

# Money Matters

---

*Our Aim This Weekend:*

*To Give You a Biblical Understanding of the King's Kingdom Financial System & the Principles on which it operates, so that you can apply them and as a result live in Financial Freedom.*

## **Matthew 6:25-34**

### **Do Not Worry**

<sup>25</sup> **“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,** what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. *Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?* <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life<sup>e1</sup>?

<sup>28</sup> *“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>*

**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** <sup>34</sup> *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

The World's Financial System:

- a) We are in economic crisis today.
- b) This is not true only of South Africa, but everywhere in the World.
- c) Is beginning to “fall apart”. (Zim Dollars)
- d) Believers who have not understood God's KINGDOM FINANCIAL SYSTEM & IT'S PRINCIPLES are also fearful.
- e) There is much confusion in the church about God's KINGDOM FINANCIAL SYSTEM & IT'S PRINCIPLES.
- f) The result is that the work of God is hindered
  - The sheep are hurting, insecure, fearful, worried & feel ripped off.
  - The Shepherds are disheartened and over - worked.
- g) Tithes are used for buildings, clearing debts & other expenses.
- h) Cake sales and “fund-raising” projects discredit the goodness and glory of God.
- i) Sheep are “flogged” in order for the church to keep afloat.

## KINGDOM BASICS:

- There is a King.
  - Psalm 29:10b *“the LORD is enthroned as King forever.”*
  - Is 9:6 *“the government will be on His shoulders...”*
  - Is 11:10 *“the nations will rally to Him” NIV*
  - Acts 2:30 *“That one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne” NIV*
  - John 12:15 *“your King is coming...” NLT*
  - 1 Tim 6:15 *“the King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords” (Rev 17:14; 19:16)*
- The King owns everything.
  - Haggai 2:8 *“<sup>8</sup> ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”*
  - Psalm 24:1 *“<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;”*
  - Exodus 9:29, 19:5; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:12
- Because there is a King, there is a Kingdom.
  - We, the saints, the church, are a part of and included in it.
  - Exodus 19:5-6 *“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”*
  - Heb 12:22-28 *“Since you are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”*
  - Luke 22:24-34 *“And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,”*
  - Luke 12:32 - 32 *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”*
- The Kingdom is designed to operate on a Financial System. That includes:
  - **The Will of the King for us financially.**
    - Mathew 6:10 *“<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*
    - Proverbs 10:22 *“<sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, without painful toil for it.”*
    - 2 Corinthians 8:9 *“<sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”*
    - John 10:10 *“The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”*

- **The Ways of the Kingdom.**

- These are principles that govern the way the Kingdom operates financially - Not laws to be kept, but rather principles to be applied and as a result freedoms to be enjoyed. **We must not be legalistic (the letter of the law) but allow the Spirit of God to impart His, the King's heart to us.**
- 2 Corinthians 3:6 *"the letter kills but the Spirit gives life"*
- Jeremiah 6:16a *"<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."*
- Isaiah 30:21 *"<sup>21</sup> Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*
- Deut 1:33 *"<sup>33</sup> who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go."*

• **In the Word we discover the will and ways of the King.**

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *"<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
- John 8:32 *"<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*
- John 17:17 *"<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*

• **The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and empowers us to apply that truth into our lives.**

- John 16:13 *"<sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*
- 2 Peter 1:3 *"<sup>3</sup> His divine power (the Holy Spirit) has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

• **Repentance is how we enter into the Kingdom lifestyle.**

- When truth comes through the word and by the power of the Holy Spirit we must receive it and apply it into our lives, this means change, or a more biblical term repentance - "metanoeo" - a change of heart, mind & actions.
- Matthew 4:17 *"<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*
- Isaiah 30:21-22 *21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." 22 Then you will desecrate your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Away with you!"*

- Our love for the King and a desire to see more of His Kingdom coming in and through our lives and the lives of others is the only reason and motivation for why we should change – The Great Commandment.

Matthew 22:26-38

*“36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two Commandments.”*

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD VS. THE WORLD SYSTEM

### Mathew 6:24

*<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

<u>Kingdom of God</u>	<u>World System</u>
Love for God	Love of Money
God is our King – Money is our slave	Mammon is the “king” – people are slaves to money
Giving & Receiving	Buying & Selling
Sowing & Reaping	Getting & Keeping
Multiplication	% Increase
God multiplies at no one’s expense	Gambling – Heart of man is to multiply at the expense of somebody else.
God is our Source	The world and yourself is the Source
Leads to godliness	Leads to lies, deceit, wickedness
Our hearts are content	Live on a treadmill – rat-race
Operates on Faith	People driven by Fear

## GOD'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM WILL DO A NUMBER OF THINGS

- It will cause the Gospel to go out across the world thereby fulfilling The GREAT COMMISSION

Mathew 28:18-20

*18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- It will enable the sheep to become mature, effective and free.
- It will relieve the needs of the poor.
- It will enable us to do all that we are called to because it will make provisions for all the material stuff we need to get the King's commission done: i.e. Salaries, Buildings, Duplicating facilities, Video machines, Literature, Sound Equipment, etc.
- It will cause the believers to prosper and be fulfilled.

## GOD'S KINGDOM FINANCIAL SYSTEM CONSISTS OF:

---

PROVISION	The Lord is my Source.
PROMPTING	My motive is a love for the King & a desire to see His Kingdom advance in & through my life.
PROTECTION	Tithing insures protection as I return to the Lord what is His already.
PRODUCTION	Offerings activate the kingdom principle of sowing & reaping. This in return brings multiplication.
PROCEDURE	The Lord requires blamelessness & righteousness in all areas of my finances.

---

## 2 - PROVISION - THE LORD IS MY SOURCE AND KING

### The Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-4a

**Abram had to leave to go to the Land of Promise**

<sup>1</sup> *The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

**God's commitment to Abram**

<sup>2</sup> *"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

**Abram obeyed**

<sup>4</sup> *So Abram went, as the LORD had told him;*

Gen 15:5-21

<sup>5</sup> *He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> be."*

<sup>6</sup> *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

**God Promises to give Canaan (the Promised Land) to Abram's descendants**

<sup>7</sup> *He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."*

**Abram ask for a Covenant & God commits to it**

<sup>8</sup> *But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"*

<sup>9</sup> *So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."*

<sup>10</sup> *Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.*

<sup>12</sup> *As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.*

**The birds of prey (debt, sin) come to steal and distract us, but we need to be vigilant and chase them off**

**God prophesy about Egypt and Promises deliverance**

<sup>13</sup> *Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. <sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> You, however, will go to your*

ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking fire-pot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

### **Covenant Ratified**

<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi<sup>[b]</sup> of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

## **Deut 8:18**

**A confirmation of the Abrahamic covenant is the ability God gives to produce wealth**

<sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

## **Is 26:12**

**Recognizing all we accomplish is from The Lord**

*Lord, You will grant us peace; all we have accomplished is really for you*

**Are we Gentiles, non-Jews, included in this covenant?**

Gal 3:6-9

<sup>6</sup> So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>9</sup> So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Gal 3:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Gal 3:29

<sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**YES WE ARE INCLUDED! THE RAMIFICATIONS ARE HUGE!**

**WE FOR THIS WEEKEND ARE INTERESTED IN THE FINANCIAL APPLICATION OF THE COVENANT.**

### 3 things the Lord required of Abraham and that Abraham obeyed God in.

- **He tithed.**

Gen 14:18-20

*"<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup> and he blessed Abram, saying:*

*"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.*

*<sup>20</sup> And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."*

*Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. "*

- **The Lord wanted Him to walk righteously before him.**

Gen 17:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty<sup>[a]</sup>; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."*

*<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram<sup>[b]</sup>; your name will be Abraham,<sup>[c]</sup> for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup> The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

- **He gave an extravagant offering.**

Gen 22:1-18

#### Abraham Tested

*<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"*

*"Here I am," he replied.*

*<sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."*

*<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.*

*<sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"*

*"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.*



*"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"*

*<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.*

*<sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"*

*"Here I am," he replied.*

*<sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."*

*<sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram<sup>[a]</sup> caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.*

*<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."*

*<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring<sup>[b]</sup> all nations on earth will be blessed,<sup>[c]</sup> because you have obeyed me."*

- **Abraham is a pattern, if we follow his example of obedience to God because of his faith and trust in God, we will receive the inheritance and blessing that flows from the Abrahamic Covenant.**

Gal 3:29

- *<sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Deut 8:18

- **A confirmation of the Abrahamic covenant is the ability God gives to produce wealth**
- *<sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*

**The Lord was Abraham's source, is He yours?**

### 3 - PROMPTING – I LOVE MY LORD AND KING

#### Contentment or Treadmill

God is our provider and it is His heart to bless us His Children. He does not want us to be enslaved to anything or anyone.

**Ephesians 1:5 - We are adopted by the Father and we give Him pleasure!**

*God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

**He wants His children free!**

Gal 5:1

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

The Israelites were in bondage in Egypt; the land of not enough. God used Moses to deliver them out of Egypt, from Pharaoh and the slave drivers; into the wilderness.

The wilderness was the land of just enough. God came with “manna” provision for them in the wilderness. They were out of Egypt but Egypt was still inside of them, their hearts and their ways (lifestyles). It was not God’s will for them to stay in the wilderness. They were destined for the Promised Land because of the Abrahamic Covenant. In the wilderness God wanted to teach them His ways and give them His heart.

In the Promised Land; the land of more than enough, the “manna” stopped. The Lord provided them with houses, fields, lands and vineyards, which they did not build or plant. The Israelites were now required to work with the Lord sowing and reaping in their fields trusting in the Lord to do His part sending them rain in season.

**Our goal in life should not be to become rich, wealthy or successful.**

**Our goal in life, should be to crown Jesus as Lord and King of our lives and seek first His kingdom at all times, in all circumstances, in all things, when this is our goal and priority wealth, riches, blessing and success will follow, find and fill our lives but as a by-product of a loving intimate relationship with our Lord and King not as a goal.**

**Our lives will be content.**

Matthew 6:33

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

1 Timothy 6:6-8; 11-16

*<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

*<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who*

alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Proverbs 10:22

*“<sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, without painful toil for it.”*

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

*<sup>24</sup> A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup> for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? <sup>26</sup> To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

*“<sup>19</sup> Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup> They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.”*

Proverbs 30:7-9

*“<sup>7</sup> “Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die: <sup>8</sup> Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. <sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.”*

**When we make riches, wealth and success our goal, we become enslaved and entrapped to them. They become our gods, our goals and our idols. They are hard task masters and require huge amounts of offerings and worship, if they are to return their blessings on us.**

**Our lives will be like running on a treadmill.**

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

*“<sup>10</sup> Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.*

*<sup>11</sup> As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?*

*<sup>12</sup> The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.*

*<sup>13</sup> I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners, <sup>14</sup> or wealth lost through some misfortune,*

*so that when they have children there is nothing left for them to inherit.*

*<sup>15</sup> Everyone comes naked from their mother’s womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands. “*

Ecclesiastes 6:2

*“<sup>2</sup> God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead.”*

Proverbs 18:10-11

*“<sup>10</sup> The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

*<sup>11</sup> The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.”*

Proverbs 23:4

*“<sup>4</sup> Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.”*

1 Timothy 6:9-10; 17-19

*“<sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

*<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

**Do you want contentment or a treadmill?**

## 4 - PROTECTION - MY KING PROTECTS ME WHEN I RETURN TO HIM THE TITHE WHICH IS HIS PORTION

### Deut 8:18

- God gives you the ability to produce wealth as a confirmation of His covenant with Abraham
- <sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.
- The Lord owns everything, has given us everything we have and He empowers/enables us to produce wealth, in return all He asks for is 10% back.
- Business partnership example:
  - Your covenant partner gives you:
    - 100% of the Capital
    - The business Idea
    - The business Opportunity
    - The business wisdom, skill, acumen.
    - The contacts staff, customers, suppliers etc.
    - Helps you set it all up
    - All He wants in return? 10%
    - Does that sound like a good deal or what?

### Malachi 3: 6 - 12

#### **Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes**

<sup>6</sup> "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup> Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?' <sup>8</sup> "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'"

"In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. <sup>12</sup> "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty

- **TITHING IS NOT GIVING**

- a) When you tithe you haven't "given" to God
- b) The tithe is the Lord's - Leviticus 27:30
- c) Your tithe doesn't belong to you - Malachi 3:8 -9 - Can you steal your own stuff?
- d) Language used in Malachi 3:10. "Bring ..." not give.
- e) When you "bring" it in you haven't given a thing.
- f) You can't fully claim "Give and it shall be given" etc. because you are not giving.
- g) It's when it is given over and above the tithe (offering and almsgiving) that produces wealth.

- **THE TITHE IS PRIORITY PROTECTION**

Malachi 3: 11 KJV

*"and I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes. And he shall not destroy the fruit of the ground. Neither shall your wine cast fruit before the time in the field..."*

- a) Some say "I can't afford to tithe".
- b) You can't afford not to tithe.
- c) When you tithe, you tithe protection over all your possessions.
- d) God promises that the devil will be kept at bay.
- e) When you stop tithing things "go wrong" - fridge breaks down, motor car starts giving trouble, hot water system packs up etc...
- f) The devourer has struck - you gave him permission.
- g) You took away God's protection.

- **TITHING IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE**

- a. You spend your money on those things that are important to you.
- b. Tithing continually reminds you that God is your source.
- c. Keep God first and He will keep you first.
- d. You don't need faith to tithe, just obedience.
  - i. Once you receive your salary- you have a choice to make.
  - ii. To be faithful and pay - or to be unfaithful and "pay".
  - iii. Obedience or disobedience

- iv. Obedience brings blessing
- v. Disobedience a curse - Deuteronomy 28:1-68
- e. Your faith isn't tested, but your faithfulness is.

- **HOW DO I TITHE?**

- a) In Obedience.
- b) In full.
- c) Consistently/faithfully

- **TITHING TEACHES ME TO PUT GOD FIRST**

- a) It keeps God first - "the position of your tithe in your budget is the position God holds in your life".
- b) Put God first... God does not want to be second or third or eight... He wants to be first!
- c) Principle of 1st fruits.

- I. Give me the first born - Israel is a shadow / a type

Exodus 13:1-3

*"1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." 3 Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten."*

Numbers 3:13

*"for all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for my own all the firstborn in Israel, both of man and of beast. They shall be mine: I am the LORD."*

Numbers 8:17

*"For all the firstborn among the people of Israel are mine, both of man and of beast. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them for myself,"*

- II. By giving the first - I'm believing that there's more to come!
- III. God knows that if He is first it's the best for us!
- IV. Abel and Cain - one major difference- First of the flock

Genesis 4:3

*“3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,*

*4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,”*

V. There was No law that stated you have to bring first!!! But God loves being first!

VI. Joshua 6... The first City's spoils belonged to God. Aikin keeps it back & experiences curse.

1Kings 17:9

*And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.*

1 Cor 16:2

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

Numbers 15:20

*20 Of the first of your dough you shall present a loaf as a contribution; like a contribution from the threshing floor, so shall you present it. 21 Some of the first of your dough you shall give to the LORD as a contribution throughout your generations.*

Proverbs 3:9

*9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

Matthew 6:33-34

*33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*

- **TITHING ENABLES THE CONTINUAL PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL**

Reinhart Bonke once said that it only cost him \$1.00 to win one soul to the Lord.

- a) Even if it costs \$1.00 per person for initial salvation, there are approx, 1.200 million people in China alone.
- b) Moreover, evangelising is much cheaper than discipling people, bringing them to maturity.
- c) There is salvation of sinners AND the sanctification (maturing) of the saints.



d) Saints need to be taught, even:

- i. Encouraged
- ii. counseled
- iii. corrected
- iv. loved and cared for

e) This necessitates:

- i. Pastors
  1. Salaries
  2. Housing
- ii. Buildings
- iii. Operating Expenses
  1. Petrol - to visit etc.
  2. Stationery
  3. Literature.
  4. Media, AV, Internet facilities.
  5. Electricity etc.

f) Recognise and accept your Responsibility

- i. What are you doing about promoting the work of the gospel through finances?

• **THE WHOLE TITHE**

a) **Gross or Nett** (what is a tithe?) - Matthew 22:21 "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's"

- i. If you render to Caesar what is Caesar's before tithing, you are putting Caesar above God.
- ii. The usual deductions are things you are buying:
  1. Medical
  2. Pensions
  3. Insurance Policies
  4. Mortgage payments
  5. Taxes
  6. T.V Installments
  7. These are all for your benefit.

**b) The First Tenth - before any other deductions.**

- i. Prov 3:9-10 *“Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruit of all your crops, then your barns will be full to overflowing and your vats will brim to overflowing with new wine.”*
- ii. Ex. 23:19 *“Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.”*
- iii. 2 Chronicles 31: 5 *“<sup>5</sup> As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the first fruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.”* N.B. “Tithe” and “First fruit” used interchangeably.

**c) A Tithe Represents 10% of “All” Your Income.**

- i. Genesis 28: 22 *“<sup>22</sup> and<sup>[a]</sup> this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”*
- ii. Genesis 14:20b *“Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”*
- iii. Leviticus 27: 30 *“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.”*
- iv. 2 Chronicles 31:5b *“all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.”*

**d) God Robbers**

- i. Malachi 3: 8 -9 *“you are cursed”*
- ii. Obedience brings blessing.
- iii. Disobedience brings curse - Deuteronomy 28: 1 - 68
- iv. Example:
  1. I steal from you - break into your home.
  2. You know it’s me.
  3. Sometime later, I knock at your door - I need to lend R1000.00.
  4. Would you give me any money?
- v. There is no way you can prosper financially as a believer if you are not tithing.
- vi. Your income will disappear - No matter how hard you work. Haggai 1:5-8 *“<sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”<sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways.”*
- vii. Even prayer and fasting won’t help. (God will not violate His word).
- viii. Would you like to have a covenant partnership with someone stealing from you?

e) **We Should Tithe From Our Capital and Assets**

- i. Proverbs 3:9-10 (Amplified) *“honour the Lord with your capital of sufficiency (from righteous labours) and with the first fruits of all your income.”*
- ii. Tithe on capital gain made.
- iii. Tithe on profit of any capital deal.
  1. Selling of a business
  2. Selling of shares
  3. Liquidating investments
  4. Profit made from leasing

• **TITHING IS NOT FROM THE MOSAIC LAW**

- a) It did not originate with the giving of the law.
- b) It was there before the law was given - Genesis 14:18-20 - Abraham's Example.
- c) This was 420 years before Moses received the law.
- d) God instructed Abraham to tithe.
- e) Jesus endorsed tithing - Matt 23: 23 <sup>“23</sup> *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”* If Jesus wanted to change the principle of tithing in the New Testament, He would/could have done it here.

• **TO WHOM DO WE TITHE**

Malachi 3:10a *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.”*

- a) The Storehouse - the place where you get fed and cared for.
- b) Would you eat in one place and pay in somewhere else?
- c) You intend paying for the meal but at another restaurant.
- d) The “storehouse” - Scholars agreed - the Local Church you receive from - Numbers 18:21
- e) Not where you please.
- f) Not your widowed mother.
- g) Not some missionary, inter-denominational ministry or TV evangelist.

- **TITHING AND THE HOUSEWIFE - Only if necessary**

- d) What happens to a woman who earns no income?
- e) If her husband is saved, then they should tithe as a family unit.
- f) If he is not saved it depends upon him.
- g) If he doesn't mind, then tithe.
- h) If he does mind, then you can't.
- i) If you do then you will probably drive him further away from the Lord.
- j) But the household forfeits the tithe's protection.
- k) There is an alternative:-
  - i. Believe God for seed to sow.
  - ii. Don't be limited by your husband's income.
  - iii. God is your source.
  - iv. Believe for an income so that you can tithe and give offerings.
  - v. Tithe on gifts as well.

- **GOD'S CHALLENGE – PROVE ME NOW**

Malachi 3: 10 - 12

*“Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty”*

- a) This is the only place in the Bible where God challenges us to test Him.
- b) It had to do with money.
- b) “I will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out such a blessing that you will not have room enough for it”
- c) “ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops”
- d) “Your vines in your field will not drop their fruit”

## 5 - PRODUCTION - OFFERINGS

**When we give offerings we activate the kingdom principle of sowing & reaping.**

**Offerings have to do with “giving” – Whereas tithes have to do with “bringing”.**

**Once we start giving we begin to produce wealth of financial return.**

Galatians 6:7-10

”7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Mat 10:29-30

“<sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.”

- **TO WHOM SHOULD WE GIVE OFFERINGS?**

1. TO GOD.

- i. Just out of sheer gratitude and love - to the church - to be used as leaders see fit - Acts 4:34-37

2. THOSE WHO INSTRUCT US IN THE WORD

- i. Galatians 6: 6 “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor”
- ii. 1 Corinthians 9: 1 - 15
  1. And yet people gave to Paul - Philippians 4: 10-19 - Apostolic Giving
  2. What he is saying - 1 Cor 9 is that he does not make demands, but he does receive.
  3. It was in the “early days” he laboured most. 1Thess. 2: 9

3. THE CHURCH - IT’S PROJECTs

- i. Buildings
- ii. Maintenance
- iii. Equipment
- iv. Gardens etc
- v. Biblical Examples:

## Exodus 25:1-9 - Offerings for the Tabernacle

*The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 5 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.*

*8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. 9 Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.*

- Where did slaves get this from?
- Egyptians when they left Egypt.
- The Lord is always way ahead of us, He knew 2 years before that He was going to ask them to build a tabernacle and so he prepared them and gave them instruction in advance.

## King David's personal offering to the temple - 1 Chron 29:1-9

*“<sup>1</sup> Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. <sup>2</sup> With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise,<sup>[a]</sup> stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. <sup>3</sup> Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: <sup>4</sup> three thousand talents<sup>[b]</sup> of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents<sup>[c]</sup> of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, <sup>5</sup> for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”*

- a. 1 Chronicles 29:4 That is, about 110 tons or about 100 metric tons
- b. 1 Chronicles 29:4 That is, about 260 tons or about 235 metric tons

Let's calculate the value of David's personal offering to the Temple Fund: (as at Jan 18, 2016)

- 100 tons of gold
- 235 tons of silver
- 1kg = 31,25 ounces
- Gold price per ounce = Us \$ 1090,72 (Silver \$14,10)
- X R 16,64 Rand Dollar Exchange Rate
- X 31,25 ounces
- X 1000 kg per ton
- X 100 tons (235 silver)
- R 56 717 440 000 gold
- In words - 56 Billion 717 Million 440 thousand rand only no cents

- R 1 710 800 000 - silver
- In words - 1 Billion 710 Million 800 thousand rand only no cents
- Total R 58 428 240 000

Explain the difference between a million and a billion using time:

- Counting at 1 second intervals how long would it take to count to a million and how long to a billion?
- 1 Rand = 1 Second
- 1000 Rands = 1000 Seconds or 16 min 40 sec
- Million
- 1 000 000 Rands = 16 666 min 40 sec
- 1 000 000 Rands = 277 hours 46 min 41 sec
- 1 000 000 Rands = 11 days 13 hours 46min 34 sec
- Billion
- 1 000 000 000 Rands = 16 666 666 min 40 sec
- 1 000 000 000 Rands = 277 777 hours 10 min 40 sec
- 1 000 000 000 Rands = 11 574 days 1 hours 46min 40 sec
- 1 000 000 000 Rands = 31 years 259 days 1 hour 46min 40sec

#### 4. THE POOR

- i. Mark 10: 21, Psalm 41:1-2
- ii. Giving to the poor gives God opportunity to give to us.
  1. Proverbs 19 : 17 - reward
  2. Psalm 41 : 1 -3
  3. Luke 12:33
- iii. God is very concerned about the poor and the oppressed.
  1. Exodus 23: 11
  2. Deuteronomy 15: 7 - 8
  3. Galatians 2:10
  4. Psalm 82: 3 - 4

5. Proverbs 21: 13 answered prayer
  6. Proverbs 29: 14
  7. Jeremiah 22: 16
  8. Isaiah 58: 7 (6 - 12)
  9. Leviticus 25: 35
  10. Galatians 2: 1
- iv. Promises to those who give to the poor.
1. Proverbs 11: 25
  2. Proverbs 22:9
  3. Isaiah 58: 10
- v. One day I would like to take a “heap” offering.
1. 2 Chronicle 31: 4 - 19

- **HOW WE ARE TO GIVE**

Principles of Giving.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-15**

1. Giving is an act of Grace- 2 Cor 8:1&6-7
2. Not dependent on circumstance 2 Cor 8:2
3. Beyond your ability (at times) 2 Cor 8:3 God directed!
4. Sacrificially 2 Cor 8:2-3
5. Desirously 2 Cor 8:4
6. Give yourself first to the Lord & then to people 2 Cor 8:4
7. Graciously 2 Corinthians 8: 7d
8. It's a test of love 2 Cor 8:8
9. Completely (finish your commitment) 2 Cor 8:11
10. According to your ability- 2 Cor 8:12
11. Supply what others are lacking in 2 Cor 8:14
12. To bring Equality 2 Cor 8:14



## **2 Corinthians 9:1-15**

13. Eagerly 2 Corinthians 9: 2d

14. Enthusiastically 2 Corinthians 9: 2d

15. Willingly – not grudgingly 2 Corinthians 9: 5.

16. Intentionally, carefully, not haphazardly 2 Cor 9:3-5

17. Generously and abundantly, not sparingly 9:5

18. To the extent that you give you receive 2 Cor 9:6, Luke 6:38; Gal 6: 7 -10.

19. Whole - heartedly 2 Corinthians 9:6

20. Cheerfully 2 Corinthians 9: 7 not reluctantly

21. Anonymously Matthew 6:3

22. Living in the land of more than enough 2 Cor 9:8

i. In all things

ii. At all times

iii. Having all you need

iv. You will be able to abound In every good work

23. Expectantly. Promised land living 2 Corinthians 9: 10

i. The Lord supplies

1. Seed to the sower (don't eat your seed)

2. Bread for food (eat your bread)

ii. The Lord increases your:

1. Store of seed

2. Enlarge your harvest of righteousness

24. Another description of promised land living financially 2 Cor 9:11

i. Made rich in every way

ii. So that you can be

1. Generous on every occasion

2. That generosity will result in thanksgiving to God

25. Continually 2 Corinthians 9: 11

26. Gratefully (Thankfully) 2 Corinthians 9: 12

27. To the extent that we have received we should give Deut 16: 17, 1 Cor 16:2

• **RESULTS OF OFFERINGS GIVEN GRACIOUSLY** - 2 Cor 9:1 -14

1. Thanksgiving to God
2. Supplying the needs of God's people
3. overflows into many expressions of thanks to God
4. Men praise God for your:
  - (a) obedience that accompanies your faith in the Gospel
  - (b) Your generosity in sharing with everyone
5. They will pray for you
6. Their hearts will go out to you - Why?
7. Because of God's grace given to you.

**What a indescribable gift from God is the ability to be generous and willing to share!**

• **HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE GIVE**

**“Live to give” – Giving a life – style not an occasion**

**Live to give.**

John 12:24 - Until you live to give you will always struggle with financial prosperity.

**Examples of Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee**

1. Dead Sea has no outlets only inlets.
2. There is no life in the Dead Sea.
3. Because it is a “taker” not a “giver”.

**The Spirit of the World is drastically opposed to the Spirit (attitude) of Christ.**

1. The world wants to “get” and “keep”
2. Christ came to “give”.

**Jesus' attitude and example:**

1. Came to serve, not to be served - Matt 20: 28.

2. Came to give, not to get - John 3: 16: Matt 20: 28.
3. He humbled Himself laid aside His deity - Phil 2: 8.
4. Became poor so that we could become rich - 2 Cor 8:9.
5. Came to die that we might live - Matt 20:28.
6. Jesus offering - Kernel of wheat - John 12:24

*24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

You can tell how many seeds there are in an apple, but how many apples are in a single seed?

#### We must give in order to live

1. Serve rather than be served - Matt 20: 26 - 27.
2. If you try to save your life you'll lose it - Matt 16:25.

#### What we give we get

1. Galatians 6: 7 "Whatsoever a man sows..."
2. Luke 6: 38 "Give and it shall be given..."
3. Gen 1:11-12 "seed-bearing plants and trees that bear fruit, each according to their various kinds"

#### What we get we should give

2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 11

#### Body of Christ has become self and need centered

No longer gives, wants to get and hoard.

### • WHY SHOULD WE GIVE?

In other words "what does giving do?"

The key scriptures to giving and receiving are:

Philippians 4: 15 -19

2 Corinthians 8&9

#### You must plant "seed" in order to "reap".

Philippians 4:19; 15 -18; Philippians 4: 10 - 18.

NB verse 17 is the "seed" which yields the crop of verse 19.

You can't claim verse 19 without sowing verse 10 - 18.

2 Cor 9:6-10 - The hole you sow through is the hole you receive through.

If you are not a sower. God is not obliged to give you more seed to sow.

“Supplies seed for the sower and bread for food.”

He gives you what you need and seed to sow again.

If you haven't got money to give, it is probably because you aren't a sower.

God gives seed to the sower - 2 Cor 9: 11 “so that you can be generous”.

Don't eat your seed, sow your seed.

Eat your bread.

China - don't eat next year's seed.

## **God gives to us so that His covenant may be established - to support the propagation of the gospel**

Key verse to wealth and prosperity - Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Two purposes for wealth and prosperity from God:

1. To confirm His covenant to bless us.
2. To confirm His covenant to bless others - save them.

This was the covenant He made with Abraham - Genesis 12: 2 - 3.

God never prospers us for us to hoard our wealth; it is for the propagation of the gospel.

Philippians 4 & 2 Cor 9 confirms this - see 2 Cor 9:12-15.

- **SET YOURSELF A GOAL**

- a) Tithe 10%
- b) Give 10%
- c) Saving 10%
- d) Live on 70%

## **LET'S BECOME A “GIVING & GENEROUS PEOPLE”**

## 6 - PROCEDURE - FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

### Who are you serving God or Mammon?

How many here love God and want to serve Him with all that they have their whole life until they die, in whatever capacity that may be?

How many idol worshippers and worshippers of Mammon do we have with us this today?

**Matthew 6:33 - Living righteously means living with financial integrity. Accountable, using systems for accounting. The systems must serve you, not burden you.**

*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

### Judges 6:1-10

*<sup>1</sup>Again the Israelites did what was evil in the LORD'S sight. So the LORD handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. <sup>2</sup>The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites fled to the mountains, where they made hiding places for themselves in caves and dens. <sup>3</sup>Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, <sup>4</sup>camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, oxen, and donkeys. <sup>5</sup>These enemy hordes, coming with their cattle and tents as thick as locusts, arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare. <sup>6</sup>So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help.*

*<sup>7</sup>When they cried out to the LORD because of Midian, <sup>8</sup>the LORD sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt <sup>9</sup>and rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup>I told you, 'I am the LORD your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."*

Vs 1-10 Intro & Cameo of the problem in the Nation.

Vs 8-10 They are being oppressed by Midian because they have forsaken the Lord and His covenant and are serving the gods of the Amorite nations around them.

Vs 7 They have been crying out to the Lord for deliverance and He has answered them but they have not listened. Vs 10b.

The nation of Israel was in deep trouble, in fact they were so far into it they did not even know it. Gideon did not and neither did his family or his own town folk know. The sin of idolatry had become so common place in the nation that they where blinded by it. They had handed themselves over to a great deception.

Jonah 2:8 "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."

2 Thess 2:10-12 "<sup>10</sup>He will use every kind of wicked deception to fool those who are on their way to destruction because they refuse to believe the truth that would save them. <sup>11</sup>So God will send great deception upon them, and they will believe all these lies. <sup>12</sup>Then they will be condemned for not believing the truth and for enjoying the evil they do."

Yet the Lord had already sent them a prophet to tell them the problem. Vs 8-10.

## Judges 6:11-16

<sup>11</sup>Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the oak tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash had been threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup>The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"

<sup>13</sup>"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'the LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

<sup>15</sup>"But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

<sup>16</sup>The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Gideon did not know why all these bad things were happening to Israel, he did not know why the Lord had abandoned them, his faith was at an all time low, he was questioning the Lord's power and ability. Vs 13.

The Lord has already told the nation the problem and the solution but they (Gideon) are still blaming God.

Vs 15 When you worship other gods you and your family become the weakest.

The Lord calls Gideon to be a judge, a deliver leader. Gideon still doubts. Vs 14-16

God has called Gideon to save the nation, but He has got to clean up His own act and put His own house in order 1<sup>st</sup>. **He has got to deal with the problem in His own life before He can deliver the nation.**

If we want to be used by the Lord then we are going to have to deal with these forces in our own lives as individuals before we can set other people, churches and even nations free.

We need individual deliverance before we can have corporate and national deliverance.

That is what we see here with Gideon.

### Judges 6:25-27

*<sup>25</sup>That (same) night the LORD said to Gideon, "Take the second best bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it. <sup>26</sup>Then build an altar to the LORD your God here on this hill, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down." <sup>27</sup>So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town. He knew what would happen if they found out who had done it.*

When the Lord calls Gideon he also deals with the root problem the reason why He has to thresh wheat in a wine press. The problem is that the nation and Gideon's own family are worshippers of Baal & Asherah. In fact Gideon had them in His own back yard. Vs 25-27.

His father's altar to Baal and his father's Asherah Pole. Here is the problem. The Lord deals with the root cause.

Vs 27. Immediate obedience.

### Judges 6:28-32

*<sup>28</sup>Early the next morning, as the people of the town began to stir, someone discovered that the altar of Baal had been knocked down and that the Asherah pole beside it was gone. In their place a new altar had been built, and it had the remains of a sacrifice on it. <sup>29</sup>The people said to each other, "Who did this?" And after asking around and making a careful search, they learned that it was Gideon, the son of Joash.*

*<sup>30</sup>"Bring out your son," they shouted to Joash. "He must die for destroying the altar of Baal and for cutting down the Asherah pole."*

*<sup>31</sup>But Joash shouted to the mob, "Why are you defending Baal? Will you argue his case? Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If Baal truly is a god, let him defend himself and destroy the one who knocked down his altar!" <sup>32</sup>From then on Gideon was called Jerubbaal, which means "Let Baal defend himself," because he knocked down Baal's altar.*

Just look at how far gone the Israelites really were. Let's look at vs. 28- 30. What is wrong with this picture? Who are they defending? Who do they want to kill? Why are they so passionate? What does the law say?

Deut 16:21-17:7

<sup>21</sup>"You must never set up an Asherah pole beside the altar of the LORD your God. <sup>22</sup>And never set up sacred pillars for worship, for the LORD your God hates them.

Deut 17:2-5

<sup>2</sup>"Suppose a man or woman among you, in one of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, has done evil in the sight of the LORD your God and has violated the covenant <sup>3</sup>by serving other gods or by worshiping the sun, the moon, or any of the forces of heaven, which I have strictly forbidden. <sup>4</sup>When you hear about it, investigate the matter thoroughly. If it is true that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, <sup>5</sup>then that man or woman must be taken to the gates of the town and stoned to death.

Deut 13:6-11

<sup>6</sup>"Suppose your brother, son, daughter, beloved wife, or closest friend comes to you secretly and says, 'Let us go worship other gods'—gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known. <sup>7</sup>They might suggest that you worship the gods of peoples who live nearby or who come from the ends of the earth. <sup>8</sup>If they do this, do not give in or listen, and have no pity. Do not spare or protect them. <sup>9</sup>You must put them to death! You must be the one to initiate the execution; then all the people must join in. <sup>10</sup>Stone the guilty ones to death because they have tried to draw you away from the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of slavery. <sup>11</sup>Then all Israel will hear about it and be afraid, and such wickedness will never again be done among you.

These guys want to kill Gideon for breaking down the altar to Baal and the Asherah pole to Asherah, yet the law requires the exact opposite.

Why was Israel so drawn to the worship of Baal and Asherah?

What was the hook that the devil was using them to entice them to worship these idols?

What is the motive the theology behind Baal and Asherah worship?

**Baal male deity** - lord over an area, place or locality.

**Asherah female deity** - goddess of fertility.

Baal - as lord over an area control the elements over that area, the wind, the rain, the fire, the earth/ground.

Asherah - as goddess controlled the fertility of the livestock, the ground, the wombs of the woman, etc.



Baal being male needed to be satisfied sexually and Asherah being female need to be fertile. So the worshippers of these gods had to arouse these gods to have sex with one another. As Baal was satisfied he would release rain, wind, etc as was necessary for the earth to produce and as Asherah was satisfied and became fertile she would bless the land, the livestock and the wombs of the women and they would all become fertile.

The Israelites were agricultural people. They lived off of the land and they needed these things to happen.

They had turned their backs on the Lord - Jehovah Jireah - The Lord is my provider and worshiped the baals and the asherahs trusting in them to provide for all their needs instead of Jehovah.

The issue with the worship of these Idols, Baal and Asherah, is one of provision.

Who is my Source?

Who provides for me?

Who will take care of my needs?

Do I trust in God or do I trust in something or someone else?

**Vs. 30-32**

These are not gods at all, they cannot provide anything.

There is only one true God in Heaven and he is the Provider and Sustainer of all we are and have.

However, because we fight against powers and principalities, they want to deceive us. The devil is deceptive and causes us to trust in and put our faith in other things anything other than The Lord, Jehovah Jireh.

As long, as we don't know it or are not aware of it.

Hosea 4:6-7

*"<sup>6</sup>My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. It is all your fault, you priests, for you yourselves refuse to know me. Now I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children. <sup>7</sup>The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. They have exchanged<sup>£</sup> the glory of God for the disgrace of idols."*

Judges 2:10

*"<sup>10</sup>After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel."*

**In contrast to**

Daniel 11:32b

*"; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."*

How does this operate in your and my life?

Today ask yourself these questions:

- Who do I trust in to provide for me and my family?
- Who is my source really?
- Do I have a safety net under my tight rope?
- It could be a rich family member?
- It could be a big tither and giver in your church?
- It could be a large investment or savings account?
- It could be an inheritance?

What do you trust in more than God for your provision or source?

- Yourself
- Your Boss/Employer
- Your Business/Company
- Your Government/Country
- Your Family

Cut it down, remove it, destroy it, and desecrate it. Then return to the Lord.

Whatever you trust in more than God and whatever you hope in more than the Lord that is your idol my friends.

Let me just say this. The Lord can use all of these things to provide for you and to send you provision. However they are not your source, He is your source; they are just the channels, which He can use.

Don't trust the channel trust the source.

Don't see the channel as the source.

Any time I am:

- Lying
- Stealing
- Cheating
- Making false promises
- Creating bad debt I can't repay

I do not trust the Lord as my source, but rather making myself, my source and I am worshiping mammon and prostituting myself in idolatrous worship of money.

Jeremiah 2:11-13 - Where are you drinking from?

*<sup>11</sup> Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. <sup>12</sup> Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD. <sup>13</sup> "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*

Jeremiah 17:5-6 - Trusting in Man.

*<sup>5</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup> That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.*

Jeremiah 17:7-8 - Trusting in God.

*<sup>7</sup> "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. <sup>8</sup> They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

Jeremiah 17:11 - Riches Gained unjustly.

*<sup>11</sup> Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay are those who gain riches by unjust means. When their lives are half gone, their riches will desert them, and in the end they will prove to be fools.*

Hag 1:5-7 - When I love and worship money I will never have enough.

*<sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." <sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.*

## Deut 8:18-20

<sup>18</sup>Always remember that it is the LORD your God who gives you power to become rich, and he does it to fulfill the covenant he made with your ancestors.

<sup>19</sup>But I assure you of this: If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods, worshiping and bowing down to them, you will certainly be destroyed. <sup>20</sup>Just as the LORD has destroyed other nations in your path, you also will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

He and He alone is Jehovah Jireh our provider, no one and nothing else.

Jonah 2:8 "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs"

## Mat 6:24-34

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

<sup>25</sup>So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. <sup>27</sup>Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not.

<sup>28</sup>And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup>yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup>And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith!

<sup>31</sup>So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. <sup>32</sup>Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, <sup>33</sup>and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

<sup>34</sup>So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Key verse is verse 33.

<sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

## Judges 6:33-34

<sup>33</sup>Soon afterward the armies of Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east formed an alliance against Israel and crossed the Jordan, camping in the valley of Jezreel. <sup>34</sup>Then the Spirit of the LORD took possession of Gideon. He blew a ram's horn as a call to arms, and the men of the clan of Abiezer came to him. <sup>35</sup>He also sent messengers throughout Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, summoning their warriors, and all of them responded.

As you deal with these things, the enemy will come in like a flood, however the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you and deliver you and raise up a standard for you.

1 Pet 5:8-9a

*"<sup>8</sup>Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. <sup>9</sup>Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith."*

Ephesians 6:10-11

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."*

Like Israel we are in a war, a conflict between the kingdom of God and that the devil. John Eldridge in his book "Wild at Heart" says this; "if only every Christian knew, understood and was conscious of the fact that every day in our lives is like a scene out of Saving Private Ryan..."

Eph 6:12

*"<sup>12</sup>For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms."*

**Let us fight the enemy and not each other, as we deal  
with our finances.**

## Financial Integrity Basics - Righteousness or Crooked Ways

- Mammon - Idolatry	- God is my Source
- Lie	- Honesty
- Steal	- Integrity
- Cheat	- Righteousness
- False promises	- Keep your word
- Bad Debt - you can't repay	- Finance - appreciating assets

## Financial Freedom

- Debt is not your friend, if you are in it, you are a slave to it!
- You need to understand the true cost of debt.
- You need to plan to get out of debt.
- You need to learn how to build wealth.

## Eight Steps to Financial Freedom

1. Come under the King's Government and Authority. Make Him your Source.
  - a. Tithe
  - b. Give Offerings
  - c. Live Righteously
2. Decide to live beneath your means.
3. Understand the True Cost of Debt - compound interest paid kills your ability to live free.
4. Establish Your Debt Position - face facts & take responsibility of your finances.
5. Start to Eliminate your Debts Systematically - be faithful.
6. Get Bond Free on your home.
7. Start investing in the kingdom - through offerings.
8. Start investing on earth in savings and appreciating assets - compound interest earned works for you, helping you to live in financial freedom.

## SUMMARY

### Matthew 6:24

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

<u>THE LORD</u>	<u>MAMMON</u>
Kingdom of God	Kingdom of this world and self
Life of contentment	Life of striving, dissatisfaction & emptiness
He wants you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love Him</li> <li>• Serve Him</li> <li>• Be controlled by Him</li> </ul>	It wants you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love money</li> <li>• Serve money</li> <li>• Be controlled by money</li> </ul>
He is Lord of our: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time</li> <li>• Treasures</li> <li>• Talents</li> <li>• Trophies</li> <li>• Travel</li> </ul>	It is Lord of our: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time</li> <li>• Treasures</li> <li>• Talents</li> <li>• Trophies</li> <li>• Travel</li> </ul>
If we submit ourselves to the King & the Kingdom then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money will be our slave</li> <li>• Money will serve God's kingdom through us</li> <li>• Money will serve us</li> </ul>	If we submit ourselves to mammon then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will be a slave to money</li> <li>• We will serve it's kingdom</li> <li>• We will serve it</li> </ul>
Operates on faith: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Lord's language</li> <li>• Speaks out &amp; declare God's Word</li> <li>• Peace in your Heart</li> <li>• Leads you into the Lord's ways</li> </ul>	Operates on fear: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls things that have not happened as if they have</li> <li>• Is the devil's language</li> <li>• Doubts God's Word</li> <li>• Fears lack, not enough, the future</li> <li>• It drives you into crooked ways</li> </ul>

His provision to deal with mammon:

- Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
- He took mammon to the cross & defeated it there
- We need to appropriate the blood of Jesus, it washes away all our unrighteousness
- Repent and change our situation financially
- Tithes and offering profane mammon and its hold on us
- God's will done God's ways will cause God's presence to come into our lives and our finances

Signs of mammon influence in your life:

- Worry & anxiety over money
- "I can't afford it" mentality
- Impulsive buying
- Discontentment
- Stinginess
- Greed
- Money mismanagement
- Debt
- Crooked ways & deals