

Miracle Money or Kingdom Prosperity?

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The journey by the Israelites from Egyptian bondage through the wilderness and into the promised land is a good metaphor for what your financial status is. Financially you are in one of three places: In Egypt, a wage slave to Pharaoh (big government handouts or corporate lackey) living from paycheck to paycheck; or in the wilderness needing a financial miracle to survive; or in the promised land enjoying security and prosperity from your own income producing assets (cattle, vines, trees, land). God's prosperity plan for His people does not lie in government or corporate handouts, or in miracle money from "seed faith" but in abundant prosperity from real wealth producing assets. Here's how...

I have been around a long time in the evangelical movement around the world, read a lot of books, seen a lot of ministry, attended a lot of conferences and meetings and I can honestly tell you that I have yet to see, read or hear any preacher give a biblical based exposition on how to "create wealth". I hear a lot about how to get money or how to get a miracle but nothing on whether God actually has a blueprint for wealth creation.

I purposely make this distinction because unfortunately many Christians are getting swept up in a "something for nothing" craze whereby prosperity can be created instantly and miraculously. Several weeks ago I tuned into TBN and saw an American preacher "performing" in a church in East London with a supposed "anointing" for making money miraculously appear in your wallet or your bank account. The key to unlock this miracle power of course was to make money appear in his offering plate and so the people streamed forward to provide this preacher with his own prosperity miracle. Personally I doubt any of them suddenly found money appearing in their wallets as they drove home that day nor miraculous mistakes on their bank balance readings.

Do I believe in miracles? Of course I do and so do all of you reading this article. Can the Lord miraculously provide for those in need? Of course He can and does! Anyone who has done any sort of ministry knows how many times you need a miracle whether financial or in guidance or in healing and you call on the Name of the Lord, Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who will supply and God wonderfully and graciously answers our prayers. Yes He can change water into wine and multiply five loaves and two fishes to feed the multitudes.

What I dispute is that you can manipulate God in such a way that you can produce miracles as needed by following some prescribed process. A miracle is just that, a miracle of grace whereby the Lord graciously answers prayers of supplication and faith and extends grace to us.

His graciousness is not extended to us on the basis of our works such as a formula we are faithfully following but on the finished work of Christ on the cross.

What I also dispute is the idea that the Lord wants us to live and prosper by "miracles". There is a time for miracles of healing, miracles of guidance, miracles of financial provision. But then there is a time also for healthy living to prevent sickness, a time to exercise Godly wisdom in our decisions in life and hard work, skills and savings to produce a lifetime of abundant prosperity.

So let me explain my Israel analogy to give you an idea of where you are financially and how to move on to where you really want to be: Promised Land Prosperity! And let me add this; I have been in all three places and I really prefer being in Promised Land Prosperity.

Working in Egypt as a wage slave...

Most of you reading this are in this situation. Like the Israelites in Egypt you are in actual fact in financial bondage to a financial system that has turned you into a wage slave. Like the Israelites working for Pharaoh they earned a barely living wage working on some corporate boondoggle building monuments to someone's corporate ego. You put in your time every day and you get a check at the end of the month which barely keeps you going till it runs out. Any purchase above bare necessities means you have to go to the bank and borrow money to be paid for out of future earnings at horrible interest rates.

Now believe me I am not really knocking working for the corporate/government bosses. I was for many years out there "living by faith" needing constant miracles to keep surviving trying to minister as best I could with no visible financial support except odd jobs here and there. I finally gave that up and applied for a job at major international Japanese corporation. I cannot describe to you the joy and relief of that monthly paycheck and company car!

I thank God for companies that provide employment for people and useful products and services for the marketplace. I thank God for the entrepreneurs that take the risks to start great companies that enrich our lives with goods and services while increasing work opportunities for the unemployed.

But you need to understand the limitations of the corporate government state. It is not going to provide prosperity for the majority of the people and that includes Christians who believe in tithing their way to prosperity. The economic facts of life are clear in the economic statistics around the world. More than 90% of working people will not have enough money to retire on when they finish their working lives. 80% of the world's financial assets are held by 10% of the population. That means 1% of the world that are the business owning entrepreneurs and the other 9% who are the top of the corporate management and professionals. For the rest of the 90% working wage earning population are destined to live from paycheck to paycheck, always in debt and hoping and praying that they do not lose a job, have an accident or get seriously ill.

And now for the really bad news. Even those who have jobs and think they have security are now facing an economic crisis as the world moves into the Second Great Depression. The financial collapse is well under way and government promises of support in the form of pensions, welfare and medical aid are not going to be honored. An aging Baby Boomer generation, mountains of unpayable debt and shrinking tax base will see to that.

So here comes the Wilderness Wanderings of miraculous supply...

The Wilderness Experience

To motivate the Israelites to leave their secure wage slave jobs working for Pharaoh, Moses promised to take them to a land flowing with milk and honey where each man will sit under his own fig tree and own his own vineyard. He of course forgot to tell them that they will first have to cross a desert wilderness to get there.

The desert wilderness is a place of lack where you are short of everything and where you are placed in a situation where if the Lord does not give you a miracle then you are not going to make it. Have you ever been there? If you have ever decided to become a disciple of Jesus and take up the cross and follow Him then I assure you the desert wilderness experience is unavoidable. It is where you learn a lot of lessons from the Lord. It is where you cross the Red Sea and get deliverance from Satan; It is where you have a mountain top experience at Sinai where the Lord manifests His presence and His power. It is where you learn to get divine guidance from the moving glory cloud; it is where you get miraculous healing by looking to the cross; it is where you miraculously get your daily bread. But for all the wonderful miracles and testimonies of God's provision and faithfulness, you are still in the wilderness! A lot of preachers will try to build their entire ministries to you on leading you around the wilderness like Moses. Lots of miracles, lots of glory clouds.

But it is not where the Lord meant for you to live and die. And yet that unfortunately is where most of the church is right now. Wandering around in circles year after year from one meeting to another, charismatic leaders with a direct word from God, wonderful testimonies of power, guidance, provision and fellowship. But after decades of this don't you get the feeling...it's time to move on! Surely the Lord has more for us?

The Promised Land

Most evangelical preachers if course teach that the "promised land" is really The Millennium and it is only when Jesus physically sits on a real throne in Jerusalem will we have peace and prosperity. You see all the giants and walled cities over there sitting on top of God's promised land for you? Well you cannot really overcome them, since it belongs to the Antichrist and it will take 144,000 Jews and the personal coming of Jesus to bring peace and prosperity so just wait for the Rapture to take you out of the wilderness and until then don't worry God has a miracle of prosperity for you right there in the wilderness (just bring your tithes to the Temple!).

I don't mean to sound cynical or lighthearted when dealing with a serious matter of great importance but I need to get your attention. I don't accept any of this "prosperity in the wilderness" preaching or any suggestion that we cannot with God's power and His Word go in and possess the land that God has given to us and that land will produce for us peace and prosperity that the Lord has ordained as our normal everyday experience! This is what His Word has promised us and I refuse to accept anything less. So let me get real practical here and define for you how the Lord described His promised prosperity to His people and how we are meant to achieve this.

Dual Income Prosperity

The Lord promised the Israelite wage slaves in Egypt that He is taking them to a land where each person will own their own vineyard and each sit under their own fig tree. (see Deut 8 and Mal.4:4) A land of productive assets that they will own! Now if you analyze the Lord's promises of the promised land and its inventory then you see His plan for true prosperity is two fold:

- He promises you to own productive assets
- He promises to give you power to create wealth (Deut 8:18).

This plan of God describes a two fold income plan for you:

- income from productive work that creates wealth
- Income from productive asset investments or what we call "passive" income.

This prosperity plan of God recognizes a number of economic truths that any competent economist can confirm to you. Let me enumerate them for you:

- You cannot gain financial independence from just wage income.
- You need to have investments in productive assets that give you second income stream.

When the Lord said He is giving them their own vines and fig trees and cattle and land, these are all wealth producing assets that will keep on producing for you even while you sleep and go on holiday. That is one income stream.

The other income stream is when He gives you the power to create wealth (Deut. 8:18). This is where you add skills and sweat equity to take a product and transform it into a higher value. Vines produce grapes but you have to add value and make wine; land produces wheat but you must make bread; milk comes from cows but you have to make the cheese and butter.

I told you I have been in a financial wilderness and I have been a wage earner with a big corporation. But even with a good salary and benefits I never really prospered. Only when I started my own business and invested in a factory, capital equipment and hired workers making a good product needed in the market place have I become prosperous. While I do my ministry work my capital assets (factory, equipment and workers) are producing income for me above what I need for myself. This enables me to support others in need and my ministry. This is prosperity that I believe the Lord wants for all of us. You will not be able to work for a wage all your life but you will need an income all your life. But not everyone can start a business and in fact not many are called to do that. So I cannot tell you that I am an example for you to follow. So how do we make sure that everyone can have income producing passive investments as well as wage income and enjoy debt free abundance that not only supplies your needs but with more than enough left over to help others as well?

Financial advisors reading this will immediately respond to this question by saying, well if you save and invest your money all your life and invest in a good pension fund or buy unit trusts or good property you can end up comfortable at retirement. That sounds good in theory but in practice the world's financial systems are toppling, so where are you supposed to invest safely for an income in 20 or thirty years time? How many people you know invested in a pension all their lives and now cannot make ends meet with the ever increasing costs of living? The reality is that the productive assets and wealth of the world are owned by a small majority of the population and the world financial and political systems are so organized that in fact this reality will never change with the current world system.

No Prosperity for the Masses

Under the current structure of the world financial system the broad masses of people will never come out of debt and out of poverty. And now I am going to say something that is going to make a lot of preachers angry and it is this: No amount of tithing is going to change that fact. Why? Because nations and economies that do not obey the economic laws for prosperity that the Lord laid down in His word will not prosper regardless of how many people are tithing. Proof? Economic statistics will show you that average American family income adjusted for inflation was highest in the mid-1970's and has been going down ever since then.

The decline in American family income started at the same time that "prosperity preaching" became popular in America and that economic decline has continued ever since regardless of the fact that 30-40% of the American population declare themselves to be "born again" Christians. During this time America turned from being the world's largest creditor nation to the largest debtor nation despite all the tithing and prosperity preachers and despite "blessing Israel" with massive amounts of foreign aid (supposedly another sure fire guarantee to prosperity).

Take an honest assessment among evangelical believers anywhere in the world whether America, Nigeria, Brazil, South Africa and I promise you God's people are wandering in a wilderness of financial hurt urgently praying for a financial miracle. Every now and then a successful Christian businessman or sportsman or media personality is trotted out as an example that you too can be prosperous and successful if you persevere with your "seed faith" giving. So let me be brutally honest with you...it's not going to happen while you are economically active in this Babylonian World Economic System.

No Lack Among Them

I refuse to accept poverty as a way of life among God's people. I believe in the New Testament church that had this testimony in Acts 4:35, "Neither was there any among them that lacked..." I believe the Lord made a world full of abundance to meet all our needs. I believe the Lord of Deuteronomy 28 that all these blessings of abundance will overtake us when we obey His commandments; He will open the treasures of heaven and earth for us and we will lend to others and not borrow. We will be blessed in the city and the field, our storehouses (savings accounts) will overflow and we will overflow with productive assets (sheep, cattle, land and vines).

Is this what you are experiencing? Is this what your church fellowship is experiencing? Lets be honest...no it is not. What are we going to do about it? Do you want to move into Biblical prosperity for yourself and the church? Well then we have to go in and possess the land from the giants and walled cities that are squatting on our promised land. God said that we must obey His laws if we are to experience His promised prosperity. That means the Law of the Lord must rule in our economic space. And it is in that economic space that the world Corporate/Banking and Political Elite are squatting. And their function is to turn you into a worker/consumer a wage slave lackey, a subject of the corporate state; while power and financial assets are accumulated in their hands.

Here is the result of their law and their rule in the land: husband and wife will have to work because one income will never be enough to raise a family; your children will spend years in an educational system that will never impart to them any skills for productive work; after a life of work you will not be able to retire in comfort; you will always pay more in taxes than the corporations; the corporations will increase their assets and income while families will be decapitalized and their earnings eroded by inflation over time; the vast majority of the population will end up in poverty for these reasons:

They must bear the enormous tax burdens of paying for an ever increasing bureaucracy that pay themselves huge salaries and perks and never produce anything useful; they must pay huge interest costs to banks for using money that was created of nothing and loaned at interest to the people (called fractional reserve banking) and they must work for absolute minimum wages from corporations who have a thousand and one loopholes for avoiding tax and then when those low wages cannot buy all the production that the corporations are able to push out of their factories then the banks will lend the workers next year's salary to buy this year's production.

The result? The laws are so skewed against the individual and the family and so in favor of government, corporations and banks that huge amounts of financial and fixed assets are accumulated by the corporate/banking and government elites. The mass of people are impoverished. Can a family get a tax deduction for the expenses incurred in producing and raising children? Tax deductions for house payments, food, electricity, transport? No. Can a corporation get tax deductions for the costs of producing widgets? Yes. Factory payments, production inputs, electricity, transport all these costs of production are tax deductible or accounted for before net income is declared and then taxes are paid on net income at a lower rate than what a family pays. A family is taxed on gross income at a higher rate and then with what is left over must pay their costs of living.

God's Laws for National Prosperity

God gave Israel laws that they were to implement over their promised land in order to create conditions for prosperity. We will need to do the same in our economic space. Here are some of the things that God required of Israel:

- They are not to have a king over them but were to be ruled by God's law. We call this type of government a Republic, the rule of law. That means acting within the limits of God's constitution and not mob rule.
- They must not have one strong central government but must disperse power by dividing the nation into tribes (provincial governments), that means limited government responsive to local needs.
- Each person has a right to private property which does not belong to the state and cannot be taxed.
- There is to be debt forgiveness every 7 years which amounts to limited liability, which encourages entrepreneurship and risk taking
- They were to have equal weights and balances which means that God hates inflation of the money supply but requires sound money and equitable trade relationships.
- Every fifty years the land was to be returned to the original family owners (the Jubilee). Land was the major productive asset and this means that the Lord wants each family to be shareholders in the productive assets of the nation.

This economic and political program was introduced to humanity in about 1460 BC but would only be implemented by the Reformation 3000 years later leading to the limited international prosperity we have today.

There are many other economic laws in the Bible that the Lord has given to us to create abundant prosperity. I have only given a few. But history has shown us that as the Reformation Gospel broke the power of Feudalism and these principles began to be implemented first in England then America and then other nations, wealth creation multiplied. When China and Russia dumped communism wealth was created. Unfortunately we are moving back into a Neo-Feudalism state of powerful corporate/government control over the people creating wage slaves and national poverty and bankruptcy. It is we Christians who will have to once again re-establish God's economic laws over our communities to create prosperity.

It Takes a Community and God's Law

To solve poverty takes a community of believers who apply the Laws of God to the economic realm. We are going to have to create new entities that a whole community of believers can participate in to create wealth and share in that wealth. We know we need capital investment which means we need savings. But our savings are going into the banks who use that to capitalize the corporations without any benefits to us. So we need to set up our own institutes that will channel our savings into our own productive enterprises and dispersing shares among the community so we can share in the profits.

We need to provide proper training and skills to our children to prepare them for real productive work. That means our own schools and colleges.

We need to absolutely limit our interactions with sinners to the barest minimum. When you live among sinners you need police, prisons, accountants, lawyers, bureaucrats and endless laws to protect yourself from their rapacious lusts to steal, con and thieve their way to your money and property. Living and working among sinners greatly increases the overhead costs of producing wealth.

You can see where I am heading with this. The question is can it be done? The answer is definitely yes more so now than at any other time. Technology is now available to make private currencies possible (e.g. Bitcoin), community and local economies are now possible, own education systems for local communities are now possible. What I am saying is that we create our own Covenant Communities that operate under Biblical economic principles. These communities then create a parallel economy to the national and international economy interacting with them when it is to our benefit. We start from the bottom up; food security and renewable energy from Agri-Villages (like Israeli Kibbutz), agri-processing, light manufacturing, national trading on our own internet system supporting Christian businesses, our own banking, schools, technicians. The world evangelical community is over 500 million strong and by 2020 we will be 1 billion! Can you imagine a world parallel economic system of 1 billion productive Christians? Can you imagine the wealth creation? I can and I believe it is going to happen. Why? Because Babylon is falling and the Kingdom is rising and the Gospel is still good news to the poor of the world that when righteous people rise up the earth filled with God's abundance and glory!