

Talking Money
\$ with Strangers
for an Epic Return

by Christine Cecil, Ed.D.

Copyright © 2017 Christine Cecil

ISBN: 978-1-5136-1943-9

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or distributed without express written permission.

Introductions

“Don’t talk to strangers”. Everyone knows that.

What some people may not realize is that the Bible uniquely defines a “stranger”.

Scripture refers to strangers as those residing in Israel who are not Jewish. It can also denote a resident in a foreign land or any person who is not a Jew.

So, if you are not a Jewish person, then you are a stranger. This book is for you.

“Don’t talk about money”. That’s another lesson from most parents. Money issues are seen as private and confidential.

Yet, Scripture makes many references to financial matters. The Father clearly defines a “love of money as the root of all evil.” At the same time, in Jeremiah 33:9, He speaks of prosperity so abundant it will make people tremble.

As you may know, “prosperity” has gotten a bad reputation in many circles because the Father’s children seem to be seeking His hand and not His face. Still, He clearly states that He wants His children to prosper and be in health even as their souls prosper.

So, instead of squirming with discomfort, we will speak openly that money matters. We will try not be strangers. Let’s be friends. Then, hopefully, we will participate in the most epic return the world will ever see.

Epic Return

Every one wants a return on their investment. But, I want an epic return — unusually powerful, wonderful, huge, or awesome.

As far as I can see, there is one simply awesome thing that the Creator of the universe longs to do with all His heart and soul. In Jeremiah 32:41, He says of the Jewish people, “I will

rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in the land with all my heart and with all my soul.” The Father longs for the epic return to Jerusalem of millions of Jewish people currently living throughout the world.

Remember, that He calls the Jewish people “the apple of His eye”. That means He sees everything in history through the lens of His children, the Jews. With all His heart and soul, He wants to return them to their land and fulfill His covenant of Genesis 15 where He vowed that He would be cut into pieces unless He did it.

Isaiah 60 details this epic return of those most precious to the heart of God. And, when these souls return, they come with great wealth.

Prosperous Souls

One simple way to be wealthy in the eyes of God and to prosper in your soul is giving to God. Giving to the poor is a loan to the Lord, and He will repay. When you make an investment and give money to the poor in the name of the Father, He promises to return your investment.

Sadly, many givers fail to sanctify their altars. For example, many people love Israel and give generously to Israeli Jewish charities. What these givers often fail to realize is that their donations are actually being used AGAINST Jewish believers in the land of Israel. Can you imagine that funds you give sacrificially from the heart can be turned and used to persecute the body of Messiah in the land. Please. STOP! Imagine how much this grieves our King.

Instead, research your organization before you give. I strongly recommend using the Fellowship of Israel Related ministries (<http://firm.org.il>). When you give to these organizations, you can be assured that believers in the land will be blessed and protected with your tithes.

Another principle for the wealthy and healthy is the tithe. There are three tithes in scriptures. The first tithe is simply ten percent of your earnings. The second tithe is an additional ten percent of your earnings designated to take a member of your family to Jerusalem each year and to purchase a feast there; once again, we see a Heavenly Father who is particularly interested in His children returning home. The third tithe takes place in every third and sixth year of a seven year cycle, and it is for the widow and orphans. These tithes are wise investments that can yield up to one hundred fold in this life and the life to come.

From the Father's perspective, another wise investment is silver and gold. Haggai 2:8 says, "The silver and gold are mine says the Lord." Isaiah 60:9 also states, "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you."

Perhaps you have never purchased silver or gold as an investment. I enjoy thrift stores and garage sales. I regularly purchase items that are 14 karat gold below the current value of about \$28 per gram of gold. It isn't glamorous investing, but these items will likely hold value for years to come.

Silver coins are also easily purchased. The Morgan silver dollar is convenient since it is legal tender and the silver value is clearly documented on the coin. For a steady investment, a coin or two could be purchased each month. It's not an epic return, but wise, nonetheless.

Occasionally, I approach my bank to inquire if they received any silver. If individuals have deposited or exchanged a large amount of change, my bank will sell that to me. They rarely check to see if the coins have inherent value. I have found coins minted before 1964 which may

contain 90% silver. If I purchase something for a quarter and the silver is worth \$3.00, that is value. But it is still not an epic return.

The scriptures also indicate a guaranteed return when you invest in a particular place and the Jewish people. The Father says, "I will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel".

One simple way to bless Israel is to purchase government bonds. A quick visit to israelibonds.com today shows a tidy return of 4.08% on a 10 year bond for larger investments. A small investor can earn over 3% while you long to find a bank that will even pay 1%. Buying a few bonds per month could render a steady return. But, we don't want steady returns, we want epic returns.

Jewish people represent about .2% of the world. Messianic Jewish people represent only a tiny fraction of that already small group. The field becomes even more narrow when hoping to find a Messianic financial advisor who resides in Israel. Anything that rare is valuable.

Of course, I am not a financial advisor. I can only point to the principles of the scriptures and suggest possible options. One possibility is Evan Liberman, of Wise Money Israel. For a flat fee of \$150, he will help you open an Israeli investment account. Then, your money will no longer be in dollars. You are able to trade in shekels. While you must report your earnings to the IRS, your money is literally in Israel. Returns of 6% or more are available from the bonds available on the Tel-Aviv stock market. But, that is not an epic return.

Land is another dimension of wealth. If somewhere between 17 and 23 million Jews live in the Disapora, with only 6 million Jewish people living in Israel, that's at least 11 million

people who need a home. That makes the land of Israel the most valuable real estate on the planet.

For most of us, land in Israel is out of reach. The next best thing, is a time share with purpose. You can purchase one week of annual accommodations with Chaim Malespin, a Messianic Believer, and the Aliyah Return Center. When you purchase your week, they will give a one week stay for a new immigrant to Israel. It's like doubling the power of your money effortlessly.

Another strategy that requires a bit more effort is built upon Revelation 6:6 which states clearly at some point in time, a cup of wheat will be worth a days wage. Now, we we have no idea if that value will occur in our lifetime. But we do know that properly stored wheat can easily last 30 years, and two thousand year old seeds, found on Masada, still sprouted.

The price of organic wheat berries in California is about 80 cents a pound. A conservative estimate of a days wage in California is about \$125. I am not a mathematician, but I think that is about a 12,000 percent return. That is epic.

I have friends in England who maintain seed banks in Israel. Some of the seed is to trade, some to plant, and some to sell. In light of this article on banking <https://www.fdic.gov/about/srac/2012/gsifi.pdf> that projects total losses for many investors in the event of future cross-border banking collapse, I think my British friends are wise.

But, personal opinion pales compared to the scripture. A short study of Biblical storehouses reveals four main staples: wheat, oil, wine, and salt. Honey is also featured. I believe the wheat is a metaphor for stockpiling scripture; the wine represents cheerfulness; the salt is a wonderful preservative and bespeaks of correction, while the oil signifies healing.

Honey also has many healing and nutritional properties, and it just lasts forever. I personally want to be physically and spiritually fortified with these items. But, epic endeavors breed epic enemies.

Epic Return Enemies

In order to gain epic returns in our life, we must face enemies. But, we face these enemies from a place of victory. The covenant and the challenges are outlined for us in Genesis Chapter 15.

In this chapter, the Almighty affirms his everlasting and unfailing covenant with Abram for all the land from the River Nile to the Euphrates. In ancient times, two parties made binding agreements by cutting costly animals in two. The two parties to the agreement then walked between the butchered animals which declared in a tangible way, “May we be cut in two if we ever break this agreement.”

The interesting part of this whole picture is that Abram sleeps while the Almighty cuts a covenant with himself. Hebrew 6 explains it like this “For when Adonai made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself. Saying, surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying, I will multiply you.” The covenant does not depend on Abram. It is the same picture of faithful love demonstrated in the book of Hosea. It is the same picture of faithful love we see on an execution stake. The Jewish people will return and possess all the land regardless of their faithfulness.

Similarly, the exceedingly great and precious promises of a loving Father are available to us in epic proportions. To possess these promises we must prevail against very real enemies.

The Amorites are enemy number one in this chapter. This people group is noted, for their excessive iniquity. The name Amorite connotes publicity or fame. In my opinion, it is the idea of needing praise and recognition from others.

If I derive my self-worth and value from the praise of men instead of the praise of God, I am cursed. It is idolatry at the most basic level because perceptions shape my identity rather than praise of my king.

Next, are the Kenites. This name means “smiths”. Simply put, it is the idea of fashioning your own weapons and defenses. Defensive people are not humble. Furthermore, they fight with carnal weapons when God intended us to have spiritual strength rather than relying on our natural abilities.

Second, are the Kenezites. Their name means “hunters”. Self reliance will never yield the epic returns the Father desires for you. Self-improvement is a short-cut to Hell dressed up as an angel of light. It sounds so good to be the best you can be, work-out, eat right instead of total surrender to the only one who can make you righteous.

Third, the Kadmonites are devious enemies. This name conveys the idea of an “Easterner”. Individuals are drawn away from the living God in unprecedented levels by Eastern thought and religion. Yoga Hinduism, Buddhism, meditation, energy, the NOW — these foul practices sweep away the Truth. Don’t succumb.

The Hittite name simply means “Fear”. The spirit of fear grips many a soul and prevents them from experiencing the epic returns the Father has planned for us. He says “Eye has not seen and ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love Him.” If fear is crippling you today, fight it with faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Fifth, Perizzites are a village dwelling people group. You may have heard the saying “It takes a village.” This nice idea simply is not true. Each of us will stand alone before the Almighty. To serve group think is to be ruled by public opinion. It is the tyranny of the majority in the worst sense. The reality is that one person consecrated to God and operating with God is enough to win many battles.

The sixth enemy is the Rephaim. Everyone has giants in their life. Everyone must endure certain tests, trials, and temptations. Life is like a giant video game; beat this level and rise to conquer the next.

The seventh enemy, the Amorites, we already mentioned. This desire for publicity, which may originate with the Devil himself, who longs for the worship that belongs only to God, must be particularly grievous to God because He calls them out as enemy number one for their iniquity.

The next enemy is the Canaanite. This name means “zealous peddler”. We can mishandle the word of God; we can put epic financial returns before our purpose of glorifying our King. We are all capable of becoming shrewd instead of generous, callous instead of compassionate, misers instead of merciful.

The name Girgashite means “clay soil”. Most people have heard the old adage about having “feet of clay”. This enemy reminds us that we are all prone to sin. Forsake habitual sin and keep your epic returns out of the mud.

The last enemy is the most dangerous, in my opinion. The name Jebusite connotes the threshing floor. In an agrarian or agricultural society, the threshing floor is the epicenter of life.

Today, the threshing floor is the church or synagogue where scriptures is ingested and digested. Enemies are constant when we read the word of God and when we fellowship with other believers. Be on guard for a balanced interpretation of scripture mediated by the whole counsel of God.

In short, the word of God never returns void. Prayer and evangelization from the scriptures will always fulfill God's purposes. If you are consistently investing in these areas, your life will be an epic unfolding with eternal rewards. You will rule and reign with the Almighty. in His glorious Kingdom.

Farewell

In this brief paper, we discussed the definition of a stranger, recalling that the Father calls us His friends, and He tells His friends what He is doing. We explored that money matters and discussed strategies for wise investing according to the scriptures. We also cautioned against derailment and detailed potential distractions and disruptions that may undermine our confidence.

But, we can be confident and rest in the providence of God. The sun and moon will pass away before He fails to fulfill His promises.

35 Thus says the LORD,
Who gives the sun for light by day
And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,
Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar;
The LORD of hosts is His name:
36 "If this fixed order departs
From before Me," declares the LORD,
"Then the offspring of Israel also will cease
From being a nation before Me forever."
37 Thus says the LORD,
"If the heavens above can be measured

And the foundations of the earth searched out below,
Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel
For all that they have done,” declares the LORD.
Jeremiah 31:35-37

Post Script

I am not an economist. Still, I venture to offer a few points for consideration.

The United States experiences a standard of living unparalleled in most of the world. It seems to me that the Bretton Woods agreement in 1944, that effectively pegged the dollar as a global currency, has contributed to that quality of life. And, American currency held strong even when Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in the 1970's. But now, China and Russia express the desire for a world currency independent of the dollar. It is no wonder, since China holds trillions of US dollars that may plummet in value should inflation rise.

If there is inflation, you buy now. In Russia, a few years ago, when their economy collapsed, they knew how to respond. People moved quickly to purchase goods such as cars, iphones, and other luxury items that would hold their value. Their home gardens help to mitigate an astronomical rise in the cost of food.

Second, food and almost everything in your home came to you on a truck. When the price of oil rises, the cost of everything rises. When Israel experienced war in the late 1960's, it only took a few days for the Suez Canal to close. The cost of goods in the United States skyrocketed in less than a week. Diligent prayer for the peace of Jerusalem is a wise investment.

Third, remember Joseph. Our heavenly Father worked through one man who knew how to leverage prosperous years to prepare for famine. Store wheat. The word of God never returns

void. Scripture memorization, daily Bible reading, prayer and evangelization, will yield dividends.

Here is a startling promise for every stranger who loves Israel and her King.

Do not let a son of a stranger who has joined himself to Adonai say,
‘Adonai will surely exclude me from His people.’
Nor let the eunuch say, ‘Behold, I am a dry tree.’”

For thus says Adonai, “To the eunuchs who keep My Shabbat, who choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant:

I will give to them in My House and within My walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters. I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off.

Also the strangers who join themselves to Adonai, to minister to Him,
and to love the Name of Adonai, and to be His servants—

all who keep from profaning Shabbat, and hold fast to My covenant—

7these I will bring to My holy mountain, and let them rejoice in My House of Prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar. For My House will be called a House of Prayer for all nations.” declares the LORD.

Isaiah 56:3-7

Isaiah 49:22 tells every stranger that we can expect to participate in an epic return. “Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the nations, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.”

So, don't be a stranger. Go to Israel. For this life and for all eternity, make deposits in your soul. Jesus said, “Whatever you have done for the least of these my Brethren, you have done for me.” Whatever you do, never miss the opportunity to bless or protect someone who is Jew. Your return, and theirs, will be epic.



Dr. Christine Cecil loves the Lord with all her heart when she prays, all her mind when she writes, all her soul when she keeps her house and the House of Israel, and all her strength when caring for children.

ISBN 978-1-5136-1943-9

