

“GOD’S AMAZING ECONOMY”

“Economy” literally means house (=oika) law or rules [=nomos] - the principles that regulate a domain
There are many modern systems of economy: supply-side, Austrian school (L. von Mises), Keynesian, socialism/communism (K. Marx)

But God has an economy that preceded and will supersede them all - it is eternal, inviolable, and dynamic
(Thanks to Pastors John Bisagno and Jack Taylor for first introducing me to these truths)

ROMANS 11:33-36

7 pillars of economic truth....

1. God owns and rules over all the wealth in this world and the next (v.36, *for of Him are all things*)

* Everything in Heaven and on earth -

Matthew 28:18 NKJV And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 NKJV Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all *that* is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all. **12** Both riches and honor *come* from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand *it* is to make great And to give strength to all.

* All the wealth of the world -

Psalms 24:1; 50:10 NKJV **24:1** The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. **50:10** For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.

Haggai 2:8 NKJV ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the Lord of hosts.

* All people -

Ezekiel 18:4 NKJV “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

Luke 12:20 NKJV But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

2. God wants His wealth in circulation (v.36, *of Him...through Him...to Him*)

* His nature is to give -

Deuteronomy 26:1-3 NKJV **1** “And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, **2** that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put *it* in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. **3** And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, ‘I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the country which the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.’

John 3:16 NKJV For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Galatians 2:20 NKJV I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 Timothy 6:17 NKJV Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

* Laws of nature -

Ecclesiastes 1:5-7 NKJV **5** The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose.

6 The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. **7** All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea *is* not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. **5:13-14** **13** There is a severe evil *which* I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt. **14** But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, *there* is nothing in his hand.

Proverbs 11:26 NKJV The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing *will* be on the head of him who sells *it*.

* Lifestyle of Jesus -

John 10:10 NKJV The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

3. All of God's wealth legally belongs to His children

* We have all things in Him -

Ephesians 1:3 NKJV Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Colossians 2:10 NKJV and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

* We are joint-heirs of His inheritance -

Romans 8:17 NKJV and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

1 Corinthians 3:21 NKJV Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

* "If I'm an heir, where are my riches?"

4. The way to tap into God's wealth is to give

* This is counter to our natural tendency -

1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Isaiah 55:8 NKJV "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the Lord.

* But it is the law of the Kingdom -

Luke 6:38 NKJV Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

* Works in every realm - finances, relationships, energy, emotions

5. We give by faith - not according to our apparent resources, but God's actual resources

* Do I believe my account of my account, or God's account of my account? God's leading vs. my logic

* Jesus showed this -

John 6:5-9 NKJV **5** Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "**Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**" **6** But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. **7** Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." **8** One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, **9** "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

* "God's will, God's bill" ... "God's vision, God's provision" ... "God guides, God provides"

6. It is always profitable to give God's way

* Every command to give is followed by a promise from God

* **2 Corinthians 9:6 NKJV** But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Proverbs 11:24-25,28 NKJV 24 There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, But it *leads* to poverty. **25** The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. **28** He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

Malachi 3:10-11 NKJV 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there* will not *be* room enough to receive *it*. **11** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts;

* You take care of His business, and He'll take care of your business -

Matthew 6:33 NKJV But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

7. God loves a joyful giver

* **2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV** So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.: "cheerful" = hilaros hilarious, "beside yourself with glee, doubled over, laughing, boisterous merriment"

* Giving multiplies the joy -

Acts 20:35b NKJV ...And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, '*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*' "

* True in so many realms: time, talents, love, concern, respect, joy, thoughtfulness, resources, finances