

Ezekiel 18:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;

Analysis

'And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge.' True righteousness includes economic justice. The righteous person doesn't oppress the vulnerable but treats them fairly. Restoring the debtor's pledge refers to Mosaic law requiring return of items taken as security (Exodus 22:26-27, Deuteronomy 24:10-13). 'Hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment'—active compassion toward the needy, not merely avoiding harm.

Historical Context

Israelite law uniquely protected the poor and vulnerable in the ancient Near East. While surrounding nations allowed debt slavery and permanent poverty, Israel's law included debt forgiveness, gleaning rights, and dignity protections. These weren't optional charity but covenant righteousness requirements.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we practice economic justice that goes beyond legal requirements to reflect God's heart?
2. What modern applications of 'restoring pledges' and 'covering the naked' does God call us to?

Interlinear Text

ל א וְאִישׁ any H376	ל א וְאִישׁ H3808	וְלֹא הָיָה And hath not oppressed H3238	וְהָיָה his pledge H2258	וְהָיָה to the debtor H2326	וְהָיָה but hath restored H7725
וְלֹא הָיָה none by violence H1500	וְלֹא הָיָה H3808	וְלֹא הָיָה hath spoiled H1497	וְלֹא הָיָה his bread H3899	וְלֹא הָיָה to the hungry H7457	וְלֹא הָיָה hath given H5414
וְלֹא הָיָה the naked H5903	וְלֹא הָיָה and hath covered H3680	וְלֹא הָיָה with a garment H899			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 18:16 (Parallel theme): Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment,

Exodus 22:26 (Parallel theme): If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down:

Ezekiel 18:12 (Parallel theme): Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination,

Ezekiel 33:15 (Parallel theme): If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Luke 3:11 (Parallel theme): He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Amos 3:10 (Parallel theme): For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

Amos 2:8 (Parallel theme): And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.

Ezekiel 18:18 (Parallel theme): As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, spoiled his brother by violence, and did that which is not good among his people, lo, even he shall die in his iniquity.