

CONSIDER THE POOR

Who are the poor? What does God say about the poor? Today I will look at:

- the OT scriptures that mention the poor and then
- what Jesus Christ said about the poor.

See Attachment A (Definition of “Poor” from Hebrew & Greek words in Scripture)

See Attachment B (Old Testament Scriptures referencing the poor)

The following general themes summarize many of these OT scriptures:

1. God warns against perverting or oppressing the poor.
2. God considers the situation of the poor.
3. The poor will never cease in your land.
4. God provides for the poor and saves the poor.
5. God is impartial.
6. The wicked suppress and/or destroy the poor.

What Jesus Christ Said About The Poor:

The Beatitudes

Matt 5:13 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Luke 6:20 Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God

Jesus’ Reply To John The Baptist’s Messengers

Matt 11:5 ...the poor have the gospel preached to them

Luke 7:22 ...the poor have the gospel preached to them

Luke 4:18 He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor

Jesus Counsels The Young Ruler

Matt 19:21 If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor

Mark 10:21 One thing you lack: go your way, sell what you have & give to the poor

Luke 18:22 Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor

The Anointing At Bethany – Fragrant Oil

Matt 26:9 This fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor

Mark 14:5 ...sold for more than 300 denarii (1 year’s wages) and given to the poor

John 12:5 ...sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor

John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief

The Anointing At Bethany – Poor Always

Matt 26:11 For you have the poor with you always, Me you do not have always

Mark 14:7 ditto: adds: and whenever you wish you may do them good

John 12:8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always

The Widow's Two Mites (very small copper Roman coins)

Mark 12:42 then one poor widow came and threw in two mites

Mark 12:43 Jesus: "This poor widow has put in more than all those"

Luke 21:2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites

Luke 21:3 Jesus: "This poor widow has put in more than all"

Jesus' Advice On Invitations

Luke 14:12-14 when you give a feast, invite the poor, etc. who cannot repay you

Parable Of The Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24)

Luke 14:21 go, bring in the poor, etc. ... that my house may be filled (POINT: respond to your calling & don't neglect it or God will reject us as He did the Pharisees)

Other References: Luke 19:8 Zacchaeus; John 13:29 Judas Iscariot give to the poor

CONCLUSION

I hope you find this approach to studying a subject helpful in your own studies. Thorough analysis gives you certainty on a topic; eg's: Holy Spirit, faith, love, hope Jesus emphasises preaching the gospel to the poor (which we do) and also that we will always have the poor with us and therefore do good to them. Gal 6:9 Do not grow weary in well doing.

Questions for Discussion:

How should we treat the poor or disadvantaged? Tim Cards? Food Bank? Donations or other ways to help the poor?

As Christians, how should we respond to requests for money from street people?

Do you consider yourself poor in any way? Poor understanding or lack wisdom? Poor in Spirit? I.E. contrite of spirit= repentant. Poor financially? Poverty line in Canada \$18,000/yr for a single person; family of 4 needs \$60,000/yr to escape poverty. Poor health?

Attachment A (Definition of “Poor” from Hebrew & Greek words in Scripture)

Old Testament Hebrew Words Translated “poor”

Strong’s #34: Heb: ebyown – destitute – beggar, needy, poor (man) 25 times

#1800: Heb: dal – weak or thin – lean, needy, poor (man), weaker 44 times

#1803: Heb: dallah – indigent – pining sickness, poor 4 times

#2489: Heb: chelka or chelkah – wretch unfortunate: poor 3: Ps 10:8,10,14

#3423: Heb: yarash or yaresh – to make poor, impoverish twice

#4134: Heb: muwk – be impoverished, be waxen poor 4: Lev 25:25,35,39,47

#4270: Heb: machcowr or machcor – lack, need, poor, poverty Prov 21:17

#4542: Heb: micken – indigent – poor (man) 3 times: Eccl 9:15-16

#6033: Heb: anah – poor 1 time: Dan 4:27

#6035: Heb: anav or anayv – humble, lowly, meek, poor 3 times

#6041: Heb: aniy – afflicted, humble, lowly, needy, poor 58 times

#7326: Heb: ruwsh – lack, needy, (make self) poor (man) 17 times

All these are translated poor or poor man in KJV

Summary of Who is Speaking About the Poor

God to Israel:

#34: Ex 23:3,6; Deut 15:4,7,9,11; Ps 132:15; Jer 2:34; Amos 2:6 & 5:12

#1800: Ex 23:3, 30:15; Lev 14:21; Isa 11:4 & 14:30

#4134: Lev 25: 25,35,39,47

#6041: Ex 22:25; Lev 19:10&23:22; ,Deut 15:11 & 24:12,14,15;Ps 12:5 & 14:6;

Isa 3:14,15 & 14:32 & 41:17 & 66:2; Zech 7:10

People Commenting On God’s Ways:

#34: Job 5:15; Ps 69:33 & 107:41 & 109:31 & 140:12; Prov 14:31; Jer 20:13

#1800: Job 5:16 & 34:19,28; Ps 72:13 & 82:3,4 & 113:7

#2489: Ps 10:8,10,14; # 3423: I Sam 2:7; #6041: Job 36:6,15; Ps 9:18 & 10:2,9,9 & 34:6 & 35:10 & 68:10 & 72:2,4,12 & 74:19,21; Isa 10:2 & 26:6; Jer 22:16

People Commenting On Mankind:

#34: Ps 49:2; #1800: Ruth 3:10; Job 20:10,19; Prov 10:15, 14:31, 19:4,17, 21:13, 22:9,16,22, 28:3,6,8,11,15, 29:7,14; Jer 5:4; Amos 2:7 & 4:1;

#1803: Jer 40:7

#4270: Prov 21:17; #4542: Eccl 9:15,15,16; #6035: Prov 14:21; #6041: Job 24:9,14; Ps 37:14 & 109:16,22; Prov 14:21, 30:14, 31:9,20; Eccl 6:8; Isa 10:30 & 32:7;

Ezek 16:49 & 18:12,17; #7326: II Sam 12:1,3,4; Prov 19:1,22, 22:2 & 29:13; Eccl 5:8

Individual Actions:

#34: Esth 9:22; Job 29:16, 30:25, 31:19; Ps 112:9; Isa 29:19;

#1800: Judges 6:15; Job 31:16; Ps 41:1; Jer 39:10; Amos 5:11 & 8:6; Zeph 3:12

#1803: II Kings 25:12; Jer 52:15,16; #3423: Prov 30:9; #6033: Dan 4:27

#6041: Job 29:12; Ps 40:17, 69:29, 70:5 & 86:1; Isa 58:7; Ezek 22:29; Amos 8:4; Hab 3:14; Zech 11:7

#7326: I Sam 18:23; Prov 10:4, 17:5, 18:23, 19:7, 22:7 & 28:3,27; Eccl 4:14

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New Testament Words Translated "poor"

Strong's #3998: Grk: pentichros – poor twice: Luke 21:2 & II Cor 9:9

#4433: Grk: ptocheuo – to become indigent or poor once II Cor 8:9

#4434: Grk: beggar, poor 35 times

Attachment B (Old Testament Scriptures referencing the poor)

God and Israel:

Ex 22:25 If you lend money to any of My people who are poor...charge no interest

Ex 23:3 show no partiality to a poor man in his dispute

Ex 23:6 do not pervert the judgement of your poor in his dispute

Ex 30:15 ransom money: ...poor shall not give less than half a shekel

Lev 14:21 offering for cleansing lepers: if the poor cannot afford it, then...

Lev 19:10 leave some of your vineyard for the poor and the stranger

Lev 23:22 leave some of your gleanings for the poor and the stranger
Lev 25:25,35,39,47 If one of your brethren becomes poor
Deut 15:4 except when there may be no poor among you
Deut 15:7,7,9,11 If there is among you a poor man, your poor brother
Deut 15:11 For the poor will never cease from your land
Deut 24:12 If a man is poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight
Deut 24:14 You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy
Deut 24:15 pay him daily, for he is poor and has set his heart on it
Ps 12:5 For the oppression of the poor...I will arise says the Lord
Ps 14:6 You shame the counsel of the poor, but the Lord is his refuge
Ps 132:15 I will satisfy her poor with bread
Isa 3:14 The plunder of the poor is in your houses
Isa 3:15 What do you mean...grinding the faces of the poor says the Lord God
Isa 11:4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor
Isa 14:30 The firstborn of the poor will feed
Isa 14:32 And the poor of His people shall take refuge in it
Isa 41:17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none
Isa 66:2 God looks "on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit"
Jer 2:34 on Israel's skirts is found the blood of the lives of the poor innocents
Amos 2:6 they sell... the poor for a pair of sandals
Amos 5:12 You divert the poor from justice at the gate
Zech 7:10 Do not oppress the the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor.

People Commenting On God's Ways

I Sam 2:7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich
Job 5:15,16 He saves the poor from the sword, so the poor have hope
Job 34:19 Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor
Job 34:28 So that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him
Job 36:6 but gives justice to the poor (oppressed NKJ)
Job 36:15 He delivers the poor in their affliction
Ps 9:18 The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever
Ps 10:2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor
Ps 10:8 his eyes are secretly fixed on the poor (helpless NKJ)
Ps 10:9,9 he lies in wait to catch the poor, he catches the poor when He draws
Ps 10:10 he crouches that the poor may fall by his strength
Ps 10:14 the poor commits himself to You

Ps 34:6 This poor man cried out and the Lord heard him, and saved him
Ps 35:10 delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him
Ps 68:10 You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor
Ps 69:33 For the Lord hears the poor, and does not despise His prisoners
Ps 72:2 He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice
Ps 72:4 He will bring justice to the poor of the people
Ps 72:12 For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also
Ps 72:13 He will spare the poor and needy
Ps 74:19 Do not forget the life of Your poor forever
Ps 74:21 Let the poor and needy praise Your name
Ps 82:3,4 Defend the poor and fatherless, Deliver the poor and needy
Ps 107:41 Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction
Ps 109:31 For He shall stand at the right hand of the poor
Ps 113:7 He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap
Ps 140:12 The Lord will maintain...justice for the poor
Prov 14:31 He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker
Isa 10:1-2 Woe to those who...take what is right from the poor of My people
Isa 26:6 The feet of the poor and the steps of the needy
Jer 20:13 For He has delivered the life of the poor from the hand of evildoers
Jer 22:16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy

People commenting On Mankind

Ruth 3:10 Ruth:"did not go after young men, whether poor or rich"
II Sam 12:1,3 two men:one rich and the other poor,the poor man had nothing
II Sam 12:4 rich man took the poor man's lamb
Job 20:10 His children will seek the favour of the poor
Job 20:19 For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor
Job 24:9 some take a pledge from the poor
Job 24:14 The murderer rises with the light, he kills the poor and needy
Ps 37:14 the wicked draw their sword...to cast down the poor and needy
Ps 49:1-2 listen both low and high, rich and poor together
Ps 109:16 but persecuted the poor and needy man
Ps 109:22 for I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me
Prov 10:15 the destruction of the poor is their poverty
Prov 14:21 he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he
Prov 14:31 he who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker

Prov 14:31 but he who honors Him has mercy on the poor (needy NKJ)
Prov 19:1 better is the poor who walks in his integrity
Prov 19:4 but the poor is separated from his friend
Prov 19:17 he who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord
Prov 19:22 a poor man is better than a liar
Prov 21:13 whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself
Prov 21:17 he who loves pleasure will be a poor man
Prov 22:2 the rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord made them all
Prov 22:9 he who has a bountiful eye is blessed: he gives of his bread to the poor
Prov 22:16 he who oppresses the poor to increase his riches...will come to poverty
Prov 22:22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor
Prov 28:3 a poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain
Prov 28:6 better is the poor who walks in his integrity than the perverse
Prov 28:8 gains by usury is gathered for him who will pity the poor
Prov 28:11 but the poor who has understanding searches him out
Prov 28:15 like a roaring lion...is a wicked ruler over poor people
Prov 29:7 the righteous considers the cause of the poor
Prov 29:14 the king who judges the poor with truth establishes his throne forever
Prov 30:14 to devour the poor from off the earth
Prov 31:9 and plead the cause of the poor and needy
Prov 31:20 She extends her hand to the poor
Eccl 5:8 if you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice
Eccl 6:8 what does the poor man have, who knows how to walk before the living
Eccl 9:15,15,16 a poor wise man that no one remembered; poor man's wisdom
Isa 10:30 O poor Anathoth
Isa 32:7 schemers scheme to destroy the poor with lying words
Jer 5:4 surely these are poor
Jer 40:7 the poorest of the land
Ezek 16:49 Sodom: did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy
Ezek 18:12,17 if he has oppressed the poor, withdrawn his hand from the poor
Amos 2:7 they trample on the dust of the earth which is on the head of the poor
Amos 4:1 who oppress the poor, who crush the needy

Individual Actions

Judges 6:15 my family is poorest in Manasseh
I Sam 18:23 David: I am a poor and lightly esteemed man

II Kings 25:12 the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land
Esther 9:22 sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor
Job 29:12,16 because I delivered the poor who cried out,I was a father to the poor
Job 30:25 has not my soul grieved for the poor?
Job 31:16 if I have kept the poor from their desire
Job 31:19 if I have seen...any poor man without covering
Ps 40:17 but I am poor and needy
Ps 41:1 blessed is he who considers the poor, the Lord will deliver him
Ps 69:29 but I am poor and sorrowful; le Your salvation...set me up on high
Ps 70:5 but I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God
Ps 86:1 for I am poor and needy
Ps 112:9 righteous: he has given to the poor
Prov 10:4 he who deals with a slack hand becomes poor
Prov 17:5 he who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker
Prov 18:23 the poor man uses entreaties
Prov 19:7 all the brothers of the poor hate him
Prov 22:7 the rich rules over the poor, and borrower is servant to the lender
Prov 28:3 a poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain
Prov 28:27 he who gives to the poor will not lack
Prov 30:9 or lest I be poor and steal
Eccl 4:14 although he was born poor in his kingdom
Isa 29:19 the poor among men shall rejoice
Isa 58:7 and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out
Jer 39:10 Nebuzaradan:left in the land of Judah the poor people,who had nothing
Jer 52:15,16 Nebuzaradan: carried away captive some of the poor, left some poor
Ezek 22:29 Israel: have mistreated the poor and needy
Dan 4:27 Daniel to Neb: break off your sins...by showing mercy to the poor
Amos 5:11 Israel: because you tread down the poor
Amos 8:4 Hear, you who swallow up the needy, make the poor of the land fail
Amos 8:6 that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for sandals
Hab 3:14 their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret
Zeph 3:12 of thee an afflicted and poor people
Zech 11:7 I fed the poor of the flock for slaughter