

Deuteronomy 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

Analysis

And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it— God's law accommodates human limitations. Families living far from Jerusalem couldn't transport perishable tithes hundreds of miles. This provision demonstrates **He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust** (Psalm 103:14).

Legalism makes no such allowance—it demands performance regardless of circumstance. Jesus condemned Pharisees who **bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne** (Matthew 23:4). God's law, by contrast, is **not grievous** (1 John 5:3). The monetary conversion (next verse) shows God values heart worship over mechanical compliance. He seeks **truth in the inward parts** (Psalm 51:6), not impossible logistics.

Historical Context

After Solomon's Temple centralized worship in Jerusalem, families from northern Galilee or southern Negev traveled 70-100+ miles for festivals. This provision prevented the tithe from becoming an impossible burden, ensuring continued participation across all regions.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Where have you experienced God's 'accommodation' of your limitations in spiritual disciplines?
2. How do you distinguish between God's holy standards (unchanging) and His merciful accommodations (flexible)?
3. What 'heavy burdens' have religious traditions placed on you that God's Word does not require?

Interlinear Text

ל	א	כ	ו	מִתְּבָא	בְּזַד	רְבָא	מִתְּבָא	בְּזַד	רְבָא	כ	ו	ל	
for thee so that	be too long			H4480		And if the way	for thee so that			H3808			
H3588	H7235					H1870	H3588						
תֹּאכַל	שָׁאַתָּז	כ	ו	מִתְּבָא	בְּזַד	רְבָא	מִתְּבָא	בְּזַד	רְבָא	כ	ו	בְּפָקָד	
thou art not able	to carry	for thee so that	be too far	H4480		H4725	it or if the place						
H3201	H5375	H3588	H7368										
אֲשֶׁר	יִבְחַר	יְהִי הָ	אֱלֹהִים	לְשׁ	וּמְ	מִתְּבָא	בְּזַד	רְבָא	אֱלֹהִים	לְשׁ	וּמְ	בְּפָקָד	
shall choose	from thee which the LORD	thy God	to set	his name		H430	H7760	H8034					
H834	H977	H3068	H430										
שָׁבֵךְ	יְהִי הָ	אֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים										
for thee so that	hath blessed	from thee which the LORD	thy God										
H8033	H3588	H1288	H3068	H430									

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:21 (References God): If the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

Deuteronomy 12:5 (References God): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

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