

“Understanding of the Times” - Economically 1 Chronicles 12:32

And of the children of Issachar; which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

Introduction:

Lack of Knowledge

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

My people are destroyed (*perish, cease, cut off -damah*) for lack of knowledge

Because they rejected (*to refuse, despise -ma'ac*) knowledge

I will reject them

I will reject their service “no more priests to me”

Because they forgot the law of God

I will forget (*cease to care for -shakach*) their children

A Tale of Two Cities

In Charles Dickens’ historical novel (1859), “A Tale of Two Cities” there is a famous phrase which is relative to our day.

The phrase: “*It was the best of time and it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity,*”

This passage suggests an age of radical opposites taking place across the English Channel in France and the United Kingdom respectively. It tells a story of contrasts and comparisons between London and Paris during the French revolution.

The Best of Times:

A new hope can be found in the nation.

Wealth is beginning to spread again.

A new president of the people is in the White House.

Tax relief appears on the horizon.

The stock market is rising to new heights.

Jobs are being created.

An attitude of less government in peoples lives can be found in the ruling political party.

The Worst of Times:

There is a greater national debt than ever before (approx. 20 Trillion).

Government spending is out of control (the national deficit).

Great reliance on the government for personal and corporate economic assistance is pervasive.

There is great political division in the nation and reflected in the Government.

Some people are living in great poverty.

Most people have placed themselves in great debt.

Families are a social mess.

The spiritual atmosphere is at an all time high of not being interested in the Gospel.

The Greatest Economic Peril of Our Time is Debt

The **U.S. federal budget deficit** is \$441 billion as of the most **current** budget estimate. That's for **fiscal** year 2017, which covers October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The **deficit** occurs because the **U.S. government** spending of \$4.07 trillion is higher than its revenue of \$3.63 trillion.¹ Feb 9, 2017

The National **debt** of the **United States** is the amount owed by the federal government of the **United States**. The measure of the public **debt** is the value of the outstanding Treasury securities at a point of time that have been issued by the Treasury and other federal government agencies.² It is presently near 20 Trillion dollars. Total Federal Government Debt in 2017. At the end of FY 2017 the gross US federal government debt is estimated to be **\$19.5 trillion**, according to the FY18 Federal Budget.³

The accumulative world debt: is between 214 and 225 Trillion dollars.⁴

Biblical Principles for Personal Economics

THE PRINCIPLE TO REMEMBER: Trust in the LORD

Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Matthew 6:33: *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

1 <https://www.thebalance.com/current-u-s-federal-budget-deficit-3305783>

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_the_United_States

3 www.usgovernmentdebt.us/

4 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fm/2016/02/pdf/fm1602.pdf>

SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

An Observation

Psalm 37:25: *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

The King’s Heart

Proverbs 21:1: *The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

The Maker of the Rich and the Poor

Proverbs 22:2: *The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.*

The Poor are Needy for Lack of Judgment (ability to make good choices)

Prov:13:23: *Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.*

How to get Riches, Honor and Life

Proverbs 22:5: *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*

PERSONAL ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES:

Principles to Know in Personal Finance:

Work is profitable:

Prov:14:23: *In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.*

Easy Come Easy Go

Proverb 13:11: *Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.*

Principles to Practice for Good Stewardship:

Always Be Prepared: Prepare, but remember safety is of the Lord

Prep:21:31: *The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.*

Have the Right Attitude: Labor not to be rich

Prov:23: 4: *Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. 5: Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.*

Be Hard Working: Diligence in business is rewarded

Proverbs 14:23: *In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.*

Prov:22: 29: *Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.*

Be careful to Evaluate: Be diligent to know your situation

Proverbs 27:23: *Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.*

Be Budget Minded: Budget:

Prov:21:5: *The thoughts (plans) of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.*

Be Saving: Savings Brings Desirable Things

Proverbs 21:20: *There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.*

Be Careful for Debt: Debt Brings Servitude

Proverbs 22:7: *The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

Make Good Investments: When to get a house?

Prov:24: 27: *Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.*

(Priority of Investment: 1. Education, 2. Vocation, 3. House)

Principles for Investment:

Investment: 1. Consider, 2. Purchase, 3. Work

Prov.31:16: *She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.*

Don't be afraid of Investing:

Prov:11:24: *There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.* Example: Matthew 25:25 “the buried talent”

Eccl.11:1: *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.*

Diversify Investments:

Eccl.11:2: *Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.*