

MONEY

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5

PROVERBS AND WISDOM ABOUT MONEY

- better to be poor with character than rich without character (Prov 28:6)
- unjust gain will make a fool of you (Jer 17:11)
 - riches cannot be trusted (Prov 11:28; 1 Tim 6:17)
- riches are not forever (Prov 27:24)
- riches cannot save you from death and Sheol (Ps 49:2, 5–12, 14–20)
 - you can't take it with you (Ps 49:10, 16–17; Eccl 5:15; Lk 12:16–21)
 - the upright will rule over the rich (Ps 49:14)
- riches may hinder your spiritual growth (Mt 13:22=Mk 4:19=Lk 8:14)
- riches may keep you from being saved (Mt 19:23–24=Mk 10:23–25=Lk 18:24–25)

4

TWO CIRCLES OF RESPONSIBILITY

- hard work produces wealth (Prov 10:4)
- laziness and alcoholism lead to poverty (Prov 6:9–11; 20:13; 23:20–21; 24:30–34)
 - *we must work to maintain the wealth God has given to us*
 - laziness is a violation of the curse on the ground (Gen 3:17–19)
 - we cannot make ourselves rich (Deut 8:17)
- God gives us the ability to make money (Deut 8:18)

1

GOD DECIDES OUR ECONOMIC STATUS

- riches are from God (1 Chr 29:12, 14, 16)
- God makes poor and rich (1 Sam 2:7)
 - example of Solomon (1 K 3:10–13= 2 Chr 1:11–12; cf. Mt 6:33; 1 K 10:23)
 - enjoyment of riches is a gift of God (Eccl 5:19; 6:2)
 - is best to be comfortable—not too rich or too poor (Prov 30:8)



2

GOD MAY GIVE YOUR WEALTH TO OTHERS

- Laban was blessed by association with Jacob (Gen 30:27)
- Laban became wealthy (30:29–30)
 - Laban cheated Jacob—a wage earner (31:7a; 12b; cf. Jer 22:13–14; Mal 3:5)
- God disciplined Laban by giving his wealth to Jacob (31:9, 16)
 - Jacob was honest and worked hard for a living (31:38–42)
 - nothing could prevent God from blessing Jacob (31:7b–8)
- God protected the wealth He gave to Jacob (31:24, 29 with 31:42)
- *applies to employer-employee relationships*
 - *no one can keep you from becoming rich and no one can take it from you*

3

GOD MAY REMOVE YOUR WEALTH FOR TESTING

- Job was the richest man in the East (Job 1:3)
 - his wealth came from God (1:10b)
 - his wealth was protected by God (1:10a)
 - nothing—not even Satan—could remove his wealth without God's permission (1:11–12)
- *you don't have to worry about losing your wealth*
 - Job's wealth was stripped away quickly ("while he was still speaking") by Satan for testing (1:13–19)
- God took the blame for ruining Job financially (2:3)
 - the proper attitude in testing: 'The LORD gave and the LORD took away, let the name of the LORD be blessed.' (1:21)
 - Job did not sin nor blame God (1:22)