

Ezekiel 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man,

Analysis

'He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase.' Charging interest to fellow Israelites was forbidden (Exodus 22:25, Leviticus 25:35-37, Deuteronomy 23:19-20), preventing exploitation of the poor. 'Hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man'—the righteous person pursues justice in community relationships, settling disputes fairly rather than showing partiality.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern interest rates were often 20-50%, creating debt spirals that reduced debtors to slavery. Israel's prohibition on interest among covenant members prevented this exploitation. The principle: God's people shouldn't profit from others' desperation. True judgment (mishpat) was crucial in a society without extensive legal infrastructure.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do modern financial practices sometimes exploit the vulnerable despite being legal?
2. What does 'true judgment between man and man' require in our relationships and community leadership?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יֵתֵן	וְתִרְבִּית	לֹא	
upon usury	He that hath not given forth	any increase		
H5392	H5414	H8636	H3808	
יֵקֶחַ	מִעַל	יָשׁוּב	יָדוֹ	מִשְׁפָּט
neither hath taken	from iniquity	that hath withdrawn	his hand	judgment
H3947	H5766	H7725	H3027	H4941
אֱמֶת	יַעֲשֶׂה	בֵּין	לְאִישׁ	לְאִישׁ
true	hath executed	and man	and man	
H571	H6213	H996	H376	H376

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:25 (Parallel theme): If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer; neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

Zechariah 8:16 (Judgment): These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Psalms 15:5 (Parallel theme): He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Ezekiel 18:17 (Judgment): That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live.

Ezekiel 22:12 (Parallel theme): In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 18:13 (Parallel theme): Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.