

Proverbs 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Analysis

This verse promises blessing for generosity: 'The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.' 'Liberal soul' translates *nephesh berakhah* (literally 'soul of blessing')—one who blesses others through generosity. 'Made fat' means prosperous, flourishing, satisfied—the opposite of lean and impoverished. The agricultural metaphor 'he that watereth shall be watered' illustrates reciprocity: as you irrigate others' fields, your own receives water. This principle of generous living appears throughout Scripture: give and it shall be given (Luke 6:38), sow bountifully and reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6). The verse promises that generosity produces flourishing, though not as mechanical formula but as God's gracious pattern.

Historical Context

In ancient agricultural economies, irrigation and water-sharing were communal necessities. Hoarding water harmed everyone; sharing it benefited all. This practical reality illustrated a spiritual principle—generosity creates flourishing communities where all benefit. The principle extends beyond material resources to include time, wisdom, encouragement, and spiritual gifts.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Are you living as a 'liberal soul' who actively looks for opportunities to bless and benefit others?
2. How have you experienced the truth that generous living leads to personal flourishing rather than impoverishment?

Interlinear Text

נָפֶשׁ	בְּרַךְ הַ	תִּדְשׁ	וּמֵרָה הַ	גַּם	הַ וְאֵל
soul	The liberal	shall be made fat	and he that watereth	H1571	H1931
H5315	H1293	H1878	H7301		

יִזְרָא:
shall be watered
H3384

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:7 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Isaiah 32:8 (Parallel theme): But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

Proverbs 28:27 (Parallel theme): He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.