

Deuteronomy 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty:

Analysis

And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty—Liberation without provision is cruelty. God commands **furnish him liberally** (הַעֲנִיק תַּעֲנִיק, ha'aneiq ta'aniq, intensive: 'you shall certainly endow') from **thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress**—comprehensive provision enabling fresh start, not mere dismissal into destitution.

This mirrors God's redemption: not only freed from Egypt but enriched—**They borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold** (Exodus 12:35). Christ likewise: **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings** (Ephesians 1:3). Salvation includes liberation and inheritance. The servant law taught that God's grace is extravagant, not minimal.

Historical Context

Releasing servants with capital goods (livestock, grain, wine) prevented immediate return to poverty and new debt-slavery. This 'severance package' enabled economic independence, reflecting God's comprehensive concern for human flourishing beyond mere legal freedom.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's command to 'furnish liberally' challenge minimalist approaches to generosity ('I did enough')?
2. What 'spiritual blessings' (Ephesians 1:3) has God lavished on you beyond mere forgiveness?
3. In what practical ways can you ensure those you help are equipped for success, not just temporarily relieved?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי	תִשְׁלַח נָו	חֲפֹשִׁי י	מְעַמְךָ	ל א	תִשְׁלַח נָו
H3588	And when thou sendest	him out free	H5973	H3808	And when thou sendest
	H7971	H2670			H7971

רִיקָם:

empty

H7387

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 22:13 (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;

Malachi 3:5 (Parallel theme): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.