

When the Pipers Come Knocking:

U.S. Debt Crisis and Oppression of the Poor

Part 1

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Many of you are undoubtedly familiar with the legend of the Piped Piper of Hamelin. As you may recall, according to the legend, during the Middle Ages, the German village of Hamelin was plagued with rats. A certain piper who was dressed in multi-colored clothing -- thus the word "pied" -- and who was said to possess a magical pipe, was called to rid the town of the rats. After performing the deed, by leading the multitude of rats to the Weser River where they were all drowned, the townspeople refused to pay the Piper the full amount for his services. Angered by this injustice, the Piper left Hamelin, only to return later; at which time he played another tune. As the legend goes, this magical tune resulted in some one hundred and thirty of the children following him out of the town. It is said that they disappeared inside of a cave, never to be seen again.

It may surprise you to know that there are modern pipers as well. However, these pipers are not musicians. Rather, they are foreign creditors. Furthermore, the United States of America dances to their woeful tune. This is because, very similar to the village of Hamelin, the United States has a serious problem. It is not a plague of literal rats. Rather, it is a multi-faceted disease known as overspending, greed and debt crisis, which has been purposely created by a nest of fiscally irresponsible government and industry "rats".

What motivated me to write this series was an interesting news article which I read in the online edition of the New York Times entitled "Party Gridlock in Washington Feeds New

Fear of a Debt Crisis". You may possibly still be able to access the article on the New York Times website at the following URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/17/business/economy/17gridlock.html?th&emc=th>

I am not by any definition of the word an economist. However, I would like to share with you a few personal observations regarding the aforementioned news article.

The simple fact of the matter is that the United States has thrived on greed -- that is, Big Business greed, Wall Street greed, Big Bankers greed, Big Government greed, and personal greed -- for many decades, at the expense of the rest of the nations of the world. Is it really any wonder then that the American economy has now reached such a precarious position? As I have mentioned before, no one can simply spend, spend, spend and live the easy, comfortable American life, and then never expect to pay the piper. In this case, one of America's biggest "pipers" is none other than communist China. Consider the following paragraph from the aforementioned article:

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"Foreign investors now own more than half of the publicly held debt, and officials for the largest creditor, China, have fretted publicly about the fiscal course of the United States. While few expect foreigners to dump their assets, since the resulting plunge in values would hurt them as well as everyone else, the fear is that investors will demand higher interest payments and reduce or stop future debt purchases, threatening the government's ability to finance its borrowing."

----- End Quote -----

There is a problem with the previous paragraph; and that is that some nations have already begun to dump their assets. As I explain in my 2007 four-part series "Saddam Hussein's Execution and the Euro Dollar War", since several years ago, quite a few nations -- including China -- have begun to dump their assets -- meaning their US dollar reserves -- and are replacing them with the euro as their currency reserve. In other words, right now, the economy of the USA is totally at the mercy of giant creditors like communist China. If China, and the rest of America's creditors, were to suddenly decide to dump the dollar completely, the USA would quickly go down the tubes, and would lose its dominant position in the world as a superpower. Likewise, if communist China and other of America's creditors were to demand higher interest payments, it would also have a very negative effect on the economy of the United States. Furthermore, if communist China and other creditors were to suddenly stop purchasing America's debt, to whom could the United States possibly turn? No one.

"So why hasn't this happened yet?" you may ask. What prevents these creditor nations from putting the United States out of its financial misery? Well, part of the answer is found in the previous paragraph that I shared from the New York Times article. We now live in such a globalized economy -- which is obviously by intentional design -- that if America's creditor nations were to abandon the dollar completely at this current

point in time, the entire world would be negatively affected to some degree. That includes China itself.

One interesting aspect of a globalized economy is that it acts as a kind of buffer or shock absorber, we might say. If one country should falter financially, the rest of the world is capable of absorbing the economic shock. However, just like a car travelling on the road, if the vehicle -- in this case, represented by the world economy -- hits too large of a bump in the road, even the shock absorber can break. This will not only result in a major shock to the passengers who are inside of the vehicle, but it may even seriously damage the car itself.

So this may be one reason why communist China, as well as other creditors, are treading carefully regarding America's current financial woes. If they act too quickly, they could upset the entire apple cart, and everyone would suffer as a result of their hasty actions. At the same time, communist China is abiding its time and taking advantage of America's dependence upon foreign creditors. While America is slowly going down the tubes in a financial sense, as well as in a political sense, China is clearly on the rise, financially, militarily and technologically speaking. Some economists now even view China as the next great superpower.

Turning to the United States, we have all witnessed what has been happening there in a financial sense since 2008. It has affected each of our lives to various degrees, as well as in different ways, some more dire than others. While American government spokespersons, shrewd economists and other members of the elite strive to convince us that the recovery is slow but nevertheless ongoing, personally, I hold to the view that if one wants to know the true state of the economy, he should not ask the man at the top who is least affected by any kind of economic downturn. Rather, he should ask the little people at the bottom who suffer the most, and who are most affected by the selfish decisions of the rich and the elite. If we do this, we quickly discover that the economic picture is not nearly as rosy as government mouthpieces would like for us to believe. A lot of people are suffering.

While certain American economists have referred to the 2008 economic downturn as the Great Recession, just imagine what would happen if the American economy were to experience total collapse. If we consider how tempers are already flaring in different sectors of the populace due to economic inequality, there is no doubt in my mind that there would be civil unrest on a wide scale which quite possibly would lead to nationwide riots, class war, anarchy and revolution. In short, given the right conditions, the USA could in fact implode, resulting in widespread suffering, starvation and death. Martial law and military dictatorship are indeed frightening terms. However, depending on the severity of the situation following a total economic collapse, that is what might very well be required in order to restore peace, and bring the situation back under control. To realize that just such a scenario rests in the hands of foreign creditors such as communist China is rather unsettling, isn't it?

Concerning China and the other creditor nations, there seems to be a secondary reason regarding why they may be hesitant

to pull the plug on the American dollar. As you may already know, for some time now, their currency reserve of choice -- that is, the euro -- has also been faltering. If you follow international news, then you are probably aware of the fact that Europe's road to financial and political unity has not been easy. Quite to the contrary, it has been long, as well as marked with difficulties. The European nations have been learning that creating a superstate comes at a heavy price. Not only does it mean surrendering certain aspects of their national sovereignty, but it also means that the stronger European nations -- such as France and Germany -- must be willing to take on the burdens of the weaker nations. One prime example of this is obviously the financial problems which have plagued Greece.

The point is, until the European nations are able to get their act together politically, militarily and financially, and the euro proves itself as a stable currency, it seems doubtful that America's creditors will consider completely abandoning the US dollar as their currency reserve. So, for now, they appear to be hedging their bets by maintaining a variety of national currencies as their currency reserve. While most Americans pay little attention to developments in Europe, they would be wise to do so; because as we have now seen, financially-speaking, America's future may very well be determined by what happens on the "old continent". Needless-to-say, America's financial wizards are probably rubbing their hands with glee as they watch the Europeans struggle to their feet as a superstate. After all, Europe's financial woes are to America's advantage, and vice versa. Thus, for now at least, the euro-dollar war will continue.

As I have mentioned before, don't think for a minute that relations between Europe and the United States are cordial. While national leaders from both sides of the Atlantic may smile and shake hands when they stand before the television cameras, the truth of the matter is that the United States and the nations of the European Union -- which is sometimes referred to as the European Economic Community or simply the European Community -- are in fact competitors when it comes to the global market. In short, the more of the economic pie that the Europe Union grabs, the less there remains for the United States of America. To say it another way, colonists may not be marching in the street complaining about taxation without representation by the king of England, and the loud rumbling of an American Revolution may not be heard in the distance. Nevertheless, subtle trade wars have continued to exist between these two continents since that time a few centuries ago. Today we simply call them "trade sanctions".

It was in fact the issue of taxation which motivated me to write this current series. In my opinion, there is so much hypocrisy on display with this situation regarding America's debt crisis, that it defies imagination. Let me offer you a clear example. Please consider the following excerpt from the aforementioned New York Times article:

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"But he is hardly alone in sounding an alarm about the long-term budgetary outlook, which has Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security costs growing at unsustainable rates and

an inefficient tax system that cannot keep up."

----- End Quote -----

The question that pops into my mind is this: Why is there an "inefficient tax system that cannot keep up"? How is it that the American government can spend billions of dollars every single year supporting US-friendly foreign governments, and spend billions of dollars annually creating weapons of war, and spend billions of dollars a year on rebuilding nations such as Iraq, and yet the United States has "an inefficient tax system" that, according to some economists, may soon be unable to sustain such important American social programs as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security? It seems that the US government has money for everything but taking proper care of its own people. As I have reminded my readers before, we are told in the Scriptures that it is shameful when one does not provide for his own household. In a larger sense, this same principle can be applied to the American government and its relation to the greater American family. The Apostle Paul wrote the following to Timothy:

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."
1 Timothy 5:8, KJV

While I am not involved in American politics, this is in fact one reason why I personally view the Tea Party Movement with a certain degree of suspicion. After all, according to some reports which I have read, a certain percentage of Tea Party members are likewise in favor of eliminating these very same social programs. This leads me to suspect that some segments of the Tea Party Movement are manipulated by the Republican Party. As the Lord asked the Prophet in the Book of Jeremiah, can a leopard change its spots? Hardly. Following is the exact verse:

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."
Jeremiah 13:23, KJV

In other words, the Republican Party can try to change what it is, even change its name or its outward appearance, but it is still what it is, and its ideology and objectives remain exactly the same. As I have mentioned before, while I support and agree with certain Republican Party positions which are in agreement with our faith -- such as their stance against abortion -- that is as far as it goes. As far as their views regarding war are concerned, I cannot possibly support them. As many of you will know, some warmongering Republicans seem to think that there is always a good reason to start a war in someone else's country, regardless of the consequences. Sadly, more often than not, those consequences are usually very bad. A nation is destroyed; many innocent people are often killed; and there are many other negative repercussions as well. It is really quite devilish what some nations and leaders are willing to do in order to extend their sphere of influence.

As my regular readers will already know, I have long promoted the belief that we Christians are supposed to strive to live in peace with God, as well as with our fellow man, as much as

lies within us. We are not supposed to resort to violence of any kind. We most certainly are not supposed to promote or support anyone's war for any cause. This doctrine of peace is made quite evident in the Scriptures by verses such as the following:

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
Psalms 20:7, KJV

"But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."
Psalms 37:11, KJV

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."
Isaiah 2:4, KJV

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."
Micah 4:3, KJV

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth . . . Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God . . . But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."
Matthew 5:5, 9, 44-45, KJV

"And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus [meaning the Apostle Peter] stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"
Matthew 26:51-53, KJV

"Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? . . . Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
John 18:10-11, 36, KJV

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
Romans 12:18, KJV

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they

not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:1-3, KJV

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."

Revelation 11:18, KJV

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Revelation 13:10, KJV

As the following verses reveal, we Christians are strictly involved in spiritual warfare against our spiritual enemies -- that is, against Satan and his demons -- as we fight for the minds, hearts and souls of men. Furthermore, our weapons are not physical, but spiritual in nature, primarily being the Word of God:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:10-12, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

On a related note, I am likewise alarmed by the fact that certain Tea Party Movement members appear to be closely affiliated with militia groups, and also support pro-gun lobbyists. As alarming as it is -- I speak as an outsider looking in -- it is evident from some of my research that some of these people are in fact preparing for an all-out confrontation with the federal government. They have been stockpiling food, weapons and survival gear. In my view it would be an extremely terrible and costly mistake; and I am convinced that they would not win if such a confrontation was to actually occur. While these misguided people have convinced themselves that violently defending the American Constitution is their patriotic duty -- even if it means losing their lives in the process -- as I point out in "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?", "The Fruits of Disobedience" and other politically-oriented articles, I do not believe that this is what God expects of His people.

Why do I say this? As we have already seen, one reason is because the Bible teaches us that we are not to engage in the wars of this present world. We are supposed to endeavor to live in peace with all men. Nowhere in the New Testament do we find Jesus or any of the Apostles violently rising up against the puppet government in Jerusalem; and much less against the government in Rome. Quite to the contrary, they were as sheep sent to the slaughter. However, that is not the only reason regarding why I embrace this view. We are also informed by the Scriptures that whether for good or for evil, God alone is the one who raises up worldly leaders and secular governments. Furthermore, the Bible reveals that God controls their hearts -- as He did when He hardened Pharaoh's heart -- and He gives a people the exact government that they deserve. These points are made evident in the following set of verses:

"Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."
Psalms 75:5-7, KJV

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."
Daniel 2:20-21, KJV

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."
Daniel 4:17, KJV

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."
Proverbs 21:1, KJV

"Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together,

and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them . . . Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king . . . And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city."

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 9-10, 18-22, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."

1 Samuel 15:23-26, KJV

Thus, because God is the one who raises up leaders and allows governments to be put in place, we are not supposed to resist them. We Christians are not supposed to rise up and oppose them. We are in fact supposed to obey the powers that be, just as long as they do not try to force us to do something which is contrary to our faith, such as deny the Lord, or restrict our witnessing endeavors. This again is Scripturally-sound doctrine which can be verified by the following sample verses:

"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing."

Matthew 5:25-26, KJV

"They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22:21, KJV

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are

God's. And they marvelled at him."
Mark 12:17, KJV

"And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."
Luke 20:25, KJV

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."
Romans 13:1-5, KJV

"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."
Titus 2:15-3:2, KJV

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."
1 Peter 2:11-17, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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End Of File

When the Pipers Come Knocking:

U.S. Debt Crisis and Oppression of the Poor

Part 2

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By The Will Of God, God's Blessings And Divine Chastisements, God's Word To Abraham, God's Rods Of Chastisement: Israelites In Bondage And Under Affliction, America Is Headed Down The Wrong Track, Divine Judgments In America, Don't Fight Against American Government, Submit Yourselves To God's Corrections, Our Kingdom Is Not Of This World, Ekklesia: Called Out Ones, Keep The Heavenly Vision, Worldliness And Backsliding, Gross Economic Inequality Between Rich And Poor, Right To Earn A Decent Living Wage, Minimum Wage And Struggles Of The Working Class, Political Favoritism And Outrageous Tax Breaks For Big Business Owners, Government Overspending Plus Huge Tax Breaks Equals Debt Crisis, Has The Money Well Gone Dry?, No Room For Advancement And Zero Hope For The Future, Forced Onto Public Assistance Programs, Warning: Ivory Towers And Bigger Barns, Economic Oppression Of The Poor And Needy By Government And Big Business Leaders, God's Concern For The Poor And Needy, God's Socio-Economic Commandments To The Ancient Israelites

Continuing our discussion from part one, as I mention in the series entitled "The Fruits of Disobedience", as well as in the series "Beholding the Evil and the Good", as Christians, it is very important that we recognize God's Will and Hand working in every sphere of our lives. In reading the pages of the New Testament, it becomes evident that this was indeed the attitude that was embraced by the First Century Apostles and Disciples. Consider the following pertinent verses:

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."
Philippians 2:13, KJV

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:"
Acts 13:36, KJV

"Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you."
Romans 1:10, KJV

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:27-28, KJV

"That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed."
Romans 15:32, KJV

"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,"
1 Corinthians 1:1, KJV

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:"
2 Corinthians 1:1, KJV

"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."
2 Corinthians 8:5, KJV

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."
Galatians 1:3-5, KJV

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:"
Ephesians 1:1, KJV

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,"
Colossians 1:1, KJV

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,"
2 Timothy 1:1, KJV

"For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"
1 Peter 2:15, KJV

"For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."
1 Peter 3:17, KJV

"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."
1 Peter 4:19, KJV

Not only do we need to learn to recognize God's blessings and opportunities -- or open doors -- but we likewise need to recognize His chastisements as well. Furthermore, we should not resist Him or His Will when He chooses to afflict us; either as individuals or as a nation. In the Epistle to the Hebrews we discover the following relevant verses where we are told to not despise God's chastisements, because they are really a token of His Divine Love, and they are for our own good:

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God

dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;" Hebrews 12:5-12, KJV

As the Scriptures also clearly reveal to us, in the case of national chastisement, sometimes the affliction can even be delivered by the hand of an extremely wicked ruler, or by an oppressive foreign government. Such was the case with the ancient Israelites -- the descendants of Jacob -- who were forced into slavery by Pharaoh and the Egyptian government, following the death of Joseph. As God had informed Abraham many years earlier, they in fact bowed down in servitude for a period of four hundred years, until God chose the time of their deliverance through the hand of Moses. Consider the following verses:

"And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance." Genesis 15:12-14, KJV

In similar fashion, the Israelites also recognized when God used the Philistines and other heathen nations as His rods of chastisement against them, whenever they rebelled against Him. Furthermore, Prophets such as Isaiah and Jeremiah told the backslidden Israelites that the armies of the Assyrians and the Babylonians were God's Hand moving against them as a result of their sins. The same thing holds true of the Roman occupation that occurred many centuries later during the time of Christ. In each case, these foreign powers were the Lord's rods of chastisement against the Jews, and He fully expected them to bow to the foreign oppressors which He sent to them.

In light of this preponderance of Scriptural evidence, it is important that Christians in America today recognize that if God places a wicked ruler and an oppressive government over them, it must be for a very similar reason. I -- as well as many other servants of the Lord -- have been warning that rebellious nation for many years now, that it is headed down the wrong track. Not only is the United States headed in the wrong direction, but by its blatant disregard for God's Laws, it is poking the Lord in the eye, and just begging for His harsh judgments. Whether or not the ungodly person it now has as president, the warmongering government which continues to attack other countries, the deepening financial crisis, the tornados, the droughts, the crop failures, the bee colonies collapse, the radiation arriving on the western shores from

the Fukushima plant, the loss of hope, the rise in racial tensions, etc., are a part of those judgments, I will leave for you to decide.

The main point I wish to emphasize here is that if the Obama administration is a part of God's judgments against America -- and I don't know if it is -- contrary to what certain Tea Party members, militias and other patriots are saying, it is not your duty to fight against it. It is in fact your duty to bow to God's Divine Chastisements and to submit yourselves to His Divine Corrections. You folks elected the man -- not just once, but twice -- just as the ancient Israelites insisted on having Saul as the first king of Israel -- and by so doing rejected the Lord -- so deal with it, and stop your whining! More importantly, get your hearts right with the Lord before the situation deteriorates any further. You really don't want to find yourselves in the hands of an angry God! Here's why:

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Hebrews 10:31, KJV

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

Psalms 9:17, KJV

There is one final reason I would like to mention regarding why you should not rise up against the American government, as some foolish people insist they will eventually do. Quite simply, as we discovered in part one, in the Gospel of John, Jesus told the Roman procurator Pontius Pilate "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." Now, if we really believe that we are the adopted sons and daughters of God through our faith in Jesus Christ, then our Kingdom isn't of this world either. Therefore, neither is it our obligation to fight against the world's corrupt governments, or to even engage in its secular affairs any more than is absolutely necessary. We should just let the children of the world deal with their own problems. After all, they are the ones who created them in the first place through their own corruption, greed and wickedness. Our duty is to faithfully serve the Lord, because that is how we can most help people.

As I amply explain in a number of other articles, God's Word informs us that we Christians are the "ekklesia"; that is to say, the "called out ones", and "the assembly" of God. That being the case, it is our primary responsibility to remain called out, separated and unpolluted by the world and its evil ways as much as possible. Consider the following verses where this message is made so very clear:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

John 17:14-15, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Philippians 2:15, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

So as I explain in articles such as "One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews" and "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?", as the adopted children of God's Kingdom, we need to make sure that we are not mesmerized by this current world, and that we maintain the Heavenly Vision at all times. After all, we are just passing through this present life, and it will soon be over. Sadly, when I share the previous group of verses with certain Christians, they become offended by them. At the very least, they attempt to justify their own heavy involvement in the world, by finding some other way to interpret the verses, even though there is really no way to misunderstand what the

verses are saying. It seems to me that such Christians have deceived themselves, and perhaps are backslidden from the Lord to some degree. Concerning people who abandon the Lord and fall back into the world, I am reminded of verses such as the following:

"Remember Lot's wife."
Luke 17:32, KJV

"Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?"
John 6:60-67, KJV

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."
2 Timothy 4:10, KJV

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."
Hebrews 10:38, KJV

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
2 Peter 2:20-22, KJV

Returning to our previous discussion regarding the Republican Party, in addition to the fact that I am firmly opposed to their warmongering nature -- not that the Democrats' record is really that much better -- neither do I agree with their overly zealous support for the leaders of Big Business and industry, who often live extravagant lifestyles, while they misuse and seriously underpay the little people who are at the bottom of the economic scale, who are responsible for their success and wealth in the first place. I believe that everyone has a right to earn a decent living wage, so that they are able to support themselves and their families at a comfortable level. That most certainly does not mean paying workers minimum wage, so that millions of American families find themselves living a stressful hand-to-mouth existence every month.

As many of you already know -- and perhaps even experience yourselves -- as a direct result of this selfish business model where people are forced to work for what amounts to peanuts, many Americans have to work at two or three jobs, just to be able to make ends meet. But the greedy business leaders really aren't concerned, because it allows them to increase their profit margin as much as they possibly can. What makes this situation even more outrageous is the fact that one US president after another has rewarded these Big Business leaders with huge tax breaks, while the middle and lower classes are taxed to death.

One excuse which is often used to supposedly justify this favoritism towards the rich, is that they are the ones who create the jobs. Therefore, they deserve to be rewarded the most through the tax breaks. Whatever the case may be, the end result is that the American economy is in fact deprived of billions of dollars in annual tax revenue, which could be used to boost the economy in so many ways. Meanwhile, there is no relief in sight for the poor who struggle daily.

This ties in directly to the issue regarding the American debt crisis, and the question concerning why the USA has, in the words of some individuals, "an inefficient tax system". As I stated earlier, I am no financial guru, but the answer seems rather obvious in my mind. It seems to me that perhaps the biggest reason why the American government has reached this point, is because in addition to rewarding Big Business leaders with excessive tax breaks which have deprived the US economy of billions of dollars in very much needed annual tax revenue, the government itself has spent way beyond its means for decades now, such as with its ridiculously expensive wars and so-called "nation-building". As a result, the money well has either gone dry, or else it will go dry soon. Alice has hit the bottom of the rabbit hole; and contrary to Lewis Carroll's version of the story, she was not met by fictional characters, but by a hard thud. Hopefully, it will knock some sense into Alice; although I doubt it. This American Alice is one hard-headed woman!

As I mentioned a moment ago, while America's privileged class lives in luxury, everyday working class Americans, along with the elderly, the sick and the poor have really been squeezed to death by taxes, by increasingly expensive health care, by a high cost of living, and by a substandard public education system which has failed to properly train children for the future. As we have seen, literally millions of these people are forced to work at minimum wage jobs with little room for advancement and zero hope for the future. With such a dismal outlook, is it any wonder that so many of them eventually throw in the towel, and end up on public assistance programs such as Food Stamps and Welfare? The way such people figure, at least their basic needs are being met that way.

Let me inform you that contrary to the distorted image that certain members of the privileged class like to convey to the public in order to try to convince people that drastic cuts to such programs as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are necessary, not everyone who is on government assistance programs such as Food Stamps and Welfare are lazy people or so-called "Welfare Queens". Yes, there is a certain level of fraud and abuse occurring, just as occurs in other areas of

American life as well. However, at the same time, we need to be honest about this and recognize that it is the excessive greed of so many of these large companies and corporations, and the inequality of the American tax system, which forces people into this dire situation in the first place, so that these public assistance programs are the only way in which many of them can possibly survive.

All the while, the rich privileged class and other elites go scot-free, and continue to live their opulent lifestyles in their ivory towers, apparently oblivious to the problems and suffering of the very people off of whom they sustain their extravagant lifestyles. Rather than share their wealth with the needy, they selfishly keep it to themselves, and simply build bigger barns in which to store it. As I thought on this issue, I was reminded of the following Parable which Jesus shared with His listeners in the Gospel of Luke:

"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:15-21, KJV

By the way, one way to be rich towards God is by sharing the wealth, and by helping the poor and the needy, exactly as we see in Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan. This point will become even more evident as we continue our discussion, and examine the Scriptures more closely.

What some callous conservatives enjoy referring to as fiscal responsibility -- that is, making drastic cuts to much needed programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Welfare and Food Stamps which serve as social safety nets -- actually amounts to economic oppression of the poor and the needy, and political favoritism towards the rich. This ongoing struggle between the excessively rich and the poor is something which has been on my heart for many years now, even though I do not talk about it all that often in my articles. However, just a few days ago I undertook a personal Bible study regarding the topic of the oppression of the poor. In a word, I was really amazed by the number of verses that I discovered which talk about this very issue. It became clear to me that God is very much against oppressing the poor. Furthermore, He is opposed to people who pay substandard wages to their employees. Not only that, but in many of the verses that I read where God is rebuking the ancient Israelites, dishonest gain, as well as the oppression of the poor and the needy, are listed as some of their primary sins.

Having stated the above, we are now going to delve deeply

into the Scriptures so that we can better understand God's point of view regarding these issues. In the pages of the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, God commanded that the following socio-economic statutes be implemented by the ancient Israelites with regards to the poor and needy:

"For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."
Deuteronomy 10:17-19, KJV

"At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."
Deuteronomy 14:28-29, KJV

"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee. And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him. And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day."
Deuteronomy 15:7-15, KJV

"When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for

the fatherless, and for the widow."
Deuteronomy 24:19-21, KJV

"And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you. When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:"

Deuteronomy 26:10-13, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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End Of File

When the Pipers Come Knocking:

U.S. Debt Crisis and Oppression of the Poor

Part 3

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The Lord's Concern For The Welfare Of The Poor And The Needy, God Blesses Those Who Help The Poor And The Needy, Israelites Chose To Disregard God's Commandments Concerning Helping The Disadvantaged, Widespread Corruption And Dishonest Financial Transactions, Murder And Casing Houses For Planned Robberies, Gifts And Rewards: Politicians Votes And Financial Bribery, Wicked Laws Purposely Written To Take Away The Rights Of The Poor In Order To Easily Rob Them, A Corrupt Marriage Between Corporate America And Washington Lawmakers, Targeting Needy Elderly And Poor In America, Unlawful Practice Of Charging Interest To Fellow Israelites, The Jews Have Taken Control Of Much Of The World By Lending Money And Charging Interest, Emperor Claudius Kicks Jews Out Of Rome, Banks And Interest, Jews Cheated Hired Laborers Out Of Their Due Wages, Failed To Pay Their Tithes And Offers To The Lord, God Is Opposed

To Paying Substandard Wages To Workers, The Minimum Wage And Selfish American Business Owners, Will America Be Judged For Committing Same Sins?, Who Controls America's Purse Strings?

Continuing our discussion from part two, it becomes evident from the previous set of verses that the reason why the Lord gave the ancient Israelites this set of socio-economic laws was because of His concern for the welfare of the poor and the needy; that is, the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, the widow, and other disadvantaged persons. Thus, God gave them this group of statutes with the added condition that if the Israelites would obey these commandments, and would reach out and assist those persons in their midst who required a helping hand, He would bless their endeavors in return.

Sadly, despite the clear mandates that the Lord gave to the Israelites through Moses regarding the treatment of the poor and the needy, it becomes very evident by the following set of verses that human greed eventually took its toll, and led to the following oppressive situation in Israel. Not only did the Israelites neglect the poor, but they intentionally chose to take advantage of them through dishonest financial transactions which only enriched themselves. This corruption was widespread and included politicians, religious leaders, financiers and moneychangers, and everyday people. Everyone was cheating each other for the sake of profit. We are told that some individuals even resorted to daytime and nighttime thievery, as well as outright murder. Consider the following verses which amply describe this woeful situation:

"Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend."
Job 6:27, KJV

"Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken."
Job 22:9, KJV

"Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days? Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof. They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge. They turn the needy out of the way: the poor of the earth hide themselves together. Behold, as wild asses in the desert, go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey: the wilderness yieldeth food for them and for their children. They reap every one his corn in the field: and they gather the vintage of the wicked. They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that they have no covering in the cold. They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and embrace the rock for want of a shelter. They pluck the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge of the poor. They cause him to go naked without clothing, and they take away the sheaf from the hungry; Which make oil within their walls, and tread their winepresses, and suffer thirst. Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them. They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof. The murderer rising with the light killeth the poor and needy, and in the

night is as a thief. The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face. In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light. For the morning is to them even as the shadow of death: if one know them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death. He is swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth: he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards. Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the grave those which have sinned. The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree. He evil entreateth the barren that beareth not: and doeth not good to the widow. He draweth also the mighty with his power: he riseth up, and no man is sure of life. Though it be given him to be in safety, whereon he resteth; yet his eyes are upon their ways. They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn. And if it be not so now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?"
Job 24:1-25, KJV

"Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble. Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it. Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless. Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none. The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land. LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress."
Psalms 10:12-18, KJV

"LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. Yet they say, The LORD shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it."
Psalms 94:3-7, KJV

"How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."
Isaiah 1:21-23, KJV

"Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless! And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from

far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?"

Isaiah 10:1-3, KJV

"For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Jeremiah 5:26-29, KJV

"Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood. In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow . . . In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD. Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee." Ezekiel 22:6-7, 12-13, KJV

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."

Ezekiel 34:2-10, KJV

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the

fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts."
Malachi 3:5, KJV

Let me point out a few more important things to you regarding the previous set of verses. Notice that Job specifically says "In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime." In other words, these thieves were casing -- or reconnoitering -- houses which they planned on robbing during the night. This sounds very similar to the times in which we currently live, doesn't it? Isaiah likewise informs us that "every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards." What is the Prophet talking about? If we study the original Hebrew words that are used in this verse-- "shachad" and "shalmon" -- we discover that Isaiah is actually talking about bribes. If we compare his words to our modern day, it could very easily be describing corrupt politicians who do not vote according to their conscience, but rather according to what is most financially advantageous to them. In other words, they are influenced by so-called political "gifts" from powerful lobbyists.

Only nine chapters later, the Prophet Isaiah declares "Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!" Wow! Just look at that! He says "unrighteous decrees". Isaiah is talking about wicked laws. What is the purpose of these laws? He says that these unscrupulous lawmakers and judges "write grievousness". The latter word is derived from the Hebrew "amal" which means toil, trouble, mischief or labor. In other words, the laws are mischievous, and purposely meant to cause trouble and hardship. But to who? Isaiah plainly states that they were written "to take away the right from the poor of my people", meaning the needy, the widows, the fatherless, etc. The laws were purposely written to take away the rights of the poor so that they would be powerless to even defend themselves.

The next question concerns who and what the poor would have to defend themselves against. Isaiah then tells us that the ultimate objective of the lawmakers and judges who designed these unfair laws was to rob the legally defenseless poor and needy. In other words, they wanted to rob Peter -- the poor man -- in order to pay Paul -- the rich man -- and give Paul even more than he already had or needed. It was pure, selfish, financial manipulation which the poor couldn't even fight against, because they had no legal rights. The laws were purposely stacked against them, and were written to protect and to favor the wealthy and the affluent.

Isn't that just amazing? This sounds so much like what is now happening in the United States, and probably in other nations as well. Modern American law is purposely written to protect companies and corporations, and their overpaid CEOs and other executives, who heavily contribute to political candidates of their choice who support their causes. This marriage between corporate America and Washington lawmakers is a very cozy -- and very corrupt -- relationship. Furthermore, it is now next to impossible for regular consumers to even sue any of these business enterprises when injustices are committed against

them, because American Big Business is now so well protected in a legal sense. What can a mistreated minimum wage employee do against powerful, high-profile corporate lawyers who know and understand the intricacies of the law inside and out?

But that is not the only way in which we can interpret these verses in a modern context. As we discussed earlier, because of America's ongoing debt crisis -- which has been made even worse by government overspending, and through the depletion of government coffers by giving preferential treatment to American corporations through huge tax breaks -- instead of withholding billions of dollars worth of aid from foreign governments; instead of putting a halt to America's foreign wars; instead of reducing actual government waste; certain conservative politicians want to attack and cut the public assistance programs which help the elderly, the sick and the poor the most: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Welfare, government subsidized housing, etc.

Just like the ancient Israelites, some of Washington's elite want to steal from the disadvantaged, and hurt the poor, who are already suffering enough, and then claim that it is their "fiscal responsibility" to do so. Of course, just as occurred with the poor and the needy of Israel, the poor people in the United States who have already been affected by these harsh, selfish decisions, have absolutely no say in the matter. They have no choice but to take what they can get. As I mentioned earlier, many of them are already without much hope and are just barely getting by.

Moving ahead in the Old Testament, you may recall that the Prophet Ezekiel exposed the sins of his fellow Jews by saying "thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion." Exactly what is meant by the word "usury". Quite simply, it means to charge interest on loans. The word "increase" means to expect more in return than what was actually lent. Aside from demanding payment by force or by issuing threats -- which is what extortion is -- the other problem is that the Mosaic Law forbade the practice of charging interest between the different tribes of Israel. It was viewed as a greedy and selfish practice. That is why Ezekiel uses the phrase "dishonest gain". Please consider the following verses:

"If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury."
Exodus 22:25, KJV

"And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase."
Leviticus 25:35-37, KJV

"Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury: Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine

hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it."
Deuteronomy 23:19-20, KJV

As the previous verses reveal, according to the Mosaic Law, it was only permitted to charge interest to foreigners. That is why it says "Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury". As I explain in articles such as "The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion", it is in fact through lending money, and particularly the greedy practice of charging interest to the Gentile world, that over the centuries, the Jews have not only enriched themselves, but they have taken control of much of the world. Consider these interesting verses that are also found in the Book of Deuteronomy:

"For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee."
Deuteronomy 15:6, KJV

"The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow."
Deuteronomy 28:12, KJV

In fact, as I believe I mention in the aforementioned series, I have long suspected that the reason why Emperor Claudius may have kicked the Jews out of Rome -- as other countries have likewise done since that time -- is because the Jewish moneychangers were gaining too much power and influence, and were beginning to take over the city, which obviously made them a threat to Roman nobility. Consider this verse that is found in the eighteenth chapter of the Book of Acts:

"And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them."
Acts 18:2, KJV

Following are some additional verses that are found in the Old Testament where the practice of charging interest to fellow Israelites is frowned upon:

"And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews. For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live. Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth. There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards. Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards. And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. And I

said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer. Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies? I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury. Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them. Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise. Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise."

Nehemiah 5:1-13, KJV

"He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

Psalms 15:5, KJV

"He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor."

Proverbs 28:8, KJV

"But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman, And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment; He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD. If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things, And that doeth not any of those duties, but even hath eaten upon the mountains, and defiled his neighbour's wife, Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination, Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him. Now, lo, if he beget a son, that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like, That hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, hath not defiled his neighbour's wife, Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the

naked with a garment, That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live."

Ezekiel 18:5-17, KJV

In total contrast to the previous verses which condemn this greedy form of usury in which one person enriched himself at the expense of another, in the New Testament, in the Parable of the Ten Talents, Jesus describes money exchangers -- or brokers and bankers -- who paid people interest as a reward for depositing their money in their bank, as we see here:

"His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."

Matthew 25:26-27, KJV

"And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?"

Luke 19:22-23, KJV

This is in fact how banks are supposed to operate. However, as we all know, many banks have become extremely greedy in our modern day, so that the interest rate which they pay on bank deposits is rather low. In some cases, paid interest is nonexistent altogether, and banks now charge a fee for just about every possible service. Such are the ways of this evil world.

Before we move on to some verses that are found in the pages of the New Testament, I would like to share one more item with you that is found in the Book of the Prophet Malachi. In fact, this may be one of the best prophetic exposés yet; because not only does it reveal one of the other sins of the ancient Israelites, but it demonstrates that this very same sin has existed for thousands of years, and is still very prevalent in the world today, including in the United States of America. I have no doubt that many of my readers will identify with this sin, because you may have very well already experienced it yourself. In the verse that I shared with you earlier, the Lord says through the Prophet Malachi "I will be a swift witness against . . . those that oppress the hireling in his wages".

In the previous sentence, the word "hireling" is derived from the Hebrew word "sakiyr", and refers to hired servants or hired laborers. At the same time, according to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, the word "oppress" is derived from the Hebrew word "ashaq". This word means to oppress, wrong, extort, defraud or to obtain deceitfully. Considering that the sentence is talking about wages and hired laborers, the sense I get is that the Lord is accusing the Israelites of not paying the hired laborers fairly. They are cheating, defrauding or deceiving them in

some way with regards to their wages. Perhaps they are not even paying them at all. At the very least, it appears that they are not paying the laborers what they truly deserve.

This notion of withholding these hired laborers' wages in some way is confirmed for us a few verses later when the Lord says that not only are the Jews cheating the laborers out of their due pay, but they are robbing Him as well by refusing to pay the tithes and offerings, which had been mandated by the Mosaic Law, as we see here:

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Malachi 3:7-10, KJV

It should be clear to you then that God is opposed to paying substandard wages to workers, or cheating them out of their wages altogether. I am sure that you can understand now why I said that many of you would relate to this sin of ancient Israel. As we learned earlier, many American businesses do the very same thing. They do not pay their employees a fair living wage whatsoever. A lot of American workers -- many of whom have one or more children -- have no choice but to work at minimum wage jobs, where they struggle just to make ends meet. As we have already discussed, many of them even have to work at multiple jobs, due to the selfishness of business owners who will do anything to raise their profit margin, regardless of the negative consequences their actions may have on their employees.

So you see, while many Christians are familiar with the fact that time and time again, the ancient Israelites backslid from the Lord by worshipping pagan gods, and even offered their own children as sacrifices to them, this was not the only thing which offended and angered the Lord. Their harsh, unmerciful treatment of the poor and the needy who dwelt in their midst, their practice of charging interest to their own brethren, their preoccupation with acquiring dishonest gain, and their sin of denying the Lord His due, were also major issues which contributed to God's repeated judgments against them.

This presents us with another very important question. If the Lord held the ancient Israelites responsible for these crimes against the poor, and judged them as a result of these sins, what can we expect for modern America which commits similar crimes against working Americans, the elderly, the needy and the poor? Should she expect to escape the Lord's righteous judgments?

At the same time, we must ask ourselves why it is that the sins which were committed by the Israelites centuries ago,

are the very same sins which are committed by America's rich and elite today. Is there a possible connection? I believe that there is. The truth of the matter is that the people who controlled ancient Israel's purse strings so many millennia ago, are the very same people who control the purse strings of the United States today. My friends, this is not just a wild, unsubstantiated conspiracy theory. If you doubt that this is so, then I encourage you to read such articles as "Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!" and "The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion".

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

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End Of File

When the Pipers Come Knocking:

U.S. Debt Crisis and Oppression of the Poor

Part 4

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Pervasive Corruption and Oppression In Israelite Society, Oppression Of The Poor By The Corrupt Israelite Priesthood, Greedy Scribes And Pharisees Devoured Widows' Houses, Jesus Vindicated The Poor Widows, Oppressed By The Rich, Proper Attitude Towards The Poor And The Needy, The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love, Corporate America Versus Joe Normal, A Shameful American Double Standard, No One Can Live On Borrowed Time And Borrowed Credit Forever, Adam And Eve In The Garden of Eden, Beware Of Enticement And Temptation, Credit Lines And The Danger Of Living Beyond Our Financial Means, Accepting Personal Responsibility For Our Actions And Decisions, The Machinations Of International Monetary Fund And World Bank, The Borrower Is Servant To The Lender, Economic Slavery Is Real In Our Modern Times, My Personal Financial Practices

As we discovered earlier in this series, the corruption and oppression which pervaded ancient Israelite society was not limited to just one area. The political leaders were guilty; the bankers and moneychangers were guilty; common everyday people were guilty; and the religious hierarchy -- meaning the priests themselves -- were guilty. It would seem that everyone was out to make a profit and acquire dishonest gain at someone else's expense; even neighbor with neighbor, and one family member with another. No doubt there were probably

some decent and honest people in the bunch, but overall, we are given a rather dark picture of the situation by those Prophets of old.

Through crafty and dishonest financial practices -- such as charging interest when they weren't supposed to, as well as paying substandard wages to hired laborers -- together with making laws which benefitted the wealthy and the powerful while at the same time negating the rights of others, the widow, the fatherless, the stranger, the poor and the needy were simply oppressed more and more. The sad thing is, this oppressive situation came to be viewed as normal. The people became so hardened in their hearts that they did not even care. Perhaps the biggest tragedy is that the very people who were supposed to represent the Lord and be a spiritual beacon to the Israelites, -- that is, the priesthood -- were guilty of these crimes just like everyone else. This becomes evident by verses such as the following:

"For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, AGAINST THE PRIESTS THEREOF, and against the people of the land."

Jeremiah 1:18, KJV

"The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law [Mosaic Law] knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit . . . As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets,"

Jeremiah 2:8, 26, KJV

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Jeremiah 5:31, KJV

Despite the warnings which the Lord gave to the Israelites by way of His true Prophets in the Old Testament, there was no true, long-lasting repentance; tragically, not even by the priesthood. It becomes evident by the following verses that the very same kind of oppression against the poor and the needy continued -- even during the time of Christ -- which is exactly why Jesus did not hesitate to expose their selfishness and cruelty. In these verses, the Lord condemns the greed of the Scribes and the Pharisees who used the Law to financially abuse the widows of Israel:

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for YE DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Matthew 23:1-4, 14, KJV

"And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: WHICH DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."
Mark 12:38-40, KJV

"And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers [teachers of the Mosaic Law]! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."
Luke 11:46, KJV

"Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; WHICH DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation. And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."
Luke 20:46-21:4, KJV

I find it rather interesting that the very people which the Jewish priesthood financially abused -- the poor widows -- were the same people who Jesus chose to vindicate in the previous story. In the following verses, the Apostle James likewise points out that the people who have been despised, financially oppressed and abused, and even sued in court by the rich who try to suck every penny out of them, are in fact not only rich in faith, but are also the true heirs of God's wonderful Kingdom:

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"
James 2:5-8, KJV

Tragically, as we saw earlier in this series, such dishonest practices continue to happen in our current time as well all around the world, as the rich become richer, and the poor become yet poorer, as they are oppressed by the rich and the elite who refuse to pay them a decent living wage. How much longer can this situation continue? To reiterate, the verses which follow demonstrate the compassion for the poor and the needy that God demands of all of us, beginning with national governments which possess the means to lighten the burden of the afflicted:

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27, KJV

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."
James 2:14-17, KJV

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel . . . If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."
1 Timothy 5:8, 16, KJV

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."
Isaiah 1:16-17, KJV

"For if ye throughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever."
Jeremiah 7:5-7, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word, And say, Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates: Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place."
Jeremiah 22:1-3, KJV

"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart."
Zechariah 7:9-10, KJV

"Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him. A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."
Psalms 68:4-6, KJV

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for

ever: Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down." Psalms 146:5-9, KJV

"When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me: Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth." Job 29:11-17, KJV

"If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof; (For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father, and I have guided her from my mother's womb;) If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering; If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep; If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate: Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone. For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure. If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence; If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much; If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above. If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him: Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul. If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied. The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller." Job 31:16-32, KJV

As the Apostle James wisely wrote, what it all comes down to is striving to live our lives in accordance with God's Royal Law, which is "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." If we truly abide by this sacred rule, we will not do anything which will harm him in any way. We most certainly will not try to swindle him out of his hard-earned money by engaging in dishonest practices. We will not lay upon him heavy tax burdens which he cannot possibly bare. We will pay him fair and decent wages for his work. We will not pass laws which make him powerless before courts and corporations. We will offer him generous assistance when he happens to fall under hard times, and we will not expect anything in return beyond what was actually lent. In short, we will treat him in the same exact way that we would expect to be treated if we were

in his position.

Sadly, as we have clearly seen, this is not the way that the modern world operates. Corporate America has a stranglehold on the American public, and their political puppets in the nation's capital bow to their every whim. Furthermore, the national economy is controlled and manipulated by an entity which is not even a real federal agency, which has no real federal oversight, and which has been controlled by Jews for literally decades. Of course, I'm referring to the so-called Federal Reserve, which is actually a privately-held entity that is controlled by powerful bankers. America's economic pulse is completely in their hands. Conduct your own serious research if you doubt any of these statements.

Let there be no doubts regarding the political favoritism that occurs in Washington, D.C. In recent times we have all been witnesses to the fact that when the excessive greed of Big Bankers and Big Business -- the automobile industry for one -- was shamefully exposed, instead of being punished for their sin of avarice, they were rewarded with huge financial bail-outs totaling billions of dollars. Yet if little people such as you and I miss paying our rent for a month, or don't pay our utility bills on time, or miss a car payment, uh-oh, watch out! Where is the equality? Where is the justice in such actions? Are all men truly created equal, or is it just a national motto that slick politicians like to spout off in order to harness the sense of patriotism of their gullible constituents? This American double standard is shameful!

While I have targeted the rich and the elite in this series, and pointed out their sins against the common working man, at the same time, we need to be fair about this. Having said that, it is important that we all recognize that regardless of who we are, or where we live, or what our economic status may be, the bottom line is that absolutely no one can live on borrowed time and on borrowed credit forever; because eventually, those pipers will come knocking, and will demand payment in full. If and when that happens, what will we do?

To our own shame, living on borrowed time and on borrowed credit is precisely what a lot of Americans have done for decades now. Furthermore, people in other countries do the exact same thing. It seems that this desire to always want more, and not being satisfied with what we already have, is a part of our sinful human nature. Isn't that precisely what resulted in the rebellion and downfall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden so long ago? Think about this a moment. Adam and Eve were the most perfect couple who lived in the most perfect place on Earth. Despite that fact, they were not satisfied, and they desired more. When an opportunity presented itself for them to grab more than what they really needed, they yielded to temptation. That vile serpent Satan poisoned Eve's mind, and deceived her, and we have suffered the consequences of her foolish decision ever since then. Consider the following verses:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of

the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."
Genesis 3:1-6, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
2 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."
1 Timothy 2:11-14, KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."
Romans 5:12-19, KJV

Ironically, the powerful tactic of enticement and temptation is exactly the same strategy that is used by the privileged class and the money-hungry merchants of the world to keep the oppressed working class and the poor under their thumb as well. The way that they accomplish this is by enticing people with nice things which dazzle the eye; with luxury items that perhaps people do not really need, such as a late-model car, or a 52" plasma television set, and similar items. Realizing that many people can't afford these things, they offer them a line of credit so that they can transform their desires into reality. In short, these crafty bankers and merchants tempt people to live beyond their means. But what many people don't realize, is that while that credit may initially seem like a blessing -- because it results in instant gratification -- it is the interest on that line of

credit that may eventually bring them to financial ruin if they are not careful.

Furthermore, once one sees how easy it can be to borrow money from a bank -- assuming, of course, that they have some form of collateral -- or to start using credit cards and such, it can easily become an uncontrollable addiction, as a lot of people have sadly found out, but only too late. Before long, one has accumulated so much debt through different loans and lines of credit, and the interest which has accrued on them, that they have dug themselves into a financial hole out of which they will never be able to pull themselves. The end result is personal bankruptcy, emotional trauma, hardship, and embarrassment.

As tragic as it is, is it really any wonder that in recent times some people have lost their homes, their life savings and even more? While I truly feel sorry for those people who find themselves in such dire situations, and while it may be difficult for certain people to hear, we must be honest with ourselves and admit that we cannot always blame our problems on the government, or on Big Business greed, or even on Wall Street. At some point, personal responsibility has to enter the picture, and we must all choose to live within our means, and not overextend ourselves financially. We must also learn to accept the consequences of the decisions that we have made throughout our lives, including our financial decisions. The buck has been passed around so much, that it is totally worn out now, and we need to stop trying to blame others for our personal mistakes and failures.

In the larger world picture, the aforementioned tactics have likewise resulted in some poor nations of the world becoming indebted to the rich nations; and more specifically, becoming heavily indebted to global financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Some of these poor countries desired to emulate the richer industrialized nations, and so the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank made it possible for them to do so by extending lines of credit to them. But then, when these poorer countries found themselves unable to pay back their loans, and much less the interest on those loans, these organizations made even more stringent demands on them.

In other words, these countries were forced to adopt certain fiscal policies which these powerful organizations demanded of them, if they expected to remain financially afloat. In certain cases, some of these financial agreements undermined their national sovereignty. As a result, now, years later, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank basically run entire countries by controlling their national economy. But this should really come as no surprise to us. After all, the Bible plainly warns us in the Book of Proverbs regarding what happens when one decides to borrow money. Consider the following verse and take heed:

"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."
Proverbs 22:7, KJV

Please don't ever forget that verse. The truth of the matter is that the very minute that you borrow money from someone,

or from some financial institution such as a bank or a credit agency, you have indebted yourself to them. You have in fact surrendered a small degree of your personal liberty, and made yourself their servant, to do as they demand, if and when you overextend yourself, or fail financially altogether. And the more that you borrow money from them, the more you transform yourself into their slave. So while Southern slavery may have been abolished decades ago, and while whips, balls and chains may be a thing of the past, I can assure you that economic slavery is very much with us today all around the world, both on a personal level, as well as on an international level. It existed millennia ago, and it continues to exist today.

It might interest you to know that in my personal life, I have always strived to live within my means. As strange as it will probably seem to some of you, until four years ago, I never even owned a single plastic card, and I am not exactly a Spring chicken anymore. The only reason why I finally got one -- it is actually a debit card that was offered to me by my bank, and not a real credit card -- was so that I could make online payments for items that are related to the EPN ministry, such as purchasing necessary software, paying for annual domain name registrations, etc. I occasionally use it for personal necessities as well.

As many of you will know, unlike a credit card, a debit card is only worth as much money as one actually has in their bank account at any given time. Thus, when a purchase is made, the amount is deducted -- or debited -- from the account. In my particular case, my savings are a rather meager amount, and just barely cover utility bills for a few months. But insofar as actual credit cards are concerned, it is my personal view that purchasing something based on future financial prospects and projected income is just plain foolishness, because one never knows when something might go wrong, and projections may prove to be inaccurate. It is playing financial roulette.

I live a rather tight, frugal, budgetary life; but to me, it is worth it; because living in this manner spares me some of the many headaches and worries which plague those people who are enticed by things, and who have adopted the bad habit of overextending their credit cards. My primary financial rule of thumb has long been that if I have the money in hand to purchase something, then I will do so. On the other hand, if I want something bad enough, but I don't have the money, then I will simply exercise the necessary discipline and save up the money -- no matter how long it may take me -- until I do have enough to purchase the item in question. It is safe, it is simple, and it works. Of course, living by this financial rule obviously teaches one a lot of patience, and it helps one to better appreciate the item when it is finally gotten.

The closest that I personally have ever come to credit, is when I purchased a living room set, and then a stereo combo, a number of decades ago using a payment system that is called "layaway". However, technically-speaking, "layaway" really is not the same as purchasing something on credit, because one cannot even take the item home until after he has made all of the payments, or installments. Believe me; not being able to take the item home immediately does motivate a person to make those payments as quickly as possible.

At any rate, I believe that the financial discipline which I have practiced in my personal life is really the only safe way to operate if one truly wants to have peace of mind. As a result of living in this fashion, there is not a lot of financial pressure in my life. I don't owe anyone anything, and that is just the way that I like it. I do not have a sword hanging over my head. I don't have the IRS knocking at my door. I don't have collection agencies hounding me on the telephone. I don't have banks coming after me. I don't have people threatening to take me to court. How about you?

Please go to part five for the conclusion of this series.

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End Of File

When the Pipers Come Knocking:

U.S. Debt Crisis and Oppression of the Poor

Part 5

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Strive To Live Within Your Financial Means, Resist The Temptations Of The World, Treasures In Heaven, Be Content With What You Have, We Cannot Take It With Us, Closing Remarks For Citizens Of America, Reading Resources List

If there is one lesson that I hope you take away from this series, it is that we all need to learn to live within our means, and simply be satisfied with that. We must not allow ourselves to be overly enticed by the things of the world. As I pointed out in part two, we all need to remember the wise words of the Apostle John who wrote the following:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

Following are some additional verses that are found in both the Old and the New Testaments where we are advised to live within our means, and to be content with the things that we

have, not desiring too much more, realizing that when we leave this current life, we certainly cannot take any of it with us. Better it is to store up eternal treasures in the Kingdom of Heaven:

"As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand."
Ecclesiastes 5:15, KJV

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also . . . No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon . . . But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33, KJV

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
Mark 8:36-37, KJV

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."
John 6:27, KJV

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
Philippians 4:11, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."
1 Timothy 6:6-8, KJV

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5, KJV

In conclusion, if Americans as individuals, and if America as a nation, lived within their means, and stopped being so greedy, and so wasteful, and stopped living on borrowed time and borrowed credit, they would not now find themselves in their current debt crisis and fiscal dilemma. The American government needs to adopt a more equitable tax system, where the privileged class carries its fair share of the national tax burden. Political favoritism is unjust and unpatriotic, and it must be done away with. It is the failure of the US government to take this necessary step, which has resulted in undue hardships on working class Americans, and it has only served to fuel discontent amongst the masses. If the leaders of America don't correct this situation, the pipers -- foreign creditors -- may come knocking at your door soon,

demanding full payment. Then what will you do?

With these sobering thoughts I will bring this series to its conclusion. It is my hope that you have found it both interesting and informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you happen to have an account with either Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server.

Beholding the Evil and the Good
Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution
Going Down the Highway of Life
Have You Sold Your Soul for a Pound of Flesh?
Is the KJV Bible the Inerrant Word of God?
Killing and the Phinehas Priesthood
Killing, Murder and Military Duty
Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement
Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy
Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews"
Saddam Hussein's Execution and the Euro Dollar War
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?
The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion
The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love!
Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!

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