

# Deuteronomy 25:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

## Analysis

**But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have**—the positive command after negative prohibitions. The Hebrew even shelemah va-tzedek (אֶת שְׁלָמָה וָצֶדֶק) means 'complete/whole and righteous weight.' **Perfect** indicates accuracy and wholeness; **just** means righteous, fair, conforming to God's standard. **That thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee**—honest commerce was connected to national longevity in the Promised Land.

The promise links economic justice to covenant blessing. Societies built on fraud self-destruct as trust collapses and relationships fracture. Conversely, integrity creates sustainable prosperity—honest markets benefit all participants, enabling exchange and specialization. The land tenure promise appears throughout Deuteronomy, always conditioned on obedience. Commercial honesty wasn't peripheral ethics but covenant core—reflecting God's character in everyday business demonstrated covenant faithfulness as much as sacrifice and Sabbath.

## Historical Context

Delivered circa 1406 BC before Israel possessed the land and could forfeit it through disobedience. The conditional land promise pervades Deuteronomy—obedience brings longevity, rebellion brings exile (see Deuteronomy 28). This wasn't crude prosperity gospel but covenant reality: God gave the land, and

sustained possession required continued faithfulness. Later prophets (Amos, Micah, Hosea) condemned marketplace fraud as contributing to Israel's judgment and exile, fulfilling this warning.

## Related Passages

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How does commercial integrity affect a nation's stability and prosperity, both ancient and modern?
2. What's the connection between daily ethical choices (like honest business) and spiritual standing before God?
3. How can Christians promote 'just weights' in modern complex economies (accurate advertising, fair contracts, transparent pricing)?

## Interlinear Text

א ב	שְׁלָמָה	אָזְלָק	לְרִיחָה	אִיסְפָּה
<b>weight</b>	<b>But thou shalt have a perfect</b>	<b>and just</b>	H1961	H0
H68	H8003	H6664		H374

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giveth H5414

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 20:12** (References God): Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

**Deuteronomy 4:40** (References God): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

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