

Economics & the Bible

by Paul J. Wickliffe

Is there a difference between God's laws of economics and man's laws of economics? What is the best way to describe each? Before getting into God's economy, I want to briefly examine the two most familiar economic systems—the free market system and the system of cartels also known as monopolies.

The free-market system is termed as such because there should be little or no regulation involved of merchants by a government entity (*laissez-faire*), rather success or failure in the market place is determined by the merchant and the marketplace.¹ For the buyer, the law is always in operation in the phrase and warning, 'buyer beware.' For the purchaser you must employ 'due diligence' when it comes to the purchasing of any item, service or product. Don't look to others, to do for yourself what you should accomplish on your own.

In *free-market economics*, transactions are viewed between both parties, merchant and buyer, as necessary and reciprocal. These interactions between parties result in consequences that are both culturally positive and financially expedient. And then there are the intangibles that exceed the mere monetary value that are produced by such transactions.

In a free-market economy success or failure for the merchant is determined by the law of supply and demand, as well as the merchant's acumen, attention to customer service and the quality of the product or service provided. In the end, competition or that attribute which moves people to strive to be their best, will be the motivation and model, in the absence of governmental interference, that will cause men and nations to realize a plane of economic success that has not been seen with any other economic model

The other means of exchanging goods and services can be seen in the economics of the monopoly or cartel.² These economic platforms create corporate entities of immense power and wealth through the elimination of competition and protection by legislative or law-making bodies, as well as creation and implementation of corporate espionage. Through [foundations](#) and the funneling of that money into charities and

¹ Supply and demand, consumer confidence, supply chain issues, wholesalers, manufacturers, deficit spending by irresponsible government, inflation, etc.

² To answer these questions, it is necessary first to understand fully the nature and function of cartels. A cartel is an international grouping of companies that is bound together by contracts or agreements designed to promote inter-company cooperation and, thereby, reduce competition among them. Some of these agreements may deal with such harmless subjects as industry standards and nomenclature. But most of them involve the exchange of patent rights, the dividing up of regional markets, the setting of prices, and agreements not to enter into product competition within specific categories. Generally, a cartel is a means of escaping the rigors of competition in the open free-enterprise market. The result always is higher prices and fewer products from which to choose. Cartels and monopolies, therefore, are not the result of free enterprise, but the escape from it. ["World Without Cancer: The Story of Vitamin B₁₇ Part II,"](#) G. Edward Griffin, American Media, P.O. Box 1365, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, 1974, p. 258

philanthropy their ‘sacrificial gifts’ donated actually benefit themselves, their businesses or their own political agendas.³

They also avoid income taxes through the graduated income tax system they helped to create. They also engage in non-competitive agreements between potential rivals, thereby avoiding legal battles and entanglements, while assuring the health of the monolithic cartel behemoth.

Cartels are viewed as dynastic, for example the Nelson Rockefellers, Andrew Carnegies, Amschel Rothschilds, Bill Gates and Warren Buffets. Cartels also engage in corporate favoritism⁴ and can be extremely legally complex and incestuous⁵ like I.G. Farben⁶ of Germany during World War II whose subsidiaries and tentacles of influence spread from Europe to America.⁷

In the end, monopolies or cartels are also exploitive and predatory in their practices and nature. While billions are spent on marketing campaigns to convince a naïve and dumbed down public that these corporate entities have their best interest at heart, nothing could be further from the truth. In the end, cartels or monopolies are synonymous with totalitarian regimes.⁸

But before moving forward, there are a few other points that need addressing if the whole picture of economics is to be understood. By introducing God’s perspective on the interrelationships existing between merchant and buyer, we are invariably confronted with man’s pride, ignorance and conceit which refuses to acknowledge God’s simple and straightforward solutions. It is in man’s denial that God’s economic solutions are sharply and abruptly contrasted. So it is, I introduce God’s simple and straightforward economic solutions and definitions as follows:

1. **sluggardness**—A trait characterized by an absence of enthusiasm, commitment and expenditure of energy in the basic necessities and needs required for the care, health and maintenance of the individual. Lazy, idle, waster. God’s solution to the lazy, ‘Get off your blessed assurance and work. If you don’t work, you don’t eat.’

³ *ibid.* p. 351

⁴ Secondly, as a result of this political favoritism, the FDA has become a primary factor in that formula whereby cartel-oriented companies in the food and drug industry are able to use the police powers of government to harass or destroy their free-market competitors. *ibid.* p. 396

⁵ The cartel practice of consolidating corporate power through the re-naming and re-structuring of businesses. In the end, these legal tentacles can all be traced back to one source—the parent company.

⁶ I.G. stands for *Interessen Gemeinschaft*, which means “community of interests,” or more simply, “cartel.” *Farben* means “dyes,” which, because the modern chemical industry had its origin in the development of dyestuffs, now is a deceptively innocent sounding category that, in reality, encompasses the entire field of chemistry, including munitions and drugs. *ibid.* 246

⁷ I. G. *Farben* is usually discussed as a huge German cartel which controls chemical industries throughout the world and from which profits flow back to the headquarters in Frankfort. *Farben*, however, is no mere industrial enterprise conducted by Germans for the extraction of profits at home and abroad. Rather, it is and must be recognized as a cabalistic organization which, through foreign subsidiaries and by secret tie-ups, operates a far-flung and highly efficient espionage machine—the ultimate purpose being world conquest—and a world superstate directed by *Farben*. *ibid.* p. 247

⁸ *ibid.* p. 270

2. **slothfulness**—A trait characterized by a lack of care, concern, conscientiousness and detail in the performance of one’s job. Irresponsible, negligent.
3. **stewardship**—Someone who cares for the estate of another. This practice was designed to teach the individual about a respect for private property, while at the same time instructing the individual that everything they might possess was God’s—they were ultimately God’s caretaker or steward (Gen. 1:26, 28; Luke 16:12). When Israel came into the land of promise, a land



Figure 1--Half a shekel coin of gold from Judea, 10 B.C.

flowing with milk and honey, God dispossessed seven nations stronger than they. They didn’t have to plant, build, till the land or acquire and multiply livestock—this bounty was theirs because of God’s promise made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This wealth bequeathed to them on behalf of the blessings of Providence, was never to be forgotten—they were to care for that which was God’s.

4. **wealth**—Physical, tangible assets—gold and silver coin, livestock, oil, agricultural commodities, real estate. Wealth, according to the Bible, is not in worthless Federal Reserve Notes issued by a corrupt, central banking cartel known as the Federal Reserve.
5. **money**—Gold, silver and copper coin. The oversight, regulation (weights and measures), and numismatic design were determined by the tabernacle treasurer; the “shekel of the sanctuary.” The coin of choice for the country appeared to be the shekel of the sanctuary which was equivalent to twenty gerahs (Lev. 27:25) or .402 ounces. A gerah was .571 grams

6. **currency**—This word does not appear in scripture and there is a good reason for this. Currency is not money. It's a paper substitute for money or note (a debt, I.O.U. or promise to pay) and lacks the four attributes of sound or honest money:
 - i. durability—paper is not durable
 - ii. divisibility—paper can be designated in various denominations
 - iii. intrinsic worth—inflation, or an increase in the money supply, makes the Federal Reserve Note 'not worth the paper it's written on'
 - iv. relative scarcity—paper, because of its abundance, recyclability and renewability, is not scarce
7. **indebtedness**—A phenomenon that the biblical God recognized as part of the human condition, while making allowances in his law for a release of obligations every 7 years. National indebtedness was dealt with through an event known as the jubile (Leviticus 26)
8. **jubile**—Observed every 50 years⁹ starting from the time Israel had settled the land, the jubile was the economic benchmark or standard whereby Israel was to operate. The jubile determined:
 - MERCHANT'S MARGIN OF PROFIT
Lev. 25:15, 16—The profit margin for the merchant was tethered to the jubile. For example, during the jubile a merchant could charge 100% profit for a product or service. Year forty-nine he would charge 2% less or 98%. Each successive year would result in another 2% less in profit. This God imposed phenomenon was supposed to create within the seller an appreciation of God's promise and provision to provide for his own in spite of circumstances men may want to control. It also targeted the covetousness aspect of human greed and was an assault on individuals who made money their god instead of the biblical God.
 - CREDITOR FORGIVENESS OF PERSONAL DEBT
The release of someone indebted, while returning to their patrimony (inheritance given to them by their father) that was previously forfeited by negligence, powers beyond their control, or an act of God (Lev. 25:10)
 - AN AGRICULTURAL SABBATH OF REST (Lev. 25:19-22)
Farmers and their families, their hired help, on-site bondservants, livestock, the physically handicapped, i.e., poor of the land, as well as the wild animals would all benefit from the blessings of Providence as he provided for the farmer by making the land produce for three

⁹ Lev. 25:9, 10—Officially, it was supposed to have begun when the twelve tribes had received their land and was to be celebrated on October 10—The Day of Atonement. This unfortunately never occurred because of Israel's disobedience.

years¹⁰ without the energy expenditure of tilling, planting¹¹ and harvesting.

- **LOSS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Personal hardship (Lev. 25:25-27)—An individual forced to sell because of adversity, could redeem his property at any time or have a proxy (substitute, usually a family member) do so on his behalf. The price of his material possessions would be determined by its value at the time of the sale, multiplied by 2% per year.

Property to revert to original owner at jubile (Lev. 25:28)

If someone's personal property could not be redeemed by the individual or kinsman, then it would return to its original owner at the jubile.

This practice assured a country wherein its citizens lived, that real estate would remain in the hands of its rightful owners for generations (Lev. 25:23). In Leviticus 25:24 God's "redemption for the land" meant it was to remain in the hands of those God had granted it to, namely the Israelites—it was free of foreign interference and occupation—much like Jesus' sin payment and the Spirit's indwelling liberating us from the power, influence and condemnation of sin.

- **REAL ESTATE**

Within a city—A home within city limits may be redeemed¹² by its owner within a year; however, if it is not redeemed by its owner then it becomes established by him that purchased it and will not go out in the jubile

Outside the city—Those residences outside the city limits "shall be counted as the fields of the country: they may be redeemed, and they shall go out in the jubile."

Priests, pastors, ministers—While the law makes an allowance for such individuals, those clerical offices disappeared when the apostolic church ceased, the inerrant scriptures were completed, clerical authority was replaced with scriptural authority, and the Holy Spirit becomes the believer's teacher.

- **0% LOANS ON SIZEABLE ITEMS (Lev. 25:35-38)**

Usury was prohibited. A handshake, verbal agreement and physical evidence (sales receipt, bill of sale, etc.) of a transaction were all that was required between buyer and seller in the consummation of a sale.

¹⁰ Lev. 25:21—Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.

¹¹ The farmer was to sow the eighth year—Lev. 25:22.

¹² The redemption price of a dwelling was calculated the same way as was for personal property, namely the value of the property at the time of sale and then 2% per year thereafter.

- INDEBTED COUNTRYMEN ARE NOT TO BE TREATED AS BONDSERVANTS (Lev. 25:39-43)
They serve 6 years and then are to be freed OR have their obligations forgiven in a jubile year.
- BONDSERVANTS WERE NOT SLAVES BUT STRANGERS (TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE) WHO OWED A DEBT TO GOD BY THEIR GODLESS LIFESTYLE AND BONDAGE TO SIN
Being a bondservant did not have to be a permanent condition. The individual could choose to forsake their godless and wicked lifestyle even as Ruth did to remain with her mother-in-law Naomi and return to Israel from Moab (Ruth 1:16, 17).
- IF AN ALIEN PURCHASES A NATIONAL, IT SHALL BE AS AN HIRED SERVANT (LEV. 25:50)
A national can be redeemed at any time by his kin or by redeeming himself. He should not be treated as a bondservant—"with rigour" (Lev. 25:43). His redemption price, again, was tethered to the jubile. Whatever his purchase price was, it shall be multiplied by 2% each year. This hired servant qualifies for the pardon of his obligations after 6 years of service. (Lev. 25:47-55)

PURPOSE OF THE JUBILE: (1) Eliminate personal or family indebtedness (2) Assure financial stability, security, and permanence of Israel's national boundaries within the sovereign confines promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (3) Prevent the incremental encroachment and forfeiture of land deeded to Israel by godless foreign powers, cultures and peoples. (4) As a reminder to the nation of Israel that their national existence, identity, maintenance and longevity depended on their obedience to this economic principle of prosperity. Their failure and refusal to observe this profound, liberating economic principle, along with many others of God's commands, resulted in the demise of the nation. The captivity and contamination of their national identity as the people of the biblical God, ushered in the "times of the Gentiles."



7-year release (Lev. 21:1; Lev. 25:21; Deut. 15:9, 12)—A man or woman was released from all obligations after a period of six years of paid service. They did not live with their employer. This release was not extended to bondservants

9. **God's dominion mandate**—This mandate or decree required care and responsibility towards all that God had created and made.

- **FRUITFULNESS**—Involved the act of bringing forth or the procreative act within marriage between a man and a woman. Remember, this decree was issued to a married couple—Adam and Eve. Its full blessings are only realized in the covenant of marriage. Malthusianism or the concept of population control is clearly anti-biblical and godless. This wicked concept is the brainchild of the brainless collectivists (Thomas Malthus and his ilk). Abortion, in God's eyes, is murder. Physicians interposing themselves as God, giving you a 'choice' of either/or, are probably not the individuals you want to entrust your health to. God created the earth to be inhabited and Nimrod's refusal to ignore God's dominion mandate resulted in the confusion of languages and the diaspora of man over the globe in Genesis 11:1-9. Don't ever believe the governments of the world that have seized up vast tracts of land within their own borders to prevent development, are doing it for the betterment of their people. No. They have acquired it for evil and nefarious purposes
- **MULTIPLICATION**—Involved Adam and Eve's progeny continuing their ancestor's initial act of fruitfulness. Ordinary mortality rates, natural disasters or acts of God, accidents, disease, famine, malnutrition are all factors that need to be considered in the moderating influences upon population.
- **REPLENISHMENT**—Plenish is the idea of a full, diverse pantry. Such was the earth at the time of Adam and Eve's arrival on this planet. Replenish is the concept of re-stocking from that which was removed. It involves not only the act of replacing but a secondary level of stewardship defined as renewing. Adam and Eve were entrusted with God's vast storehouse of natural resources. An example of renewing would be an abandoned open pit mining operation that is replaced by a beautiful lake with natively landscaped shoreline.
- **SUBDUE**—Man is not to rape, plunder and destroy that which the Creator has so carefully and meticulously given man. Subduing the earth carries with it the idea of taming the wilderness, while at the same time respecting it and working with it—molding oneself to your surroundings. While the antediluvian world (before Noah's flood) experienced relative tectonic calmness and climatic harmony for 1,656 years, things were drastically different thereafter. After the worldwide flood of Noah man would encounter diverse and hostile

environments. Man would 'push through' these challenges; however, through invention (God's inspiration to men),¹³ innovation, creation and collaboration. As men spread out over the earth, they would encounter adverse habitats, compelling them to adapt. They have done so from the Antarctic to the Sahara Desert and everywhere in between.

10. **Real estate**—The concept of private property is found throughout scripture. In the Ten Commandments we are told, "Thou shalt not steal." This assumes the fact that there is property someone else owns that you are stealing from. It belongs to someone else! Also, a very important point that also goes along with this concept of private property is stewardship—God has entrusted it to you. So how you manage and take care of what is God's, reveals much about who you are, and what you think of God. When you understand that it is ultimately God who owns everything, there is no room for covetousness.
11. **Flat rate tabernacle/temple tax (Ex. 30:12-16)**—An annual tax assessed on all males twenty years old and upward. While those that refused would incur the plague of God, it should be noticed that it behooved all males to willingly give.¹⁴ This Godly admonition was designed to create a collective mindset that selfishness had no place in a nation's worship of God. It amounted to a shekel or twenty gerahs or approximately .33 cents. It was an atonement (payment) before God for their souls.
12. **usury**—A percentage charged on a loan. While this practice was forbidden to use on nationals (those embracing the biblical God),¹⁵ God permitted its use on foreigners (unbelieving pagans) or people whom God viewed as being slaves and already in bondage to their own sin.
13. **manservant, maidservant**—Were paid for their services and giftings for an employer. The objective of the servant was to pay off debt. A servant did not live on the employer's property.
14. **bondservant**—Lived with their employer and was provided room and board. A voluntary form of indentureship, it was visibly recognized by the individual's ear having been bored through with an aul.¹⁶ Bondservants never saw a 6-year release or a jubile celebration of redemption.

¹³ Job 32:8—But *there is* a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

¹⁴ Ex. 30:12—. . . that there be no plague among them, when *thou* numberest them.

¹⁵ The determination of who was a believer and who was not was ultimately reflected in an individual's actions and words. Much like traitors within our own government and Jesus' astute observation— "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matt. 7:16) If you are seditious, it will be known! We don't need the creation of a government department to tell us the obvious!!! This should never be gauged by church membership or attendance but reflected in one's Christian faith, one's love of country, and one's respect and defense of the Constitution.

¹⁶ Ex. 21:5, 6—And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: 6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

15. **slave**—This word occurs only once in scripture and its application and context can be found in Jeremiah 2:14.¹⁷ A rhetorical question from God, Providence states Israel is a servant of sin, a slave to subjective feeling, intuition, passions, lusts and impulses. God adds that Israel is spoiled, namely possesses an ungrateful entitlement mentality tempered with profane proclivities (tendencies). Slavery in the context of British colonialism generally meant the individual was seen as chattel or property, possessing no rights, and could be treated as the master saw fit. This is never the case in scripture. A servant was supposed to be treated with respect and dignity, and when his service was complete or 6-year redemption fulfilled, he was to be furnished with whatever he needed from the material cache of his employer. In Exodus 20:17 the words “manservant” and “maidservant” are found. In no way does this imply slavery as the elite globalists are suggesting. This reflects a normal, yet unfortunate human condition that has plagued man since the dawn of creation, namely human and national indebtedness. Back then, if you owed a debt and didn’t have sufficient means, it was understood you served the person until the debt was paid, or in the case of Hebrew culture, you were released from all obligations after 6 years or during the jubile.
16. **dowry**—The savings of money and material possessions set aside for a daughter on the day of her betrothal.
17. **inheritance**—Generally went to the eldest son, except in the case of a married man not having any sons, in which case it would be equally divided up amongst his daughters. This occurred so a man would not lose his inheritance within the tribes of his brethren.
18. **unionism**—A collectivist concept and term emerging from the false notion amongst peoples of ‘fairness’ or equality. This false labeling has also led to the belief that the following gifts also fall under the umbrella of fairness. They are:
- giftedness—God-given talent, without the need to acquire or hone it
 - intellect—The capacity to make the difficult easy to understand
 - ingenuity—Thinking outside the box
 - innovation—Inspiration from the Creator along with a corresponding understanding
 - teachable spirit—The desire to adapt and subdue (collaborate and solutions/results oriented)
 - motivation—Self-starter. Doesn’t need someone to hold their hand and tell them what to do, when to do it OR how to do it.
 - perseverance—Regardless of the circumstances and adversity; pushes through.
 - common sense—heeding one’s God-given moral conscience

¹⁷ Jer. 2:14—*Is Israel a servant? is he a homeborn slave? why is he spoiled?*

Unionism teaches egalitarianism, fairness, or a form of the Liberal's 'social justice' propaganda. These concepts are deliberately unbiblical.

All men should have equal opportunity to express their God-given talents; however, not all men are equal in their giftedness as described from the traits mentioned above.

The Bible teaches that in spite of these inequalities, those more abundantly blessed should nonetheless be willing to share their financial/material blessings with those less fortunate.¹⁸ Remember, this is a voluntary call by God of the individual to give charitably. It should never be compulsory and backed up by a law. God will deal with the individual who does not give back freely to whom God has blessed so abundantly.

Also within a union is the elimination of competition. If everyone gets paid the same, where is the mechanism that compels people to be their best? Union's, by their very conforming structure, actually punish people who are 'go-getters,' innovators and inventors.

19. rich—Biblically, is a term directed to able-bodied individuals while reflecting thrift, diligence, perseverance, hard work, savings, giving and a biblical understanding of wealth's origin (God) and what constitutes real wealth:

- gold, silver, copper coin money
- precious metals
- gemstones
- land
- land and property
- coins
- rare treasures and artwork
- agricultural commodities
- usury or interest on loans
- intellectual property—texts, books and manuscripts
- inventions, innovations
- farm implements
- livestock
- seed
- soil amendments—manure, water retention products
- irrigation devices
- liquid fertilizers
- weapons of war
- musical instruments
- merchant's products
- pest control products

¹⁸ I Cor. 12:12—For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

When the Bible addresses the term rich or wealthy and how Providence wanted his people to gain wealth through his blessings of obedience, it was never to be at the expense or advantage of his own people. It was also with the understanding that money was never to be the object of someone's security replacing material things with the individual's security in God. This is the familiar Bible maxim that the love of money as being the root of all evil. There is nothing inherently evil about money. It is the love of money that God condemns.

20. poor—When the Bible mentions the poor, it is generally¹⁹ not in reference to someone who is able-bodied. Poor referred to people physically handicapped in some way and who were to be looked after by family members, kinfolk, neighbors, and other interested parties within the community. While poverty could result from an individual's poor choices, a death, circumstances beyond one's control, chronic illness, or the dictates of a bad ruler or irresponsible spouse, it was generally understood that a person in such circumstances would eventually deliver themselves from poverty. This would be done by hard work, obedience to God's laws, thrift, savings, prayer, and respect for themselves in not being burdensome to their community.
21. prisons—While God had established the penalties for most of his laws AND God's punishment was equal to the transgression committed (equity), God never sanctioned the concept of prisons, lawyers, bail bonds and the like. As God saw it, prisons and all its trappings were an unnecessary tax burden on a people that needed to know him and live by his commandments. There was no crime when his people worshipped him and lived out his laws within. Those that did sin were confronted by God, his commandments, one's family, their kinfolk, friends, those within the community, the elders, the magistrates, the priests, the tribe and the nation.
22. deficit spending (government indebtedness)—Although this may not be obvious in scripture, spending that which you do not possess as a ruler is condemned by God. This is precisely what happens when you have a Federal Reserve cartel with their central banks, the issuing of credit (debt-future promise to pay), punitive monetary policies, money laundering (FTX and Ukraine) and out-of-control printing of currency (inflation, namely an increase in the 'money' supply), fractional reserve banking practices, etc. It is no different than plundering someone by a hold-up, but of course, all in the name of keeping the government (thieves) afloat.

¹⁹ The biblical context in which the word is found will indicate how the poor came into their present state.

23. taxation—the only taxation in the Old Testament, prior to a monarchy, was the temple or tabernacle tax. It was a flat rate tax (fixed amount, across the socioeconomic board, of a certain age group) NOT a percentage of gross wages,²⁰ which would penalize those who made more and therefore penalize innovation, inventiveness, excellence, savings, thriftiness, hard work and motivation—basically all those positive traits that are evident in a free-market, capitalist system.²¹

²⁰ Also known as the graduated income tax, this is a major plank of the *Communist Manifesto*. We have it here in the U.S. It needs to be abolished.

²¹ Remember, the jubile established the amount of profit merchants could charge per year from the jubile. Also, God's expectation was that if God has blessed you, it would benefit you personally to share those blessings with others . . . That is, if you wanted God's continued blessing on your life.