

Proverbs 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits
of all thine increase:

Analysis

This command addresses the proper use of material resources. 'Honour the LORD with thy substance' (כָּבֵד אֶת־יְהוָה מִהוֹנֶךָ/kabbed et-Yahweh mehonecha) uses 'kavad,' meaning to honor, glorify, give weight to. 'Substance' (הוֹן/hon) refers to wealth, possessions, resources—everything we own. 'The firstfruits of all thine increase' (כֹּל־תְּבוּאָתְךָ מִרְאֵשִׁית/mere'shit kol-tevu'atecha) specifies priority and proportion—God receives first and best, not leftovers. This principle governed Israelite worship (Exodus 23:19) and demonstrated trust that God, not possessions, provides security. Verse 10 promises abundance for those who honor God financially. Malachi 3:8-10 later confronted Israel's failure here, while the New Testament urges proportional, cheerful giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). This verse challenges materialism's grip and tests whether we truly trust God as provider.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, honoring God with firstfruits demonstrated trust in His provision and acknowledged Him as the source of all blessings.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. In what specific ways do you honor God with your financial resources, and do you give Him the 'firstfruits' or the leftovers?
2. How does tithing or generous giving challenge your trust in material security versus trust in God as provider?

Interlinear Text

כָּבֹד	אֶת	יְהוָה	בְּחֶמְדְּךָ	וּבִמְרִאשֵׁי יֵת	כָּל
Honour	H853	the LORD	with thy substance	and with the firstfruits	H3605
H3513		H3068	H1952	H7225	

תִּבְּרָתְךָ:

of all thine increase

H8393

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:19 (References Lord): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (Parallel theme): Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Proverbs 14:31 (Parallel theme): He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Exodus 22:29 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

Exodus 34:26 (References Lord): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

Genesis 28:22 (Parallel theme): And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

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