

Economic Crises and the Bible

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September 10, 2009 • Rev. 2 • Original thoughts, with some material adapted from other Chalcedon authors, Matthew Henry, and G. Campbell Morgan

A Nation's Money: God's Test for Justice

The Bible ties a nation's *monetary policy* to the concept of *justice*. To God, the two are inseparable. You see how *just* a society is by examining the foundational nature of its *money*.

Lev. 19:35-36 – Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. *Just* balances, *just* weights, a *just* ephah, and a *just* hin, shall ye have.

Deut. 25:13-16 – Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and *just* weight, a perfect and *just* measure shalt thou have.... For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God.

Ezek. 45:10 – Ye shall have *just* balances, and a *just* ephah, and a *just* bath.

God forbids people to even *possess* false weights on their person or in their home. Every measure of value (particularly monetary value) is either a *delight* (when it's just and perfect) or an *abomination* to God (Prov. 11:1, Prov. 16:11).

We live in an age where "the law is slacked" (Hab. 1:4). America's founders studied God's Law and applied it; they would be dismayed that we have become "partial in the law" (Mal. 2:9) and tolerate monetary abominations (that constitute the "divers weights and measures" God hates) by accepting and using fiat money unbacked by gold or silver.

In Jer. 22:13 we find peculiar wording: "Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work..." One would expect the word *laborer*, not *neighbor*! The ruler was extracting his *neighbor's* services and not paying for them. This mirrors the hidden taxes inflicted via monetary inflation (the devaluing of currency through fractional reserve banking and other means), which perpetuates unjust weights and measures.

Measures of value that delight God were criminalized when FDR signed Presidential Executive Order 6102 on April 5, 1933: "All persons are hereby required to deliver on or before May 1, 1933, to a Federal Reserve bank or a branch or agency thereof or to any member bank of the Federal Reserve System all gold coin, gold bullion, and gold certificates now owned by them or coming into their ownership on or before April 28, 1933." Punishment: up to 10 years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine. Von Mises wrote: "in the absence of the gold standard, there is no way to protect savings from confiscation through inflation. There is no safe store of value. If there were, the government would have to make its holding illegal, as was done in the case of gold. If everyone decided, for example, to convert all his bank deposits to silver or copper, and thereafter declined to accept checks as payment for goods, bank deposits would lose their purchasing power and government-created bank credit would be worthless as a claim on goods. The financial policy of the welfare state requires that there be no way for the owners of wealth to protect themselves. This is the shabby secret of the welfare statists' tirades against gold. If one grasps this, (one understands) the statists' antagonism toward the gold standard."

A surprise discovery in Micah

False weights and measures are called *the treasures of wickedness* (Micah 6:10); they are the essential means of

falsifying the life of a society. The prophet Micah defines money held in unjust forms (fiat paper money like the U.S. dollar) as "the treasures of wickedness."

Micah's claim occurs in the context of a highly quoted Old Testament verse, Micah 6:8: "He has shown thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." Although universally quoted, this verse is universally misunderstood because it is severed it from its context (justice and money).

"He has shown thee, o man, what is good..." God has shown us: we don't have to create new policies. *What is good and just* has been spelled out. Micah speaks to all men ("O man") – not just to Jews, but to Gentiles and to *us today*.

"...and what doth the Lord require of thee..." What is *good* is *what the Lord requires of us*. What God *requires* is for our *good* and achieves *good* personally and culturally. What is required has been *shown* to us: it is not up in the air; it is *not in the New Testament* (or the verse would have used the future tense, "He *will show thee*, o man, what is good..."). God *has shown*, past tense, in the Old Testament.

"... to do *justly*..." Here is the crux of the entire matter. The Lord *requires us to do justly*. And He has *already shown* what this means – in His Law. Pastors too often amputate this verse from its context, but Micah is simply reasserting Deut. 16:20, which literally reads, "Justice, justice, shalt thou do!"

"... to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." Because pastors seem to nail "mercy" and "walking humbly with God" in sermons, giving them "a strong finish," the flock rarely detects the weak exposition that "to do *justly*" receives.

The forgotten context of that Micah passage

Micah 6:9 reads "The Lord's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see Thy Name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it." It's a serious situation: God is crying out to the city, voicing a warning. "Hear ye the rod" means *every rod has a voice* – God never executes judgment without giving the reason for it (Ps. 119:67, 71), and men of wisdom hear the rod and discern God's name in it.

A few men of wisdom heard the rod while it was yet afar off, foreseeing the Lord's Name in *America's* financial judgments decades ago. Micah 6:10-11 explains how America has earned an appointment with God's rod of judgment: "Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?" These four concepts explain one another. *Deceitful weights* involve *wicked balances* and the *scant measure*, which produce *treasures of wickedness*. Fiat currencies are not only abominable and unjust, they are *treasures of wickedness*. The *bag* equates to today's wallets, bank accounts, savings accounts, and treasuries. What is in our bags today? *Deceitful weights*! No wonder Noah Webster described legal tender laws (which force people to accept fiat paper currencies in lieu of gold or silver) as "the devil in the flesh."

Micah informs the people who use fiat money that "Thou shalt eat but not be satisfied: and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee..." (v. 14). The origin of destruction will be *in the midst of thee*: the nation will be broken and ruined *from the inside* by internal crises. National defense can protect a

country's borders from external invasion but not from *destruction from within*, the form *this* rod of God will take.

National sins are individual sins writ large

Jeremiah 9 speaks to the nation. But the prophet switches focus to the *individuals comprising the nation*. "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches..." (Jer. 9:23). Israel had kings and governors, but citizens were always responsible for the condition of the nation (Hos. 4:9). God always gives His people the government they deserve (1 Sam. 8:18), and America's national sins will fall back on *us*.

Where have all the shepherds gone?

"Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast deceit, they refuse to return" (Jer. 8:5). Americans are similarly deceived today.

Jeremiah faced antinomianism (rejection of God's laws; see *Theology* paper) disguised as a *respect for God's Law!* Abandonment of God's Law was cloaked in feigned respect for it. Unanchored by God's Law, the personal opinions of pastors were worthless and dangerous, and they were unable to stem their nation's cultural decline. "How do ye say, We are wise, and the Law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made He it: the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" (Jer. 8:8-9, literally, "Behold, the false pen of the scribes hath wrought falsely"). This is exactly what we find in America today. Churchmen have lost sight of how their forefathers established liberty and justice for all. They neither study nor teach God's Old Testament laws and case laws like the Puritans did in early America's free republic. While many Christians have become "politically active," our pulpits have largely been silent about *the treasures of wickedness*. It's no small thing that our pastors use the language of orthodoxy yet reject God's Law and refuse to address the issue of justice biblically: "For the pastors have become brutish, and have not sought the Lord: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered" (Jer. 10:22).

In Jer. 23:16, Jeremiah warns that the nation's teachers "make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord." They leaned on their own thinking, and thus *they lowered the nation's moral standards*. Many got their message by observing the times. But *no godly teacher* ever finds his message by observing the times he lives in. He declares God's word *to the times for their correction*.

Jer. 23:30: "Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words every one from his neighbour." The prophets *that steal my words* from their neighbors are those who *refuse to apply God's Law, God's justice*, to their situation. Antinomianism, the "slacking of the law" (Hab. 1:4), is *stealing God's words from our neighbors*.

"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran.... But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings" (Jer. 23:21-22).

Jeremiah is saying that the *proof* of the leaders' faithfulness to God's word is measured by God's people repenting and changing their course. All the leaders had to do was to stand in God's counsel (accept God's Word as authoritative and act accordingly) and to cause God's people to hear God's words (following the pattern of Nehemiah 8). The failure of

American Christians to even *lift a finger* to address the *treasures of wickedness* (spawned by our fiat monetary policy and lodging unchallenged in our shrinking bank accounts) is strong proof that our pastors *do not stand in God's counsel, nor do they cause God's words to be heard by the people*.

Faithful preaching causes a turnaround in the peoples' lives. They then work to be part of the long-term effort to overhaul their nation's monetary system, working for just weights and measures that *delight the Lord*, not money that *repels Him*. (Putting the words *In God We Trust* on coins that God regards as abominations is a brazen provocation; it is to spit in His eye – see *Taxation* paper.) Even the *first step* down this road receives the blessing of God (Hag. 1:12-13).

Early American Christians knew that a truly Levitical ministry delivers radically different results: "[various leaders] and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So they read in the book in the Law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:7-8). "And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them." The people *rejoice* at having had God's words not *stolen* from them, but *read to them distinctly*, with their leaders *giving the sense*, so the people are *caused to understand the reading*.

The recovery of God's Law in lawless times

God is longsuffering but won't ignore long-standing defiance of His Law, which has no statute of limitations. It was irrelevant that Israeli practices seemed to stand the test of time, for God had *not* waived His land Sabbath law (which He enforced after 490 years of Israel violating it). Nations are often warned in the midst of prosperity, but refuse to hear: "I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear" (Jer. 22:21). When the people would not listen, Jeremiah, cried to the earth itself: "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord!" (Jer. 22:29). God's judgment and punishments came after seven years.

The cause of a nation's judgment is revealed in Micah 6:16: "For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab...." The word *For* at the beginning is equivalent to *Because*. The laws and policies of *previous administrations in Israel's past* were a primary cause of the threatened internal ruin. Omri and Ahab, kings long gone, still worked their poison because they had established wickedness by *law* (the *statutes* of Omri). "The wicked frame mischief using law" (Ps. 94:20). We must undo such wicked laws on our own books, but first we must get our priorities straight.

Ahab mixed Baal worship with Jehovah worship; likewise, American Christians today expect politicians to follow Baal in public and the Lord in private. But as Elijah said, if Jehovah be God, *follow Him!* To follow God and enjoy His covenantal blessings on our nation (Deut. 28), we must abandon our love for *the treasures of wickedness* that unjust weights give us. This means *FIRST* returning to an unfeigned love for God and His Word, including the Old Testament laws that were "delivered once for all" (Jude 3), and studying it like our forefathers did. Only there can we rediscover the wisdom and knowledge we need to restore honest currency tied to specie metals, as our forefathers required in the Constitution (Art. 1, Sect. 10), and ensure the corrupt statutes of our past are not passed on to our posterity.