

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 מִהוּנָה/kabbed et-Yahweh mehonecha) uses 'kavad,' meaning to honor, glorify, give weight to. 'Substance' (יָמִן/hon) refers to wealth, possessions, resources—everything we own. 'The firstfruits of all thine increase' (מִרְאֵשִׁית קָל־תְּבוּאָתֶךָ/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

כַּל מִרְאֵשׁ יְהִי מִרְאֵשׁ בְּ אֶת כָּל הַיּוֹם מִרְאֵשׁ בְּ מִרְאֵשׁ בְּ וְ מִרְאֵשׁ בְּ

Honour H853 the LORD H3068 with thy substance H1952 and with the firstfruits H7225

H3513 H3068 H1952 H7225

H3605

תְּבוּאָתֶךָ:
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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