

Deuteronomy 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Analysis

The repeated emphasis on multiplication—"herds and flocks multiply... silver and gold is multiplied... all that thou hast is multiplied"—describes comprehensive prosperity. The threefold repetition of 'multiplied' (yirbeh) emphasizes abundance. This isn't hypothetical but describes the expected result of obedience and God's blessing. The verse doesn't condemn wealth but describes a spiritual test: can you experience multiplication without the pride warned against in verse 14? Material increase isn't inherently good or evil; its spiritual effect depends on the heart's response. The next verses show the proper response: remembering God (v. 14), recognizing His provision (v. 16), and rejecting self-credit (v. 17).

Historical Context

Israel's multiplication in Canaan would be dramatic: from roughly 2-3 million entering the land to peak population possibly 5-7 million under Solomon. Archaeological evidence shows dramatic increase in settlements during Iron Age I-II. Livestock multiplication is evident in economic texts. Silver and gold accumulation is documented in biblical texts (David's treasury, Solomon's wealth, 1 Kings 10:14-27). This material success made Israel envied by surrounding nations but also created spiritual vulnerability, as predicted here.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you respond spiritually when experiencing increase and multiplication in wealth or success?
2. What safeguards prevent material prosperity from creating spiritual pride in your life?
3. How can you view multiplication of resources as increased stewardship responsibility rather than personal achievement?

Interlinear Text

וְכָרְבָּהּ אֲצַנְבָּהּ וְכָרְבָּהּ יְרַבְּהָהּ וְכָרְבָּהּ סָףּ

And when thy herds and thy flocks and all that thou hast is multiplied and thy silver

H1241

H6629

H7235

H3701

וְכָרְבָּהּ אֲשֶׁר וְכָל־גַּם־בָּהּ לְנִזְמָן לְבָהּ

and thy gold and all that thou hast is multiplied

H2091

H7235

H0

H3605

H834

H0

וְכָרְבָּהּ.

and all that thou hast is multiplied

H7235

Additional Cross-References

Job 1:3 (Parallel theme): His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.