

Kingdom Report

Week of 16 March 2019

The Israel Parallel Economy

It is vital for the Christian community to do what the Lord commanded Israel with regard to their economy. One economic set of laws for the Israel community, a different set of laws for those outside the community.

Last week I introduced you to the Biblical idea of sheltered employment for the poor through the application of tariffs. That is, purposely create circumstances whereby the poor who wish to work can do so for special areas of the economy where they can contribute their labour without having to compete against foreign cheaper goods.

Now here is the reality check....it is not going to happen. Not in our economy or most other national economies. Various reasons. Chief among them is the fact that the international financial elite have no national roots. The international financial system is set up in such a way that financial capital has no borders and must be allowed to roam the earth seeking where a profit can be made. Borders are for people...the borderless world is for capital and the owners of capital.

Because almost all nations are deeply in debt and must at all times be dependent on international loans to survive makes it obvious that any nation that closes its borders to the dictates of international capital will not get loans....and therefore will collapse.

God's economic plan for Israel was that the nation was not only to be debt free but able to lend to other nations. Which is why you read in Deut. 15:6:

"For the Lord your God blesses you and as he promised you shall lend to many nations but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations but they shall not reign over you."

Here is my point: I have no belief or faith that either South Africa or any other country I know is going to achieve this sort of blessing from the Lord. Maybe China comes closest as they are lending to many nations and they have actually put a lot of these sorts of policies in place to lift 600 million people out of abject poverty through a combination of national socialism along with limited private enterprise.

But here is our dilemma: How do we get God's church to prosper in the midst of a failing national economy? And we here in South Africa need to wake up...forget "rainbow nation" euphoria. We are getting poorer every year, while I am typing this we are scheduled for Level 2 electricity blackouts today...2,5 hours at lunch time and 2,5 hours tonight. We are not blessed. We are not the head but the tail, we do not lend to others we are beggars to international "investors". We are at junk status on our international bonds.

....and half our nation are statistically charismatic Christians!

Where is the blessing/ Where is the prosperity? Surely with so many Christians in our land there should be blessings from heaven?

So I will now give you God's answer to Israel about a critical strategic move we need to make for prosperity. Please keep in mind that this is part of a series of blogs on steps required for addressing poverty and creating prosperity. Here is the key concept this week:

Create a Parallel Economic System....like God commanded Israel to do!

I am going to give you some eye opening scriptures now and controversial interpretations but first some context.

In your minds eye look at a map of Israel and her neighbors in about 1450 BC when these commandments went out to Israel through Moses. Surrounded by mighty nations and empires: To the south Egypt and Moab and Edom. To the north the mighty Assyrian empire. To the east the great empires of Medes, Persians, Babylonians. Small Israel in the midst of this lot. And God says...do it my way and I will bless and prosper you so that you will become the international banker to all these empires and nations. They all will want to trade with you and by your example all will want to come to the Jerusalem Temple and learn of the great God of Israel and the wise laws of the Lord.

But the key commandment....you are different. You are to have different laws, different economy, different community, different Lord God to them.

Now lets look at some key scriptures about this different economic system for Israel and the economic relation to other peoples.

Note this scripture about financial relations within the Israel community:

Deut. 23:19 ***"You shall not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money usury of food usury of any thing that is lent upon usury.***

Fine and good....but now read this:

Deut: 23:20 ***"Unto a stranger you may lend upon usury; but to your brother you shall not lend upon usury: that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you set your hand to in the land that you go to possess it."***

Can you see two parallel economic systems here? There are people who you may not be in antagonistic economic relationship with...your brothers, your community.

There are others..."strangers" ...who need to be subdued and considered enemies of your economic order. They do not have your best interest at heart. The borrower is servant to the lender, is the Biblical principle. Those types of strangers need to be harnessed by debt servitude to serve the purposes of God's agenda.

Instead what do we have today? Christians in constant debt servitude and their whole lives they serve "Mammon"...I need to make money! All decisions become monetary decisions first and foremost.

But wait what about these two scriptures....

Exodus 23:9 ***"You shall not oppress a stranger for you were also a stranger in the land of Egypt"***

Lev. 19:33-34 ***"If a stranger sojourn with you in your land you shall not vex him. The stranger that dwells with you shall be unto you as one born among you and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."***

What? Do you see an apparent contradiction here in scripture? In one scripture you may lend to a stranger upon usury but not your brother....in another scripture you must not vex a stranger (and usury is definitely a vexation!) and in fact you must love him as your self which means treat him like a brother. How does this work?

Well you see the answer is that in the original Hebrew there are "strangers" and then there are "strangers". The good stranger that you must treat like a fellow Israelite is called a "ger". A bad stranger that is a danger to you is called a "nokryi". You can lend upon usury to a "nokryi"

Throughout scripture the "nokryi" strangers are typified as enemies of God's people. Usury is a weapon of warfare against "nokryi". Israel was not to intermarry with them or have any dealings with them. (See Gen 25:2; Ex. 23:23; Deut. 17:15; Josh. 24:23; 1 Sam. 7:3; Neh. 9:2; 13:3) Israel was in constant warfare with the "nokryi" strangers.

So what are we saying:

The people of God in these dangerous economic times of collapsing economies and financial oppression must start creating a sacred space for their own economic ecology. And it must be different to the world system. I will be detailing a lot of those changes. The key point however is that we are strangers in a strange land. And in our land there are "nokryi" who mean us economic harm and then there are good "ger" strangers that we can do business with and cooperate with.

Point 1: Create a Sacred Space in every City for a Kingdom Economy

The Jerusalem church made a sacred space where the people of God could bring their gifts and blessings that provided for the needs of the whole community so that there was no need or lack in the church community.

Acts 4:32 ***"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul; neither said any of them that ought of the things that which he possessed was his own but they had all things in common....neither was there any among them that lacked..."***

Read again the end of the Bible Rev. 21&22. Once again you see the Jerusalem church at work all over the world...the New Jerusalem. Outside the new Jerusalem are the sinners of the world and a dying world that needs to be healed. But look again at what the people of God are doing there...."the kings of the earth bring their glory into the city." The same thing was happening in the book of Acts with the old

Jerusalem city church...the believers were bringing their riches into the church community to share with those in need...so that nobody lacked anything.

One of our great projects in my Jubilee prosperity program is the concept of the City Church in every city of the world....a sacred space with its own sacred dedicated economic system where the laws of God's economic system are applied for the benefit of all those in need...to create wealth and to share that wealth with those in need.

I will have more to write on this....

Point 2: The Sharing Economy

In the Kingdom economy there are so many economic transactions that are not reduced to financial transactions. We are going to be surprised at how many things can be done without the need for money to be transacted.

One of the great transformations of the internet age is the incredible rise of the sharing economy. The internet became a wonderful means for people to network on a local and national level. That meant not just social networks but sharing networks.

One great discovery was that there was no need to own so many things when we could be sharing those things with people who have them. This created the great ideas of using your car to share rides, sharing an empty room with visiting travelers, sharing a power tool or a lawnmower.

One of the things that soon became obvious in this new sharing economy was that there were "ger" strangers you can trust and "nokryi" strangers that were a community danger.

In our City Church model of a connected community across all church faiths we are going to find that there are a multitude of sharing transactions that we can do to help one another and be a blessing to our community.

This is where we can apply our own tariffs when the government will not protect jobs for the poor...we can. We can get in direct touch with fellow Christians across the nation who are manufacturing goods that we need and order direct from them in order to create jobs in the Christian economy.

These days with the technology available we can create a closed network of fellow community members that are dedicated to Kingdom economic values.

More on this as we progress with our Kingdom economy applications....

Point 3: The Mutual Owned Economy

If you cannot lend money to a brother on interest then how are we going to finance our businesses when capital is needed for expansion?

The interesting point of this restriction on how we finance Kingdom business is that instead of debt loans we will be pushed to what is known as "mutual economics". Do

you remember when insurance companies in South Africa were "mutual companies"? That meant that Old Mutual and Sanlam were owned by the insurance policy owners. This is also how businesses were first financed when the Afrikaners had no businesses...they created a mutual investment company 'Federale Volksbelegging' where everyone put their little money together so that we could finance new business start ups and become mutual share holder in the companies.

Again there are many examples I can point here. And I am going to expand on this in future blogs. The point is this...the Kingdom economy is a mutually owned economy. Everyone in the community is a share holder of some sorts. God want every one to have labour income and passive income from productive investments.

As a church we have the great minds and economists in our churches that can design these sorts of mutual banks, mutual insurance, mutual building societies, mutual investment houses. We need to bring our savings and our talents and business ideas and skills into the store house of God! There to be used to create wealth and opportunity for all our community. While also recognizing that the Lord is using so many good "strangers" to create wealth and makes discoveries who we can work with to create new world.

But we are going to have to disentangle ourselves from the evil "nokryi" who are enslaving is in debt, who are wasting the resources of the people, who are only out for themselves and their own good.

That will require the need for a dual parallel economy. And while the Lord blesses us in our economy...we can use that blessing to heal the nation and bring others who are good strangers into repentance and make them part of God's family and His economy.