

Deuteronomy 14:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

Analysis

At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase—This third tithe (distinct from the Levitical and Festival tithes) was distributed locally every third year for **the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow**. God's economic law prevented permanent underclass formation through systematic wealth redistribution.

James defines **pure religion** as visiting **the fatherless and widows in their affliction** (James 1:27). Jesus proclaimed the gospel: **The poor have the gospel preached to them** (Matthew 11:5). This charity tithe wasn't optional benevolence but commanded justice. Isaiah condemned Israel: **Your hands are full of blood**—not murder, but oppressing the vulnerable (Isaiah 1:15-17). Economic obedience demonstrates love's authenticity: **Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?** (1 John 3:17).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern societies lacked social safety nets—widows and orphans often starved or were enslaved. God's triennial tithe created a systematic welfare system, preventing destitution while maintaining work dignity (recipients came to the harvest, not passive recipients).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does systematic (not sporadic) care for the vulnerable demonstrate the reality of God's love dwelling in you?
2. What 'fatherless and widows' (economically vulnerable, socially marginalized) exist in your community?
3. In what ways does your budget reflect God's priority on justice for the poor?

Interlinear Text

מַעֲשֵׂר	כָּל	אֶת	תּוֹצִיאַ	בַּשָּׁנָה	שָׁלֹשׁ	מִקֵּץ הַ
all the tithe	all		thou shalt bring forth	the same year	of three	At the end
H4643	H3605	H853	H3318	H8141	H7969	H7097
בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ:	וְהִנַּחְתָּ	הָהּ וְאֵל	בַּשָּׁנָה	תְּבוֹאָה תִּבֶּן		
within thy gates	and shalt lay it up		the same year	of thine increase		
H8179	H3240	H1931	H8141	H8393		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:22 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.