

# Manna

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## How to get through Economic Recession

There is a definite downturn of the world wide economy this year (please refer to past issues of Manna which has been preparing for this world event). There are various ways in which we can prepare ourselves to live through this recession. Everyone is at a different level in wealth and we divide the instructions on how to get through this Economic Recession into three different groups; each with its own biblical steps to get through the recession.

### 1. For those who are just making ends meet.

The Bible speaks about a time of famine which occurred during the time of Abraham. This was despite the fact that Abraham had already obeyed God in leaving his hometown (Genesis 12:1-4). We were told that the famine was very severe and Abraham went down to Egypt to wait out the famine (Genesis 12:10). These are the points for those in this group:

1a. Change your place or town where you work and live temporarily. Although Abraham faced many trials in Egypt and did not respond perfectly to the tests, God did protect him and was not opposed to him being in Egypt. For some people it might just mean a change of profession or job; while for others it could mean a more drastic approach such as moving away to another city or even country. Not everyone may have to take such a drastic step but a famine demands some sort of change in environment or other areas to match the needs of the recession. For some it might mean remaining in the same work, place, city or country but have a change in other environmental areas.

1b. Be prepared to face some trials and temptations because of your new place or city or country. Abraham did not do too well by compromising the position of his wife; possibly for fear of his own life. Nevertheless, the Lord work things out in spite of Abraham's weaknesses and failures. Trust in the grace of God to get you through and not in your own strength (2 Corinthians 12:9). This is the time when you learn to rely on the Lord and not on your own strength or skill.

1c. Rely on your spouse or family member's strength to get you through this stage. Not much is mentioned about Sarah except for the fact that she was taken away by Pharaoh but we do know that God must have protected her. Abraham was richly rewarded because of Sarah (Genesis 12:16). We cannot justify the actions of Abraham but we can point to the fact that God used all imperfect situations to keep providing for Abraham and his family. To get through this recession you would need your spouse and all your family members to work as a team to get over this famine. The gifts or talents of each member will be an important contributing factor to the overall prosperity in times of famine.

1d. The Lord will bring you forth with blessings and abundance (Genesis 13:1-2). Remember to be like Abraham in honouring the covenant of the Lord and calling upon His name. Keep putting Him first no matter how difficult the environment or trial and He will see you through with grace and favour.

### 2. For those who lose their jobs or homes or business or security during this recession.

During the time of Isaac, there was another famine as severe as the famine in Abraham's time (Genesis 26:1). There are different lessons that can be learned from this famine and the principles apply to those who have to start from scratch or with whatever they have left of their abundance.

2a. Hear the voice of the Lord (Genesis 26:2-4). The Lord did not permit Isaac to go down to Egypt like He did with Abraham. Instead, of Egypt, the land of Gerar which God instructed Isaac to go was the land of the Philistines. Remember that it is from the land

of the Philistines that Goliath arose later to confront David and the Israelites. This land symbolically speaks of the conquest of giants. Similar to the change of place, city or country as required in the famine of Abraham, the same changes are necessary but the foe confronted is different. Where favour was immediately given to Abraham in Egypt because of his wife, Isaac encountered animosity from the Philistines (Genesis 26:20-21). Their wells were stopped and there was constant quarrelling. The conquest over the flesh is most important during this time. Isaac, representing the ways of the spirit, did not wrestle with flesh and blood but kept digging wells until the Lord made room for him (Genesis 26:22). It is important during this time to hear the voice of the Spirit and follow the ways of the Spirit and not the flesh for the two are contrary (Galatians 5:17).

2b. Your gift will make room for you (Proverbs 18:16). As the Lord made room for Isaac in Philistine, the Lord will make room for you as you master your gifts and talents. Sometimes, it might mean that you may have to enter a period of training or education to master and perfect your gifts and talents at this time; if so, take the opportunity to do it. For this is a time for the production of fresh branches into new directions which the Lord will take you into.

2c. The Lord will prosper you even during this difficult time (Genesis 26:12-13). The only requirement is that you keep tilling the ground and keep sowing. Remember that the prosperity during this time comes from your faithful daily sowing the land. This period of prosperity will bring you also into grace and favour such that you are recognized to be the blessed of the Lord (Genesis 26:29).

2d. It will be a place where you slay your Goliaths and make a name for yourself like David. David progressed from slaying the bear and lion to slaying Goliath. The same progress will be made here in the land of the Philistines. Do not despair that you have nothing but five stones and a stick for that is enough if you have faith in your God and father (1 Samuel 17:40, 45). It is not the

might of your strength but the might of the Lord that will carry you through this time.

3. For those who have abundance in the Lord.

There was a severe famine during the time of Joseph when he was ruler over the land (Genesis 41:54-56). Joseph had prepared himself during the time of plenty and had stocked up an abundance to last through the famine.

3a. Your abundance is to be a blessing to others. During the period this seven year long famine, Joseph was the instrument God used to take care of his brethren (Genesis 42:1-3; 45:18; 46:28-34). The preaching of the Word and the extension of the kingdom of God must continue during this time of famine and God has placed you in a position to enable this to happen. The abundance that God has supplied you is to be used to supply the lack of others that there might be an equality (2 Corinthians 8:14). Moreover, it is during times crisis that the hearts of many proud people are more humbled to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity that might not come again.

3b. Your abundance is to be expanded and increased (Genesis 47:13-26). While others are selling, Joseph was buying. The Lord will give you many, many opportunities of investment. For much properties and businesses will be below market value and if you follow the wisdom of the Spirit and wisely invest carefully during the time of recession, you will come out even stronger than before the recession. Do not waste your abundance with excess but rather re-invest it for the future.

3c. A time of restoration and unity (Genesis 45:15). Unity in the body of Christ is the prayer of Jesus in John 17. There will be those whom Jesus gave a burden to bring about the unity and there will be those whom He appoints to be the organisational catalyst to bring it about. To those who have abundance, it is the highest calling to use all their responsibility to bring this about. People rally around an anointing and God places a special anointing on those called to the Joseph generation to bring about this union of the

body of Christ. Note that in all the various possible scenarios of backgrounds that one is in when the recession starts, God will enable

ALL to prosper and come out of the recession stronger than they have before.

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