

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 מַעַשׂ רְשִׁית בְּשַׁעַר יְהוָה לֹא כִּי תָּאכַל
H3808 Thou mayest H3201 not eat H398 within thy gates H8179 the tithe H4643 of thy corn H1715

וְכָל יְצָאת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְבָכֶר תְּבִרְכֶּה וְבִזְרֻבְּךָ וְבִתְּרַשְּׁבָךְ
H8492 or of thy wine H3323 or of thy oil H1062 or the firstlings H1241 of thy herds H6629 or of thy flock H3605

וְאַשְׁר רְתִדְךָ יְהוָה וְנִדְכָּךְ יְהוָה וְנִדְבַּת יְהוָה
H5088 nor any of thy vows H834 which thou vowest H5087 nor thy freewill offerings H5071

וְתִרְוֹם תְּהִלָּתְךָ
H8641 or heave offering H3027 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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