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THE ECONOMIC THOUGHTS IN THE BIBLE WITH REFERENCE TO FINANCE

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ABSTRACT

Banking and Finance is the important tertiary sectors in the economy of all the countries. After industrial revolution, banking and finance have important roles to play in the society. Every country follows the different models of economic growth.

Bible gives the divine principles to be followed by the people and the society in case of money matters. Canon of using money for personal use, family use and for religious as well as for society is well defined in the bible. This is the way of development. If a person or a country follows the canon of the bible, they will be in the stage of economic development. The European countries, Australia and America are the real world e.g.

Keywords: Bible, Canon of the Bible, Economic Development.

PAPER

Biblical ways of financing are different than the way of world. God created the human beings. He has given the guidelines to man how to behave in social, political and economic ways. All his ways are "Divine Principle" or the "Canon of the Bible". God has created man, his wife and then society came into existence. Finance of individual, family and society- all are important and canon are set by God.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCE

(2Thess. 3:10)* "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat (2Thess. 3:10)* The Man who does not work should not eat. Bible wants man to work and then eat. If a person is lazy then bible forbid him to eat.

(Genesis 2.8-16) ** (From Bible)

8And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden; and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

10And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

11The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

12And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

13And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

14And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

15And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
(Genesis 2.8-16) ** (from Bible)

In verse 8, we read that God created 'Eden garden' and kept man there and in verse 15 we read that Lord God put man into the garden "to dress it and to keep it". And then in the following verses we read that he made provision for his food (verses 15, 16). Food provision is made after the work assignment. So in the creation

i.e. "first do work and then eat food". Bible emphasis that man must work to make the provision of finance.

FAMILY FINANCE

Family is the plan of the Lord and he made man head in the family (Ephesians 5:23). Husband, wife and children are the family plan of the Lord. God wants man to earn and feed the family. His wife and children must be subjected to him. He must love his wife.

ABOUT MAN

(Ephesians 5:22-29) *** (From Bible)

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.
(Ephesians 5:22-29) *** (From Bible)

In verse 25 we read that man must love his wife and feed her as well as family. In the plan of God, for human being, God want man to work, earn and feed the family. His wife is supposed to take care of the children and home. In the world, we see, this system is prevailing in the society and it continues till date.

ABOUT WOMAN

The wise woman in the Bible mentioned in chapter 31 of the proverbs has the quality of the entrepreneur.

(Proverbs 31:10-31)**** (From Bible)

10

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

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

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

31 **** Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

(Proverbs 31:10-31) **** (From Bible)

In verses 16-19, we see her entrepreneurship qualities and her provision of food and clothes to her family by herself.

MAN AND WOMEN

Both husband and wife can contribute to the family finance .After the wants are fulfilled the remaining amount which may not be utilised and can be considered as treasures. That treasures (The saving amount which can be converted into treasures) must be utilised for the work of the God.

(Matthew 6:19)# (From Bible)

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:” (Matthew 6:19) # (from Bible)

God do want us to work hard and earn money .When man gets the income in the form of rent, wages, remuneration and profit ,man has to spend on his needs but the amount which will be left out must be utilised for the purpose of the God’s work.

This principle might go against the logic of ‘future planning’ and ‘saving for the future’. This principle prohibits the saving .If a person should not save for the future then how he should come up with the future uncertain events e.g. Medical emergencies etc.Bible teaches us to depend on the God for all our needs, though it is a current need or the future one. A person either employed or he is a businessman, whatever it may be , is the provision of the God for his earnings .It is written in the scripture that you are not your own but you are purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. So a person must work hard to fulfil his needs but he must give whatever belongs to the lord.

Lord Jesus taught to pay taxes to the Government .So from the ‘Disposable income’ of the person he must spend on him and his family to fulfil his needs and the other remaining amount must be use for the work of the lord.

(1 Corinthians 6:19)## (From Bible)

19“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 20 For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

(1 Corinthians 6:19)##. (From Bible)

COUNTRY (SOCIETY FINANCE)

Tithe to the lord

(Malachi 3:10)@ (From Bible)

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

For country as a whole needs to submit the tithe to the Lord and remaining amount is their income .in current days we called as “Disposable Income”.

Out of total income earned by the people, they need to submit 10 percent of their income to the Lord. **(Malachi 3:10)@ (From Bible)**

Help to other fellow -Israelite

If in any of the towns in the land that the Lord your God is giving you there is a fellow-Israelite in need, then do not be selfish and refuse to help him. Instead, be generous and lend him as much as he needs. *(Deuteronomy 15:7-8)*

God ordered to lend money to fellow Israelite whether he ask or not .If a person come to know about the need of the fellow one and then lord want him to help him. In the world needy person come to the lender and borrow money but in case of Israel, they have to help the needy without their demand for money. This is the unique principle of the bible.

Cheating not allowed

(Jeremiah 22:3)@@ (From Bible)

I, the Lord, command you to do what is just and right. Protect the person who is being cheated from the one who is cheating him. Do not ill-treat or oppress foreigners, orphans, or widows; and do not kill innocent people in this holy place. *(Jeremiah 22:3) (From Bible)*

Lord God commanded not to cheat and also to protect who is being cheated. In relation to finance though individual or the society as whole lord is against cheating. Financial matters must be without any frauds, there should be transparency in all the transaction and no cheating by organisation or or enterprise by any means in any business activities or services rendered to the consumers within or outside the country. God want to have honesty in financial matters.

Concern to fellow -Israelite

(1 John 3:17) ***** (From Bible)

Rich people who see a brother or sister in need, yet close their hearts against them, cannot claim that they love God. (1 John 3:17) ***** (From Bible)

Finance of the Lord Jesus Christ

(L u k e 8 : 1 - 3) # (F r o m B i b l e)

1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

3-And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance. (Luke 8:1-3) # (From Bible)

He was the man of God and he used to depend upon the lord for everything. he used to pray in the night as well as in the early morning. Ministry of the Lord was not funded by the rich people of that time or by the money of the disciple or he never charged any money to whom he healed but Lord used to be funded by the women who were healed by him. They were Joanna, susanna etc. (Luke 8:3). Lord never demanded any money to anybody who was healed by him. He never visited any rich person to be funded by him for his ministry but he used to pray for his needs to the God day and night. God used to provide through different sources.

C.H.Mackintosh a famous commentary writer of the bible wrote "If a man of God (servant of God), make known his needs to the people by directly or indirectly then it is the dishonour to the Lord".

Lord Jesus used to do that in his entire life. He used to pray to the lord and depend on him.

God provides job and business. Man get income from it. He has to provide part of it for the fulfilment of his needs and remaining for the service of the Lord. Development will take place in the country and in the society. It is the Biblical principal and model. God wants everybody to follow it. Though it seems without any logic and we can say that development has nothing to do with moral principle, Ethical principle and Factor like God. But we have the real world e.g. of European countries, Australia and America. These countries followed the above principle and they went on top in development.

CONCLUSION

Today the principle, the canon of bible is not outdated. Since God of bible is the same, his principles are everlasting and there are no changes with the change in the time. They are not time bound.

We all must depend upon the Lord for all our needs. If we are working, we earn money. But entire our income is not our own. we have to make the provision of our needs (Individual, Family etc.) and remaining amount is belong to the lord which must be used for the work of the Lord.

This is the principle which bible wants each person to follow. If he follows the canon, then person is blessed and the needs of the person will be fulfilled by the Lord and he will enjoy the everlasting life which is there in Lord Jesus Christ (The true Christian life).

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