

Psalms 107:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

Analysis

This verse describes God's blessing on restored community. 'He blesseth them also' shows divine favor actively bestowed. 'Blesseth' (barak, בָּרַךְ) means to kneel, bless, or make prosperous. 'So that they are multiplied greatly' indicates population growth—fulfilling Abrahamic covenant promises. 'And suffereth not their cattle to decrease' adds agricultural prosperity. 'Cattle' (behemah, בְּהֵמָה) means livestock or beasts of burden—economic wealth. God's blessing encompasses both human and agricultural multiplication. This demonstrates comprehensive blessing: people, food production, livestock—total flourishing. Covenant faithfulness brings God's active blessing on all life dimensions.

Historical Context

Post-exilic restoration included population and agricultural recovery. Zechariah prophesied streets full of children and old people—population growth after decimation (Zechariah 8:4-5). Nehemiah recorded repopulating Jerusalem (Nehemiah 11). God's promise to Abraham ('I will multiply thy seed,' Genesis 22:17) continued through return from exile. For the church, spiritual multiplication fulfills this—believers multiplied as gospel spreads (Acts 2:41, 47; 6:7). God blesses His people with growth.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's blessing manifest in both human and material multiplication?
2. What is the relationship between covenant faithfulness and comprehensive flourishing?
3. How does the church's growth fulfill God's promises of multiplication and blessing?

Interlinear Text

וְיִבְרַכֶּה	וְיִרְבּוּ	וְיִבְרַכֶּה	וְיִרְבּוּ	וְיִבְרַכֶּה	וְיִרְבּוּ
He blesseth	them also so that they are multiplied	greatly	not their cattle		
H1288	H7235	H3966	H929		H3808

וְיִסְתַּחֲוּ
and suffereth
H4591

Additional Cross-References

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

Genesis 12:2 (Blessing): And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 17:20 (Blessing): And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Deuteronomy 30:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

Deuteronomy 7:14 (Blessing): Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

Genesis 17:16 (Blessing): And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Proverbs 10:22 (Blessing): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Jeremiah 30:19 (Parallel theme): And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

Genesis 9:1 (Blessing): And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Genesis 30:43 (Parallel theme): And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.