



## ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE "Prosperity and Poverty" Deuteronomy 15:1-11

No. 5724

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Having lived at subsistence level in the wilderness, the Children of Israel were no strangers to poverty. The thought of the prosperity which awaited them was, therefore, extremely exciting. But they needed to learn how to handle prosperity wisely.

### I. The Promise of Prosperity. vv. 4-6; 8:17-18

- A. The covenant aspect. v. 4
  - 1. He had given them deliverance.
  - 2. He was giving an inheritance.
- B. The cooperation aspect. v. 5
  - 1. He will richly bless.
  - 2. You must fully obey.
  - 3. He will give the land.
  - 4. You must possess the inheritance.
  - 5. He gives ability to produce.
  - 6. You must use the God-given ability.
- C. The corporate aspect.
  - 1. Prosperity that was national, not just personal. v. 6
  - 2. Prosperity that was societal, not just individual. vv. 4, 10

### II. The Problem of Poverty.

- A. "There should be no poor among you." v. 4
  - 1. Because tragedies will happen...
  - 2. But resources are available...
  - 3. And society must respond.
- B. "There will always be poor people." v. 11
  - 1. When poverty is caused by sin. v. 9
  - 2. When prosperity multiplies a sin. v. 9
    - a. "Hard-hearted."
    - b. "Tight-fisted."
    - c. "Evil-eyed."

### III. The Practice of Generosity.

- A. Procedures that were required.
  - 1. Seventh year cancelled debts. v. 1
  - 2. Interest free loans. v. 8
  - 3. Liberated slaves. vv. 12-13
  - 4. Annual tithes. 14:22-29
  - 5. Gleaning rules. 24:19-21
- B. Principles that still apply.
  - 1. Give generously... v. 10
  - 2. Without grudging... v. 10
  - 3. Give as the Lord has blessed you... v. 14
  - 4. Because of this, the Lord will bless you. v. 10