

TORAH ECONOMICS

Part 1 – Gleaning the Fields



by Tim Kelley

ECONOMICS 101

- > You cannot spend more than you make
- > If you don't work, you don't eat



PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- > You are poor because of
 - > Unfortunate circumstances
 - > Failure to manage your time and land properly
- > To remedy the situation
 - > The poor had to work
 - > The more fortunate had to offer help
 - > Fields to glean
 - > Manual labor (indentured servitude)
 - > Loans

OVERALL GOAL

- > Lift the poor out of poverty
- > Maintain the dignity of the poor



ESV Deuteronomy 28:1 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God . . .

³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

ESV Acts 10:34-35 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

> YHVH – King

> Shoftim – Judges

> Cohenim – Priests (along with the Levites)

> Tithes

> Sacrificial Offerings

> Firstfruit Offerings

Half-Shekel redemption tax

Deuteronomy 15:4 ~~Save~~ when there shall be no poor among you; for the LORD shall greatly bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it:

TNK Deuteronomy 15:4 There shall be no needy among you -- since the LORD your God will bless you . . .

LXE Deuteronomy 15:4 For thus there shall not be a poor person in the midst of thee, for the Lord . . .

ESV Deuteronomy 15:11 . . . there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

NKJ Leviticus 25:23 The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

- > created a sharecropping relationship
- > restore balance at the Yovell (Jubilee year)
- > kept Israel constantly aware that they could lose their land through disobedience.
- > enabled YHVH to stipulate how the land could be used

Leviticus 19:9-10 ' When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ 'And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.



HOW BIG IS A CORNER?

- > Corner = Pe'ah – פאה (Strong's 6285)
 - > Edge, quarter, side, extremity
- > Glean = Laqet – לקט (Strong's 3951)
 - > Gather
- > Gleanings = alal – עלל (Strong's 5953)
 - > Act severely, make a fool of someone

ESV 2 Thessalonians 3:7-8 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.

ESV 2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

REVIEW

- > Benevolence was the responsibility of the people, not the government
- > The farmer was the first line of defense against hunger
- > The poor had to work to satisfy their hunger
- > The purpose was to maintain the dignity of the poor

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Aleichem

Peace be Unto You