Common Cents (5)
- Debt -

Rules for entering the promised land – A Nation is being built from the ground up!

Deuteronomy 15 – At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts. (2) This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel any loan they have made to a fellow Israelite. They shall not require payment from anyone among their own people, because the Lord’s time for canceling debts has been proclaimed.

(6) For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none (Because of the Lord’s blessing).

(8) Be openhanded and freely lend to those in need. (10) Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work (prosperity) and in everything you put your hand to.

1. Debt, loans, creditors, lenders, borrowers, poor, generous, and prosperous were all a part of the Promised Land acquisition.

2. Psalm 112:5 – Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.

Matthew 5:42 – Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

3. Debt is not evil. Debt is not forbidden. Debt, at times, is necessary. However, debt must be measured over against Paul’s litmus test in Philippians 4:12.

* “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (13) I can do all of this through Christ who gives me strength.”

* We have a problem “being content” when we dwell in a culture that believes “living in plenty” and having access to abundance is what is to be expected.
4. Much of the time, “living in plenty” completely overshadows the God who gave, not only plenty, but all.

* We forget all about the One who “can do all things” in our finances (13).

5. Listen to God’s plea – “Give careful thought to your ways.” You have forgotten God! Things will not go well with you.

In the second year of King Darius word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel. ² This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord’s house.’”

³ Then the word of the Lord came again through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your plush houses, while this the Lord’s house remains a ruin?”

⁵ Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”

⁷ This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build My house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord.

⁹ “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the Lord Almighty. “Because of My house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.

6. Build My house first with the resources you have. In doing this, I will take delight in you! In doing this, you are honoring Me! In doing this, you and your finances will be blessed!