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BIBLICAL ECONOMICS

Biblical Economics That Prosper During Financial Crisis

By Pastor Norm Franz

In my travels throughout the nations teaching the Bible-based perspective on overcoming global financial crises, I have earned the title of "Biblical Economist." In that capacity, I am often asked, "What is a Biblical Economist?"

When that happens, I like to take a moment and explain that the Greek word for "economics" is "oikonomia," which comes from the Greek root words "Oikos" and "Nomos." Oikos means "house, household, or estate", and Nomo means "laws, rules or management." Hence, Biblical Economics is "the study and application of biblical laws (Torah) and commandments used for managing God's household."

Interestingly enough, Nomos is the New Testament Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word *Torah*. It is translated as "Law" which means God's "*teaching and instruction*." Accordingly, as members of God's household, we are expected to manage our God-given finances in accordance with His Law.

Therefore, a Biblical Economist is someone who studies and teaches others how to manage the finances of God's house according to His Torah and Commandments.

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Military and Financial Supercycles Converging

In the July/August 2017 edition of *The Elijah Report (TER)*, we put forth a *Special War Alert* surmising that there are three major war cycles scheduled to converge into a period of unprecedented global conflict between now and 2024. This is important to understand in light of the end time wars Yeshua and the prophets spoke about in Bible prophecy.

MILITARY SUPERCYCLES

That report outlined how 12 different conflicts, spread throughout

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six theaters of war, were currently manifesting throughout the nations. It also identified three major biblical wars scheduled for the last days just ahead of Messiah's return:

- The Arab conspiracy to destroy Israel in the 1948, '67, and '73 Arab wars against Israel (<u>Ps. 83</u>). Today, the stage is being set for another round of conflict over who the Land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem belong to.
- The ongoing war in Iraq that began in 1991 and fired back up again in 2003 continues today as the war against ISIS, and will culminate in a

(Read full article in End Times...)

<u>End Times</u> <u>End Times</u> <u>End Times</u> Hebraic Perspectives

Additional Reading...

God's Standard For Prosperity

Throughout the Scriptures, God's overriding principle for biblical prosperity and success, in good times and in bad, is echoed in the one condition He gave to Joshua for successfully taking possession of the Promised Land:

"This book of the law (Torah) shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you shall be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you shall have success." (Joshua 1:8 ^{NASB})

Joshua and the children of Israel lived in a hostile land filled with worldly "ites" much like we do today. As long as they kept God's Commandments and managed the kingdom according to His Laws/Torah, they prospered and had success in every area of life. However, when they broke His Commandments, they suffered poverty and failure that led to a falling away of their religious leaders, the corruption of their government, and the debauching of their currency (Isaiah 1:16-23).

This led them into a financial collapse of their country and a spiritual famine, where they could not hear the Word of the LORD (<u>Amos 3:14-15; 8:4-14</u>). Ultimately, they were overthrown and taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, which was the world empire (i.e., New World Order) of their day.

If you are thinking that all this sounds familiar to what is happening today, it is because "*That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun*" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). In other words, history is just repeating itself, only this time it is on a truly global level. So the question is: "How do God's people survive and prosper during these times?"

I believe the best examples to glean from are Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego during Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar's Babylon. During this time, they stayed true to the commandments regarding their worship of God. This included everything from their diet (<u>Daniel 1:8-15</u>), to their submission under the civil government of Babylon, to their refusal to worship other gods (<u>Daniel 3 and 6</u>).

To make a long story short, all four of these men managed their individual households according to God's Torah even in the midst of Babylonian society. In response to their obedience, God gave them *"knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom: Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams"* (Daniel 1:17).

As a result, even a hostile New World Order (NWO) society recognized that the Most High God *(El Elyon)* was with them, and that they could be trusted in whatever they were given to do. Accordingly, they not only set a biblical standard for God's people in Babylon, but the Lord gave them positions and responsibilities that caused them to prosper and be successful under Babylonian rule (Daniel 3:28-30; 6:25-28).

God's Way of Prosperity

Every time Israel abandoned God's Laws (Torah), they suffered moral and financial ruin. Whenever that happened, the Lord always reminded them that His blessing and prosperity only comes through keeping His commandments:

"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit. Who leads you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your wellbeing would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea." (Isaiah 48:17-18)

"Your silver has become dross, your drink diluted with water... Everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards." – Is. 1:23-23

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Just as it was imperative for God's people to keep His commandments in ancient times, it is also imperative for us to do the same if we plan to prosper and have success during the financial confusion and chaos of the last days. Consequently, I believe there are ten foundational keys for prospering in any era.

The following is a condensed list of what I call the "Ten Commandments of Biblical Prosperity" from my book *Money and Wealth in the New Millennium*.

1. Obey God's Commandments: When we obey God's Laws for managing His house, He sets us above the financial, political and religious chaos of the nations (<u>Deuteronomy</u> <u>28:1-14</u>).

2. Seek the Prosperity of Your Soul: Biblical prosperity is given in direct proportion to the prosperity of our souls (i.e., restoration of God's ways) which comes through the study and application of God's Torah and Commandments (<u>3 John 2</u>; <u>Psalms 19:7</u>).

3. Acquire Wisdom and Knowledge: King Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge, because he knew wisdom and knowledge led to prosperity and success, which always came as a result of obedience to God's Laws (<u>Deuteronomy 4:5-6; 29:9;</u> <u>Psalms 119:98; Proverbs 8:12-21</u>).

4. Bless Israel and Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem: God promises to release His blessing (that makes rich) on all those who bless Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Genesis 12:1-3; Psalms 122:6-9). It is interesting to note that this law of blessing regarding Israel is actually given before the law of tithes is established in Genesis 14:18-20. That's how important blessing Israel is.

5. Honor the Lord with Your Wealth: Loving obedience to give tithes and offerings according to God's Torah (prescribed order) is paramount for prosperity and success in any era (<u>Proverbs 3:9-10</u>; <u>Malachi 3:10</u>).

6. Don't Borrow Money to Make Money: Today's ongoing financial crises are the direct result of nations and individuals borrowing money in an effort to make money (<u>Habakkuk 2:6-7</u>). This has created numerous debt bubbles that have collapsed and brought financial ruin to many people's lives throughout the housing and investment markets (<u>Amos 3:14-15;</u>). Borrowing money to make money manifests a haste to get rich and "*he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished*" (Proverbs 28:20).

7. Be Diligent: To be diligent means "to be alert, to be eager, to have determination, to be liquid or flow easily, to be prompt – i.e., do not procrastinate." The first place we are to exercise diligence is in keeping God's commandments. When we do this, God not only promises to prosper us, but that we "shall stand before kings" (Proverbs 10:4; 22:29).

8. Establish God's Covenant in the Marketplace: The Hebrew word for *business* is "melawkaw" which means: "the ministry of work in the form of an industrious occupation or business involving property, workmanship, service, or public business such as politics or religious service." Consequently, God gives believers in the marketplace the power to create wealth so they can establish His covenant within their sphere of influence. Because God's covenant is His commandments, when we keep them, we not only prosper in this world, but we manifest His righteousness through our obedience (Psalms 119:172; Deuteronomy 4:13; 8:18; 1 John 3:7). Not surprisingly, the first marketplace minister was God Himself, whose work (mel-aw-kaw) produced the creation itself which is the largest and most prosperous enterprise ever (Genesis 2:3).

"The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul..."

– Ps. 19:7

9. No Dishonest Scales of Any Kind: Using dishonest scales, false balance, and/or unjust weights and measures is a reference to when someone oppresses his neighbor through dishonest means (Hosea 12:7). This violates the eighth, ninth and tenth commandments not to steal, lie, or covet his neighbor's wealth (Exodus 20:15-17) and becomes an abomination to the Lord (Deuteronomy 25:14-16). Consequently, since God "delights in the prosperity of his servants" (Psalms 25:37), and a "just weight is His delight" (Proverbs 11:1), then God will delight in prospering His people as they operate with the just scales of honesty and integrity.

10. Seek God's Plan for Your Life: We must always come back to the realization that God has a plan for our lives that supersedes any other plan that we might have (Jeremiah 29:11). He puts that plan in our heart, and then leads us to work with Him to bring it to pass. King Solomon refers to this process when he says: "A plan in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out" (Proverbs 20:5). As we seek God according to His Word and by His Spirit, He promises to reveal His plans for managing His household according to His Laws (Torah).

Last Word

Manifesting God's righteousness in our lives by keeping His commandments is paramount for overcoming the financial chaos of the last days. We see King Solomon express this at the end of his life, where he realized that the fear of the Lord and proper application of the Torah was the only way to successfully manage God's house:

"The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person." (Ecclesiastes 12:13 ^{NASB})

This is the essence of Biblical Economics and the key to prospering amidst the end time financial crisis. Hence, we are all called to be Biblical Economists. \blacklozenge

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Money and Wealth in the New Millennium is an easy to understand, biblical expose' on the problems plaguing the world financial system and why that system is in the final stages of collapsing. It is a one-of-a-kind prophetic guide that explains where this occurs in Bible prophecy and what to expect in the future. It outlines how money and investments react during financial crises and how to overcome the great end time financial shaking. <u>More</u>

The Elijah Report is published by Ascension Ministries International (AMI). Editor and Publisher: Norm Franz, Associate Editors: Deborah Franz, Ken Graham and Deborah Hargrove.

The Elijah Report publishes factual information that is related to Bible prophecy and events that mark the end of the age and the return of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. Information and opinions are designed to prepare the way of the Lord and to make ready God's people for His return (Luke 1:17).

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"How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments" <u>– Ps. 112:1</u>