

# Deuteronomy 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou dost lend thy brother any thing, thou shalt not go into his house to fetch his pledge.

## Analysis

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**When thou dost lend thy brother any thing, thou shalt not go into his house to fetch his pledge.** This law protects debtor dignity by preventing creditors from entering homes to seize collateral. The creditor must wait outside while the debtor brings the pledge, preserving privacy and preventing humiliation.

The prohibition thou shalt not go into his house establishes boundaries that economic relationships must not cross. Even legitimate debt collection must respect personal space and dignity. Creditors' rights do not extend to violating debtors' homes.

This demonstrates that economic justice includes procedural protections, not just substantive fairness. How debts are collected matters as much as whether they are collected. Preserving human dignity in economic transactions reflects God's concern for the whole person.

Reformed theology affirms that all relationships, including economic ones, must honor human dignity as image-bearers. No economic advantage justifies treating people degradingly.

## Historical Context

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Ancient creditors often seized collateral forcibly, humiliating debtors and asserting dominance. This law prevented such displays of power, requiring respect even in

asymmetrical economic relationships.

The principle protected the poor from degradation while still permitting legitimate debt collection and collateral security.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does prohibition against entering the debtor's house teach about dignity in economic relationships?
2. How do procedural protections demonstrate that how we collect debts matters?
3. Why must economic relationships respect personal boundaries and privacy?
4. What does this teach about balancing creditor rights with debtor dignity?
5. How might contemporary debt collection practices violate or uphold these principles?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	תִשָּׁה	בְּרֵעֲךָ	מֵשׁ אֶת	מָא וְמָה	לֹא
H3588	<b>When thou dost lend</b>	<b>thy brother</b>	<b>thing</b>	<b>any</b>	H3808
	H5383	H7453	H4859	H3972	
תֵּב א	אֶל	בֵּית ו	לָעֵב ט	עֲבֹטוֹ:	
<b>thou shalt not go</b>	H413	<b>into his house</b>	<b>to fetch</b>	<b>his pledge</b>	
H935		H1004	H5670	H5667	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 22:27** (Parallel theme): For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.

**Deuteronomy 15:8** (Parallel theme): But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

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