

**The  
Economics  
of the  
Kingdom of God**

By  
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## Preface

Assume for a moment an economic system comprising eleven workers. One worker earns \$200,000 per year, another \$100,000 per year, three workers earn \$15,000 per year, and five workers earn \$3,000 per year—not enough income to afford both food and shelter leaving them and their families homeless to wander the streets or live in the back of an old van. The final worker in our hypothetical example has somehow become unfortunate enough to end up in one of the many slave labor camps throughout the world operated by nefarious contractors to serve the competitive needs of transnational corporations, and earns only \$1,500 per year. The government officials who have worked so hard and so selflessly to bring about such affluence beam with pride over their success. By letting the natural forces of the market operate unfettered, they claim, they

have created an oasis of prosperity! Let's briefly review their success.

The average annual income per worker in our hypothetical example is a respectable \$32,900, an amount high enough to afford the average family a nice place to live and a decent standard of living. Gross domestic product per person, assuming one worker per family and an average family size of 2.5 persons, equals \$13,100 per year, also a comfortable level *for the average family*. We could go on talking about averages, or per capita calculations of this or that, but the truth is that this economic system doesn't work: it doesn't work because it doesn't provide even a minimum standard of living for all its citizens. The *averages* in this case disguise some very disturbing facts. In the example above the median family income (rank incomes from highest to lowest then observe the middle value) is only \$3,000, revealing that at least half the families in this country are unable to afford both food and shelter even though average family income is \$32,900!

In spite of the fact that this example was picked for purposes of illustration, it is an unfortunate truth that some countries of the world have a distribution of income not too different from that shown in the example. In fact, when compared with the global income distribution table above, the numbers in this little example portray the current world situation rather well! And in most countries of the world today—even though their performance may not be as dismal as that shown in our example—the mal-distribution of both income and wealth is such that these economies must also be labeled failures in their most important functions: providing all of their citizens with a reasonable opportunity to earn a decent living and achieve some degree of economic security.

God provided man with a detailed outline of how a sound economy should function roughly 3,500 years ago. This outline has been available to man for all these years, and has been translated into virtually every language on earth. But man has viewed the economic statutes of God as “a strange thing” (Hos. 8:12) and has made a mess of things by replacing God's economic wisdom with his own foolishness.

Man is without excuse. The day is soon coming when the Lord will reject the wicked, the greedy, and the ignorant from positions of rulership over His people. When these oppressors are turned

Top fifth	82.7%
Second fifth	11.7%
Third fifth	2.3%
Fourth fifth	1.9%
Bottom fifth	1.4%

Source: UNDP, *Human Development Report 1992* (New York: Oxford Univ Press, 1992). Quoted from *When Corporations Rule the World*, David C. Korten, 1995

out of office the miserable economic systems they have concocted will go with them. These rejected rulers will be replaced by the saints of the Most High who will rule over the earth under Jesus Christ in righteousness. The economic laws of God, as explained in the chapters that follow, will become the laws of the land worldwide. The heavy hand of economic oppression will be removed from off the poor, neither will their faces be ground in the dirt any longer. True prosperity will break out, and not just for the few. This event will be known as the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth.

*And in the days of these kings  
shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom,  
which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to  
other people,  
but it shall break in pieces and consume  
all these kingdoms,  
and it shall stand for ever.  
(Dan. 2: 44)*

*And he shall judge among many people,  
and rebuke strong nations afar off;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruninghooks:  
nation shall not lift up a sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
But they shall sit every man under his vine  
and under his fig tree;  
and none shall make them afraid:  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.  
(Mic. 4: 3-4)*

Princeton, New Jersey  
June 21, 1999

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