

Isaiah 32:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

Analysis

But the liberal deviseth liberal things (וְנָדִיב נְדִיבֹת יְאָצֵץ) venadiv nedivot ya'ats)—the liberal (nadin, noble, generous person) plans (nedivot, noble things, generous acts). **And by liberal things shall he stand** (וְהָא עַל-נְדִיבֹת יָקּוּם) vahu al-nedivot yaqum)—by (nedivot, nobility, generosity) he will (qum, stand, endure, be established).

The contrast with verses 6-7 is stark: vile person schemes evil, noble person plans good. The repetition emphasizes character consistency—the (nadin) doesn't just perform occasional generous acts but fundamentally orients life toward (nedivot, generosity). The promise 'he shall stand' (יָקּוּם, yaqum) means endure, be established, succeed. Proverbs 11:25 echoes: 'The liberal soul shall be made fat.' Generosity isn't financial loss but Kingdom investment. Jesus promised: 'Give, and it shall be given unto you' (Luke 6:38). Second Corinthians 9:6-11 develops the principle—generous sowing yields generous reaping.

Historical Context

Ancient patronage systems expected wealthy individuals to show generosity—funding public works, feeding the poor. The truly noble fulfilled this; the churlish (v. 7) exploited position for gain. Christianity transformed generosity from patronage (expecting honor/reciprocity) to charity (expecting nothing back)—Jesus commanded, 'lend, hoping for nothing again' (Luke 6:35). Early Christians' radical generosity attracted pagans (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does planning generous acts differ from occasional spontaneous giving?
2. What does it mean that generosity causes you to 'stand'—to be established and endure?
3. In what areas is God calling you to move from churl (hoarding) to noble (generous planning)?

Interlinear Text

נָדִיב וְתַּתְּנָדִיב וְתַּתְּנָדִיב
But the liberal But the liberal deviseth H1931 But the liberal
H5081 H5081 H3289 H5921 H5081

שָׁלַטְתִּי
shall he stand
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