

## Welcome to the Shire

### The Way of Blessing

(Deuteronomy 28:1–14 [English 28:1–29:1])

Veritas Class

May 1, 2016

#### Introduction to Deuteronomy 28

<b>Introduction: The Privilege and Responsibilities of Covenant Relationship (26:16-19)</b>	
<b>The Blessings (28:1-14)</b>	<b>The Curses (28:15-68)</b>
<b>The Pre-condition to Blessing (28:1-2)</b>	<b>The Pre-condition to Curse (28:15)</b>
<b>Formulaic Declarations of Blessing (28:3-6)</b>	<b>Formulaic Declarations of Curse (28:16-19)</b>
<b>Detailed Exposition of Blessing (28:7-14)</b>	<b>Detailed Exposition of Curse (28:20-58)</b>
<b>Colophonic Conclusion (29:1[Heb 28:69])</b>	

#### A. The Blessings for Covenant Faithfulness (vv. 1–14)

##### 1. The Preconditions to the Blessings and the Curses

1	<p>If you will indeed listen to the voice of YHWH your God by keeping and by doing all his commands</p> <p>that I command you today, YHWH your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.</p> <p>All these blessings will overtake you (הַשִּׁיג) if you listen to the voice of YHWH your God.</p>	15	<p>But if you will not listen to the voice of YHWH your God by keeping and by doing all his commands and his ordinances that I command you today,</p> <p>then all these curses will come (וּבָאוּ) against you and overtake you (הַשִּׁיג).</p>
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#### Observations

- a. The key is listening to the voice of YHWH your God.
- b. The addition of “today” brings the people back to the present.
- c. The words for blessing and curse are identical to 11:26–29 and 27:12–13.
- d. The blessings and curses as packs of wild animals pursuing prey (cf. v. 20)
- e. The opening to the first highlights YHWH’s dream and promise for Israel—set them high above the nations.

2. Formulaic Declarations of Blessing (28:3-6)

<p>3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.</p> <p>4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land <b>and the young of your livestock</b>—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.</p> <p>5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.</p> <p>6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.</p>	<p>16 You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.</p> <p>17 Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.</p> <p>18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.</p> <p>19 You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.</p>
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Observations:

3. Detailed Exposition of Blessing (28:7-14)

a. The Structure

Reference	Form of the Declaration	Nature of the Benefaction	
v. 7	“YHWH will give . . .”	Hegemony over other people	A
v. 8a	“YHWH will command . . .”	Fertility	B
v. 8b	“And he will bless you . . .”	General well-being	X
v. 9	“YHWH will establish . . .”	Special relationship with YHWH	C
v. 11	“And YHWH will cause to prosper . . .”	Fertility	B
v. 12	“YHWH will open . . .”	Fertility and hegemony over others	BA
v. 13	“And YHWH will make . . .”	Hegemony over other people	A

b. The Specific Blessings

- (1) The General Promise of Blessing (v. 8b)
- (2) The Promise of Fertility and Material Prosperity (vv. 8a, 11-12a)
- (3) The Promise of Ascendancy over the Nations (vv. 7, 12b-13a)
- (4) The Promise of a Special Relationship with Yahweh (vv. 9-10)
  - Yahweh’s actions toward Israel
  - Israel’s actions toward Yahweh.
  - The nations’ actions toward Israel.