

Deuteronomy 14:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

Analysis

And the Levite, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow...shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied—The same four groups appear repeatedly in Deuteronomy (16:11, 14; 24:19-21; 26:12-13), demonstrating God's relentless concern for the vulnerable. They shall **be satisfied** (שָׂבַע, sava, 'filled, satiated')—not minimal survival but true sufficiency.

That the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand—Generosity unlocks blessing. **Give, and it shall be given unto you** (Luke 6:38). **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly** (2 Corinthians 9:6). Yet the motive must be obedience, not manipulation—blessing follows generosity but isn't purchased by it. Jesus embodied ultimate generosity: **Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich** (2 Corinthians 8:9). Our giving mirrors His.

Historical Context

In ancient agrarian economies, the triennial tithe's public distribution at local gates (city entrances) created accountability—everyone saw who gave and who

received. This transparency prevented corruption while ensuring comprehensive care for society's most vulnerable members.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of blessing for generosity differ from 'prosperity gospel' theology that treats giving as a financial transaction?
2. What practical steps can you take to ensure the vulnerable in your community are 'satisfied,' not merely surviving?
3. In what ways does Christ's generosity (becoming poor to make you rich) motivate and model your own giving?

Interlinear Text

וְבָ א	הֵלֵוִי י	כִּי	אֵין	לוֹ	חֵ לֵק
shall come	And the Levite	H3588	H369	H0	because he hath no part
H935	H3881				H2506
וְנִחְלָה	עִמָּךְ	וְהַגֵּר	וְהָאֵם		
nor inheritance	H5973	with thee and the stranger	and the fatherless		
H5159		H1616	H3490		
וְהָאֵלְמָנָה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשַׁעַר יְ	וְאָכַל וְ	וְשָׂבַע עוֹ	
and the widow	H834	which are within thy gates	and shall eat	and be satisfied	
H490		H8179	H398	H7646	
לְמַ עוֹ	יְבָרְכֶךָ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בְּכָל	מַעֲשֶׂיךָ
H4616	may bless	that the LORD	thy God	H3605	thee in all the work
	H1288	H3068	H430		H4639
יָדְךָ	אֲשֶׁר	תַּעֲשֶׂה:			
of thine hand	H834	which thou doest			
H3027		H6213			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:27 (Parallel theme): And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (Blessing): Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

Proverbs 19:17 (References Lord): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Deuteronomy 16:11 (References God): And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the

fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

Psalms 41:1 (Blessing): Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Proverbs 11:24 (Parallel theme): There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Deuteronomy 16:14 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates.

Deuteronomy 12:12 (References God): And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

Leviticus 19:34 (References God): But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.