

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE ISSUE OF DEBT?

The Bible speaks about the issue of debt in a variety of places and acknowledges that debt is a part of the lifestyle that many men and women choose to incorporate into their lives. However, in almost every case this choice causes immediate or problems in the future. I have listed below some of the more prominent verses discussing this issue.

OLD TESTAMENT

- 1) Proverbs 22:7 “The rich will rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”
- 2) Deut. 15:6 “For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but you will borrow from none.” This same wording is again quoted in Deut. 28:12
- 3) Eccl.5: “When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it.”
- 4) Psalm 37:21 “The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;”

Note: These verses were written specifically for Israel, giving them insight into what God thought about debt and the seriousness of creating debt.

- 5) Exodus 22:25 “If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like the money-lenders; charge him no interest.”

Note: It does not appear that God intended Jews/Christians to charge each other interest.

NEW TESTAMENT

- 1) Romans 13:8 “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.”

Note: It would appear that the New Testament also indicates that debt should be repaid; however, the following two verses would need to be evaluated within the context of the debt issue.

- a) Matt. 5:42 “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

