

# GOD'S BLESSING OF PURPOSING TO KEEP OUT OF DEBT

## LESSON 7

### DAVID

*A man after God's own heart*



### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"...I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing..."  
(II Samuel 24:24).



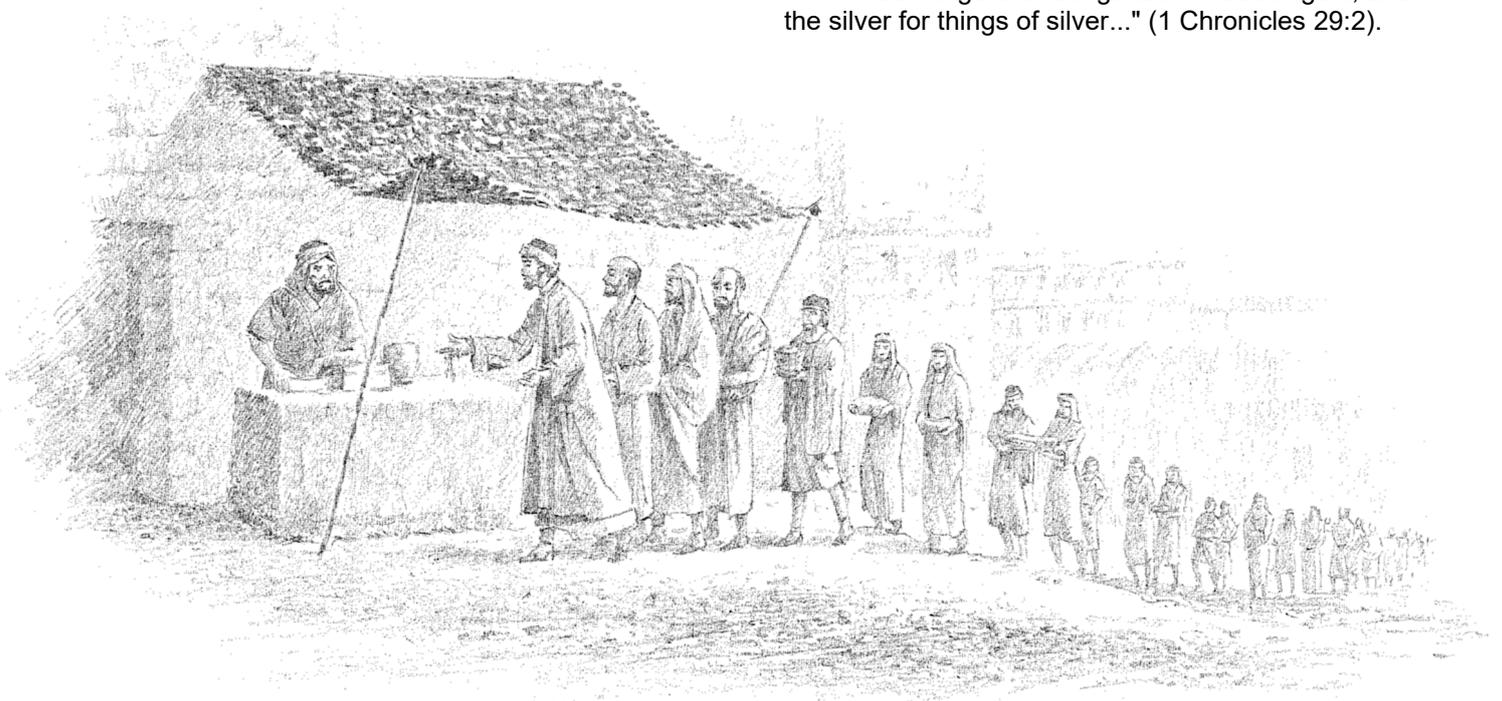
# GOD'S BLESSING OF PURPOSING TO KEEP OUT OF DEBT

## OWE NO MAN ANYTHING

"Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loves another hath fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8).

## FINANCING BEFOREHAND

"Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver..." (1 Chronicles 29:2).





## DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF BORROWING?

PERSONAL EVALUATION:

TRUE / FALSE

1. Borrowing is a Scriptural provision for times of special financial need.
2. Borrowing should only be done if you have assets to cover the funds.
3. Borrowing from a Christian is better than borrowing from a non-Christian.
4. Borrowing is acceptable only if you are sure that you can repay the loan.
5. Borrowing is good because it allows you the freedom to do things that you would otherwise not be able to afford to do.
6. Borrowing is wise because, with the inevitability of inflation, you are able to pay back a debt with cheaper money.
7. Borrowing is simply a form of corporate partnership.
8. Borrowing demonstrates faith that God will provide the funds so that you will be able to repay the loan.
9. Borrowing only becomes a debt when you cannot repay the loan.
10. Borrowing for a university education is normal and proper.
11. Borrowing is actually an indication that God's judgment is upon the borrower.
12. Borrowing is making assumptions about the future that God does not want you to make.
13. Borrowing and repaying the debt is necessary for you to be able to establish a line of credit.
14. Borrowing is acceptable because of the way the present economy is structured.
15. Borrowing is wrong because it encourages an independent spirit.
16. Borrowing encourages impulse buying and leads to technical or actual bankruptcy.
17. Borrowing is actually a form of slavery.
18. Borrowing has benefits, because it encourages a person to be resourceful.
19. Borrowing is safe today because those who lend must disclose the percentage of interest they charge.
20. Borrowing limits the power of God in your life.

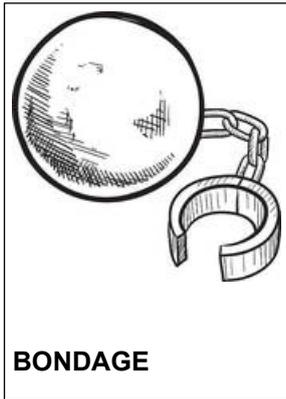
**TOTAL CORRECT**

**EVALUATION SCORE:**

- 20 correct =  
9-15 correct =  
14-10 correct =  
9-6 correct =  
5-0 correct =

# DEFINITIONS RELATED TO BORROWING

## 1. What is debt?



Debt is the condition of being in bondage to another person. It is to be obligated to pay back what is owed. It is allowing another person to have a claim against you.

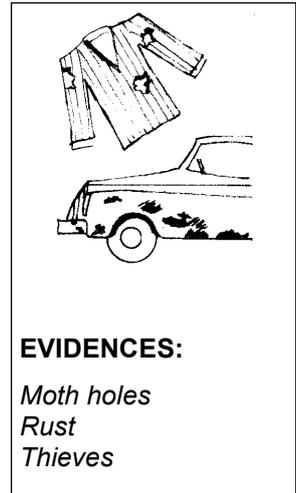
A debt creates a relationship of servitude to a creditor.

A debt can involve money, promises, possessions, meals, time, or favors.

In the Old Testament, loans in Israel were charitable, not commercial. The charging of any kind of interest to fellow Israelites was forbidden. However, interest could be charged to foreigners. (See Deuteronomy 23:20.)

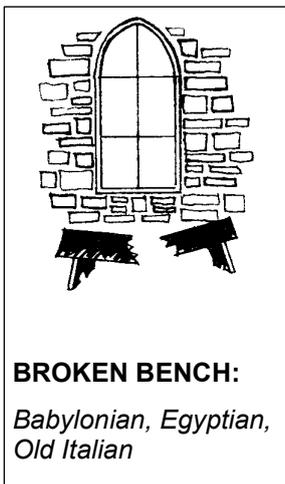
The market value of an item may be reduced by wear, style, changing needs, or the inability of others to purchase it or use it.

When Christ compared temporal and eternal values, He warned of those things that are consumed by moths, rust, and thieves. *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal"* (Matthew 6:19).



God further warns about the vain practice of storing up depreciating items in James 5:1-2: *"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten."*

## 2. What is bankruptcy?



Bankruptcy is the condition of having loans come due which cannot be repaid in acceptable currency.

A bankrupt person may have valuable assets; however, if they cannot be quickly sold and thereby turned into legal tender, a creditor may initiate foreclosure.

The word *bankrupt* is derived from the words for "broken bench." In the earliest records of Egypt, moneychangers would conduct their business while sitting on a bench that was usually located in the courtyard of a temple. When a banker went "bankrupt" his bench was broken. It was from such a temple bank that Christ drove out the moneychangers.

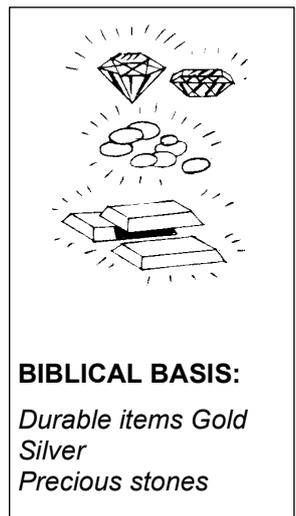
## 4. What are appreciating items?

An appreciating item is one that tends to increase in value the longer that it is used.

The ability of an item to appreciate in value is most clearly tied to its durability, usefulness, and scarcity. Thus, Paul compares durable works to gold, silver, and precious stones. (See I Corinthians 3:12.)

The most durable riches of all are those which are invested in God's kingdom, *"...where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal"* (Matthew 6:20).

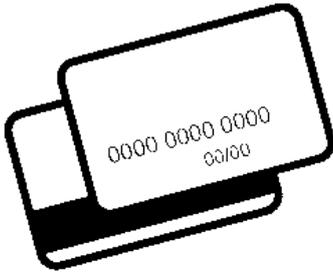
If a man is not using his wealth for God's kingdom, even his gold and silver becomes a depreciating item. *"Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire..."* (James 5:3).



## 3. What are depreciating items?

A depreciating item is one which has a value that decreases the longer that it is used or owned.

## 5. What is credit buying?



Credit buying is operating on another person's money. It is using an item before it is paid for.

Debit cards are an alternative to credit cards. When a purchase is made, the

amount is immediately subtracted from your account.

## 6. What is accumulating interest?



Compounding interest has many of the characteristics of cumulus clouds. In their early stages, cumulus clouds are just "puffs of cotton." They are signs of fair weather.

The "puffs of cotton" begin to rise into rounded, bulging summits. Even when they are large, though, they rarely bring a storm; but when cumulus clouds turn into cumulonimbus, a violent

storm is underway. The great vertical development, with a flattened, anvil-shaped peak, contains strong vertical wind currents, violent thunderstorms, and, very often, hailstones.

At first, interest payments seem like typical signs of good times. As interest rates are compounded, they are still able to be managed while the cash flow from employment continues. However, unexpected troubles and bills are a part of life; and the loss of a job can bring financial disaster to one who is deeply in debt.

# CONSEQUENCES OF BORROWING

## It violates Scripture

*The message of Scripture on borrowing is quite clear: Do not do it. God commands Christians to keep out of debt altogether. "Owe no man anything, but to love one another..." (Romans 13:8).*

*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance amplifies the message behind these words: "Owe to no one, no not anything, nothing at all."*

## It constitutes a judgment of God

God clearly relates borrowing to His judgment upon His people for failing to follow His ways.

*"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee... He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail" (Deuteronomy 28:15, 44).*

## It produces bondage to creditors

*"...The borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). God intends for Christians to be free from earthly entanglements in order to serve Him.*

*"No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (II Timothy 2:4).*

The very nature of borrowing is entanglement. The Hebrew words for borrowing are 'ābaṭ, to entangle, and lāvāh, to twine, to take an obligation, to unite with.

## It presumes upon the future

Borrowing is based on the assumption that future conditions will allow us to repay the debt. God warns against such presumption.

*"Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow..." (James 4:13-14).*

*"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou know not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1).*

## It gives the illusion of independence

Borrowing gives the temporary illusion of independence from authority. It allows final decisions to be made apart from God's provision of funds.

It causes an individual to feel that he is his own authority and that he does not need to wait for wise counsel or sufficient funds. Such an attitude is condemned by God.

*"Who is he that says, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commands it not" (Lamentations 3:37).*

*"...For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knows to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:14-17).*

## **It evades self-examination**

When God withholds funds, there is a good reason. It is His signal for us to re-evaluate our lives, our plans for the money, and our faith in Him. Borrowing evades these purposes and allows the Christian to continue on in his own wisdom and efforts.

Borrowing causes pressure upon those who are depending on your leadership and provision, especially those who are in your family. They are aware that unexpected events can transfer the burden of debt directly upon them. The anguish of this consequence is illustrated by God in the plight of a widow in Elisha's day.

Her husband was in training for serving the Lord. However, he borrowed money while he was in training. When he died, his creditors demanded their money from his wife. She lost everything she had. Since she still could not pay off the debts, her creditors demanded that she turn over her sons to be their bondservants.

Not only did this woman lose her husband and her possessions, but she would have lost her sons also if she had not followed the counsel of Elisha. (See II Kings 4:1-7.)

## **It interferes with God's provision**

God wants to demonstrate His supernatural power through the lives of men and women of faith. Only in this way can He contrast the false confidence which people have placed in their own wisdom, abilities, and riches.

*"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." (II Chronicles 16:9).*

## **It removes barriers to harmful items**

There are many things which we think will be beneficial to our lives, but God knows that they will be harmful to us. In His mercy and wisdom He may limit our funds so that we cannot afford them.

This is explained in James 4:3, *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*

When God does not provide the money, Satan tempts us to get the money in other ways. In so doing, we... *fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (I Timothy 6:9).*

## **It demonstrates discontent with basics**

God has promised to provide food and clothing. He wants us to be content with these things. (See I Timothy 6:8.)

Borrowing is usually done for items other than these basic necessities. If money is borrowed for basic needs, it usually indicates that money which God provided for food and clothing was used for non-essentials.

God warns about the consequences of coveting the power to buy whatever our heart desires. *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:10).*

## **It devours resources through high interest payments**

Most people who borrow money do not comprehend the final price tag of using someone else's money. They are taught to think only in terms of monthly payments.

Those who borrow money usually look upon the interest as a small amount, but in the final analysis interest payments constitute a very large part of the total cost of the loan.

In any case, God expects Christians to be good stewards of His money. To do so requires faithfulness in small amounts as well as large amounts.

*"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Luke 16:10-11).*

Interest payments constitute a deadly trap for every borrower. Each time a loan is repaid, the borrower tends to be reassured that borrowing is the way to meet the next financial urgency.

God has given us ample warning, however, that unexpected troubles and needs are a part of life. When they come, and when they cut off or use up the expected income, the real damage of past, present, and future interest on a loan is painfully clear.

## **It stifles resourcefulness**

Christ gave two significant illustrations of men who wanted to buy expensive items. Although neither man had the money for the purchases, neither man borrowed any money. Instead, they sold what they had; and with the money from the sale they bought what they wanted.

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hides, and for joy thereof goes and sells all that he hath, and buys that field.*

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46).*

Only when a man makes a firm and final decision that he will not borrow money, can he be mentally, emotionally, and spiritually free to be creatively resourceful.

"Easy" money is a deadening influence on creative solutions to financial needs.

### **It promotes impulse buying**

God expects Christians to prayerfully consider their decisions regarding the management of the funds which He provides.

In contrast to this, the world encourages buyers to make impulsive decisions based on the desires of the moment. Easy access to money lends itself to impulsive purchases which by-pass prayerful thought and wise counsel.

*"Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hastes with his feet sins" (Proverbs 19:2).*

### **It damages God's reputation**

God has promised to provide for the needs of His children. *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).*

When Christians borrow, they are saying to the world, "God is not taking care of my needs, so I have to make up for the difference with a loan."

### **It weakens personal faith**

In reality, a Christian who relies on credit does not feel that he needs to trust God during the most critical time of decision making.

He is convinced that, if he can afford the monthly payments, he can buy the item. However, God wants him to discern whether it is His will to buy it.

A clear evidence of God's will can be obtained by trusting God to provide the funds ahead of time. This is the kind of faith that pleases God. *"...Without faith it is impossible to please him..." (Hebrews 11:6).*

### **It excludes help from others**

God uses the needs in the life of one Christian and the abundance in the life of another Christian to bring them together in Christian fellowship.

The one with abundance is given grace to distribute to the necessity of the saints, and the one who receives is filled with joy and gratefulness because of God's grace through the giver.

The principle of interdependence is clearly explained in Scripture. *"But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack" (II Corinthians 8:14-15).*

### **It causes overspending**

The credit card system is a major way of borrowing for depreciating items. Credit card users tend to buy more than those who pay cash, and they tend to pay more for the items that they do buy.

There is a clear Scriptural explanation of this. Since the credit card represents additional money, the desires of the user increase accordingly. *"He that loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loves abundance with increase..." (Ecclesiastes 5:10).*

Overspending is destructive in itself. However, when the overspending produces pressures and conflicts which damage family relationships, it is especially destructive.

Money problems are listed as a major cause of alienation in a large percentage of the divorces in the United States. Most studies show that the majority of arguments in the home center on money.

Behind overspending is a basic lack of self-control. When this is conquered by the power of the Holy Spirit, the habit of borrowing money can also be overcome.

# THE DOUBLE BITE OF THE DEBT TRAP

	Borrowing Years	Debt Addition	Interest	Total Debt
<p><i>If you increase your indebtedness by only \$1,000 a year at 12% interest, compounded annually, the interest after 15 years will be \$26,754, and your total indebtedness will be \$41,754!</i></p>	1	\$1,000	\$ 120	\$ 1,120
	2	1,000	254	2,374
	3	1,000	405	3,779
	4	1,000	574	5,353
	5	1,000	762	7,115
	6	1,000	974	9,089
	7	1,000	1,211	11,300
	8	1,000	1,476	13,776
	9	1,000	1,773	16,549
	10	1,000	2,106	19,655
	11	1,000	2,479	23,134
	12	1,000	2,896	27,030
	13	1,000	3,363	31,393
	14	1,000	3,887	36,280
	15	1,000	4,474	41,754
			\$26,754	

If you should then attempt to get out of debt by repaying the loan at \$6,000 per year, it will take you almost 16 more years and cost an additional \$53,696 in interest.

Your debt accumulation of \$1,000 per year for 15 years has cost you a total of \$80,450 in interest. This averages out to be \$2,595 per year for the 31-year period.

Repaying Years	Repayment	Interest	Balance Due
16	\$6,000	\$5,010	\$40,764
17	6,000	4,892	39,656
18	6,000	4,759	38,415
19	6,000	4,610	37,025
20	6,000	4,443	35,468
21	6,000	4,256	33,724
22	6,000	4,047	31,771
23	6,000	3,813	29,584
24	6,000	3,550	27,134
25	6,000	3,256	24,390
26	6,000	2,927	21,317
27	6,000	2,558	17,875
28	6,000	2,145	14,020
29	6,000	1,682	9,702
30	6,000	1,164	4,866
31	5,450	584	—
		\$53,696	
TOTAL INTEREST		\$80,450	

# MEN OF GOD WHO REFUSED TO BORROW

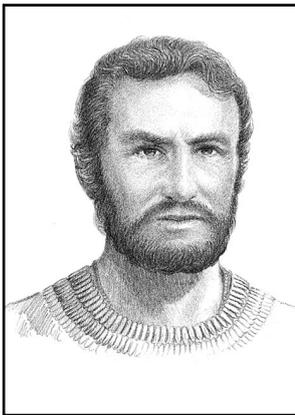
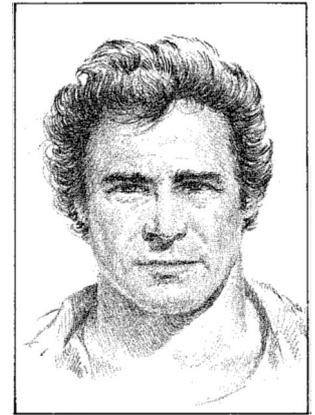


## NOAH

He could have borrowed money to build the ark. In fact, it would have been a shrewd move for him to have "floated" a loan; but it would have damaged his faith and his message. (See Genesis 6-7.)

## JOASH

He could have borrowed money to pay the workmen who refurbished the temple. Instead, he collected the money ahead of time and gave it to the workmen as they had need of it. This caused joy among the people. (See II Chronicles 24:4-14.)

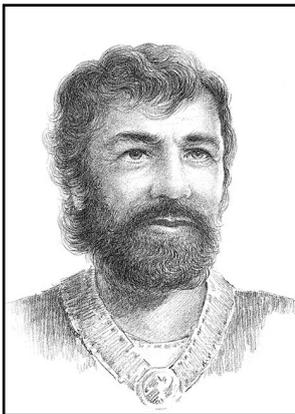
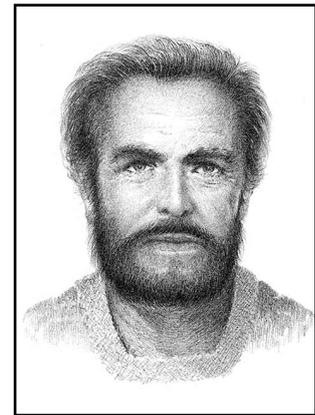


## MOSES

He could have borrowed material to construct the tabernacle; but that would have made God the servant of the people, rather than teaching the people how to serve the true and living God. (See Exodus 25-27.)

## EZRA

He could have borrowed money to rebuild the temple, but it would have been a poor testimony to the king and the heathen. God provided the funds through the king whom Ezra served. (See Ezra 7:11-28.)

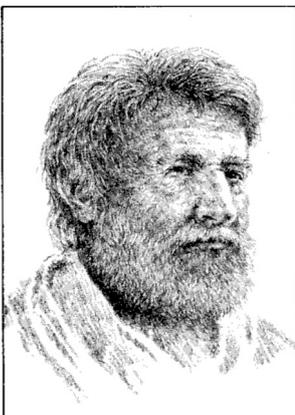
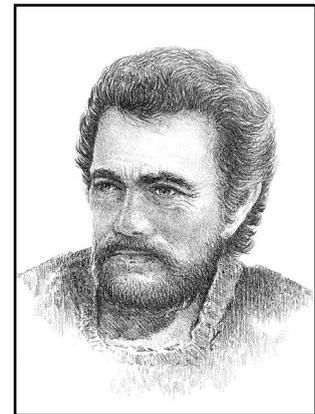


## DAVID

He could have borrowed money to build the temple. Instead, he spent his lifetime gathering the materials, and his son was then able to build a far more glorious structure — debt free. (See I Chronicles 17,22.)

## NEHEMIAH

He could have borrowed money to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem; but because of his obedience to the king, the king provided all that he needed for the building. (See Nehemiah 2:3-8.)

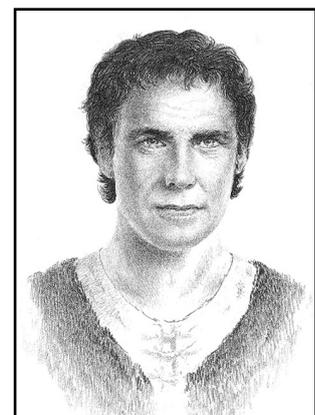


## ABRAHAM

He could have borrowed money to buy the tomb for his wife, but it would have been a point of contention for many generations. Instead, he secured the land and the trees with a public contract. (See Genesis 23.)

## PAUL

He could have borrowed money for his missionary journeys. He could have even asked people to support him. Instead, he earned his support by laboring night and day. He became an example to every Christian after him. (See Acts 18:3; 20:33-35.)



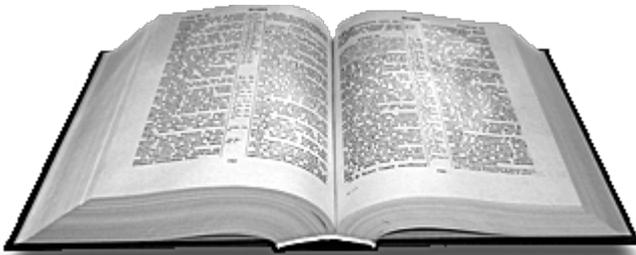


## REJECT ARGUMENTS FAVORING DEBT

*God's work done in God's way will not lack God's support. He is just as able to supply funds ahead of time as afterward and He much prefers doing so.*

*J. Hudson Taylor*

<b>ARGUMENTS FOR BORROWING</b>	<b>ANSWERS</b>
1. Borrowing is necessary to prove your financial responsibility and establish a good reputation.	Credit is not necessary if you are not going to borrow. A letter of reference from your wholesaler, bank or financial acquaintance will certify your financial responsibility.
2. Borrowing for weddings is a help to get the new couple started well. It is also a once in a lifetime happening, not a trap or lifestyle of bondage. Credit cards are helpful for keeping records.	Starting a marriage in debt sets a precedent and places an unnecessary burden on relationships. Credit cards only keep track of your debts. Keeping a daily expense record is more effective, and you avoid the traps of credit buying.
3. If the bank offers you a considerably lower interest rate, borrowing for new equipment is wise, because it lets you have a bigger profit without an overwhelming interest burden. And new work equipment can quickly increase your income.	The cost of depreciation, accumulating interest, loss of capital availability, missing used equipment bargains, and violation of Scripture outweigh any apparent benefits of such loans or anticipated quick income benefits.
4. Borrowing money for school is all right, because education provides you with higher paying jobs. .	Borrowing limits God from either providing the money supernaturally or directing you to earn school money through practical work experience. It also presumes upon the future.



### Personal Commitment to Keep Out of Debt

From this day forward, I and my spouse purpose not to accumulate any further debt. Our goal is to keep out of debt altogether.

To help accomplish this, we are not using credit cards, we have returned any borrowed books, tools, or other items. We also purpose to establish spending disciplines which will remove all past debts.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW DOES GOD ILLUSTRATE THE PAINFUL TRAPS OF BORROWING?

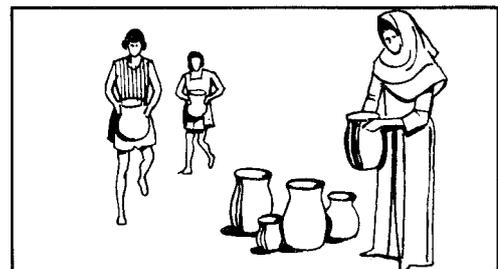
**1.** We have borrowed for food and taxes. We have mortgaged our houses and lands, and now our children are being sold as bondservants and we cannot redeem them.

**2.** I am in deep trouble. The creditors have come, and I have nothing in the house with which to pay them. They want to take my sons to be bondsmen.

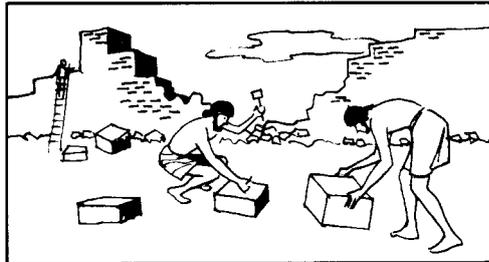
*Match each borrower with the statement that best expresses his or her cry for help*



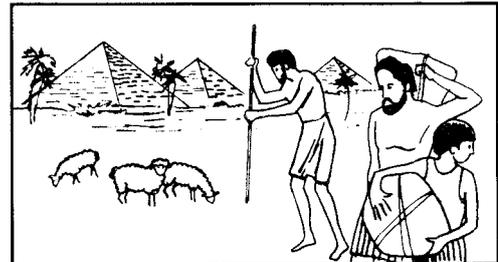
**A. Student** (See 2 Kings 6:5.)



**C. Widow** (See 2 Kings 4:1-7.)



**B. Builders** (See Nehemiah 5.)



**D. Egyptians** (See Genesis 47.)

**3.** We will not hide our condition. In order to buy food we have used up all of our money and herds. Please give us food in exchange for our land and ourselves.

**4.** Please help me, master; for I borrowed it from my neighbor, and now I am not able to return it.

## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BORROWING?

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. If you borrow \$1,000 a year at 12% interest, compounded annually, how much will you owe in interest after fifteen years?  
 A. \$1,500  
 B. \$5,281  
 C. \$26,754
2. If you wanted to pay back a loan of \$41,754 with \$6,000 a year, how much would you pay in interest before the loan was repaid at 12% interest?  
 A. \$3,500  
 B. \$16,500  
 C. \$53,696
3. God told His own people that if they borrowed money they were:  
 A. Endangering their future.  
 B. Being cursed by God.  
 C. Not using their resources.
4. The Hebrew word for borrowing is 'ābaʿ. It means:  
 A. To entangle.  
 B. To use.  
 C. To obligate.
5. God warned His own people not to lend money with interest to:  
 A. Foreign nations  
 B. Widows  
 C. Their own people
6. The anguish of indebtedness was illustrated in the Scriptural account of:  
 A. Esther  
 B. Ezra  
 C. Nehemiah
7. If you have gotten into debt by borrowing for a car, you should:  
 A. Pay it off and learn a lesson.  
 B. Sell the car and buy a cheaper one.  
 C. Ask your employer for a raise.
8. If you are heavily in debt and purpose not to borrow anymore, you can expect God to:  
 A. Get you out of debt quickly.  
 B. Get you out of debt slowly.  
 C. Build disciplines while removing debt.

# WHAT REASONS WOULD YOU GIVE FOR NOT BORROWING?

Select the most appropriate answers for each case.  
(Answers may be used more than once.)

## CASE A BORROWING FOR EDUCATION

A friend has just been accepted to a Christian university and has been offered a low interest loan to meet expenses. He asks for your opinion about the loan.

Answers \_\_\_\_\_

## CASE B BORROWING FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

A neighbor has been given a contract for a large construction job, but in order to do it he must borrow money for some new equipment. When the job is finished he could pay off the loan.

Answers \_\_\_\_\_

## CASE C BORROWING FOR A CAR

An older brother has found an exceptionally good buy on a new car. The payments are well within his monthly income, and after a year he could sell it for more than he paid for it.

Answers \_\_\_\_\_

## CASE D BORROWING FOR MEDICAL BILLS

A missionary family has experienced serious illness. The medical bills are beyond their ability to pay. One of your friends offers to lend them the money for the medical bills. Should they accept the loan?

Answers \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWERS

1. It violates Scriptural injunctions against borrowing.
2. It constitutes a judgment of God.
3. It produces bondage to creditors.
4. It presumes upon the future.
5. It reveals prideful independence.
6. It evades self-examination.
7. It interferes with God's provision.
8. It removes barriers to harmful items.
9. It demonstrates discontent with basics.
10. It devours resources by interest.
11. It stifles resourcefulness.
12. It promotes impulse buying.
13. It damages God's reputation.
14. It weakens personal faith.
15. It excludes help from others.
16. It causes overspending.