

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

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

כִּי יָדַעְתִּי מִקֶּלְכֶּם וְנָשִׁיכֵיכֶם וְטִפְכֶּם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם וְאֲשֶׁר בְּעָרֵיכֶם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם וְאֲשֶׁר בְּעָרֵיכֶם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם
H7535 But your wives H802 and your little ones H2945 and your cattle H4735 for I know H3588
מִקֶּלְכֶּם וְנָשִׁיכֶם וְטִפְכֶּם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם וְאֲשֶׁר בְּעָרֵיכֶם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם וְאֲשֶׁר בְּעָרֵיכֶם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם
H4735 and your cattle H7227 that ye have much H0 shall abide H3427 in your cities H5892
וְאֲשֶׁר בְּעָרֵיכֶם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם וְאֲשֶׁר בְּעָרֵיכֶם וְשִׁבְיֵיכֶם
H5414 which I have given H0