

Deuteronomy 15:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. The emphatic naton titten lo (giving, you shall give) requires actual generosity, while lo-yera levavkha (your heart shall not be grieved/grudging) demands cheerful giving. Paul quotes this principle: 'God loveth a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians 9:7). External compliance with internal resentment perverts obedience into legalism.

The promise ki biglal hadavar hazeh yebarekh-kha YHWH (because of this thing the LORD will bless you) establishes reciprocal generosity—giving releases God's blessing. Bekhol-ma'asekha (in all your works) and bekhol-mishlakh yadekha (in all that your hand undertakes) promise comprehensive prosperity for those who give freely. Proverbs 11:24-25 observes this paradox: 'There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth.' Jesus promised: 'Give, and it shall be given unto you' (Luke 6:38). Generosity creates overflow, stinginess creates lack.

Historical Context

This command climaxes the Sabbatical year legislation (Deuteronomy 15:1-11), grounding economic ethics in covenant relationship. Ancient economies lacked

social safety nets; charity came from personal/family resources. Israel's ethic of open-handed generosity distinguished them from surrounding nations. The early church's economic sharing (Acts 4:32-37) and Paul's collection for Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8-9) demonstrate continuity with this covenantal generosity.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Do you give cheerfully or grudgingly? How does your heart attitude affect the spiritual value of your generosity?
2. In what ways have you experienced God's blessing flowing from acts of sacrificial giving?

Interlinear Text

לְבָבֶךָ בְּתַתְּפָנָךְ בְּתַתְּפָנָךְ לֹא יְבָבֶךָ
him and thine heart thou shalt surely thou shalt surely H0 H3808 H7489 H3824

פָּנָא רְבָבֶךְ לֹא בְּגָלְלָךְ כִּי לֹא בְּתַתְּפָנָךְ
that for this thing unto him because thou shalt surely H2088 H1697 H1558 H0 H3588

וְבָכְלָךְ מַעַשְׁךְ בְּכָל אֱלֹהָיךְ יְהֹוָה יְבָרֶכֶךְ
H3605 H4639 H3605 H430 H3605 H1288 H3068 the LORD thy God shall bless

מִשְׁלָךְ יְדָךְ
and in all that thou puttest thine hand H3027 H4916

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 22:9 (Blessing): He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

Hebrews 13:16 (References God): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Isaiah 58:10 (Parallel theme): And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

Deuteronomy 14:29 (Blessing): 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.

Deuteronomy 24:19 (Blessing): When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.

Isaiah 32:8 (Parallel theme): But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

Acts 20:35 (Blessing): I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Deuteronomy 15:4 (Blessing): Save when there shall be no poor among you; for the LORD shall greatly bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it:

1 Peter 4:11 (References God): If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.