

Proverbs 11:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Analysis

Generosity produces increase while withholding results in poverty. This paradox reflects kingdom economics—giving doesn't deplete but multiplies through God's blessing. The principle applies spiritually and materially: those who freely share God's grace receive more, while hoarders spiritually impoverish themselves.

Historical Context

Israel's agricultural laws (gleaning, firstfruits, tithes) institutionalized generosity. Those who gave freely to God and neighbors consistently experienced His provision, while the stingy suffered lack.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Where do you see God's blessing following your generous giving?
2. What fears prevent you from giving more freely, and how does this verse address them?

Interlinear Text

יֵשׁ	מִפֶּיֶר	וְנוֹסֵף	עוֹד	וְחֹשֵׁךְ
There is	that scattereth	and yet increaseth	H5750	and there is that withholdeth
H3426	H6340	H3254		H2820
מִי יִשָּׂא	אֶךְ	לְמַחְסוֹר:		
more than is meet	H389	but it tendeth to poverty		
H3476		H4270		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Luke 6:38 (Parallel theme): Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Psalms 112:9 (Parallel theme): He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Proverbs 11:18 (Parallel theme): The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 (Parallel theme): In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

Haggai 1:6 (Parallel theme): Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Proverbs 28:8 (Parallel theme): He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

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