

# Kingdom Report

Week of 23 March 2019

## Creating Storehouses for Wealth Creation and Distribution

Only the Church can reconcile the need for private enterprise and socialism. Only the Church can answer the marxist challenge of who controls the "surplus value" of the economy fairly. State socialism or private voluntary socialism? The Church has the answer.

I am going to try in a short blog to introduce you to a critical problem that economists and politicians are struggling with and have struggled with for ages. And then offer a Biblical solution to this problem which in fact I see only the Church is able to solve. This issue is a critical part of my "Kingdom economy" applications and it deals with an important task the Lord set for us in 2 Cor. 5....to be His ambassadors with a ministry of reconciliation....coming up with God's solutions to human conflict.

An age old problem in economics is the issue of "surplus value". Which goes something like this:

In ages past till today there is a conflict of to whom belongs the profit that comes from the difference in the cost of making a product and the income from the sale of that product. The complaint from the labourer through the ages is that I made that product through my sweat and hard work and I am not getting my fair income from the sale of the product.

The capitalist in the form of the merchant or the land owner or the factory owner would respond...but you only got that product made and sold because of what I did, provided capital, land, machinery, credit...so I will pay a wage but the profit belongs to me. The worker would respond yes but my labour did more to make that product than what you put in but you are taking the largest share of the profit.

The classic defender of the working man and his right to a fair wage was David Ricardo from back in the 1700's and his book "The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation"...where he made the first real explicit argument for what is known as "the labour theory of value". Karl Marx would later take that further in his famous "Das Kapital".

The opposing camp said no....a product is worth what the market will pay for it and you labour is worth what I am willing to pay for it. And the difference between you wage and the final sale price is my profit. And so the fight was on...pay as low a wage as possible to maximise profit or replace workers with machinery.

And this where governments stepped in to resolve this conflict. They saw that there was large financial profit in the market but if employers are not going to share this with workers then government will tax that profit and then distribute it to the people in the form of benefits like schools, hospitals, roads, police etc.

Today state socialism is the practice of all nations on earth. Governments set themselves up as the "storehouse" of the nation's surplus value and the distributors of that surplus.

Our problem today is that the whole system of state socialism is breaking down for many reasons. The major reason is that state bureaucracies have become the people's oppressors taking the place of the old "capitalist" oppressors. They are inefficient, they have become an enormous cost burden to all economies. Less and less of the tax money they levy are coming through to the people in benefits and more and more are going to pay the wages and the pensions and the costs of the bureaucracy.

You see a people's revolt against government oppression everywhere. It is why Britain wants out of the EU...the Brussels bureaucracy is stifling with their thousands of pages of EU regulations. The same in America. Whole states like Illinois and New York and California are so deeply in debt that taxes are rising and people moving to less taxes states...why" Huge salaries for state workers and enormous pension and retirement benefits unobtainable by ordinary workers.

The classic example of the fall of state socialism is of course the Roman Empire. Go into any book on the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire and you will read about high taxes, debasement of the currency (which was their way to create inflation), huge military costs of a standing army. The army was needed to be able to continue to loot the nations to pay for the taxes needed to pay for the social welfare programs of Rome like free bread and circuses....otherwise the welfare recipients would revolt.

In America today the political debate going into the 2020 election is already clear....the majority of the people want socialism,,lots of it. The state must pay for everyone's health care, free education, higher social security payments, basic income for all, lots of new money creation at zero interest also called "quantitative easing".

The crisis that the world is facing is that unfettered capitalism is creating enormous income disparity with more and more of the world's capital assets being concentrated in fewer hands while the whole concept of state socialism will soon die out through the enormous unpayable debts being accumulated by governments in their quest to supply more and more services to people with not enough tax income. Everyone wants something but nobody wants to pay.

Margaret Thatcher said famously that socialism fails when governments run out of other people's money to spend.

The church and scripture has the answer to this economic dilemma and in fact has always had the answer and even practiced and proved the answer for hundreds of years until governments destroyed it. But it will come back....

Here is what the answer was and is today....Create the Storehouses of God for voluntary socialism.

The much quoted Malachi 3:10-12 about bringing the tithe into the storehouse of God is the key....but not one preacher or message that I have heard on this actually knows what is going on here and it is never really properly practiced or applied.

I am going to give you the example from history of what this "storehouse of God" is all about, what that means for solving our financial crisis and how we can apply it today. Then I will quote this scripture for you and perhaps you will see it very differently than you have ever seen it before.

I take you back in history to after the fall of Rome and universal economic chaos. Rome like all state socialist nations today finally fell around 420 AD...economic collapse, too much war expenditure, too much debt, too big bureaucratic overhead, too many pensions to pay, currency debased, overstretched.

Now read this carefully....

A hundred years into this international world order collapse the Church of Jesus Christ stepped in with the answer.....the start of the Monastery Movement. Specifically the Benedictines!

Please for a moment get rid of your anti-Catholic bias. I know I have the same problem. But this had nothing to do with the Pope in Rome.

In 529 AD a hundred years after the fall of Rome in the midst of economic chaos Benedict of Nursia started his monastic order of brothers in black robes who set up the first monastery. The idea was this...get a group of men together and commit to a life of work for the Kingdom of God. I quote from E. Michael Jones book "Benedicts Rule"...

*"Living at a time of unprecedented upheaval and social chaos, Benedict of Nursia could not save the Roman Empire from collapse but he did something even more remarkable; he created Europe to take its place....Benedict took the best of classical culture and combined it with Christianity and came up with a very specific way to live in a world where chaos was the rule. Benedicts Rule (the rules of the monasteries) became the Roman standard of the monastic life and finally of the universal type of Western monasticism. Once it fired the imagination of the Anglo-Saxon monks it brought order and classical coherence to the chaotic existence of the Germanic tribes on both sides of the Rhine as well as the formation of new centers of culture in Ireland, Northumbria and ultimately the Carolingian Empire. This development prompted Newman to call the six hundred years following the collapse of the Roman Empire "the Benedictine centuries". The monastery was the most typical cultural institution throughout the whole period that extends from the decline of classical civilization to the rise of European universities in the twelfth century - upwards of seven hundred years. Benedict is probably history's greatest expert and exemplar in the art of good living in community."*

Here is what I am saying with this illustration:

The idea of the monastery that Benedict introduced to the chaos of Europe was that section of territory was demarcated as sacred ground...not just a church building...but a living working community. This community of working monks would be active in farming, food production, skills development in metals, carpentry, book writing, education. They made beer, kept bees, baked bread. They also established a hospital for

the community. They fed the hungry, they healed the sick, they taught skills, they adjudicated disputes...and they preached the gospel in word and by example.

The monks lived and survived on what they needed and the surplus was shared with the needy and with investment in expanded production. The surplus value creation went right into the community...voluntary socialism.

When common people wanted to give a free will offering to the Lord of what they had, a lamb or a chicken or cloth or labour...the local monastery was where you know your gift and offering to the Lord was well used and invested back into the community.

This interaction with the local village communities in Europe were islands of peace and stability, law and order, a place where the poor knew there was a meal, the sick knew there was care.

This was voluntary communal socialism in the monastery combined with free enterprise production in the surrounding village communities. There was no oppressive command to pay your tithes, there was no oppressive taxation, there were no bureaucrats to support or armies to pay. It was voluntary cooperation and a life of communal sharing of the surplus of labour while encouraging those in the village communities to work and live Godly lives.

The interesting fact about Benedictine monasteries was that each one was an independent entity on its own ruled by an Abbot or Prior. There was no centralized control from Rome. Therefore each was able to respond to the needs of the local community. This was not a franchise operation with control from afar. It was controlled by free association and voluntary working together.

The tragedy of the monasteries occurred in England under Henry 8th who upon declaring himself the head of the church decided that the church properties belonged to him. He looted and expropriated 645 monasteries 90 colleges and 110 hospitals and handed out the landed assets to his favourite lords. What before was sacred ground dedicated to community upliftment for the people and communities became the "private property" of the English gentry who used the new property rights to oppress the nation's peasants.

For a man to declare himself "head of the church" whether king or pope...is antichrist. And a curse rightly fell on Henry and his childless dynasty.

This same idea of a sacred space as a storehouse of God where the people's surplus free will offerings can be brought to be used for the social needs of the community is what the Levite tithe was all about in Malachi 3:10-12. The Levites were like the monks of the monasteries responsible by the Lord to be servants of the people of Israel for teaching, healing, law, education and were given 48 cities in Israel by the Lord to be the "storehouses of God". Places where people can receive help in times of need. Places of learning and teaching, places to bring disputes for resolution.

Now again as before many times I refer you once again to Revelation 21 & 22...the New Jerusalem. The kings of the earth bring their glory into it. And from it flow a river of life and fruits for the healing of the nations.

This is a vision of what the Lord is once again going to restore to the Church. We need to create sacred spaces, sacred storehouses where we the people of God can bring our labour, bring our gifts, bring our talents and abilities to be shared by fellow members of the community of God and used for the healing of our communities around us.

We are once again facing the collapse of national socialism as well as finance capitalism. I say once again because that is what Rome was. A combination of national socialism of welfare for the masses of Rome and lifetime financial support for the bureaucrats and soldiers of the empire. This will all collapse.

The challenge we now face in the years ahead as a church is to create the storehouses from where we will create a new world order. These new storehouses will of necessity I believe encompass the vision of the "city church" that I have mentioned to you before. That is the vision of all the people of God in a city region coming into virtual community in order to be able to share together and work together to build a new Christian civilization in the aftermath of a new collapse.

And by the way...those people that Revelation 21 describes as the "kings of the earth who bring their glory into the city"....that glory is God's anointing. There are people in the world who would not describe themselves as Christians but who have a special gifting from God to do the work needed to create our new world civilization.

There are new energy sources coming that will allow our communities to get off national grids. There are social networks that we can use to bring us together. There are new ways of banking our money and using it for Kingdom projects. And many more exciting breakthroughs that need to come into the city of God, the storehouse of God.

We as God's people are beyond classical economic definitions. We are not motivated by accumulation or profit or wages. We know that apart from wages here on earth our greatest wages are to be paid in eternity. So we are able to reconcile both socialism and free enterprise. We do not need government to collect and distribute our surplus wealth of the community or decide where it is going to be spent. We can do that voluntarily and better and more effectively than any government. We do not need monetary reward to work hard, we are servants of God and for Him we spend our lives. 900 hundred years of monastery lives and work created Europe out of the chaos of a fallen Roman empire. We are going to do it far quicker with all the new technology available to us.

We will once again create a new world economic order in the coming world nation state collapse but the world system cannot do our economics. They do not have the type of people that can create productive communities based on voluntary socialism and underpaid surplus producing private enterprise with the surplus donated to the community. Only we new creations in Christ are able to create that kind of new world economic order.

And that is the kind of new economic order that Malachi 3:10-12 was really talking about... ***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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts***

The Benedictines got it right after the world economic collapse...they got down to the real Levitical work of community upliftment that God called the Levites to do and for which they could create a storehouse for the nations tithes.

When our churches decide to follow the footsteps of the Levites and the Benedictines and create sacred storehouses for the creation, reception and distribution of wealth into the local community then it will be time to pay our tithe taxes there instead of wasting our money on corrupt national governments.