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rp *Biblical teaching relating to reasons for poverty and consequential effects of such vulnerability.*

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PRGI.. GOD'S EXAMPLE, INVOLVEMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

THROUGH CREATION

prgicr PR.22: 2 Rich and poor have this in common - the Lord is maker of them all.

THROUGH GOD'S JUSTICE

prgijt PS 9:12 For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.

prgijt PS.9:18 The needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.

prgijt PS 10:12-16 Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.... But you, O God do see trouble and grief.... The Lord is King for ever and ever, the nations will perish from his land. You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed in order that man who is of the earth may terrify no more.

prgijt PS.12:5 "Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise, "says the Lord, "I will protect them from those that malign them." And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

prgijt PS.72:12-14 He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no-one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

prgijt LUKE 18:7 And will not God bring about Justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly.

THROUGH GOD'S PROTECTION AND HELP

prgiph DEUT.10:17 For the Lord your God is the God of gods, and Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribe. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you, yourselves, were aliens in Egypt.

prgiph PS.12:5 "Because of the oppression of the week and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the Lord, "I will protect them from those who malign them ."

prgiph PS.35:10 My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you O Lord ?" You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, The poor and needy from those who rob them.

prgiph PS 41:1 Blessed is he who has regard for the weak, the Lord delivers him

in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life. He will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desires of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.

prgiph PS: 72:4 He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy. He will crush the oppressor.

prgiph ISA.61:1-3 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn and to provide for all grieve in Zion--to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

THROUGH GOD'S SUCCOUR

prgisu PS.37:18-19 The days of the blameless are known to the Lord and their inheritance will endure for ever. In days of famine they will enjoy plenty. PS 37:18-19

prgisu PS.37:25 I was young but now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.

prgisu PS.132:15 I will bless Zion with abundant provisions, her poor I will satisfy with food.

prgisu ISA 41:17 The poor and needy search for water but there is none, their tongues are parched with thirst. But I, the Lord, will answer them, I, the God of Israel will not forsake them.

prgisu LUKE 6:20-24 Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied.... ..But woe unto you who are rich for you have already received your comfort. Woe unto you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

prgisu LUKE 2:51-53 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

EXAMPLES OF GOD'S ATTITUDE

prgira JN.13:14 If I your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. JN.13:14

GOD'S PRACTICAL HELP AND IDENTIFICATION

prgipr ISA.53:7-8 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgement he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken.

prgipr LUKE 2:22-24 When the time of their purification according to the law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, as is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn is to be consecrated to the Lord">, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

prgipr LUKE 2:6-7 While they < Joseph and Mary > were there the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

prgipr JN.15:12 My command is this, "Love each other as I have loved you." Greater love has no man than this, that one lays down his life for his friends.

prgipr 2.COR.8:9 For you know the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

code proi

***BIBLICAL TEACHING RELATING TO OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION OF,
AND INJUSTICE TO THE POOR.***

DEPRIVATION OF BASIC NECESSITIES

- proiib Another persuasive bias in first perceptions of last needs is the stress on poverty to the neglect of vulnerability. Five dimensions of deprivation are poverty, physical weakness, isolation, vulnerability, and powerlessness. Any of these can be attacked, but first biases stress poverty in the sense of lack of income to the neglect of vulnerability in the sense of lack of assets which can be realized to handle contingencies. ROBERT CHAMBERS
- proiib DEUT.23:10 When you make a loan of any kind to your neighbour, do not go into his house to get what he is offering as a pledge. Stay outside and let the man to whom you are making the loan bring the pledge out to you. If the man is poor, do not go to sleep with his pledge in your possession. Return his cloak to him by sunset so that he may sleep in it. Then he will thank you, and it will be regarded as a righteous act in the sight of the Lord your God.
- proiib PR.30:14 Those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor, the needy from among mankind...
- proiib AMOS 5.11 You trample the poor and force him to give you corn. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine.
- proiib LUKE 16:19 There was once a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores..... But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony....."

DEPRIVATION OF LAND AND PROPERTY

- proiil DEUT.27:17 Cursed is the man who removes his neighbour's boundary stone. Then all the people shall say "Amen".
- proiil JOB 20:15 What he toiled for he must give back uneaten, he will not enjoy the profit from his trading. For he has oppressed the poor and left them destitute. He has siezed homes he did not build.
- proiil JOB 20:19 (The wicked godless) has oppressed the poor and left them destitute; he has seized houses he did not build.
- proiil PR.13:23 A poor man's field may produce abundant food but injustice sweeps it away.
- proiil PR.23:10 Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, for their defender is strong, He will take up their case

against you.

proiil ISA.5:8 Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land.

proiil AMOS.8:4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, and do away with the poor of the land.

DEPRIVATION OF WORKING CAPITAL

proiic DEUT.24:6 Do not take a pair of millstones - not even the upper one - as a security for a debt, for that would be taking a man's livelihood as security.

DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

proiir LEV.25:43 Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.

proiir JER.17:11 Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay, is the man who gains riches by unjust means.

proiir MAL.3:5 So I will come near to you for judgement. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and purgerers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

DEPRIVATION OF DUE REWARD - WAGES

proiiv DEUT.24:14 Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin. Now listen you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded, their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look, the wages you failed to pay the workman who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men who were not opposing you.

proiiv MAL.3:5 So I will come near to you for judgement. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and purgerers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

PROFITEERING, INTEREST, GREED AND DEMANDS

proipg NEH.5:3-11 Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine." Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards. Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our countrymen, and though our sons are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless because our fields and our vineyards belong to others. When I heard their outcry and their charges, I was very angry. I pondered then in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are doing wrong exacting usury from your countrymen !" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them, and said, "As far as possible, we have brought back our Jewish brothers who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your brothers, only for them to be sold back to us!" They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? I and my brothers and my men are also lending to the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop! Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the usury you are charging them - the hundredth part of the money, grain, new wine and oil.

proipg JOB 24:2ff (Living Bible): Men move boundary marks to get more land, they steal sheep and put them with their own flocks. They steal donkeys that belong to orphans and keep a widow's ox before she pays her debt. They keep the poor from getting their rights and force the needy to run and hide. So the poor, like wild donkeys, search for food in a dry wilderness, nowhere else can they find food for their children. They have to harvest fields they don't own and gather grapes in wicked men's vineyards. At night they sleep with nothing to cover them. They are drenched by the rain that falls on the mountains, and they huddle beside the rocks for shelter. Evil men make slaves of fatherless infants and take the poor man's children as payment for debts. But the poor must go out with no clothes to protect them, they must go hungry while harvesting wheat. They press olives for oil and grapes for wine, but they themselves are thirsty....

proipg PR.28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another who will be kind to the poor.

proipg AMOS 8:4-6 Here this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land saying, "When will the new moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?" Skimping the measure, boosting the price, and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and needy with a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

DEGREES OF INJUSTICE AS SEEN BY GOD

proiag PR.28:3 A ruler who oppresses the poor is like the driving rain that leaves no crops.

proiag ISA.53:7-8 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgement he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken.

proiag AM.4:1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"

GOD'S WARNINGS RELATING TO SUCH

proigw PS.72:4 He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy. He will crush the oppressor.

proigw PS.72:12-14 He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no-one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight

proigw PR.14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

proigw PR.22:22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor, and do not crush the needy in court for the Lord will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

proigw ISA.3:14 "The Lord enters into judgement against the elders and leaders of his people; it is you who have ruined my vineyard; the plunder from the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor?" declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.

proigw AM.5:11 You trample the poor and force him to give you corn. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine.

GOD'S PROMISES CONCERNING SUCH

proigp PS.14:6 You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

proigp LUKE 18:7 And will not God bring about Justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly.

GOD'S JUSTICE OVER SUCH

proigj PS.9:18 But the needy will not always be forgotten, not the hope of the afflicted ever perish.

proigj PS.10:12-16 Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.... But you, O God do see trouble and grief.... The Lord is King for ever and ever, the nations will perish from his land. You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed in order that man who is of the earth may terrify no more.

proigj PS.12:5 "Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the Lord, "I will protect them from those that malign them." And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

proigj PS.13:6 You evil doers frustrate the plans of the poor; but the Lord is their refuge.

proigj PS.37:14 The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy to slay those whose ways are upright. But their swords will pierce their own hearts and their bows will be broken. Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. PS.37:14

GOD'S CONDEMNATION OF HYPROCRACY

proihy LUKE 11:39-42 Then the Lord said to him. "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is inside (the dish) to the poor, and everything will be clean for you. Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

BIBLICAL TEACHING RELATING TO RESPONSIBILITY TO THE POOR AND LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY, AND RIGHT AND WRONG ATTITUDES

WRONG ATTITUDE TO THE WEAK

prraww DEUT. 15:7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tight fisted towards your poor brother. Rather be open handed and freely lend to him whatever he needs. Be careful not to harbour this wicked thought, "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will towards your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the Lord against you and you will be found guilty of sin.

- prraww PR.14:21 He who despises his neighbour sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.
- prraww PR.17:5 He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their maker, whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.
- prraww PR:21:13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.
- prraww ECCL.9:13-16 I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: there was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge networks against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by that wisdom. nobody remembered that poor man. So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength". But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.
- prraww EZEK.16:49 Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom. She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned. They did not help the poor and needy.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR JUSTICE

- prrajt PR.29:7 The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.
- prrajt PR.31:8 Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves, for the right of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the right of the poor and needy.
- prrajt LUKE 11:39-42 Then the Lord said to him. "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is inside (the dish) to the poor, and everything will be clean for you. Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. LUKE 11:39-42

PROFITEERING, INTEREST AND SHARP PRACTICES

- prrapg LEV.25:35 If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or temporary resident, so that he can continue to live among you. Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countrymen may continue to live among you. You must not lend him money at interest or sell him food at a profit. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

LABOUR RELATIONSHIPS

prralr *"..... In our private charities we cannot help aiding the poor as poor; but we are able, if we so choose, to do it without attaching to our aid any public stamp of poverty, and to take off much of the evil of teaching the lesson of dependence by making the receiver feel that our gift is one of sympathy between man and man, and not a favour between rich and poor.....and even then, the many mistakes we make compel us to feel that our Lord has given us no harder problem to solve than how to aid the poor without doing them harm. But in dealing with public and permanent institutions, where it is possible to calculate beforehand how aid is to be obtained, it is of priceless importance to give aid in a form that shall encourage self-respect and self reliance...." F.TEMPLE*

prralr LEV:25:39 If one of your countryman becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you. He is to work for you until the year of the Jubilee. Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and the property of his forefathers.

prralr NEH.5:14-19 Moreover from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty second year < twelve years > neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the Governor. But the earlier governors - those preceding me - placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver (1lb or 0.5kg) from them in addition to food and wine.< N.B. Christ was betrayed for less - 30 pieces of silver > ...Their assistants also lorded it over the people, but out of reverence to God I did not act like that. Instead I devoted myself to the work of the wall. All my men were assembled for the work, we did not acquire any land.. Furthermore a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wines of all kinds. In spite of this I never demanded the food allocated to the governor, because the demands were too heavy on these people.

GOD'S REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPASSION

prragc DEUT.15:11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open handed towards your brothers and towards the poor and needy in your land.

prragc LUKE 11:39-42 Then the Lord said to him. "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is inside (the dish) to the poor, and everything will be clean for you. Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

prragc 1.JN.3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother

in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him ?

GOD'S PROMISES

prragp DEUT.15:1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.....you may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you. However there should be no poor among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, He will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you to-day. For the Lord your God will bless you as He has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

prragp DEUT.15:10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then, because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

prragp PS.14:21 He who despises his neighbour sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.

prragp PS.41:1 Blessed is he who has regard for the weak, the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life. He will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desires of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.

prragp PS.112:9 (Blessed is the man who fears the Lord)...he has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures for ever, his dignity will be lifted high in honour.

prragp PR.19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.

prragp PS.41:1 Blessed is he who has regard for the weak, the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life. He will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desires of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.

prragp PR.22:9 A generous man will himself be blessed for he shares his food with the poor.

prragp PR.28:27 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them secures many curses.

BASIC RECOGNITION

prrabn PROV.19:22 ..better to be poor than a liar.

prrabn LUKE 12:19 Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

prrafr LEV.25:35-55 If one of your countryman becomes poor and sells some of his property i) his nearest relation is to come and redress what his countryman has sold (family duty and responsibility first -MH) ii) if however a man has no-one to redeem it, but he himself prospers and acquires sufficient means to redeem it, he is to determine the value for the years since he sold it and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it; he can then go back to his property. iii) But if he does not acquire the means to repay him, what he sold will remain in the possession of the buyer, until the year of the jubilee. It will be returned in the jubilee, and he can then go back to his property.

prrafr DEUT.15:1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.....you may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you. However there should be no poor among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, He will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. For the Lord your God will bless you as He has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

prrafr DEUT.15:7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tight fisted towards your poor brother. Rather be open handed and freely lend to him whatever he needs. Be careful not to harbour this wicked thought, "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will towards your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the Lord against you and you will be found guilty of sin.

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

prrape DEUT.15:1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.....you may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you. However there should be no poor among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, He will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you to-day. For the Lord your God Will bless you as He has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

prrape DEUT.15:12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or woman is sold to you and he serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free. And

when you release him, do not send him away empty handed. Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your wine press. Give to him as the Lord has blessed you. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command to-day .

prrape ESTHER 9:22 He wrote to them to observe the days as days of fasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

prrape PR.31:20 She (the wife of noble character) opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

prrape ECCL.9:13-16 I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: there was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge networks against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by that wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength". But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.

prrape ISA.58:6 Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen:- to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

prrape ISA:58:9 "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

prrape JER.22:16 "He (your father Josiah) defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what is meant to know me?" declares the Lord.

prrape LUKE 3:10 "What shall we do then? the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (The context is "Produce fruit that is in keeping with repentance".)

prrape LUKE 12: 32-33 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is your heart will be also.

prrape LUKE 14:13 ...But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they

cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

- prrape LUKE 14:21 The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, crippled, the blind and the lame."
- prrape LUKE 14:23 ..Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in so that my house may be full.
- prrape LUKE 18:22 When Jesus heard this he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.
- prrape LUKE 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated any out of anything I will pay back four times the amount."
- prrape JN.13:20 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the feast, or to give something to the poor.
- prrape ACTS 10:4 The angel answered Cornelius, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a remembrance before God...."
- prrape GAL.2:10 They only made one stipulation, that we were to remember the poor, which very thing I was also eager to do.
- prrape EPH.4:28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
- prrape PHIL.4:12 <JBP> I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know now how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of facing either poverty or plenty. I am ready for anything through the strength of the One Who lives within me.

RESTORATION OF POSSESSIONS

- prrap LEV.25:35-55 If one of your countryman becomes poor and sells some of his property i) his nearest relation is to come and redress what his countryman has sold ii) if however, a man has no-one to redeem it, but he himself prospers and acquires sufficient means to redeem it, he is to determine the value for the years since he sold it and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it; he can then go back to his property. iii) But if he does not acquire the means to repay him, what he sold will remain in the possession of the buyer, until the year of the jubilee. It will be returned in the jubilee, and he can then go back to his

property.

- prrrarp JOB 20:10 His (the wicked's) children must make amends to the poor, his own hands must give back his wealth.
- prrrarp JOB 20:15 What he toiled for he must give back uneaten, he will not enjoy the profit from his trading. For he has oppressed the poor and left them destitute. He has siezed homes he did not build.
- prrrarp LUKE 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated any out of anything I will pay back four times the amount."

BIBLICAL TEACHING RELATING TO REASONS FOR POVERTY AND CONSEQUENTIAL VUNERABILITY THROUGH POVERTY

THROUGH WRONG ATTITUDES TO WORK

- prrpwa PR.6:9-10 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.
- prrpwa PR.14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

THROUGH WRONG ATTITUDES TO WEALTH

- prrrwp PR.22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich, both come to poverty.

THROUGH LACK OF WORKING CAPITAL

- prrpplc PR.14:4 Where there are no oxen the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes abundant harvest. PR.14: 4

CONSEQUENTIAL ATTITUDE BECAUSE OF POVERTY

- prrrpca PR.19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.
- prrrpca PR.27:7 He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.
- prrrpca PR.30:7 Two things I ask of you O Lord, do not refuse me before I die. Keep falsehood far from me; give me neither poverty not riches, but give

me only my daily bread. Otherwise I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or I may become poor and steal and so dishonour the name of my God.

CONSEQUENTIAL DEPRIVATION

prprpr LUKE 2:6-7 While they < Joseph and Mary > were there the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CONSEQUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS

prprco PR.22:7 The rich rule over the poor and the borrower is servant to the lender.

prprco LUKE 2:22-24 When the time of their purification according to the law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <as is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn is to be consecrated to the Lord">, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."