

Chapter 1



Jesus And The Problem of World Poverty

The early Hebrew people and the Christ mission had common cause--they were both oriented in the ethical concerns of equity and justice--social justice issues. It is in the scope of this agenda that this chapter develops a new understanding of the Christ mission and the related heritage of the Hebrew people. This chapter posits a new historical interpretative paradigm. Further chapters present the social justice issue oriented to changes in modern economic policy.

Equity and justice are two aspects of social justice. But equity and justice are two sublime words at which definitions pall. The ideas of equity and justice are the heritage of a book that in all literature is without parallel for greatness--the Bible.

**"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
Genesis 1:1**

With these famous words the Bible opens. They introduce us to a work spoken of in superlatives. We cannot measure the influence of this book on our civilization. Our morals, our loftiest ideals are those of the Bible. Our God is still Jehovah, the Lord God of Israel. It is still the Bible that posits the noblest of human aspirations and sets forth the roots of human greatness. By warning, by metaphor and deed, by fulfillment and example, the great precepts of human worth are plumbed. Here life is defined in fullness.

**"And God blessed them (man and woman) and God said
unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the
earth, and subdue it."
Genesis 1:28**

In the Bible abundance is implicit. A nation is great when numbered as the stars. In the Bible it is not over-population that is blamed for misery; it is injustice. From beginning to end the Biblical contrast between want and wealth, the oppressor and the oppressed, is pointed out as an evil condition--the evil condition.

Copyright © 2016 Glenn E. Weeks. All Right Reserved
US Copyright Office Registration # TX 8-257-053

The 20th century began with a world population of 1.6 billion people and entered the 21st century with 6 billion persons--certainly a manifestation of Biblical abundance. But the Biblical allusion to abundance is tempered by the fact that most of the recent growth in population has occurred in poor countries and that two-thirds of the world population today live in relative poverty, many in abject poverty.[‡] These issues are pertinent, in that 98% of earth's land that can be farmed for rice, wheat or corn, has been brought into service (Reference from published article: <http://www.wcs.org/humanfootprint>), and people take up 83% of the earth's habitable land surface. The growth of the Earth's population is 200,000 persons per day. And the growth rate has an exponential component--every seven days the earth adds 1,400,000 people, the equivalence of a major metropolitan city. In one year 52 such major metropolitan cities are added to the Earth's population. This data suggests that room to expand is diminishing, and adjustment of the circumstances and fortune of Earth's existing population has limitations, which are being approached. This data also suggests that nations and individuals are arriving at a time when the issues of whole Earth must be dealt with--our current technology of communication, improvement in the arts of commerce, and the increasingly devastating clashes of diverse cultures make the confrontation of the whole inevitable.

With two billion nominal believers, Christianity ostensibly is the religious faith of one of three people in the 21st century world. Textual evidence and tradition hold that Jesus, the founder of Christianity, developed and emphasized the distinct worth of the individual and showed the ethical conditions that promoted individual well-being. And He revealed the living reality of God, the eternal Father. But in this are there any mitigating policies in the formation of the Christian faith that would address the significant social problem of the world's structural poverty and address fundamental economic injustice issues, issues that impact the well-being of individuals in the here and now?

[‡] More than one billion people in the world live on less than one dollar a day. In total, 2.7 billion struggle to survive on less than two dollars per day. More than 800 million people go to bed hungry every day....300 million are children Every 3.6 seconds another person dies of starvation and the large majority are children under the age of 5.--UN Millennium Project Fast Facts

This work answers in the affirmative--there are indeed substantial evidences of a heritage of just such policies that treat economic issues that extend well beyond local goodwill charity to the unfortunate.

The Economic Teachings of Jesus¹

"And (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the Sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the Prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

"The spirit of the Lord (Yahweh) is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down;..."

Luke 4:16-20

Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1. In context this citation reads:

רוח	אדני	יהוה	עלי	ישו	משח	יהוה	אתי
The Spirit-of	Sovereign	Yahweh	(is)'on-Me	because	has anointed	Yahweh	Me
לבשר	עניים	שלחני	להבש	לנשבריי לב	פיקוקה:	ולאסורים	דדור
news good to-preach	poor-ones	He-senf-Me	to-bind-up	of heart ones-being-broken	complete release	and-for ones being imprisoned	freedom (liberty)
לקרא	לשבויים						for-ones-being-captive to-proclaim

**Three pages of
Chapter 1 are shown
as a sample of this
chapter.**

**This chapter and
the entire book,
GENESIS II,
may be purchased
via the purchase
menu.**

**Click on the link
below to
access the purchase
menu.**

Buy Now

