

CORE VALUES

Why What We Believe Defines Who We Are

God's Plan of Economy

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 & 30:1-16

Introduction: Today we continue the study of *God's Economy*. There are many different notions of what the Bible teaches concerning wealth, material possessions, and responsible stewardship (which has become essentially synonymous with giving). These differing views, and the various ideas about giving and tithing result primarily from “proof texting” Scripture, or eisegesis (reading into the text what the interpreter wants it to say). In this study I propose that we consider a more global approach to what the Bible teaches in the broad context of its history and culture. If there is a global proof text that sums the Biblical teaching it may be expressed in this proverb:

⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

⁹ Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.
(Pro 30:8-9 KJV)

I. God's Promises to His People as They Enter Canaan (Deut. 28-30)

- A. God's desire is to bless His people and to give them all they need
- B. It includes all the provisions for rest and relationship we have considered
- C. It is a contingent blessing based upon
 1. Loving God with all the heart
 2. Obeying His commandments

II. Misconceptions About Old Testament Promises of Physical/Material Blessing

- A. We tend to read into these passages our contemporary Western conception of wealth
- B. God gave His promises to a nation that had, principally, an agrarian economy—they were predominantly farmers and shepherds
- C. If, *as a nation*, they loved and obeyed God, they would experience:
 1. relatively good health
 2. relative prosperity in harvests and livestock
 3. strong families
 4. secure lands, farms, and homes
- D. There was the recognition that individuals might suffer various kinds of loss, and as a righteous nation they were to have compassion on them:
 1. do not lend money to your neighbors at interest or take a pledge
 2. do not take their land or force them into slavery
 3. return the land and possessions to the family every 50 years

III. New Testament Principles of Blessing and Wealth Are Quite Similar

- A. Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:19-34)
- B. Practicing these principles includes the following elements:
 1. Rest and freedom from anxiety—not the pursuit of riches
 2. Loving and trusting God entirely and completely
 3. Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit in all things
 4. Which includes seeking God's permission & blessing in every purchase—Is He Lord of all?? We are managers, NOT owners

KEY VERSES

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity;
¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.
(Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NAS)

Alliance Bible Church Core Values

- Celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ through corporate worship in two languages.
- Boldly proclaiming the fullness of His Gospel: Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.
- Building up one another in love through small group community, prayer, and discipleship.
- Serving our community through meaningful acts of loving service.

