

God and the Financial Crisis

By Os Hillman

<http://www.7culturalmountains.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=75885&columnid=4332>

The last three years we have seen unprecedented changes in our world and nation as a result of the worldwide recession. We are reminded of how fragile our economy is and how much of an impact the United States has on other economies.

We have seen the symptoms of a political process in our nation that has revealed a huge void in leadership. If there were ever a time we needed a Nehemiah (Change Agent) in our land to rebuild our walls with a solid foundation, it is now.

The Bible encourages us to be "men of Isaachar, who understand the signs of the times." It is important to operate from an informed and balanced perspective on the events of our world. It is easy to err on either side of this fence.

I have the privilege to be connected to many worldwide leaders and receive updates on information from various sources. I have relationships at high levels related to economic issues. I have found myself needing to get clarity and decipher what is sound wisdom and discernment about the current times we live. I want to share some of what I am hearing, seeing and digesting and give my own assessment of where our economy is right now and what God might be saying through these events. I will do this by sharing my insights and insights from others I trust, but ultimately, you must seek God to make your own decisions.

I am also connected to several prophetic voices in our nation and in the world. It is interesting to read and listen to what is being said and how consistent the word is coming forth regarding the spiritual interpretation of these events.

Review of 2008 Economic crisis

The 2008 crisis can be summarized in a brief sentence: Greed from banks, greed from consumers. Banks wanted to build their portfolios and did so with high risk loans. Consumers who really could not afford loans, got into homes they could not afford.

Here are some key observations on where we are.

·The recession is not something we will dig out of quickly. The US debt is too large now. The events of this week indicate a "double-dip recession" as the talk shows like to say. Politicians still do not have the backbone to do what is really necessary to solve this problem, as was just demonstrated by our government leaders in how they handled the debt ceiling issue. Our downgrade by S&P is a blessing from God as a

"shot across our bow" to get serious about our debt. My guess is our leaders are not at the crisis point yet to do anything serious.

-There is a major world energy crisis that is on the horizon that will compound the economic issues. This has not been in the news.

-Europe is becoming a disaster in the making. Watch out for Italy and Spain and how they might play into the mix of nations that are hanging on the edge. Greece has already become one major casualty.

-Most expect some type of catalyst to launch the next downturn - Euro crisis, failure of banks in Europe, US debt, major bank in the US, etc. Bank of America is hanging on the edge after Monday's bid drop, losing 20% of its value. Will the government bail out another bank?

From the Spiritual Viewpoint on the Economy and World

Three prophetic voices see this as a time God is ushering His Josephs and it will be a period of great growth and opportunity for the Church at large to provide solutions to world problems, like Joseph. I agree with this. I believe many, like myself, have been trained by our Joseph process in the 90s. Then, in 2008 a new crop of Josephs came into their training period. They are learning to live on manna. Now, another new crop will be going into training. God is preparing us to be problem solvers in culture.

Believers will begin to influence the cultural mountains more than at any other time in history. God is elevating many currently within the 7 cultural mountains.

One voice speaks of 2011 as an economic challenge that will redefine our relationship with God and correct many false beliefs many have had toward God as Father, as our provider.

My friend explained to me that the financial markets make up 93% of the worldwide GDP and only 7% of this is from services and industry. "We are living in a hot air balloon that can burst at any time," he said.

Many will have to trust God more than they ever have during this season. This is not a time to instill fear and begin hoarding resources but Godly preparation, to use the same wisdom of Joseph to understand the signs of the times, to avoid debt and seek the Lord more fully to understand His plans to experience His greater power in your life to impact the world.

History of Money

One respected spiritual mentor and world marketplace leader sees the current crisis as a time of coming into a maturity of a judgment from God on mammon and greed in society worldwide that goes all the way back to the original formation of currency. He equates this to the time when God caused the people of Israel to be freed and went into the Promised Land to judge the Amorites. The iniquity of the

Amorites had come to maturity and God was now judging the Amorites through the nation of Israel. Could we now be entering a modern day the Amorites judgment in the world? By Amorites I refer to the scripture in Genesis 15 where he mentions the judgment of the Amorites, when God told Abraham that his seed would go into exile in Egypt for 400 years, and then would come out, with God's help, and possess the land.

Amorite, derives its name from Martu, and refers to a demon god who made claim to be the god of universe. Amurru and Martu are names given in Akkadian and Sumerian texts to the god of the Amorite/Amurru people, often forming part of personal names. He was the patron god of the Mesopotamian city of Ninab, whose exact location is unknown. The first money was dedicated to this god. Amurru's root name also means "solar golden calf".

Another 400 Year Landmark

We are also at another interesting landmark time period in our world. It was 400 years before God brought Israel into the promised land through the initiation of the judgment of the Amorites. We find ourselves in a similar 400 year time period from the birth of many interesting things.

Four hundred years ago in Amsterdam, the following took place:

- The first multi-national company was birthed | 1602
- The very first national bank was birthed
- The first stock exchange was birthed
- The first First Baptist church was born in a time of great speculation

The first multinational company in the world was the East Indian Company formed in 1602. The enterprise was the world's first to be owned by investors through the issuance of stock equity. For almost 200 years the Dutch East India Company paid a dividend to shareholders of 18%. This was the most valuable enterprise in the world at that time. The success of this business model made tiny Holland the richest state on earth. They pioneered the use of letters of credit, bills of lading and receivable financing. These, and many other finance mechanisms created by the Dutch, enabled this tiny kingdom to enjoy status as one of the world's great colonial powers while much larger nations stumbled and declined.

For 200 years the Dutch East India Company was the international gold standard for corporate governance, performance and profitability. To this very day, the trade routes, trading terms and conditions, and marketing techniques perfected by Dutch merchants are in use. This entrepreneurial nation is an example that modern states can study to learn the massive positive possibilities inherent in creating open trading systems.[i]

Weighed down by corruption in the late 18th century, the Company went bankrupt and was formally dissolved in 1800, its possessions and the debt being taken over by the government of the Dutch Batavian Republic. The VOC's territories became the Dutch East Indies and were expanded over the course of the 19th century to include the whole of the Indonesian archipelago, and in the 20th century would form Indonesia.[ii]

Have we come to a point in world history where God is saying, "Enough is enough" and he is now judging the financial systems of the world similar to the 400 year time with Amorites? I am not a prophet, but we certainly see a shaking throughout the world. The judgment of the Amorites ushered in the people of God to take the land. Regardless of whether this is true, I do believe this is ushering in a time when the Church can make the greatest impact on the culture if we press into God during this season.

God says He will Shake the Foundations

God said in Hebrews 12, "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake[a] not only the earth, but also heaven.'"b] Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may[c] serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." (Heb. 12:25-29).

Jesus Will Return to a Mature Bride

Before Jesus returns you can expect a shaking to come. Spiritual maturity rarely comes through prosperity and ease. We see in Ephesians Paul telling us the Jesus will come back for a mature bride, not a bride that is immature, which is currently where the Church is today.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25-27

How do you prepare? Learn from Joseph

So, having said all this, what can you do to prepare and navigate this time in history, and even thrive? First thing you want to do is get your own house in order. Try to save and put away some funds, just as Joseph set aside 7 years of resources. Get out debt as much as you can. Those who are liquid will have the greatest advantage to

take advantage of opportunities. Many millionaires came out of the Great Depression for those who were not debt-ridden.

Now is the time to avoid any type of debt. Housing is likely to go down further. Recovery is a long way away. It is not a good time to buy a home. Again, those who are debt-free will see many opportunities from this crisis. Understand God's view of money and how to manage it from His perspective.