

Laws That Demand Generosity and Giving:
The Believer Must Not Hoard,
Be Hard-hearted Nor Tight-fisted
Deuteronomy 15:01–23

**1. *The law of debt release:
Must not be hard-hearted
nor tight-fisted against debtors***

a. The law: To cancel all loans made to fellow Israelites or brothers — every seven years

1) May require payment from a foreigner

2) Must cancel any debt owed by a brother

b. The motivation for keeping the law

1) The elimination of poverty:
No poor

2) The blessing is conditional:
Must obey the LORD in order to be blessed

3) The promise of financial prosperity and freedom — both individually and nationally

1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.

2 This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel any loan they have made to a fellow Israelite. They shall not require payment from anyone among their own people, because the LORD's time for cancelling debts has been proclaimed.

3 You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your fellow Israelite owes you.

4 However, there need be no poor people among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you,

5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

6 For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

**2. *The law of generosity,
of giving to the poor:
Must not be hard-hearted nor
tight-fisted against the poor***

- a. The law: To be generous, open-handed, and freely lend whatever a brother needs
- b. The warning
 - 1) Must not show ill will by giving nothing to a needy brother
 - 2) The reason:
He will cry out to God against your hardness: you will be guilty of sin
- c. The motivation for giving generously — without a grudging heart:
The blessing of God
 - 1) In one's work or labour
 - 2) In everything one does
- d. The tragic fact — the failure to be generous is foreseen:
There will always be poor people
- e. The command re-emphasized:
Be generous, open-handed to the poor and needy

- 7 If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward them.
- 8 Rather, be open-handed and freely lend them whatever they need.
- 9 Be careful not to harbour this wicked thought: “The seventh year, the year for cancelling debts, is near,” so that you do not show ill will toward the needy among your fellow Israelites and give them nothing. They may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin.
- 10 Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.
- 11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

**3. *The law of releasing slaves:
Must not be hard-hearted nor
tight-fisted against workers***

a. The law: Must set a slave free
in the seventh year —
after six years of service

1) Must not send him away
empty-handed

2) Must give him ample supplies
(finances) to begin life
on his own

b. The motivation

1) The blessing of God

2) The redemption of God:
His deliverance from Egypt
and its slavery
(a symbol of the world)

c. The compassion demanded:
A slave wished to slay

1) His reason:
Because he loved the owner's
family and was doing well

2) The contract
of a lifetime commitment
to a property owner

d. The attitude encouraged:
Freeing a slave was not a
hardship

1) Because the slave's labour
was worth twice as much
as a paid worker

2) Because God will bless
all you do

12 If any of your people —
Hebrew men or women —
sell themselves to you
and serve you six years,
in the seventh year you must let them go free.

13 And when you release them,
do not send them away empty-handed.

14 Supply them liberally from your flock,
your threshing floor
and your wine-press.

Give to them as the LORD your God
has blessed you.

15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt
and the LORD your God redeemed you.
That is why I give you this command today.

16 But if your servant says to you,
“I do not want to leave you,”
because he loves you and your family
and is well off with you,

17 then take an awl and push it
through his earlobe into the door,
and he will become your servant for life.
Do the same for your female servant.

18 Do not consider it a hardship
to set your servant free,
because their service to you these six years
has been worth twice as much
as that of a hired hand.
And the LORD your God will bless you
in everything you do.

**4. *The law of giving all first-born animals to the LORD:
Must not be hard-hearted
nor tight-fisted against God***

- a. Must set apart all first-born males — for sacrifice
- b. Must not work them or shear them
- c. Must take the first-born to the worship centre, sacrifice and eat the meat only there
- d. Must offer only perfect sacrifices, none with a defect
- e. Must treat all defective animals as wild game:
Eat them at home
- f. Must not cat the blood:
To be poured out on the ground

19 Set apart for the LORD your God every first-born male of your herds and flocks. Do not put the first-born of your cows to work, and do not shear the first-born of your sheep.

20 Each year you and your family are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose.

21 If an animal has a defect, is lame or blind, or has any serious flaw, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

22 You are to eat it in your own towns. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it, as if it were gazelle or deer.

23 But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water.