

Deuteronomy 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:

Analysis

Further restrictions on local consumption: 'Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand.' While ordinary meat may be eaten locally (v.15), dedicated offerings must be consumed only at the central sanctuary. Tithes, firstlings, vows, and voluntary offerings belong to God and must be presented at His chosen place. This maintains distinction between common and consecrated. What is devoted to God must be handled according to His stipulations.

Historical Context

Numbers 18:21-32 and Leviticus 27 detail tithe laws. Firstlings belong to God (Exodus 13:2; 34:19). The sanctuary system ensured proper handling of consecrated items and supported Levites. This command prevented individuals from claiming consecrated items for personal use, even if disguised as worship. Hannah's vow (1 Samuel 1:11) and Paul's vow (Acts 18:18) exemplify voluntary vows requiring fulfillment. Vows aren't casual but binding covenant commitments to God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the distinction between common and consecrated property teach about stewardship?
2. How do we apply the principle of devoted offerings in churches today (tithes, pledges, dedications)?
3. What dangers arise when sacred resources are mishandled or diverted from devoted purposes?

Interlinear Text

לֹא H3808	תֹּכֵל H3201	לֶאֱכֹל H398	בְּשַׁעַר יְיָ H8179	מַעֲשֵׂה H4643	דָּגָנְךָ H1715
Thou mayest	not eat	within thy gates	the tithe	of thy corn	
וְתִירְשֶׁךָ H8492	וְיִצְהָרְךָ H3323	וּבְכֹרֹת H1062	בְּקִרְבְּךָ H1241	וְצֹאֲנְךָ H6629	וְכָל H3605
or of thy wine	or of thy oil	or the firstlings	of thy herds	or of thy flock	
נֶדָּבָרְךָ H5088	אֲשֶׁר H834	תִּדְבָּר H5087	וְנִדְבָתְךָ H5071		
nor any of thy vows		which thou vowest	nor thy freewill offerings		
וּתְרוּמָת H8641	יָדְךָ H3027				
or heave offering	of thine hand				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 26:14 (Parallel theme): I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

Deuteronomy 12:6 (Sacrifice): And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:

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