

# Deuteronomy 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But your wives, and your little ones, and your cattle, (for I know that ye have much cattle,) shall abide in your cities which I have given you;

## Analysis

The exception 'But your wives, and your little ones, and your cattle... shall abide in your cities' shows compassionate provision. God doesn't require impossible burdens—families could stay in security while fighting men fulfilled their obligation. The parenthetical acknowledgment '(for I know that ye have much cattle)' recognizes their specific circumstances. God's commands account for practical realities while maintaining moral standards.

## Historical Context

The extensive livestock holdings of Reuben and Gad motivated their Transjordan settlement request (Numbers 32:1). God's permission for families to remain showed grace—the men wouldn't have to choose between duty to nation and duty to family. Both could be honored through wise planning.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's compassion in your circumstances encourage faithful obedience?
2. What responsibilities can you fulfill without neglecting other legitimate obligations?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּךָ	נָשִׁיךְ	מִתְפְּכָם	מִלְאָנָה	יְדַעַת	גַּי
H7535	<b>But</b> your wives	and your little ones	and your cattle	for I know	H3588
H802		H2945	H4735	H3045	
אֲשֶׁר	בָּעֵד	רִיכָּם	יִשְׁבֹּו	מִלְאָנָה	
and your cattle	that ye have much	H0	shall abide	in your cities	H834
H4735	H7227		H3427	H5892	
לְכָם	נָתַתִּי				
which I have given	H0				
H5414					

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