

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* (אָבֵן שְׁלֵמָה וַצֶּדֶק) 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

אָבן	שְׁלֵמָה ה	וְצַדִּיק	יְהוָה לְךָ	אִיפֹה
weight	But thou shalt have a perfect	and just		measure
H68	H8003	H6664	H1961 H0	H374
שְׁלֵמָה ה	וְצַדִּיק	יְהוָה לְךָ	לְמַעַן	יִאָּרְכוּ יָמֶיךָ
But thou shalt have a perfect	and just			may be lengthened
H8003	H6664	H1961 H0	H4616	H748
יָמֶיךָ יִבְּ	עַל הָאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	יְהוָה ה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ יִבְ
shalt thou have that thy days	in the land		which the LORD	thy God
H3117	H5921 H127	H834	H3068	H430
לֵךְ: נִתֵּן				
giveth				
H0 H5414				

Additional Cross-References

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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