

# Deuteronomy 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

## Analysis

**But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.** The emphatic Hebrew construction patoakh tiftakh (opening, you shall open) and ha'avet ta'avitenu (lending, you shall lend) intensifies the command—generosity toward the poor is not optional but obligatory. Dei makhsoro (sufficient for his need) indicates meeting actual necessity, not mere token assistance. The phrase asher yekhsar lo (what he lacks) personalizes aid—each person's need differs, requiring discernment, not formulaic charity.

This open-handed generosity contrasts with the closed-fisted stinginess warned against in 15:7, 9. The Sabbatical year debt release (15:1-3) might tempt creditors to refuse loans as the release year approached. God commands lending anyway, trusting Him to provide. Jesus echoes this principle: 'Give to him that asketh thee' (Matthew 5:42); 'from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.' The early church practiced radical generosity (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35), fulfilling the ideal that 'there be no poor among you' (Deuteronomy 15:4).

## Historical Context

The Sabbatical year (every seventh year) released debts (Deuteronomy 15:1-3), redistributing wealth and preventing permanent poverty. Ancient Near Eastern societies had debt-slavery and land forfeiture, creating permanent underclasses.

Israel's system—with Sabbatical release, Jubilee restoration (Leviticus 25), and gleaning rights (Leviticus 19:9-10)—provided safety nets unknown in other cultures. This generosity demonstrated covenant community values, where each member's welfare mattered.

## Related Passages

## 1 John 4:8 – God is love

## **John 15:13 – Greatest form of love**

## Study Questions

1. How does your generosity reflect trust in God's provision versus fear of personal loss?
2. What 'need' in your community is God calling you to meet with an 'open hand' rather than token assistance?

## Interlinear Text

פִּ	תִּפְתַּח	תִּפְתַּח	אַתָּה	יְדָבֵר	לְ	פָּעָבִיט
H3588	<b>But thou shalt open</b>	<b>But thou shalt open</b>	H853	<b>thine hand</b>	H0	<b>lend</b>
	H6605	H6605		H3027		H5670

  

פָּעָבִיט	לְ	רַ	אֲשֶׁר	מִחְסָר	וּ	דֵּין	יְחִסָּר	לֹא
<b>lend</b>								
H5670								

  

לֹא	יְחִסָּר	רַ	אֲשֶׁר	מִחְסָר	וּ	דֵּין	יְחִסָּר	לֹא
<b>in that which he wanteth</b>								
H2637								

## Additional Cross-References

**Matthew 5:42** (Parallel theme): Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

**Luke 6:34** (Parallel theme): And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

