the LORD	unto your fathers	
H3423	H776	H834	H7650	H3068	H1

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:1 (References Lord): Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

