

The Importance of Finance to Meet Certain Needs in Ministries

“17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18 KJV)

Finances are one of the most crucial things in the life of individuals, families, and the church and ministry. We will study in this message further examples that show the importance of the finances to meet certain needs in ministries.

1. How was Barzilli with Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar able to support King David when he fled from Absalom if they did not save enough supply?

“27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, 28 Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, 29 And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.” (2 Samuel 17:27-29 KJV)

2. How would Solomon have been able to build the temple of God in Jerusalem without the finances that his father David and the leaders of Israel had saved, collected, and provided?

David bought the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite to build an altar to the Lord in obedience to the command of God:

“18 Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. 19 And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD. 20 And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat. 21 And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground. 22 Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. 23 And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. 24 And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost. 25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. 26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. 27 And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof. 28 At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshingfloor of

Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.” (1 Chronicles 21:18-28 KJV) David refused to take the place without payment.

That place ultimately became the house of God and the altar became the altar of the burnt offering:

“1 Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.” (1 Chronicles 22:1 KJV)

David had prepared the following for the house of God:

“3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; 4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.” (1 Chronicles 22:3-4 KJV)

“14 Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.” (1 Chronicles 22:14 KJV)

“2 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, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistening stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance. 3 Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house. 4 Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal: 5 The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?” (1 Chronicles 29:2-5 KJV)

The chief of the fathers and the princes of the tribes of Israel and the captains and the rulers of the king's work offered willingly the following:

“6 Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, 7 And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. 8 And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.” (1 Chronicles 29:6-8 KJV)

The people were so glad to see their leaders give willingly from what God had given them; they were able to give because they had kept what God had given them to honor Him in due season. ***“9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.” (1***

Chronicles 29:9 KJV) God was honored on that occasion when people were ready and had prepared themselves to offer their finances to honor God. “10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. 16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. 17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. 18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee.” (1 Chronicles 29:10-18 KJV)

3. How would Jeremiah have been able to buy the piece of land in Anathoth from his uncle, in obedience to the voice of God, for a sign to the people if he had no money?

“6 And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it. 8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. 9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. 10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. 11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: 12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison. 13 And I charged Baruch before them, saying, 14 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. 15 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.” (Jeremiah 32:6-15 KJV) Jeremiah had collected that money and kept it with him. The Lord had already told him not to marry. “1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, 2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.” (Jeremiah 16:1-2 KJV) He kept the money and did not spend it to gratify his flesh, but kept it aside to serve God.

4. How would those in the second exodus have been able to contribute their gifts for rebuilding the temple at Jerusalem if they had not kept what God had blessed them with?

“1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. 5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. 6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.” (Ezra 1:1-6 KJV) We can see clearly that the people contributed material things for building the temple.

If we read further in *Ezra* chapter 1, we can see that God had preserved the vessels of the temple. “7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; 8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. 9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, 10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. 11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.” (Ezra 1:7-11 KJV) In the same way, God wants us to preserve what He has given us to be used to contribute in the building up of His work and ministry on this earth.

5. Joseph was commanded by God to take Mary and the child Jesus and go to Egypt to escape from Herod who wanted to kill Jesus. But would their journey have been possible without God's provision for this family through the treasures that the Magi gave to Jesus?

“11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.” (Matthew 2:11-14 KJV)

6. How could Mary have anointed the feet of Jesus and prepared Him for burial if she had not kept aside that very costly ointment of spikenard?

“1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. 2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. 3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. 4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. 7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.” (John 12:1-7 KJV)

7. How would the believers of the early church have been able to provide for the needs of others by selling their possessions and bringing the money from the sales to the apostles' feet if they had not enough for themselves?

“44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.” (Acts 2:44-45 KJV)

“32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.” (Acts 4:32-37 KJV)

How would the disciples at Antioch be able to collect from everyone according to his ability to provide for the saints at Jerusalem if they did not have enough for themselves?

“27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.” (Acts 11:27-30 KJV)

My dear and beloved: What we can learn from all these examples is that God gave riches that would ultimately be directed to support His work and ministries. God would enrich His people to make their life easier and so that a fair portion of what He gave to them is to be shared and ultimately used for His glory. God would be pleased with us when we store our wealth, keeping in mind to use it for the work of His church and ministry.

Check now yourself and see if you are a good steward, and had kept what God had given you waiting for the right opportunity to use it and direct it to the purpose of God to support His church and ministries. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching that you gave to me to teach me the importance of finances and that I need to be a good steward to all what I had received from you, and to be ready to use them according to your purpose and in your perfect time.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your bad stewardship and wasting your resources in wrong directions and your mismanagement to your finances and spending on unnecessary things. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your love of money and non willingness to give to the ministries of God. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to abide to the principles that I learned in this message about finances, to be a good steward of what I received from you and to live according to your purpose and your will in my life. Lord I commit myself to use the resources you gave me to do the works of yours and invest in your ministries and to build up your church.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and willing to amend their ways and perfect themselves to be useful fruitful and effective servants of yours. Lord use their lives and their resources for your purpose and glory and to build up your church. Lord continue to guide them into the whole will of yours in their lives. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and help us as we continue to teach and proclaim your Word and your will. Lord we thank you for all the resources that you had given to the church, Lord we pray that we will use them for your glory and build up your church and to aid the ministries of yours. Lord we thank you for all the workers who committed their lives to serve you with us. Lord we pray that you will enable us to train them and use them according to your plan and purpose. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God

United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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