

## Principles

---

Natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, droughts, hurricanes, volcano eruptions) and their negative results for mankind, wars, riots, oppression, atrocities, starvation, poverty, man-made ecological destruction and eventually uncontrollable technologies (e.g nuclear power plants), insurmountable debts (public, corporate, private), corruption, hostile takeovers, a financial system pushed to its limits and at the brink of collapse, political bickering and power games, injustices, theft, murder, suicide, exploitation, bankruptcies, unemployment, lies, betrayals, sicknesses and apparently incurable diseases, sensation mongering of the media ... the list is just endless. There's no doubt, following the daily news regularly can lead to only one deduction - our world, societies and often even personal lives are in a big mess with things increasingly spinning out of control.

No matter how the authorities, powers in charge and parties involved are trying to control, harness or fix the mess, its hardly working. Which leads to the conclusion that the Lord, in whom all things hold together (*Colossians 1:17*) and who sustains everything (*Hebrews 1:3*) is obviously not consulted? Not only that, but for every thought up cure and solution man needs staggering amounts of money. For lack of it its artificially created (through debt) and then dished out, not knowing, who will ever pay the bill. Just to be clear, we are talking of \$ trillions above \$ trillions year after year. As if money is the answer to everything. Since our world is quite obviously not improving, the validity of this approach, which puts man into heavy servitude to our interest driven monetary system, must be rightfully questioned. Is our conventional wisdom and textbook teaching really based on the right principles?

A principle is the first law established by the manufacturer or creator of the thing. E.g., if we want to make use of a car, we need to adhere to the principle of feeding the engine with petrol, a principle established by its creator. Our culture, background, history, economic status, feelings, mood, opinions, education, job, titles, accomplishments, experiences, beliefs, worldview, physical location, skin color, the weather, etc. make no difference - we must put petrol in its tank if we want to use the car. Period. If we violate this principle by replacing the petrol with some other liquid more to our taste, we will inevitably eventually destroy the engine. If it still works at first it has nothing to do with our personal preference or ingenuity, but is only due to the residue still in the system. But, at the latest when that's gone, the principle violation will take its destructive toll.

Likewise, the fact that some stuff still works somehow today might just be down to some residue of godliness still being at work in our societies and personal lives. But how close are we to the big crash? Are we sure that we feed "our system" with the correct fuel, i.e. base our lives on the right principles and laws? Because on closer examination the scenario described in the first paragraph is by all means reminiscent to *Deuteronomy 28:15-68*, a list of curses God's people face for disobeying His instructions (see also Thought Provoking 19).

God's handbook for mankind (Bible) contains both all principles for a blessed life as well as the negative consequences of not adhering to the laws and principles God established when He created us. Those principles were established for our and the world's protection, not limitation, as they build God's framework for optimal use, benefit and fulfillment. Since principles don't change with culture or physical location and have no respect for anyone or anything, God's laws are universally applicable. Adherences would lead to His abundant blessings as described in *Deuteronomy 28:1-14* (see also Thought Provoking 19).

*You have commanded that your guiding principles (precepts, directions, orders, statutes, commandments) be carefully followed. I pray that my ways may become firmly established so that I can obey your laws. (Psalm 119:4-5, Gods Word Translation, emphasis added)*