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Deprivation and Dominance

28: 38-44

Deprivation and dominance DIG: What does this curse focus on? Why will the people have little to show for their efforts? Why won't their children be able to help them with their crops? Why will there be a reversal of fortunes with the resident foreigner?

REFLECT: God's sheer power, as shown in this chapter, makes reverence for Him the logical conclusion. Are you genuinely awed by YHVH's power? Where in your life this week does reverence for Ha'Shem need to be seen? How can you help this week to see His power?

Moshe then elaborated on the **specific conditional curses** in **verses 28:16-19**, which were an elaboration of the **specific conditional blessings** of **28:3-6**. In **28:20-68**, **Moses** pronounced **eleven curses** that **Isra'el** would suffer if **she** did not live wholeheartedly in accordance with **God's mitzvot (to see link click Ez - Statutes, Mitzvot, and Ordinances)**. Each individual judgment essentially had one goal: to turn **Isra'el** from disobedience.⁶¹⁰

8: Crop failure (28:38-42): This **curse** concentrates on the economy of the country. The three staple crops of **Isra'el** - **grain, wine, and oil** - commonly served as clear indicators of **God's** blessing on **His** servant-nation (**Leviticus 26:20; Deuteronomy 6:11, 8:8; Isaiah 5:10; Jeremiah 12:13; Micah 6:15**). Both in **her** agriculture and in **her** commerce, **Isra'el** would fail. **Her people** would work hard but would have little to show for it.



Moses declared: **You will carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, because locusts will devour it. You will plant vineyards and dress them but neither drink the wine nor gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.** The **locusts** and **worms** would obey **the** sovereign **LORD** even if **Isra'el** would not. **You will have olive trees throughout your territory but not anoint yourself with the oil, because your olives will fall off unripe. Children,** normally used for work on the farms, would be ripped away from **their** parents. **You will father sons and daughters, but they won't belong to you, because they will go into captivity. The bugs will inherit all your trees and the produce of your land (28:38-42 CJB).**

The **curse** of **YHVH** would affect every area of **Isra'el's** life, so **the people** would enter upon a path of steady decline, sinking even lower than the most underprivileged of **their** own community.⁶¹¹ Whereas, earlier **Moses** compared **Isra'el** to other **nations** outside **the Land** of Promise (**28:1, 12-13, 36-37**), here, **he** contrasts **the Israelites** with resident **foreigners** who lived in **their** midst. During the plagues of **Egypt** (see the commentary on **Exodus Bj - The Ten Plagues of Egypt**), **ADONAI** made a clear distinction between **the Egyptians** and **Israelites** and protected **the Israelites** from the disasters that fell on **Egypt**. The reverse would be true in this **curse** for **the** resident **foreigner**, who would normally be the lowest level in Jewish society, would profit at **Isra'el's** expense, becoming a creditor, or **the head. The foreigner living with you will rise higher and higher while you sink lower and lower and** become debtors. Therefore, the crop failure envisioned in **28:38-42** would lead to an economic collapse so significant that **the poor foreigners** would be among **Isra'el's** creditors. **He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he will be the head and you the tail (28:43-44 CJB).**⁶¹²

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Your love has promised **curses/discipline**, "My son, do not take lightly the discipline of **ADONAI** or lose heart when you are*

corrected by Him, because ADONAI disciplines the one He loves and punishes every son He accepts” (Hebrews 12:5-6) as a way to bring the sinner back into the joy of walking in **God’s** ways. This world will always have illness and sin, but praise **You** that **Yeshua** is preparing a home in heaven (**John 14:3**) for those who love **Him**. **He is the Victorious King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)**. These illnesses and trials will soon be over. **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)**. Heaven’s joy and peace is for all eternity. **He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4)**. Praise **You** for **Your** love that reaches out to bring the sinner back into a loving relationship with **You**. Praise **You** for accepting a heart repentance. **For the grief that God wills brings a repentance that leads to salvation, leaving no regret (Second Corinthians 7:10a-b)**. **You** are so loving! I worship **You**! In **Yeshua’s** name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen