

Soft Hands and Open Hearts: Part II
Veritas Class
July 7, 2013

Soft Hands and Open Hearts toward the Poor (15:1-11)

1. Introduction to the Passage
 - a. Its Structure
 - (1) Moses' Announcement of the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 1-3)
 - (2) Moses' Plea to Adopt the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 4-11)
 - (a) Israel's Future Economic Ideal (vv. 4-6)
 - (b) Israel's Future Economic Reality (vv. 7-11)
 - b. Its Tone: More than 80% (158/194 words) of space devoted to the appeal.

2. Explanation
 - a. Moses' Announcement of the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 1-3)
 - (1) What does the expression "to do *shemittah*" mean?
 - (2) What does "at the end of seven years" mean?
 - (3) What are the terms of the policy?
 - (a) Israelite creditors are to release their claims on their neighbors.
 - (b) Israelite creditors may not pressure their neighbor because the time of remission is near.
 - (c) Israelites may continue to pressure foreigners (cf. Gal 6:10)
 - (d) Israelite creditors are to release their claims on their neighbors.
 - b. Moses' Plea to Adopt the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 4-11)
 - (1) Israel's Future Economic Ideal (vv. 4-6)
 - (a) Personal Economics (vv. 4-5)
 - (b) Corporate Economics (v. 6)

 - (2) Israel's Future Economic Reality (vv. 7-11)
 - (a) Moses' Rhetorical Strategy
 - (b) Moses' Arguments

Instructions on How to Treat the Poor (vv. 7-8)

- The Context
- The Required Response

Warnings against Hardened Hearts and Tightened Fists (v. 9)

- Three Potential Pathologies

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- The Effects

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Instructions on How to Treat the Poor (vv. 10-11)