

Isaiah 30:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.

Analysis

Then shall he give the rain of thy seed (וַיִּתֵּן מֶטֶר זֶרְעֶךָ)—After spiritual renewal (v. 22), material blessing follows. The verb natan (give) emphasizes God as source. Rain for your zera (seed) means timely rains that germinate crops. **And bread of the increase of the earth**—The Hebrew lechem (bread) from tevuah (produce, yield) indicates abundant harvests. **It shall be fat and plenteous** (וְהָיָה דָשֵׁן וְשָׁמֵן)—Both adjectives dashen and shamen mean rich, oily, fertile—emphasizing superabundant provision. The covenantal blessing of Deuteronomy 28:1-14 is restored.

In that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures—Even livestock prosper in kar nirchav (large, spacious pasture). This comprehensive blessing—crops for humans, pasture for animals—reverses the curse of drought and scarcity that came with idolatry (Deuteronomy 28:15-24). The progression is theological: first, remove idols (v. 22); second, receive covenant blessings (v. 23). Spiritual health precedes material prosperity, not vice versa. This contradicts prosperity gospel that promises material blessing without repentance. Biblical order always: seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and material needs will be provided (Matthew 6:33).

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's agricultural economy made rain the difference between survival and starvation. Drought was covenant curse for disobedience (Leviticus 26:19-20; Deuteronomy 28:23-24). Baal worship partly stemmed from Canaanite belief that Baal controlled rain. Isaiah's prophecy assures: Yahweh alone sends rain; abandon idols and He will bless you. This was fulfilled in various reformations and restorations throughout Israel's history.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the biblical order of spiritual renewal before material blessing challenge modern prosperity teaching?
2. What does it mean that God promises both 'bread' for humans and 'pasture' for cattle—comprehensive care for all life?
3. How should Christians understand material prosperity: as automatic blessing for obedience, or as gracious gift that may or may not accompany faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	תִּזְרַע	אֲשֶׁר	זֶרְעֲךָ	מֵטָר	וְנָתַן
H853	H2232	H834	H2233	H4306	H5414
that	thou shalt sow	of thy seed	the rain	Then shall he give	
הָאֲדָמָה הַזֹּאת	הָאֲדָמָה הַזֹּאת	וְתִבּוֹאָתָהּ	וְלֶחֶם וְחֵם	הָאֲדָמָה הַזֹּאת	
H1961	H127	H8393	H3899	H127	
of the earth	of the earth	of the increase	withal and bread	of the earth	
וַיֵּאמֶר יְהוָה	מִקֵּץ יָרֵךְ	יִרְעֶה	וְשָׂמָה	וְדָשָׁה	
H1931	H4735	H7462	H8082	H1879	
in that day	shall thy cattle	feed	and plenteous	and it shall be fat	
בְּרִחְבֵּי:	כֶּפֶר				
H7337	H3733				
in large	pastures				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 32:20 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.

Isaiah 58:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Zechariah 10:1 (Parallel theme): Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Genesis 41:18 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:

Malachi 3:10 (Parallel theme): Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

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