

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of the book of Proverbs, we have transitioned into more of a "Topical Approach" in considering the Pearls of Wisdom.
- * Three weeks ago, we considered the call for us to bind "mercy and truth" about our necks. In that message, we considered that the Hebrew words used were: khesed and emet, and that combined they referred to a trustworthiness - faithful and true. Additionally, this combined quality was applied to YHWH Himself and is what Jesus (YHWH Incarnate) would be referred to as at His return. It is this attribute, as well, that will be applied to those who serve the Lord faithfully!
- * Last week, we saw that because of the khesed and emet of YHWH being bound about our necks we should trust in Him with ALL our hearts. In doing so, we will not lean on our own understanding but rather "acknowledge Him" (lit. know Him) in ALL our ways.
- * Today, we will discuss THE CHIEF WAY that reveal that we are truly trusting in YHWH ... If we HONOR Him with our MATERIAL RESOURCES!
- * As Jesus stated in the Sermon on the Mount - you cannot serve God and mammon (the things that money buys). In Matthew 25, He gives a parable, relating to the Kingdom of Heaven, where He describes a Master who gives of his assets to three servants and then goes away. His expectation was that they would take these resources as a stewardship and invest them for him while he was away. Two did and one did not. The two that did heard that beautiful statement: "Well done, My good and faithful (khesed and emet) servant!"
- * Let's see what the Scriptures tell us about reveal our Confidence in the Khesed and Emet of YHWH demonstrated in our Honoring Him with our Material Resources!

INSTRUCTION**I. THE C _____ (Prov. 3:9) - _____****A. With Your Possessions**

1. THE MEANING OF THE TERM (cf. Ezekiel 27)
2. THE USAGE OF THE TERM ... used 26x in O.T. ... 18x in Proverbs; 4x in Ezekiel 27
 - * cf. Proverbs 1:13; 6:31; 8:18; 10:15; 11:4-6; 12:27; 13:7-8; 13:11; 18:11; 19:4; 24:4; 28:8; 28:20; 29:3; 30:15-16
 - * cf. Psalms 44:12; 112:3; 119:14; Song of Solomon 8:7; Ezekiel 27:12,18,27,33
 - a. The Futility of T _____ Wealth (cf. Proverbs 10:15-16; 18:10-12; 11:4-6)
 - b. The Identity of T _____ Wealth (cf. Proverbs 8:18-19; 13:7-8; 13:11; 24:3-4)

B. With the Beginning of All Your Increase

1. THE MEANING OF THE _____
 - a. Beginning (rəshiyth - beginning)
 - * Used 51x in 49 verses; scattered throughout the O.T.
 - * Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning ... " * Prov 1:7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"
 - * Genesis 49:3; Deut 21:17; Psalm 78:51; Psalm 105:36 ... both bekor (from bikkur) and reshiyth are present ... the firstborn is the beginning of "strength"
 - b. Increase (təbuah - increase; income; produce)
 - * Used 42x in O.T. ... 10x in Leviticus; 8x in Proverbs; 6x in Deuteronomy
 - * cf. Genesis 47:24; Exodus 23:10; Leviticus 19:25; 23:39; 25:3,7,12,16,20,21,22; Numbers 18:30; Deut 14:22,28; 16:15; 22:9; 26:12; 33:14;
 - * cf. Joshua 5:12; 2 Kings 8:6; 2 Chron 31:5; 32:28; Neh 9:37; Job 31:12; Psalms 107:37; Prov 3:14; 8:19; 10:16; 14:4; 15:6; 16:8; 18:20
 - * cf. Ecclesiastes 5:10; Isaiah 23:3; 30:23; Jeremiah 2:3; 12:13; Ezekiel 48:18
2. THE MEANING OF THE _____ (cf. Genesis 4:1-5; 2 Chronicles 31:2-10)
 - * cf. Leviticus 23:10; Numbers 15:20,21; 18:12; Deuteronomy 18:4; 26:2,10; Nehemiah 10:37; 12:44

II. THE P _____ (Prov. 3:10; Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 9:5-15; Psalm 112:1-10)**A. Your Barns Will Be Filled With Plenty****B. Your Vats Will Overflow with New Wine****INTROSPECTION**

- * WHO, OR WHAT, IS THE PRIORITY IN THE USE OF YOUR MATERIAL RESOURCES?
- * WOULD YHWH ACCUSE YOU OF ROBBING HIM?
- * WOULD YOUR PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT BE A TESTIMONY TO YOUR TRUST YHWH OR YOURSELF?
- * TO WHOM DO YOU LOOK TO FOR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESOURCES THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How does this principal of Honoring YHWH with our Material Resources apply to the combined church?

⁹ **Honor (kabod-to glorify; to be weighty)** the LORD with your **possessions (hon - wealth; substance; luxury)** *(from on - strength; might ... concept being strength from wealth)* and with **the firstfruits (reshiyth-the beginning)** of all your **increase; (tebuaH - increase; income; produce)**

¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty (saba - abundance; from saba-satiated), and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Hon (H1952) ... used 26x in the O.T. ... 18x in Proverbs; 4x in Ezek 27 (elsewhere: Psalms 44:12; 112:3; 119:14; Song of Solomon 8:7)

----- Ezekiel 27:12,18,27,33. -----

Ezekiel 27:12-33 ¹² Tarshish was your merchant because of your many **luxury goods (hon)**. They gave you silver, iron, tin, and lead for your goods. ¹³ Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your traders. They bartered human lives and vessels of bronze for your merchandise. ¹⁴ Those from the house of Togamah traded for your wares with horses, steeds, and mules. ¹⁵ The men of Dedan were your traders; many isles were the market of your hand. They brought you ivory tusks and ebony as payment. ¹⁶ Syria was your merchant because of the abundance of goods you made. They gave you for your wares emeralds, purple, embroidery, fine linen, corals, and rubies. ¹⁷ Judah and the land of Israel were your traders. They traded for your merchandise wheat of Minnith, millet, honey, oil, and balm. ¹⁸ Damascus was your merchant because of the abundance of goods you made, because of your many **luxury items (hon)**, with the wine of Helbon and with white wool. ¹⁹ Dan and Javan paid for your wares, traversing back and forth. Wrought iron, cassia, and cane were among your merchandise. ²⁰ Dedan was your merchant in saddlecloths for riding. ²¹ Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your regular merchants. They traded with you in lambs, rams, and goats. ²² The merchants of Sheba and Raamah were your merchants. They traded for your wares the choicest spices, all kinds of precious stones, and gold. ²³ Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Assyria, and Chilmad were your merchants. ²⁴ These were your merchants in choice items--in purple clothes, in embroidered garments, in chests of multicolored apparel, in sturdy woven cords, which were in your marketplace. ²⁵ "The ships of Tarshish were carriers of your merchandise. You were filled and very glorious in the midst of the seas. ²⁶ Your oarsmen brought you into many waters, but the east wind broke you in the midst of the seas. ²⁷ "**Your riches (hon)**, wares, and merchandise, your mariners and pilots, your caulkers and merchandisers, all your men of war who are in you, and the entire company which is in your midst, will fall into the midst of the seas on the day of your ruin. ²⁸ The common-land will shake at the sound of the cry of your pilots. ²⁹ "All who handle the oar, the mariners, all the pilots of the sea will come down from their ships and stand on the shore. ³⁰ They will make their voice heard because of you; they will cry bitterly and cast dust on their heads; they will roll about in ashes; ³¹ they will shave themselves completely bald because of you, gird themselves with sackcloth, and weep for you with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing. ³² In their wailing for you they will take up a lamentation, and lament for you: 'What city is like Tyre, destroyed in the midst of the sea?' ³³ 'When your wares went out by sea, you satisfied many people; you enriched the kings of the earth with your many **luxury goods (hon)** and your merchandise.

Proverbs 10:15-16 ¹⁵ **The rich man's (osher/asher) wealth (hon) is his strong city**; the destruction of the poor is their poverty. ¹⁶ The labor of the **righteous** leads to life, the **wages (tebuaH)** of the wicked to sin.

Proverbs 18:10-12

¹⁰ The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the **righteous** run to it and are safe.

¹¹ **The rich man's (osher/asher) wealth (hon) is his strong city**, and like a high wall in his own esteem.

¹² Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before **honor (kabod)** is humility.

Proverbs 11:4-6

⁴ **Riches (hon)** do not profit in the day of wrath, **but righteousness** delivers from death.

⁵ The **righteousness** of the blameless will direct his way aright, **but** the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

⁶ The **righteousness** of the upright will deliver them, **but** the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.

Proverbs 8:18-19 **Riches (osher/asher)** and **honor (kabod)** are with me, enduring **riches (hon)** and **righteousness**. ¹⁹ My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my **revenue (tebuaH)** than choice silver.

Proverbs 13:7-8 ⁷ There is one who makes himself **rich (osher/asher)**, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great **riches (hon)**. ⁸ The ransom of a man's life is his **riches (osher/asher)**, but the poor does not hear rebuke. (***) To whom much is given???) (***)

Proverbs 13:11 **Wealth (hon)** gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will **increase (rabah - to increase; to enlarge)**.

Proverbs 24:3-4 ³ Through wisdom (khokmah) a house is built, and by understanding (tebunah) it is established; ⁴ By knowledge (da'ath) the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant **riches (hon)**.

Proverbs 1:10-15 ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. ¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; ¹² Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; ¹³ We shall find all kinds of precious **possessions (hon)**, we shall fill our houses with spoil; ¹⁴ cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse"-- ¹⁵ My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path

Proverbs 6:30-31 ³⁰ People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. ³¹ Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the **substance (hon)** of his house.

Proverbs 12:27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious **possession (hon)**.

(lit. Not roasted is a lazy man's catch, but the **possession (hon)** of a man is valuable to a diligent man.)

Proverbs 19:4 **Wealth (hon)** makes many friends, But the poor is separated from his friend.

Proverbs 28:8 One who increases his **possessions (hon)** by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

Proverbs 28:19-22 ¹⁹ He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough! ²⁰ A faithful (emunah) man will **abound (rab)** with blessings, but he who hastens to be **rich (osher/asher)** will not go unpunished. ²¹ To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress. ²² A man with an evil eye hastens after **riches (hon)**, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

Proverbs 29:3 Whoever loves wisdom (khokmah) makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his **wealth (hon)**.

Proverbs 30:15-16 ¹⁵ The leech has two daughters-- Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied (saba-satiated), four never say, "**Enough!**" (**hon**): ¹⁶ The grave, the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied (saba-satiated) with water-- and the fire never says, "**Enough!**" (**hon**)

Reshiyth (H7225 - the beginning) ... used 51x in 49v; evenly scattered throughout O.T.

* Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning ... " * Prov 1:7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"

* Genesis 49:3; Deut 21:17; Psalm 78:51; Psalm 105:36 ... both bekor (from bikkur) and reshiyth are present ... the firstborn is the beginning of "strength"

TebuaH (H8393 - increase; income; produce) ... used 42x in 40v; 10x in Leviticus; 8x in Proverbs; 6x in Deuteronomy

Genesis 47:24; Exodus 23:10; Leviticus 19:25; 23:39; Numbers 18:30; Deuteronomy 14:22,28; 16:15; 22:9; 26:12; 33:14; Joshua 5:12; 2 Kings 8:6; 2 Chronicles 31:5; 32:28; Nehemiah 9:37; Job 31:12; Psalms 107:37; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Isaiah 23:3; 30:23; Jeremiah 2:3; 12:13; Ezekiel 48:18.

Leviticus 25:1-22 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. ³ Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its **fruit (tebuah)**; ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. ⁵ What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. ⁶ And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, ⁷ for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land--all its **produce (tebuah)** shall be for food. ⁸ 'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine. ¹² For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its **produce (tebuah)** from the field. ¹³ 'In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession. ¹⁴ And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress one another. ¹⁵ According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you. ¹⁶ According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the **crops (tebuah)**. ¹⁷ Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God. ¹⁸ 'So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. ¹⁹ Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety. ²⁰ 'And if you say, "What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our **produce (tebuah)**?"' ²¹ Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth **produce (tebuah)** enough for three years. ²² And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat old **produce (tebuah)** until the ninth year; until its **produce (tebuah)** comes in, you shall eat of the old harvest.

Genesis 4:1-5 ¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that **Cain brought an offering (minkhah)** of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of **the firstborn (bekorah from bikkur)** of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected **Abel and his offering (minkhah)**, ⁵ but He did not respect **Cain and his offering (minkhah)**. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

2 Chronicles 31:2-10 ² And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites according to their divisions, each man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to serve, to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD. ³ The king also appointed a portion of his possessions for the burnt offerings: for the morning and evening burnt offerings, the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths and the New Moons and the set feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD. ⁴ Moreover he commanded the people who dwell in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD. ⁵ As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in **abundance (rabah)** the **firstfruits (reshiyth)** of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the **increase (tebuah)** of the field; and they brought in **abundantly (rab)** the **tithe (ma'aser)** of everything. ⁶ And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the **tithe (ma'aser)** of oxen and sheep; also the **tithe (ma'aser)** of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps. ⁷ In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. ⁸ And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel. ⁹ Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. ¹⁰ And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "**Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough (saba) to eat and have plenty (rab) left, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance.**"

Proverbs 3:13-14 ¹³ Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; ¹⁴ For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her **gain (tebuah)** than fine gold.

Proverbs 8:18-19 ... see above

Proverbs 10:15-16 ... see above

Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much **increase (tebuah)** comes by the strength of an ox.

Proverbs 15:6 In the house of the **righteous** there is much treasure (khosen-that which is laid up), but in the **revenue (tebuah)** of the wicked is trouble.

Proverbs 16:8 Better is a little with **righteousness**, than vast (rab) **revenues (tebuah)** without justice.

Proverbs 18:20-21 ²⁰ A man's stomach shall be satisfied (sabea-satiated) from the fruit of his mouth; from the **produce (tebuah)** of his lips he shall be filled (sabea-satiated). ²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Malachi 3:8-12 ⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet **you have robbed Me!** But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring all the **tithes (ma'aser)** into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and **try Me now in this,**" says the LORD of hosts, "**If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.**" ¹¹ "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the LORD of hosts; ¹² And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

2 Corinthians 9:5-15 ⁵ Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready **as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.** ⁶ But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** ⁷ So **let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.** ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "**He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.**" ¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. ¹² For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, ¹³ while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, ¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Psalms 112:1-10 ¹ Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments. ² His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³ **Wealth (hon)** and **riches (osher/asher)** will be in his house, and his **righteousness** endures forever. ⁴ Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; he is gracious, and full of compassion, and **righteous.** ⁵ A good man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion. ⁶ Surely he will never be shaken; the **righteous** will be in everlasting remembrance. ⁷ He will not be afraid of evil tidings; **his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.** ⁸ His heart is established; he will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies. ⁹ **He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever;** his horn will be exalted with honor. ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be grieved; he will gnash his teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked shall perish.