

Kingdom Report

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Joseph : God's Economic Hit Man in Egypt

Here is an economic insight for our times. We miss the end of the Joseph economic story. His economic plan to enslave the people of Egypt to Pharaoh...to start a rebellion, and exodus and liberation. God's plan and strategy for our times.

When John Perkins best seller book "Confessions of a Hit Man" came out in 2004 I was immediately reminded of the Biblical story of Joseph in Egypt. Not all the wonderful spiritual truths we like to preach from this amazing man of God, but Joseph's economic policy and its effect on Egypt and eventually the Hebrew rebellion and exodus.

John Perkins gave us a glimpse into the world of big government and big finance and how they work to bring smaller nations into debt bondage. They send advance men like Pirkens with inducements and plans. The main message of "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man" is the unethical and manipulative practices employed by economic hit men to offer big loans for big un-workable projects to extend the influence and control of the United States and large corporations over developing countries. This is achieved primarily through the imposition of huge loans that are difficult to repay, thereby ensuring the political and economic dependence of these countries on the United States. That was Perkins' job.

We know the story about how Joseph saved his family in time of economic distress and helped them to prosper. But there as another part here about what Joseph was sent to Egypt for and given favor by God so that he was appointed Prime Minister under Pharaoh to run the entire economic program of the nation. His economic plan was to use his foreknowledge of agricultural market conditions for the next 14 years to do a total leveraged market buyout of all the moveable and immoveable assets of the nation of Egypt and transfer those assets to the Pharaoh. And then after dispossessing the population of their assets turn them into serfs and peasants working for Pharaoh.

Sounds harsh? Yes and there was a reason why the Lord prospered Joseph in this economic strategy which I will explain. Because there is a message for us here about what God is doing in the world economic sphere to bring liberation and Jubilee.

First let me quote you the relevant passage from Genesis

Gen 41:53 - 55 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and

Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

Gen 47:16-24 *And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail. And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year. When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands: Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof. Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands. Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land. And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.*

Every market trader would give anything to know what the commodities market was going to do for certainty for the next 14 years. You would get a big investor with deep pockets (Pharaoh) and corner the market when grain was cheap, store it and then sell when the price is high. And as the famine kept on year after year the liquidation of assets by the people to buy at ever higher prices would proceed...first cash, then moveable assets like cattle, then productive fixed assets like property.

The only ones that Joseph spared were the big corporate interests....priests and temples. They came out of the great depression with all their land assets intact. Since the farms were not producing there was enormous unemployment so Joseph moved them to the cities where they can work for Pharaoh, army, construction etc and their pay was daily bread.

When the time came that the drought ended Joseph could lease out Pharaoh's massive land properties to peasant farmers on 20% tax rate. But the properties belonged to the crown. The people were landless peasants.

However tax rates did not stay that way. Scripture tells us that after the death of Joseph there rose a Pharaoh that did not know Joseph. And the velvet glove came off the iron fist. I know we know all about the Israelites in bondage in Egypt. But the reality was the whole nation was in bondage to Pharaoh. He and the corporate religious establishment owned all the fixed assets of the land. Thanks to Joseph.

If you think I am being too harsh on Joseph I will give you an additional important piece of information. What Joseph did not do. He did not at the end of the 14 years when the weather changes and the depression ended he could have forgiven all the peoples debt to the government and returned the title to their land back to the people.

He could have because that was the practice set out hundreds of years before by Hammurabi the king of Babylon and practiced by other potentates of the time. Debt forgiveness was regularly done by decree by the kings of the region in order to stimulate production and productivity and prevent money lenders from accumulating too much land.

I discovered this very interesting economic history while studying Jubilee Economics. I refer you for your own studies if you wish to "Debt the first 5000 years" by David Graeber and "Forgive them their debts" by Michael Hudson. They record as example Hammurabi's Dynasty (1894 - 1600 BC) with many royal decrees of debt cancellation in order to preserve families and their property from money lenders.

But back to Joseph, why no magnanimous debt cancellation like other kings of the era? Answer: Because it was not the plan of God. Israelites were not supposed to get comfortable and prosperous in Egypt. God had a plan and a land for them.

You have read enough of your Bible to know that whenever Israel fell into worshipping other gods and abandoning the law of the Lord, God would place them in bondage to Amorites or Philistines and when they would cry out for deliverance to the Lord He would send a deliverer. But people have a tendency not to be crying out to the Lord when everyone and the economy is in prosperity.

Now let me bring the story and application to our time.

When I look at the world economy looking back and looking forward I see the whole Joseph strategy in play. And I tell myself I've seen this before in scripture. And I see God's Kingdom plan in action.

Here is what has been happening in the international financial markets since 2007. After the financial crises of 2007-8 the central banks all over the world flooded the banking system with cheap money by lowering interest rates to basically zero. This policy was doubled down on during the pandemic years after 2020. Zero interest rates. That meant governments, corporations, consumers all went on a debt creation borrowing binge. Asset prices like stock markets and housing and commercial real estate prices soared. The private equity companies were going crazy...you target companies or assets to buy, you put up 10% of the price from your own money and the other 90% you borrow from banks at 1-2%, then after buying the company you asset strip, fire workers, lower costs, shoot up profits and then sell at a massive price increase, pay back the loan and make 300% return on your 10% investment.

This cheap money buying up assets for years is the equivalent to Joseph buying up and storing cheap grain for 7 years and then selling high into massive grain shortages with price increases for the next 7 years.

Here is what happened in America and was repeated in financial markets around the world....

Since 2007, US federal debt held by the public has surged from \$4.6 trillion in an astounding pace and has now surpassed \$34 trillion. And yet, despite the surge in debt, calamity did not strike and the government had no problem borrowing,,,,while interest rates have remained low.

But a huge problem started to develop from 2022-23. Inflation. Too much money chasing too few goods and services. America could in the past just keep printing money and send the money overseas to buy other nation's goods. This kept inflation very low. But that is no longer the case. The Reserve Banks world wide started raising interest rates last year. 0-1% has become 5-6% and higher. That means all those trillions of borrowed bonds and mortgages made with very low rates now need to be serviced with far higher interest charges.

The world recession has started. Money is becoming scarce. And like ancient Egypt it starts with draining your cash reserves, then you start selling assets and then asset prices fall and you are deeper in debt, then you end up no assets and looking for anything that will pay for food for the day. This is the trajectory for highly indebted people, corporations, governments.

I can give you a raft of economic statistics of the incredible state of international debt everywhere. But I won't. You can see the evidence of the emerging world debt depression coming from media reports. Watch for the increase in bank failures, commercial properties defaulting because the tenants have left, or working from home to save money, of shopping malls closing because people are buying online because it is cheaper and more convenient, of tens of thousands of service workers losing jobs because of AI taking over more and more tasks.

The list goes on and on.

This is God's Joseph plan to bring a cry to the Lord from His people lost in Babylon/Egypt no longer living in comfort and security but now seeking deliverance. There was a time Israel was living very comfortably in Goshen of Egypt, the best part of the land that Joseph when he was still in control gave them. They prospered. And then came the new order. Everyone became working slaves to the new ruling order.

Out of the coming economic depression will be a new leadership with a new Kingdom message of deliverance. In times of prosperity these voices would never be heard because there are no ears to hear.

The new exodus is not the old exodus....rapture before the tribulation and heaven and paradise as our promised land.

The new message coming is here where we are is our promised land and we are now in bondage to other gods and their ways. God's message is "seek my ways" which will get new urgency as the old ways no longer work and are crumbling around us.

Seeking God's ways on how to run a nation, an economy, a society a culture is going to get the attention and application that has been missing for so long.