

Lesson 1: Prosperity is God's Idea

An Extravagant and Excessive God

If we are to understand the subject of prosperity, we first need to know something about God:

- He is an extravagant God, just look at His creation
 - o Approximately 10 trillion galaxies
 - o Our Milky Way galaxy alone has around 100 Billion stars
 - o Using that as an average, we have 1 + 29 zeros of stars in the universe
 - o For each star there are 5 – 10 planets – so multiple that by the above number
- How about our little planet called earth
 - o Vertebrates – 59,811, Invertebrates- 1,203,375, plants 297,326 & others – 28,849
 - 950,000 of invertebrates are different kinds of insects alone
 - o 10,000 species of animals are discovered each year – 2 – 50 million on earth

In the Old Testament God revealed Himself to the Hebrew people with different names. Each name revealed a different character or attribute of God. One of those names was **El Shaddai** - "The All - Sufficient One" or "The God who is more Than Enough."

Genesis 17:1, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am **God Almighty**; walk before me and be blameless."

- The Hebrew Word for "God Almighty" here is – El-Shaddai not El-Cheapo!
- God seems kind of intense, excessive, overdone- perhaps even wasteful- Ps. 23:5?
- The next redemptive name of God in the Hebrew is – Jehovah-Jireh
 - o "The Lord will provide and see to it in advance- He will make provision"

Genesis 22:14, "So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'"

- **Please Read: Ephesians 3:14-21**

Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

Psalms 50:10, "for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills."

Haggai 2:8, "The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty."

Question: "Have you ever struggled with God's willingness to bless you in this life?"

Why God Wants Us Rich

Have you ever noticed all those in the Old Testament who were in covenant with God were:

- Rich and godly- Genesis 13:2
- Healthy and strong – Job 5:26-27
- Protected and at peace – Proverbs 16:7

Deuteronomy 8:18, “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant...”

- Bottom line, God wants us rich so we can fund His enterprises in the earth
- If the church is dirt poor, it kind of limits our options doesn't it in this life

Prv 8:12 KJV “I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.”

- God is full of amazing ideas to produce wealth:
 - o New and creative business ideas
 - o New inventions and ideas in science, technology and social endeavors
 - o Christians should be leading the way of new and creative cool stuff
 - To make money for the Kingdom of God and improve people's lives

Proverbs 10:22 AMP, “The blessing of the Lord — it makes [truly] rich, and He adds no sorrow with it [neither does toiling increase it].”

Proverbs 13:22, “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.”

- I like the second clause in the Amplified version of the Bible

Proverbs 13:22 AMP, “...and the wealth of the sinner [**finds its way eventually**] into the hands of the righteous, for whom it was laid up.”

Question: “Why do you think the devil fights the prosperity message so much in the church?”

- He does not want finances funding God's Kingdom Message- Gospel in the earth
 - o Like sickness, poverty oppresses God's children to make them ineffective & suffer
- He does not mind drug dealers, criminals, ungodly entertainers and atheists filthy rich
 - o The devil can manipulate these folks to fund his agenda

Biblical prosperity is the transference of wealth from the hands of the ungodly into the Kingdom of light- economic warfare, let's deprive the kingdom of darkness of finances!

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

- In the New Covenant, which is better than the Old Jesus explained it this way
- **Please Read: Matthew 7:7-11**
- The Bible calls us children of God; so what belongs to God belongs to us right?

Luke 12:32

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

Romans 8:16-17, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

- Prosperity is part of salvation, which we received when we made Jesus Lord of our lives
- Just like healing, (Galatians 3:13) we have been redeemed from the curse of poverty
- Scarcity and lack is not of God- Psalms 23:5 – our cup is to overflow – abundance!
- **Please Read: James 1:16-17** "Don't Be Deceived" **deceived of what?**

2 Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

- **Question:** "So if God wants us rich, than what would "Rich" look like in our lives?"
- Having a full supply, more than enough so we can be a blessing to others

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

- If you have kids, do you just give them the bare necessities or some things for fun?
- The heart of our Father is to bless us with things we "Want" not just what we "Need"
 - o 1 Timothy 6:17, "...who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment"
- **Psalms 37:4**, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalms 16:11 NKJV, "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."