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FINANCIALLY, FINANCIAL, FINANCE, FINANCED, FINANCES

Under the Mosaic Law, if two men got into a fight and one of them injured the other, the punishment was a **financial** one. The attacker had to make restitution to the victim by paying for his expenses and lost time.

- **Exodus 21:19:** "If he rise again, and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote him be quit: only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed."

Moses warned the Israelites that if they didn't obey all of God's commandments then they would have **financial** problems and need money.

- **Deuteronomy 28:44:** "He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail."

The adversaries of the Jews claimed that any attempts to rebuild Jerusalem or its wall was an act of rebellion against the king, and would endanger his **finances**.

- **Ezra 4:13:** "Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings."

Darius **financed** some of the sacrifices that were made at the second temple.

- **Ezra 6:9-10:** "And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail: That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons."

Artaxerxes helped **finance** the operation of the second temple.

- **Ezra 7:20-22:** "And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house. And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily, Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much."

The singers and porters in the second temple were **financially** supported by the Jews.

- **Nehemiah 12:47:** "And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron."

Solomon warned that becoming involved with an immoral woman isn't free. There are serious **financial** costs involved.

- **Proverbs 5:8, 10:** "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: ... Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;"

Those who assume **financial** responsibility for other people (such as friends, strangers, or immoral women) are fools.

- **Proverbs 17:18:** "A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend."
- **Proverbs 20:16:** "Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman."
- **Proverbs 22:26:** "Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts."

Many friendships are actually **financial** transactions. (Some people build relationships because of what they stand to gain from it.)

- **Proverbs 19:6:** "Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts."

It's not wrong to hold people accountable for their agreements. If they've taken **financial** responsibility for someone else (such as a stranger) then they must accept the consequence of their actions.

- **Proverbs 27:13:** "Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman."

Shebna was charged with faithfully handling the **finances** of the house of David. However, he instead spent the money on building an expensive tomb for himself.

- **Isaiah 22:15-16:** "Thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say, What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock?"

Jeremiah said that the Jews who didn't know God's ways were poor. (This wasn't because they were **financially** poor, but because they had rejected God.)

- **Jeremiah 5:4:** "Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God."

When Gog invades Israel in the end times, he will do so for **financial** reasons. He covets Israel's possessions.

- **Ezekiel 38:13:** "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

God requires us to **financially** support our parents. (Jesus condemned the Pharisees for claiming that they were giving their money to God, and saying that freed them from their obligation to take care of their parents.)

- **Matthew 15:4-6:** "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

After Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene, she **financially** supported Him. (There were other women who gave Him money as well.)

- **Luke 8:2-3:** "And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance."

Cornelius cared about the Jews and provided for them **financially**.

- **Acts 10:2:** "A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway."

The reason Tyre and Sidon wanted to make peace with Herod was because their country was nourished by his (which

means they had a **financial** interest in peace).

- **Acts 12:20:** "And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country."

Paul didn't support himself **financially** by receiving aid from the churches he ministered to. Instead he supported himself by making tents.

- **Acts 18:1-3:** "After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 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. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers."

Demetrius was opposed to the gospel for **financial** reasons. His wealth came from selling idols, and he wanted people to continue to buy his idols.

- **Acts 19:25-27:** "Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should

be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth."

Paul supported himself, instead of being **financially** supported by others.

- **Acts 20:34:** "Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me."

It's good for a church to seek to meet the **financial** needs of other churches.

- **Romans 15:26:** "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem."

Since we've been made partakers with the Jews in spiritual things, that means we have a duty to minister to them when it comes to carnal things (such as their **financial** needs).

- **Romans 15:26-27:** "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things."

The churches of Macedonia and Achaia *wanted* to meet the **financial** needs of the church of Jerusalem. It wasn't done reluctantly, but with joy.

- **Romans 15:27:** "It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made

partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things."

It's not wrong for a church that's struggling **financially** to accept a gift from another church.

- **Romans 15:31:** "That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;"

Churches had a **financial** obligation to support the apostles. (However, Paul deliberately chose to support himself to avoid being a burden on the churches.)

- **1 Corinthians 9:4, 11:** "Have we not power to eat and to drink? ... If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

Barnabas worked for a living. He wasn't **financially** supported by the churches.

- **1 Corinthians 9:6:** "Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?"

Paul said that he would rather **financially** support himself than risk hindering the gospel of Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 9:12:** "If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ."
- **1 Corinthians 9:23:** "And this I do for the gospel's sake,

that I might be partaker thereof with you."

The Old Testament taught that those who ministered to people in spiritual ways had a right to be **financially** supported by those they served.

- **1 Corinthians 9:13:** "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?"

Churches have an obligation to **financially** support those who preach the gospel to them.

- **1 Corinthians 9:14:** "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

Although Paul had a right to be **financially** supported by the gospel, he refused to take advantage of this right.

- **1 Corinthians 9:15:** "But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void."

There's a certain amount of temptation that goes along with being **financially** supported by churches. (One of the reasons Paul didn't want to accept money from churches was so he wouldn't be tempted to abuse his power.)

- **1 Corinthians 9:18:** "What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel."

Paul told the Corinthian church that they needed to take up a collection of money to **financially** support the saints who needed it.

- **1 Corinthians 16:1:** "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye."

The Macedonian church gave a very generous **financial** gift to the apostle Paul (which was to be used to minister to the needs of the saints).

- **2 Corinthians 8:1, 3-4:** "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; ... For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; "Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."

There may be some churches which have **financial** abundance. (If so, they should help churches that are in need.)

- **2 Corinthians 8:14:** "But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:"

There may be some churches which have **financial** needs. (They should be supported by churches that are better off.)

- **2 Corinthians 8:14:** "But by an equality, that now at this

time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:"

Paul believed that although the Corinthian church was in a period of **financial** abundance, there might be a time in the future when they were in need. Therefore the church should help now while it could, and then other churches would help them when their time of need came.

- **2 Corinthians 8:14:** "But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:"

Paul didn't want anyone to condemn the apostles for accepting **financial** gifts from churches and giving them to other churches that were in need.

- **2 Corinthians 8:20:** "Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:"

There were times when churches gave Paul **financial** gifts. (It seems that although Paul worked for a living making tents, there were occasions when he accepted gifts from them.)

- **2 Corinthians 11:8:** "I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service."

Paul didn't want to be a **financial** burden to the Corinthian church.

- **2 Corinthians 11:9:** "And when I was present with you,

and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself."

The Philippian church gave a gift to Paul, and met his **financial** needs in some way.

- **Philippians 4:15-16:** "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity."

Paul worked day and night so the Thessalonian church wouldn't have to support him **financially**.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:9:** "For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God."
- **2 Thessalonians 3:8:** "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:"

Paul didn't want people to rely on churches for **financial** support. Instead he wanted them to follow his example and work so that churches wouldn't be burdened.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:9:** "Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us."

The apostles had the right to ask churches to provide for their **financial** needs. However, they refused to exercise that right.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:9:** "Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us."

Paul commanded the church to not give **financial** support to widows who were younger than 60 years old.

- **1 Timothy 5:9, 11:** "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. ... But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;"

The "don't muzzle the ox" verse applies to more than just **financial** payments. It also applies to honor.

- **1 Timothy 5:17-18:** "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."

Those who reject the words of Jesus believe that gain is the same thing as godliness. They believe that if they're blessed **financially** then that's the same thing as being godly (which is very wrong.)

- **1 Timothy 6:3, 5:** "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our

Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ... Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

Gaius helped missionaries spread the gospel to the Gentiles by **financially** supporting them, so they wouldn't have to raise money from the Gentiles themselves.

- **3 John 1:6-7:** "Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles."

MERCHANT, MERCHANTS, CHAPMEN, MERCHANTMEN

When Abraham paid Ephron for a plot of land (to bury his wife), he paid "current money with the **merchant**".

- **Genesis 23:16:** "And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant."

When Joseph's brothers decided to sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites, some **merchants** happened to pass by.

- **Genesis 37:28:** "Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt."

Solomon received income from **merchants** (including spice merchants).

- **1 Kings 10:14-15:** "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country."
- **2 Chronicles 9:13-14:** "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold; Beside that which chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to

Solomon."

The **merchants** of Solomon purchased linen yarn from Egypt. (It seems they were part of an international linen trade.)

- **1 Kings 10:28:** "And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price."

Malchiah repaired the portion of the wall around Jerusalem that was near the place of the **merchants**.

- **Nehemiah 3:31:** "After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner."

The **merchants** helped rebuild the portion of the wall around Jerusalem that went to the sheep gate.

- **Nehemiah 3:32:** "And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants."

Merchants sold food in Jerusalem on the Sabbath (which was a violation of the Mosaic Law).

- **Nehemiah 13:15:** "In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals."

Because the **merchants** couldn't get into Jerusalem on the Sabbath, they set up their shops outside of Jerusalem instead (until Nehemiah put a stop to it).

- **Nehemiah 13:20:** "So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice."

Nehemiah forced the **merchants** to stop setting up their shops outside Jerusalem on the Sabbath.

- **Nehemiah 13:20-21:** "So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath."

God told Job that people couldn't sell the leviathan to **merchants**. (This is because it was impossible to kill one.)

- **Job 41:6:** "Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants?"

The mother of King Lemuel compared virtuous women to **merchant** ships that imported food from distant lands.

- **Proverbs 31:1, 14:** "The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. ... She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar."

Solomon wore powders that he obtained from a **merchant**.

- **Song of Solomon 3:6:** "Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?"

In ancient times there were traveling companies from Dedanim. (These seem to have been **merchants**. They may have lived near the Edomites.)

- **Isaiah 21:13:** "The burden upon Arabia. In the forest in Arabia shall ye lodge, O ye travelling companies of Dedanim."

God said that the **merchants** of Zidon passed over the sea and replenished the inhabitants of the island.

- **Isaiah 23:2:** "Be still, ye inhabitants of the isle; thou whom the merchants of Zidon, that pass over the sea, have replenished."

God said that the **merchants** of Tyre were honorable people.

- **Isaiah 23:8:** "Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth?"

God said that the **merchants** of Tyre were princes.

- **Isaiah 23:8:** "Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth?"

God described Tyre as the **merchant** city.

- **Isaiah 23:8, 11:** "Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth? ... He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the LORD hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof."
- **Ezekiel 27:3:** "And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty."

The **merchants** of Babylon won't save her when her time of desolation comes. Instead they'll just go home.

- **Isaiah 47:1, 15:** "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. ... Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee."

In the riddle that God gave to Israel, the great eagle brought twigs to a city of **merchants**.

- **Ezekiel 17:2, 4:** "Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel; ... He cropped off the top of his young twigs, and carried it into a land of traffick; he set it in a city of merchants."

In ancient times the **merchants** of Tarshish supplied Tyrus with silver, iron, tin, and lead.

- **Ezekiel 27:12:** "Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs."

The **merchants** of Javan, Tubal, and Meshech supplied both slaves and vessels of brass to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:13:** "Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market."

The **merchants** of Togarmah sold their merchandise in the fairs of Tyrus. (It seems they supplied horses, mules, and horsemen.)

- **Ezekiel 27:14:** "They of the house of Togarmah traded in thy fairs with horses and horsemen and mules."

The **merchants** of Dedan supplied ivory and ebony to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:15:** "The men of Dedan were thy merchants; many isles were the merchandise of thine hand: they brought thee for a present horns of ivory and ebony."

The **merchants** of Syria supplied emeralds, fine linen, coral, and agate to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:16:** "Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making: they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds, purple, and brodered work, and fine linen, and coral, and agate."

The **merchants** of Judah and Israel supplied wheat, honey, oil, and balm to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:17:** "Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market wheat of Minnith, and Pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm."

The **merchants** of Damascus sold merchandise that was made by the people of Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:18:** "Damascus was thy merchant in the multitude of the wares of thy making, for the multitude of all riches; in the wine of Helbon, and white wool."

The **merchants** of Dan and Javan supplied iron, cassia, and calamus to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:19:** "Dan also and Javan going to and fro occupied in thy fairs: bright iron, cassia, and calamus, were in thy market."

The **merchants** of Dedan provided Tyrus with clothing that was made specifically for chariots.

- **Ezekiel 27:20:** "Dedan was thy merchant in precious clothes for chariots."

The **merchants** of Arabia supplied lambs, rams, and goats to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:21:** "Arabia, and all the princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats: in these were they thy merchants."

The **merchants** of Sheba and Raamah supplied spices, precious stones, and gold to Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:22:** "The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold."

The people of Haran, Canneh, Eden, Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad served as **merchants** for Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:23:** "Haran, and Canneh, and Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were thy merchants."

In ancient times, **merchants** shipped fine clothing in cedar chests that were bound with cords.

- **Ezekiel 27:24:** "These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue clothes, and brodered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar, among thy merchandise."

Merchants supplied Tyrus with fine linen and embroidered work.

- **Ezekiel 27:24:** "These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue clothes, and brodered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar, among thy merchandise."

In the coming judgment, Tyrus would lose its **merchants**.

- **Ezekiel 27:27:** "Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, and in all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin."

God said that when Tyrus was destroyed, **merchants** would hiss at Tyrus.

- **Ezekiel 27:36:** "The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more."

God said that the prince of Tyrus used **merchants** to increase his wealth.

- **Ezekiel 28:5:** "By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:"

In the end times, the **merchants** of Tarshish are going to rebuke Gog for invading Israel.

- **Ezekiel 38:13:** "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

God said that the tribe of Ephraim was a deceitful **merchant**.

- **Hosea 12:7-8:** "He is a merchant, the balances of deceit

are in his hand: he loveth to oppress. And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin."

God said that when Nineveh's day of judgment came, its **merchants** wouldn't be able to save it.

- **Nahum 3:16:** "Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and fleeth away."

One of the punishments that God will send upon nations during the tribulation will be the death of their **merchants**.

- **Zephaniah 1:7, 11:** "Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. ... Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off."

In order to obtain the pearl of great price, the **merchant** sold everything that he had and bought it. (Jesus used this parable to make the point that salvation is so valuable that we should be willing to sacrifice everything to obtain it.)

- **Matthew 13:45-46:** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

When Jesus saw that the holy temple of God had been turned

into a marketplace, He overthrew the tables of the **merchants**.

- **John 2:15-16:** "And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

When Jesus threw the **merchants** out of the temple, He was fulfilling a Messianic prophecy.

- **John 2:17:** "And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

During the tribulation, the **merchants** of the earth will obtain their wealth from Babylon.

- **Revelation 18:2-3:** "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies."
- **Revelation 18:15:** "The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,"

When Babylon falls at the end of the tribulation, people will stop buying things from the **merchants** of the earth. (That

means up to that point people are still buying their merchandise, in spite of all the judgments that God sends upon the world.)

- **Revelation 18:11:** "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:"

During the tribulation, **merchants** will sell gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, silk, expensive wood, ivory, brass, iron, and marble. They will also sell cinnamon, incense, wine, oil, flour, wheat, animals, chariots, and slaves. (In other words, a significant amount of commerce will take place in those days.)

- **Revelation 18:12-13:** "The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."

The fact that **merchants** will be selling chariots and horses during the tribulation is a major sign that society isn't technologically advanced in those days.

- **Revelation 18:13:** "And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."

During the tribulation, wealth is measured by very basic commodities. **Merchants** won't be selling advanced machines, but instead basic materials (such as cinnamon and flour).

- **Revelation 18:13:** "And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."

During the tribulation, slavery will exist (which can be seen from the fact that **merchants** will sell slaves).

- **Revelation 18:13:** "And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."

When the **merchants** see the fall of Babylon at the end of the tribulation, they will weep and wail.

- **Revelation 18:15:** "The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,"

During the tribulation, the **merchants** of Babylon will be the great men of the earth.

- **Revelation 18:23:** "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."

TRADERS

The chapmen (**traders**) brought gold to Solomon.

- **2 Chronicles 9:13-14:** "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold; Beside that which chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon."