

Zechariah 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

Analysis

For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. God specifies the reversal of former curses with detailed agricultural blessing. "For the seed shall be prosperous" (zera ha-shalom, זֶרֶת הַשָּׁלוֹם) literally reads "seed of peace" or "peaceful seed"—some translate as "the seed shall prosper" while others render "there shall be the seed of peace," indicating that sown seed will successfully grow and yield harvest, unlike the crop failures of verse 10.

"The vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew" describes comprehensive agricultural prosperity from three sources:

1. **The vine** (ha-gephen, הַגְּפֵן) producing grapes for wine, a staple of Mediterranean diet and symbol of joy;
2. **The ground** (ha-aretz, הָאָרֶץ) yielding its produce—grain, vegetables, all crops;
3. **The heavens** (ha-shamayim, הַשָּׁמָיִם) providing dew (tal, תָּל), essential moisture in semi-arid climate.

This triple blessing reverses the triple curse in Haggai 1:10-11: "Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought."

The climactic promise: "**I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things**" (ve-hinchalt et-she'erit ha-am ha-zeh et-kol-eleh, וְהִנְחַלְתִּי אֶת-שְׁאָרִית הָעָם הַזֶּה אֶת-כָּל-אֶלְהָה). The verb hinchalt from nachal means to give as inheritance or possession—God will grant these blessings as covenant inheritance to the remnant. This recalls promised land blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-14) that accompany covenant obedience. The comprehensive phrase "all these things" indicates total provision—nothing lacking.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's economy was primarily agricultural—grain, wine, and oil (Deuteronomy 7:13) constituted basic sustenance. Prosperity depended entirely on favorable weather: timely rain, adequate dew, moderate temperatures, and absence of pests. The covenant explicitly linked obedience to agricultural blessing and disobedience to agricultural curse (Deuteronomy 28:1-24). When God withheld rain or sent drought, blight, or locusts, it signaled covenant discipline (Deuteronomy 11:13-17, 28:22-24, 38-40).

During the period of temple neglect (536-520 BC), Haggai describes catastrophic crop failures: "Ye have sown much, and bring in little" (Haggai 1:6). God explicitly declared: "I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil" (Haggai 1:11). This wasn't natural weather patterns but supernatural judgment. When the people resumed temple building, God promised immediate reversal: "From this day will I bless you" (Haggai 2:19).

Zechariah 8:12 confirms this covenant pattern. The same natural systems that God withheld in judgment—fruitful vines, productive soil, moisture from heaven—He now promises to restore in blessing. While Christians shouldn't apply this mechanically as prosperity theology (blessing always equals obedience, hardship always equals sin), the principle remains that God sovereignly controls material

provision and can withhold or grant it according to His purposes. Ultimately, Christ provides spiritual food and drink (John 6:35), and the new creation will feature abundant fruitfulness without curse (Revelation 22:1-5).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding covenant blessing and curse help interpret both material prosperity and hardship in light of God's purposes?
2. In what ways does God's promise to provide "all these things" to the faithful remnant parallel Jesus's teaching in Matthew 6:33?
3. How do these material blessings (seed, fruit, dew) foreshadow the greater spiritual blessings believers receive in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)?

Interlinear Text

כִּי בָּעֵד בְּשָׁלָום פְּרִיָּה
H3588 For the seed shall be prosperous the vine shall give her fruit
H2233 H7965 H1612 H5414 H6529

וְפָאָרֶץ יְתַנֵּן וְיַבְּול הַבְּשָׂמָמָה וְיַבְּול הַשָּׁמֶן וְיַבְּול הַהָּאָתָן
and the ground shall give her increase and the heavens shall give
H776 H5414 H853 H2981 H8064 H5414

שָׁאַר יְתַהֲרֵךְ וְנִמְלְתָה אֶת הַצְּבָאָה וְנִמְלְתָה אֶת הַבְּשָׂמָמָה
and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess their dew
H853 H5157 H853 H7611 H2088
H2919 H3605 H428

כָּל אֶת אֱלֹהָה:
H853 H3605 H428

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 27:28 (Parallel theme): Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

Deuteronomy 33:13 (Parallel theme): And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

Zechariah 8:6 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 6:33 (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Joel 2:22 (Parallel theme): Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

Haggai 1:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

Haggai 2:19 (Parallel theme): Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.

Isaiah 30:23 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 61:7 (Parallel theme): For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

1 Corinthians 3:21 (Parallel theme): Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's;