

Inflation and God's Laws

By Fr. Archer Torrey

Korean version published in *Reunification Magazine (Tongil Nondam)*, 1994, Seoul, Korea
English version © 1994 Archer Torrey, © 2004 Estate of Archer Torrey. All rights reserved.

God has said: *Ye shall do no injustice in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure.* (Leviticus 19:35) *Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.* (Deuteronomy 25:14-15) *Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.* (Proverbs 20:10) (This means that inflation is an abomination to the Lord) *Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.* (Ezekiel 45:10-12) *The LORD'S voice crieth unto the city... Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?* (Micah 6:9-10)

The modern world prides itself on accurate and honest weights and measures, but it is undermined by dishonesty in the fiscal (banking and monetary) system. Banks and governments create money out of nothing and pass it off as something of value. As a result, in every nation the value of the money keeps falling and the workingman is unable to live on the same amount as his father did. In the USA, when I was in my 20's, a day's work for a skilled laborer could support a family. Today, even at higher wage levels, husband and wife together can barely make enough to support the family. Wages go "up" to "meet inflation," but they never really do. Real wages continue to fall until a crisis arises and blood is shed in efforts to restore justice. Between crises, the number of those suffering from the "scant" measure increases steadily.

It is clear from the words of the Lord, spoken over a period of nearly a thousand years—through Moses as part of the basic law in Leviticus, again in the renewing of the covenant on the eve of entering the Promised Land, again by Solomon, again by Micah, and one more time, looking toward the future restoration of Israel under the Messiah, by Ezekiel—that God takes weights and measures seriously. Why? They are part of any system of justice. Inflation is injustice, an abomination before God.

What is it that brings about inflation? Banks and governments issue certificates saying that there is money on deposit, which can be paid to the bearer on demand when, in fact, there is no such money. They are lying. Our notes of exchange, our 1000 won bills, 5000 won bills, etc., with all the solemn paraphernalia of seals and signatures, are deliberate lies. How can we expect God to bless a nation that makes a business of swearing lies? Why do they do this? In the case of the bank, it is greed. In the case of the government, it is spending more money than it has. It borrows money and then has to steal some money from somewhere to pay its debts. It uses its authority to print money to steal a percentage from all the people. But this does not affect all the people equally. This affects those who live from hand to mouth, the poor. Each day what they earn is a little less than it was the day before. If they put money in savings, the loss to inflation may equal the gain in interest. When things really get disorganized, as in many countries

around the world, such as Russia today, savings suddenly become worthless. A couple who live in a cold and harsh climate in order to earn some money by mining, and who plan to save up enough to move away in a few years, suddenly find their life savings wiped out by inflation. They are doomed to spend the rest of their life in a town they hate intensely. The government and the banks have robbed them of the reward of their labor and, for all practical purposes, have enslaved them. God tells us that he abhors this. Are we going to shrug our shoulders and let the banks and the government steal from all those who do not own jewels or land?

Are we going to get into the land-speculation business and steal from the rest of the country even more than the banks and the government is stealing? Many have chosen that road. Christians need to give these matters serious thought, prayer, and discussion, and find out what the Holy Spirit is saying. He has been around a long time and he knows the answers. Do we dare ask?

There are some values that do not really change: the number of hours of labor required to grow a crop of potatoes and the number of potatoes one person needs to eat to stay healthy. If people who live by their own labor on their own land will stay out of the market, they can maintain the same standard of living over a period of years. But if they have to sell their potatoes for less than it cost to grow them and buy rice for far more than they got for their potatoes, they are in trouble. On the other hand, in a country where there is no control of land values – that is, where the government fails to collect the rent for the national land – one can not only beat inflation but become richer and richer regardless of the degree of inflation. Those with power bid against each other for land and the price goes up and up. The rate of inflation may be 10% but the rate of increase in land “value” will be as much as 50% or 100% or even higher. That is why those who have invested in land to protect themselves from inflation will fight with all the energy and power at their disposal (and people with lots of land usually also have lots of power) to keep the government from imposing a land-value tax or from collecting the rental value of that land. They do not like the teaching, “The land is mine, saith the Lord, it shall not be sold forever.” The moment a prophet or preacher begins to talk like that they begin to find ways to ridicule or otherwise silence him, threatening his life, if necessary.