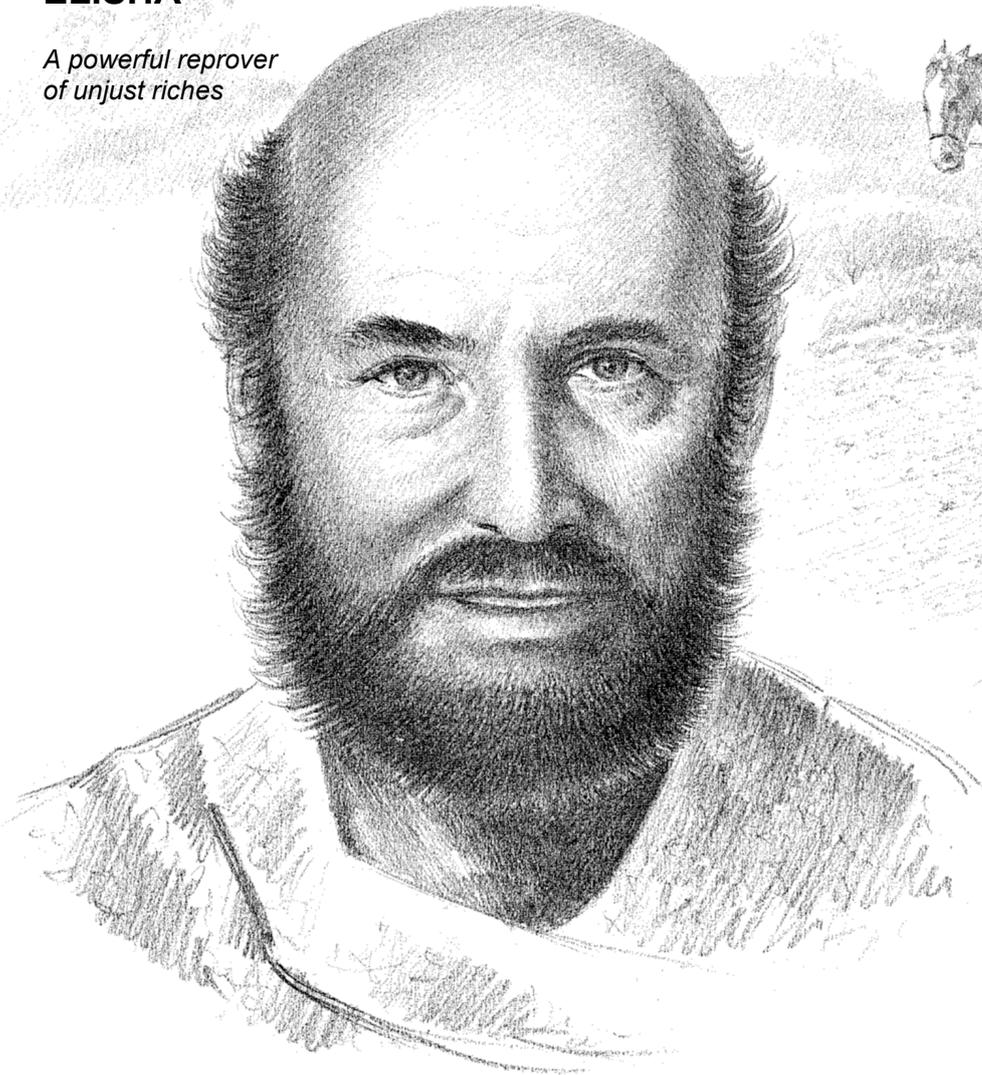


GOD'S BLESSING OF RECOGNIZING HIS REPROOFS FOR WRONG WAYS TO RICHES

LESSON 4

ELISHA

*A powerful reprov-
er of unjust riches*



GIFTS REFUSED

"...[Naaman] said, ...take a blessing of thy servant. But he [Elisha] said, As the Lord liveth... I will receive none..."
(II Kings 5:15-16).

GOD'S BLESSING OF RECOGNIZING HIS REPROOFS FOR WRONG WAYS TO RICHES



TURN AT GOD'S REPROOF

How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof..." (Proverbs 1:22-23).



GREED REBUKED

"...Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever..." (II Kings 5:26-27).





TO WHAT DEGREE ARE YOU EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL REPROOFS?

PERSONAL EVALUATION:

YES / NO

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you have any bills that are past due? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Have you had to take money from your bank card account as a debt in in the last six months? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you lose sleep because of financial concerns? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do you have any health problems that are related to financial pressures? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Have your business responsibilities robbed you of the time or interest that you should have for God's Word and prayer? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Do you have any business ventures that are losing money? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Are people bitter toward you because of past business dealings with them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Do you have possessions that you looked forward to owning but now no longer enjoy? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do you have expensive recreational possessions, which you do not have the time to use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Have you become a slave to possessions, which demand constant upkeep and attention? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Do you spend money for any personal habits which you know are wrong? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Have you gotten into situations which allow others to take advantage of you financially? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Are your financial goals putting sustained pressure on your family? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Have you made purchases which have caused arguments or hurt feelings within your family? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Do you have any items in your home which do not belong to you? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Have you told your wife or children that you are too busy to go with them to events that are special to them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Do your children resent your attempts to lead them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Do you envy other men who seem to be more capable and successful than you are? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Total "Yes"

Total "No"

TOTAL CORRECT

EVALUATION SCORE:

18-10 correct =

9-5 correct =

4-1 correct =

KNOW THE TWO WAYS TO GET RICHES



RICHES WITHOUT SORROW

GOD'S WAY TO RICHES: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God..."
 (Matthew 6:33)

"Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity..." (Proverbs 1:23-26).



GOD'S WORD



1. Wife and children react



2. Investment goes bad



3. Health problems develop



4. Get-rich-quick scheme fails



5. Children rebel



6. Finances collapse



7. Marriage and family collapse

"TURN YOU AT MY REPROOF..."

MAN'S WAY TO RICHES: overcome every obstacle to get what you want



RICHES WITH SORROW

HOW REPROOFS DEVELOP IN MARRIAGE

Financial Reproofs from Self-Rejection



Husband's Actions	Wife's Responses
<p>1. INFERIORITY</p> <p>When a man fails to understand and accept unchangeable features in himself or in his family, he develops deep feelings of inferiority.</p>	<p>INSECURITY</p> <p>His wife needs to admire her husband and to depend upon him for wise and consistent leadership in the marriage and the family.</p>
<p>2. EXTRAVAGANCE</p> <p>A husband who does not accept himself often attempts to improve his self-image through expensive clothing, cars, furnishings, and other status symbols. In order to buy these, he may go into debt.</p>	<p>FEAR</p> <p>His wife does not understand his need to go into debt for these expensive items. She outwardly accepts them but inwardly develops fears and insecurity because of the debt.</p>
<p>3. WRONG PRIORITIES</p> <p>The husband commits himself to financial goals. He is motivated by the need for approval. In order to reach his goals, he encourages or allows his wife to begin working outside of the home.</p>	<p>DIVIDED LOYALTY</p> <p>His wife goes to work and soon finds herself in two worlds. She discovers that needs which were not met by her husband can be at least partially fulfilled through her job.</p>
<p>4. REJECTION</p> <p>The husband who expects his wife to help support the family surrenders part of his God-given responsibility as provider. This only deepens his feeling of inferiority. He then projects onto his wife and children the same attitude of rejection, which he has toward himself.</p>	<p>RESENTMENT</p> <p>His wife reacts to his rejection. She feels a growing resentment to the tight budget that they must follow because of his financial decisions. She begins to look to other people for fellowship and encouragement.</p>
<p>5. REACTION</p> <p>The husband reacts to his wife's independent spirit. Financial pressures cause him to be quick-tempered and irritable. He expects his wife to have patience while he works through problems. However, the problems become greater.</p>	<p>SEPARATION</p> <p>His wife loses confidence in his leadership as she sees the pressures mounting. She tries to give him counsel, but she does not understand his motivation. Convinced that he is proud and stubborn, his wife then decides that she must look out for her own interests.</p>

Financial Reproofs from Moral Impurity



Husband's Actions	Wife's Responses
<p>1. LACK OF SELF-CONTROL</p> <p>Before their marriage, the husband was attracted to his wife on a physical level. During their courtship he violated God's moral standards with her.</p>	<p>GUILT AND DOUBT</p> <p>His wife lowered her standards to accept his physical affection before marriage. This damaged her self-respect and planted destructive seeds of guilt and doubt in her.</p>
<p>2. SENSUAL FOCUS</p> <p>The husband began marriage by expecting his wife to fulfill his sexual needs. However, he was insensitive to her real needs because of his sensual expectations.</p>	<p>COOLNESS</p> <p>His wife's seeds of guilt and doubt began to grow. She wondered if he really loved her or if he was only using her to gratify his own desires. This fear caused her to be physically cool toward him.</p>
<p>3. REACTION</p> <p>The husband now reacts to his wife's coolness toward him. He begins to make demands that she meet his physical needs.</p>	<p>COLDNESS</p> <p>His wife now sees his demands and his continued insensitivity as confirmation that he does not love her. She becomes physically cold toward him.</p>
<p>4. ATTEMPTS TO PROVE LOVE</p> <p>The husband senses that his wife has been offended. However, he does not realize how deep the wounds really are. He believes that buying her some expensive gifts will solve the problem.</p>	<p>EXTRAVAGANCE</p> <p>His wife feels insecure and inadequate. She tries to find security in temporal things, so she accepts his gifts and buys more on her own as well. This leads to financial bondage.</p>
<p>5. OVEREMPHASIS ON WORK</p> <p>The husband realizes that his gifts did not restore his wife's broken spirit. He tightens the budget and expects her to cooperate in order to get out of debt. He spends more time at work or gets additional work. This further hinders him in meeting his wife's real needs.</p>	<p>SEPARATION</p> <p>His wife turns from him and concentrates on her own vocation, the children, or the fantasy world of television; or she looks for sympathy and understanding from the people with whom she works.</p>

RECOGNIZE FINANCIAL REPROOFS

1. The need to borrow money

"Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all these commandments... thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow..." (Deuteronomy 15:5-6).

2. Overdue bills

"Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee" (Proverbs 3:28).

3. Speculative losses

"He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him" (Proverbs 28:22).

4. Sleepless nights

"The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep" (Ecclesiastes 5:12).

5. Unexpected losses

"Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it..." (Haggai 1:9).

6. Inability to enjoy what you have

"There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease" (Ecclesiastes 6:1-2).

7. Spiritual barrenness

"...The care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22).

8. Family pressures

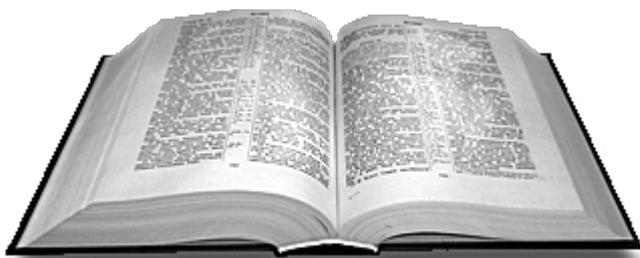
"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house..." (Proverbs 15:27).

9. Health problems

"There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt" (Ecclesiastes 5:13).

10. Lawsuits

"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded" (1 Corinthians 6:7).



Personal Commitment to Turn at God's Reproofs

I do accept my financial pressures and problems as God's reproofs for violating His financial principles. I will learn the reasons for these reproofs and take the proper Scriptural steps to resolve them.

I will begin by reading the chapter of Proverbs each day that corresponds to the day of the month.

My present reproofs are:

Date: _____

Signature: _____

CAN YOU RECOGNIZE GOD'S FINANCIAL REPROOFS?



Put one Scripture reference in the handle that best illustrates the verse.

1. Romans 13:8

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another..."

2. Matthew 13:22

"...The deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

3. Ecclesiastes 5:12

"...The abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep."

4. Proverbs 22:7

"... The borrower is servant to the lender."

5. 1 Corinthians 6:7

"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. ..."



WHOM DID GOD REPROVE FOR UNSCRIPTURAL RICHES?

Match the statements with the persons whom they best illustrate.

1. I let my wife know what I wanted, and she made sure that I got it.



2. I made a handsome profit on my religious ability.

3. I used my popularity to get a large amount of money.

4. I had a profitable connection because of the reputation of the one for whom I worked.

5. Because of my official position, I was able to squeeze a little extra money out of people.

6. I had inside information and sold it for a profit.

7. They were not using these at work, so I just brought them home.

8. I used marriage to increase my wealth.

9. By using my head, I figured out a way to take advantage of my boss.

A. **ACHAN** (See Joshua 7.)

B. **GEHAZI** (See II Kings 5.)

C. **AHAB** (See I Kings 21.)

D. **ZACCHAEUS** (See Luke 19:1-10.)

E. **GIDEON** (See Judges 8:24—9:6.)

F. **JACOB** (See Genesis 30:25-43; Genesis 49.)

G. **JUDAS** (See Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50; 27:1-9.)

H. **SOLOMON** (See I Kings 10—11:13.)

I. **BALAAM** (See Numbers 22-24; 31:8; Jude 11.)



WHAT WERE GOD'S REPROOFS FOR WRONGFUL GAIN?

Match the men in column one with the way in which they wronged others (column two) and then with the consequences they received (column three).

MEN WHO GAINED WRONGFULLY	HOW THEY WRONGED OTHERS	CONSEQUENCES THEY RECEIVED
1. ACHAN <i>See Joshua 6-7.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> A. He cheated citizens out of their money by false accusations.	<input type="checkbox"/> J. He lived in sorrow because his family followed his example.
2. GEHAZI <i>See II Kings 5.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B. He wronged the nation and his family by establishing ungodly alliances.	<input type="checkbox"/> K. He and his entire family were stoned to death.
3. AHAB <i>See I Kings 21.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C. He caused a nation to lust after a material possession.	<input type="checkbox"/> L. He was killed along with the enemy of Israel with whom he had chosen to live.
4. ZACCHAEUS <i>See Luke 19:1-10.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> D. He shamed an entire nation and caused thirty-six deaths.	<input type="checkbox"/> M. His family was persecuted, and all but one of his sons were killed by an illegitimate brother.
5. GIDEON <i>See Judges 8.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> E. He wronged his family by his crafty example.	<input type="checkbox"/> N. He and his entire family were destroyed by violent deaths.
6. JACOB <i>See Genesis 27-34.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> F. He caused a nation to be defeated by planting seeds of immorality.	<input type="checkbox"/> O. He committed suicide.
7. JUDAS <i>See Matthew 26-27.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> G. He lied to the one whom he served and damaged the message that he was trying to give.	<input type="checkbox"/> P. He returned four times the amount that he had wrongfully gained, and he gave half of all that he had to the poor.
8. SOLOMON <i>See I Kings 10-11.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> H. He violated the trust of those who elected him to office.	<input type="checkbox"/> Q. His heart was turned from the Lord, and his descendants lost the wealth which he had gained.
9. BALAAM <i>See Numbers 22-24.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I. He killed a Godly man and his innocent family.	<input type="checkbox"/> R. He became diseased with leprosy.