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

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

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

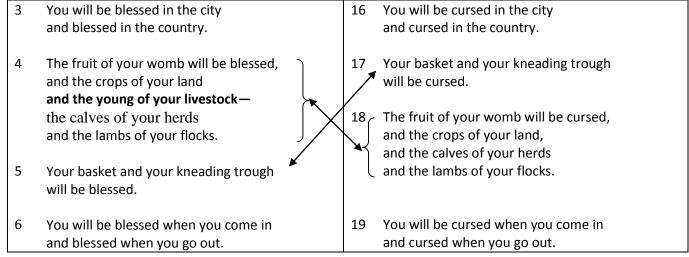
1. The Preconditions to the Blessings and the Curses

1	If you will indeed listen	15	But if you will not listen
	to the voice		to the voice
	of YHWH your God		of YHWH your God
	by keeping and by doing		by keeping and by doing
	all his commands		all his commands
			and his ordinances
	that I command you today,		that I command you today,
2	YHWH your God will set you high		
	above all the nations on earth.		
	All these blessings will overtake you (הָשָּׁיג)		then all these curses will come (וּבָאוֹ)
	if you listen to the voice		against you
	of YHWH your God.		and overtake you (הָשִּׁיג).
1		1	

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)



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	В
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	В
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.