

## STUDY QUESTIONS FOR DEUTERONOMY 28:1-19

### 1) What is the core condition attached to the blessings in 28:1-2?

Whole-hearted obedience. The blessings are promised “if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments” (Deut 28:1-2). This echoes the obedience→blessing pattern elsewhere: **Josh 1:8** (“then you will make your way prosperous”), **Isa 1:19** (“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land”), and **Luke 11:28** (“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it”).

### 2) How comprehensive are the blessings promised for obedience?

Total-life scope—“in the city and in the country... basket and kneading bowl... when you come in and when you go out” (Deut 28:3-6). This breadth parallels **Ps 1:1-3** (the righteous prospers in all he does) and **Prov 10:22** (“The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it”).

### 3) What is the significance of “the LORD will cause your enemies... to be defeated before your face” (28:7)?

Covenant protection accompanies covenant obedience; God Himself routes the enemies. See **Exod 23:22** (“I will be an enemy to your enemies”) and **Lev 26:7-8** (obedient Israel “shall chase [their] enemies”). Victory is portrayed as God’s work, not Israel’s prowess.

### 4) How do agricultural and economic blessings (28:8, 11-12) function theologically?

They are signs of covenant favor and God’s creational order flourishing under His reign—“The LORD will command the blessing... He will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain” (Deut 28:8, 12). Compare **Lev 26:4-5** (rains in season), **Ps 65:9-13** (God crowns the year with goodness), and **Mal 3:10-12** (windows of heaven opened).

### 5) What does it mean that Israel will be “the head and not the tail” (28:13)?

Covenant elevation among the nations—leadership, not subjugation—conditioned by steadfast obedience (“if you heed the commandments... and are careful to observe them,” Deut 28:13). See **Deut 26:18-19** (set high above all nations) and **Prov 14:34** (“Righteousness exalts a nation”).

### 6) How does 28:15 transition from blessing to curse, and why is that important?

It mirrors the blessing formula but reverses it: “if you do not obey... all these curses will come upon you” (Deut 28:15). Covenant is bilateral in experience: obedience brings blessing; disobedience brings curse. Parallels: **Lev 26:14-17** (chastisements for disobedience), **Deut 30:15, 19** (life and good vs. death and evil), and **Rom 2:6-8** (God “will render to each one according to his deeds”).

### 7) What do the curses (28:16-19) reveal about sin’s reach?

Sin fractures every sphere previously blessed—city/country, offspring, produce, daily necessities, movements (“cursed... when you come in... when you go out,” Deut 28:19). Compare **Lev 26:16, 20** (futility, sorrow) and **Ps 107:17** (fools afflicted because of transgression). The symmetry shows that disobedience unravels life’s wholeness.

### 8) How does Deuteronomy 28 relate to the New Testament teaching on the law’s blessing and curse?

The perfect, persevering doer is blessed (cf. **Deut 28:1–2; Jas 1:25**), but law-breakers come under a curse (**Deut 28:15; Gal 3:10**, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things...”). The gospel announces Christ redeems from the curse of the law—**Gal 3:13**—while still calling believers to seek God’s kingdom first (**Matt 6:33**) and walk in Spirit-empowered obedience.

### **9) What deeper purpose of the Law is revealed through the blessings and curses in Deuteronomy 28?**

The Law’s blessings and curses show not only God’s standard of righteousness but also humanity’s inability to meet it perfectly. Its ultimate purpose is to reveal our need for a Savior.

- **Romans 3:20** – “By the law is the knowledge of sin.”
- **Galatians 3:24** – “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

The perfection the Law requires exposes our failure, driving us toward the grace offered in Christ. Deuteronomy 28 thus foreshadows the gospel truth that no one can earn righteousness through obedience alone.

### **10) How does Christ fulfill and replace the curse described in Deuteronomy 28?**

Jesus Christ perfectly kept God’s Law and bore its curse on our behalf, redeeming us from sin’s penalty and crediting us with His righteousness.

- **Galatians 3:13–14** – “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us... that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus.”
- **1 Peter 2:24** – “He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Through the cross, Christ’s perfect obedience becomes ours by faith.