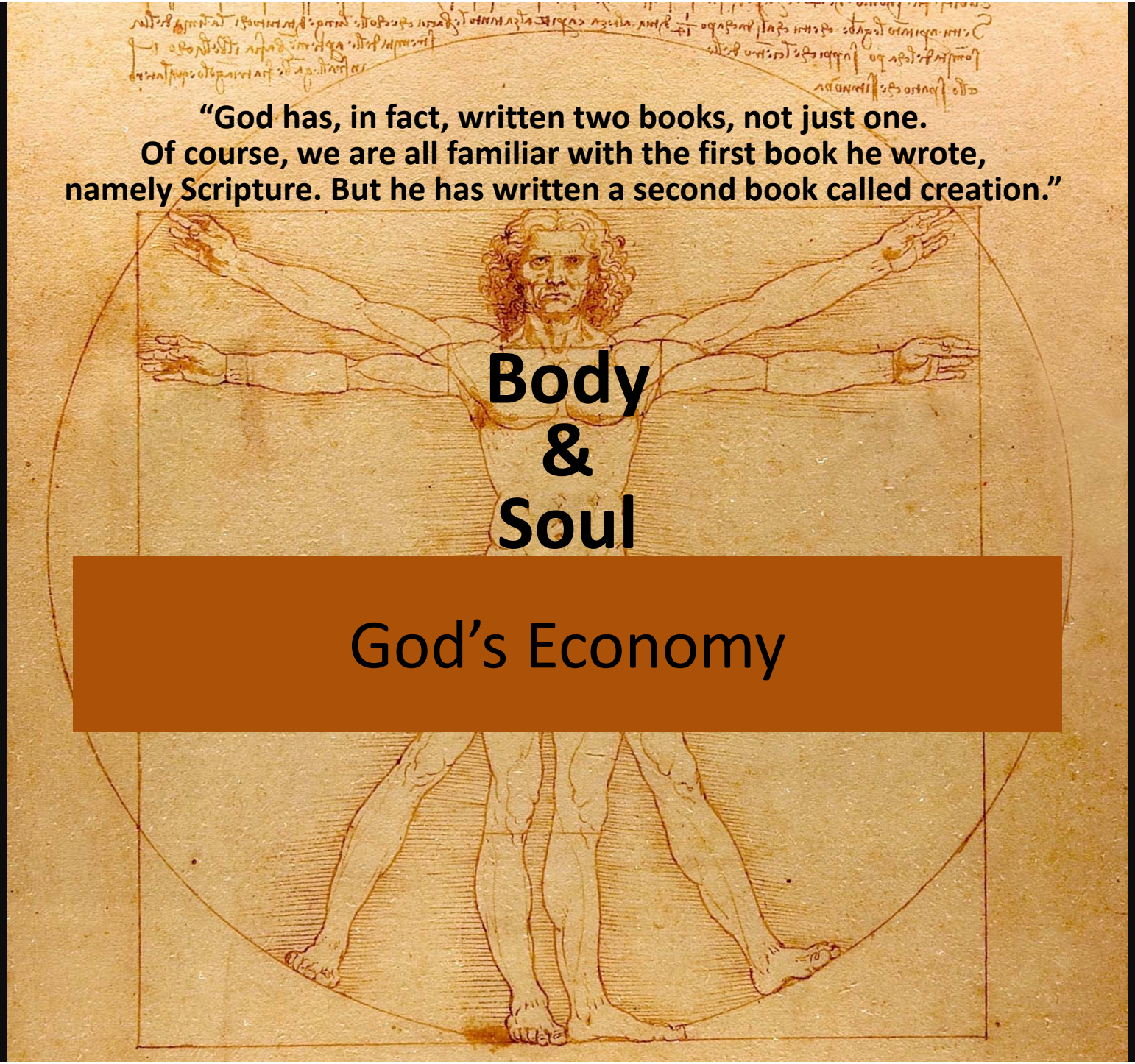


"God has, in fact, written two books, not just one. Of course, we are all familiar with the first book he wrote, namely Scripture. But he has written a second book called creation."

Body & Soul

God's Economy

God’s Economy:

How God provides for the needs of His people
both directly and indirectly
and
how we participate with God
in providing for our individual needs
and the needs of our family
and faith community

God's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

יהוה

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

Family

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
1 Timothy 5:8

Church

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; ….
12 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality
Romans 12:10,14

Man's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

Government seeks to Replace

God & Family

Government seeks to Displace

Church

Man's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

~~יהוה~~

Dead or Does not Exist

~~Family~~

Fractured & Fatherless

~~Church~~

Marginalized or Mislead

Man's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

יהוה

Alive and Active

Family

Healthy and Harmony

Church

Restored and Responding

Jeremiah 17

5 Thus says YEHOVAH,
"Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from YEHOVAH.
6 "For he will be like a bush in the desert
And will not see when prosperity comes,
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
A land of salt without inhabitant.

Jeremiah 17

7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in YEHOVAH
And whose trust is YEHOVAH.
8 “For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit.

God's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

- Acknowledge our Dependence on God
- Acknowledge His Provision
  - Based on obedience
  - Work as blessing
- Acknowledge Our Responsibility

God’s Economy:

Genesis 12: Abrahamic covenant

Deuteronomy 15: Care for poor in the land

1 John 3: Echoes Deut 15 in calling Christians to open their hearts

James 2: Faith without works

Galatians 2: Council of Jerusalem

Luke 12

Responsibility of Wealth

48 From everyone who has been given much,
much will be required;
and to whom they entrusted much,
of him they will ask all the more.

James 2

Faith without Works of Checed

17 Even so faith, if it has no works,
is dead, being by itself.

Where have we heard this before?

Man:

Genesis 2:18a

It is not good for the man to be alone;

Genesis 2:18b

I will make him a helper suitable for him.

Genesis 2:24

… and they shall become one flesh.

Faith:

James 2:17

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workman-ship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

James 2:18

…I will show you my faith by my works.

Faith → **Works**

↓

Repentance → **Fruits**
Deeds

Faith – Repentance – Works:

Faith: Leads to Repentance and Good Works.

Works: James 2:18 …I will show you my faith by my works.

Fruits: Matthew 3:8 …bear fruits in keeping with repentance.

Deeds: Acts 26:20 repent and turn to God,
performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Importance of Sequence

Good Works → X Salvation

Salvation → Good Works

Observing Torah → X Salvation

Salvation → Observing Torah

Importance of Sequence

Good Works ~~→~~ Salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Salvation → Good Works

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Importance of Sequence

Observing Torah → X Salvation

Romans 3:20

…by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Salvation → Observing Torah

Romans 2:13

…it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.

Importance of Sequence

Salvation → Observing Torah

Romans 7:12
So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Romans 8:2
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Romans 10:4
Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Romans 13:10
…love is the fulfillment of the law.

Numbers 15

15 *As for* the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before YEHOVAH. 16 There is to be one law and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you.

God's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

יהוה

↕

Man

Philippians 4:17

But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

יהוה

100% ↓ ↑ 10% First fruits

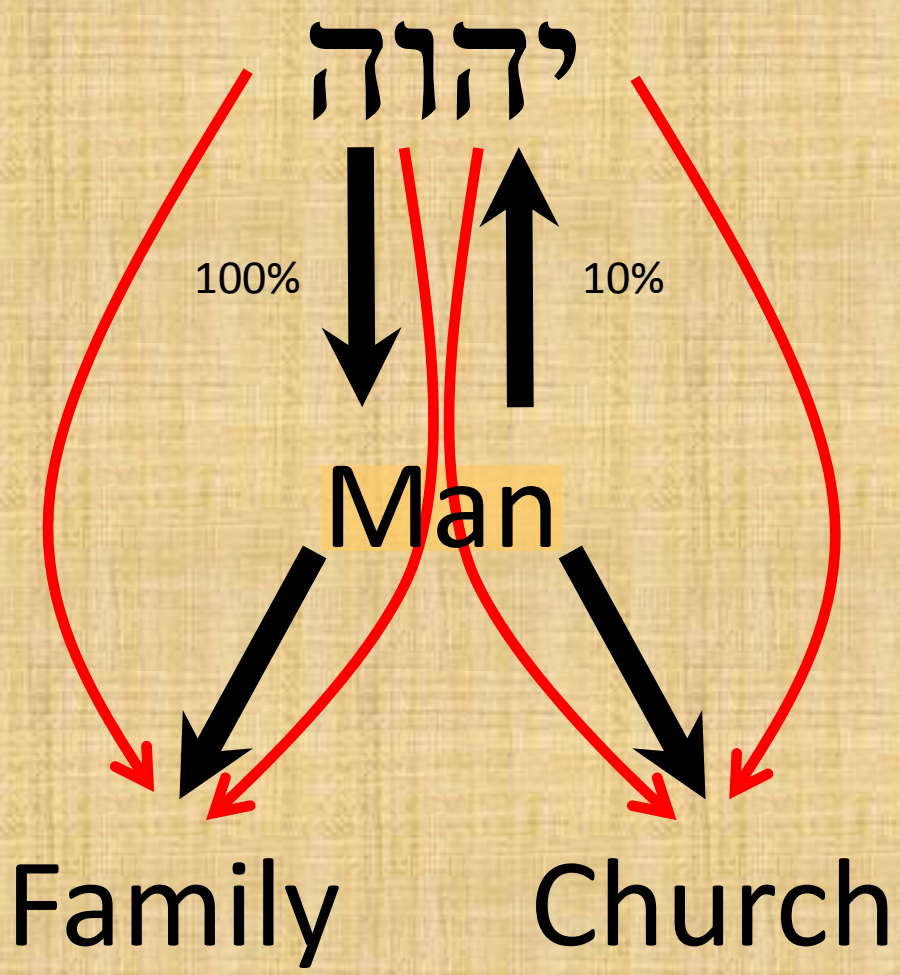
Man

Philippians 4:17

But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met



God's Economy:

How Our Needs Are Met

- Acknowledge our Dependence on God
- Acknowledge His Provision
  - Based on obedience
  - Work as blessing
- Acknowledge Our Responsibility
  - Blessed to bless others
  - Give to the Poor

Caring for the Poor

Providing for the Poor

- Obedience

Leviticus 19

9 Now when you reap the harvest of your land,
you shall not reap to the very corners of your
field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your
harvest. 10 Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor
shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard;
you shall leave them for the needy and for the
stranger. I am the YEHOVAH your God.

Caring for the Poor:

- Needy: Fellow Jews (Naomi)
- Stranger: Gentiles (by birth) that were "God-fearers" (Ruth)
- Commandment repeated in Leviticus 23:22

Leviticus 19

15 ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment;
you shall not be **partial to the poor**
nor **defer to the great,**
but you are to judge your **neighbor** fairly.

Poor: No special Judicial Standing
- There are none “more equal” than others
- Neither Poverty nor Prosperity should color our judgement
- Regardless of their economic position, all are our neighbors

Leviticus 19

17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman
in your heart; ... 18 You shall not take vengeance,
nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people,
but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;
I am YEHOVAH. ...

Luke 10:29 "And who is my neighbor?"

33 'When a stranger resides with you in your land, you
shall not do him wrong. 34 The stranger who resides
with you shall be to you as the native among you,
and you shall love him as yourself, for you were
aliens in the land of Egypt; I am YEHOVAH your God.

Numbers 15:15 ...as you are, so shall the alien be before Yehovah

Leviticus 19

17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman
in your heart; ... 18 You shall not take vengeance,
nor ple,
but
I am
33 'V d, you
sha des
with u,
and you shall love him as yourself, for you were
aliens in the land of Egypt; I am YEHOVAH your God.

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free man,
there is neither male nor female;
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28

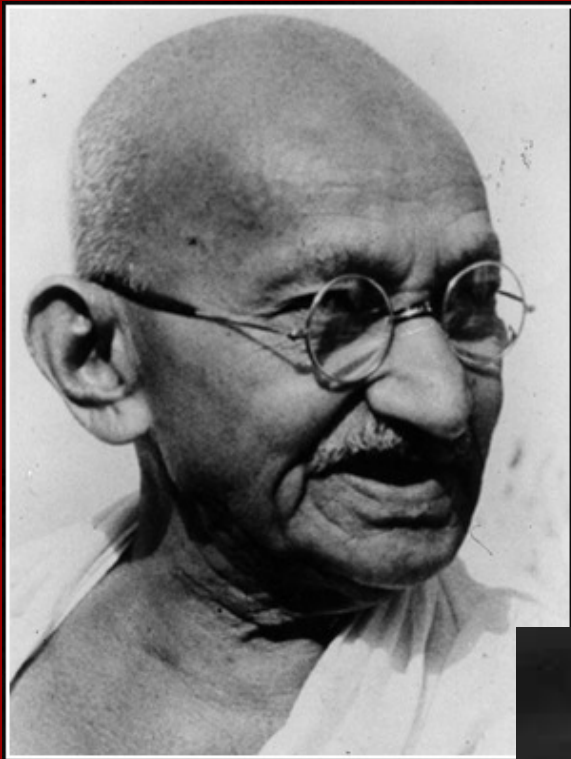
Identity politics is anti-Biblical

Leviticus 23

22 When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the YEHOVAH your God.

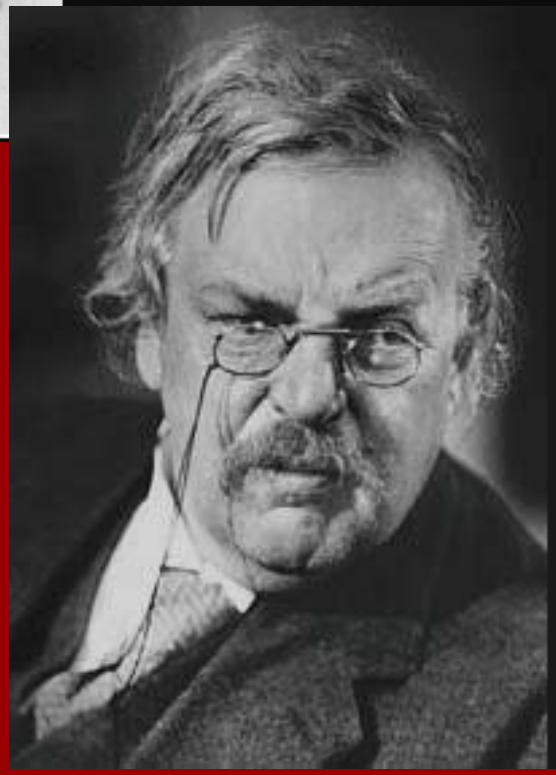
Repetition = Responsibility (Context)

- Preceded by: Pentecost
  a. Law Given
  b. Grain harvest
- Followed by : Feast of Trumpets
  a. Reflect on our obedience to the Law
  b. Fruit harvest



You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisation to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.

— Mahatma Gandhi —



"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."

Gilbert K. Chesterton

Caring for the Poor

Providing for the Poor

- Obedience
- Blessing

Deuteronomy 24

19 "When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that YEHOVAH your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Blessing for Obedience

- What appears to be a loss becomes a blessing/gain
- Another way God providing for the less fortunate
- Not redistribution of wealth – God restores through blessing

Psalm 41

1 How blessed is he who considers the poor;
① YEHOVAH will deliver him in a day of trouble.
② 2 YEHOVAH will protect him and keep him alive,
③ And he shall be called blessed upon the earth;
④ And do not give him over to the desire of his enemies. (defend)
⑤ 3 YEHOVAH will sustain him upon his sickbed;
⑥ In his illness, You restore him to health.

Blessing for Obedience
- A Pretty good interest rate, no?

Proverbs 14

31 He who oppresses the poor
blasphemes his Maker,
but whoever honors Him
is gracious to the poor.

Chiasm in Hebrew
- Center of the chiasm is our relationship with God
- Will we honor Him by being gracious to the poor?
- Will be blaspheme him by oppressing the poor?
- We will get to the responsibilities of the poor

Proverbs 19

17 Whoever is **kind** to the poor
lends to Yehovah,
and **He will reward** them for what they have done.

Repaid for Obedience with Graciousness
- Helping the poor is pictured as a loan made to Yehovah
- לָוָה (lavah): root also means to abide with, be joined to, cleave
- We are cleaving to God and joining in His will
by our gracious actions towards the poor
- God promises to "repay"/recompense us for our actions

Matthew 25:34 ..inherit the kingdom prepared for you…

Matthew 25:40 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Proverbs 21

13 Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor
will also cry out and not be answered.

27 He who gives to the poor will never want,
But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.

Punishment for Disobedience

- Prayers hampered by disobedience to God's requirement that we care for the poor.
- Blessing: Help the poor & never want
- Curses: Ignore the needs of the poor
- Prosperity Gospel? Give to the poor!?

Caring for the Poor

- Obedience
- Blessing
- Reminder of God’s Grace

Deuteronomy 24

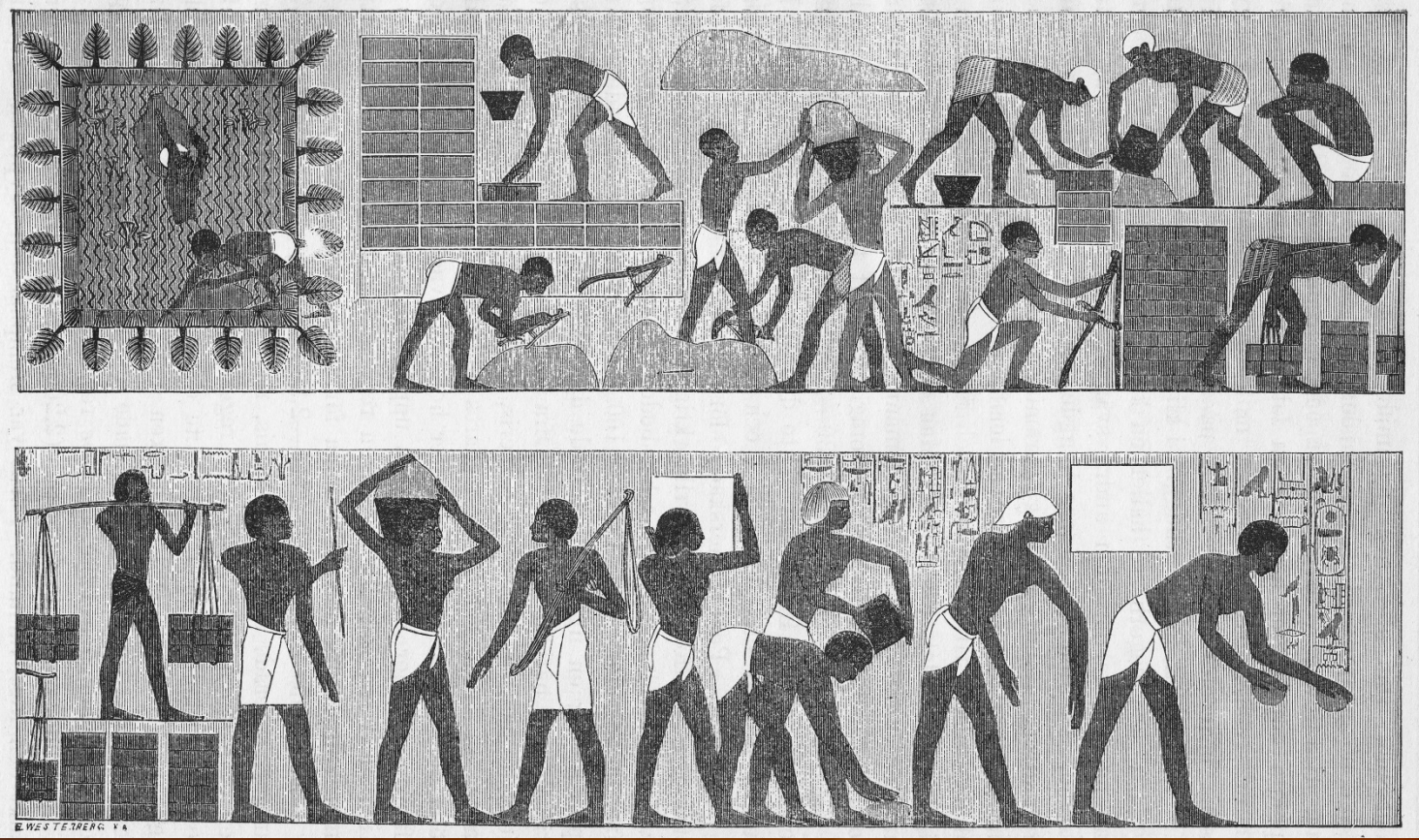
20 When you beat your olive tree, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.

Deuteronomy 24

21 "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not go over it again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.

Deuteronomy 24

22 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this thing.



Slaves to Sin

John 8:34

Truly, truly, I say to you,
everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

1 Peter 1

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold… 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

Romans 6

6 our old self was crucified with Him, … so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Deuteronomy 24

22 You shall **remember that you were a slave** in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this thing.

Remembering God's Grace To Us

- If the Jewish people were obligated to obey the law based on Yehovah having freed them from slavery in Egypt…
- How much more are we subject to God's commandments based on Yeshua's redeeming us from sin and eternal death?
- Law given to define how we can have a relationship with God and live in peace with our neighbors!

Titus 3

8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to **engage in good deeds.** These things are **good and profitable** for men….14 Our people must also learn to **engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs,** so that they will **not be unfruitful**.

Engage in the Good Deeds of Meeting Needs:

- Part of the life work of the believer
- Blessings (as He defines them) of God follow obedience