



Hugues & Rodrigue N.

# PROSPERITY GOSPEL UNCOVERED

Yokabene

## Prosperity Gospel Uncovered

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**Hugues & Rodrigue N.**

# **Prosperity Gospel Uncovered**

Translated from the French edition titled:  
Entretien avec un chrétien : À qui appartient l'argent ?

[www.yokabene.fr](http://www.yokabene.fr)  
[yokabene@gmail.com](mailto:yokabene@gmail.com)

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Prosperity Gospel Uncovered

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***“But Elohim, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Yehoshua Mashiah [Jesus Christ]: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Yehoshua Mashiah.”<sup>1</sup>***

Ephesians 2:4-7

## Preamble

In this document, we provide a written transcript of a fictional interview between two Christians named Quincy and Andrew. The interview is inspired by real-life events that we have experienced or witnessed during our Christian walk.

Throughout their conversation, these two individuals will seek answers, guided by the Bible, to the question: "To whom does the money belong?"

### 1. Introduction: Finding the Right Definition

**Quincy:** Hello Andrew, how are you?

**Andrew:** I'm doing well, and you?

**Quincy:** I'm fine, by the grace of Elohim (*God*). Before we start, I would like to thank you for being there.

**Andrew:** You're welcome, Brother Quincy. It's always a pleasure. Our discussions are very interesting.

**Quincy:** The Word of Elohim does us so much good. I suggest we begin. My question is: "To whom does the money belong?"

**Andrew:** Every Christian should know that gold and silver belong to Elohim.

**Q:** Are you talking about metal or currencies?

**A:** ... currencies.

**Q:** Your answer doesn't surprise me. It's the standard response from most brothers and sisters in the faith.

Let's rely on the Scriptures and read Haggai 2:8.

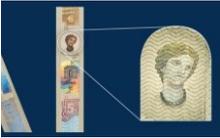
*"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."*

This verse is often cited to support the belief that money (currency) belongs to YHWH (Yahweh, the Lord). Indeed, this verse doesn't address money (coins, banknotes, bank cards...).

**A:** Hum...

**Q:** To clarify, I am going to show you some banknotes and coins.

## 2. Depictions on Banknotes and Coins

Currency	Banknote / Coin	Which images are depicted?
<p><b>Euro<sup>2</sup></b></p>		<p>Princess Europa<sup>3</sup> (from Greek mythology), name given to the European continent, is depicted on the five-euro<sup>4</sup> et ten-euro<sup>5</sup> banknotes</p> 
<p><b>Vatican Lira<sup>6</sup></b> (before 2002)</p>		<p>Pope John Paul II (1920-2005)</p>
<p><b>U.S. Dollar<sup>7</sup></b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georges Washington (1732-1799)</li> <li>• Great Seal of the United States</li> <li>• Illuminati pyramid with the Eye of Horus on the top</li> <li>• Bohemian Club's owl</li> </ul> 

**A:** I'm used to handling banknotes, so I should have noticed [Smiles]. It's quite surprising to find representations of figures and pagan deities.

**Q:** Christine Lagarde is currently serving as the President of the European Central Bank (ECB). Her signature is featured on euro banknotes.



Below are the signatures of the various Presidents who have held this position in succession.

 Wim  
Duisenberg

 Jean-Claude  
Trichet

 Mario  
Draghi



### 3. Hidden Message on the Cheques

**Q:** Do you have a chequebook (*issued by a French bank*)?

**A:** I should have it in my bag.

**Q:** Take one of your cheques and tell me if the lines, for writing the amount, are solid or dashed?

**A:** Without hesitation, I would say these are solid lines.

**Q:** Please take another look.

**A:** Upon closer examination, it appears to be dashed lines.

**Q:** Indeed, when using a magnifying glass, you will notice that the dashed lines form a sequence of characters containing a subliminal message:



*“Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.”<sup>8</sup>*

Excerpt from Robert Schuman’s declaration, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1950, considered as the founding text of the European Union.

**A:** I don’t understand the purpose of these inscriptions.

**Q:** Whenever we sign a cheque, we subliminally consent to the creation of a European state<sup>9</sup>, possibly laying the groundwork for the New World Order (NWO) and the advent of the Antichrist.

**A:** Very interesting, but what is your point?

**Q:** Yehoshua’s (Jesus) response to the display of a Caesar’s coin:

*“What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Yehoshua perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought*

*unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, **Whose is this image and superscription?** They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto Elohim the things that are Elohim's.** When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way." (Matthew 22:17-22)*

This is unequivocal. Currencies do not belong to Elohim.

**A:** To be honest, I'm not so sure about that. Indeed, a verse indicates that *"the Earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* (Psalm 24:1)

**Q:** *"The fulness thereof"* refers, in particular, to natural resources (such as metals, gemstones) as Elohim created the heavens and the Earth. This is not about currencies.

**A:** What do you think about the maxim *"In God we trust"* that appears on the American dollar?

**Q:** To which "god" is it referring? We cannot systematically associate "god" with YHWH because Luciferians also regard Satan as a "god". Furthermore, some of the U.S. founding fathers were Freemasons<sup>10</sup>. So, it should not be surprising that esoteric symbols appear on the U.S. dollar (see the table: Depictions on banknotes and coins).

## 4. The Love of Mammon

**Q:** I ask you again: “To whom does the money belong?”

**A:** The monetary system was created by humans.

**Q:** I want to warn you against the doctrine that claims money belongs to Elohim. This is known as the prosperity gospel, which emphasises material and financial blessings.

Please understand that the Lord can use currency to bless His children. As it written in Psalms 115:3, *“The Lord is in the heavens and does whatsoever pleases Him.”*

Furthermore, it is evident that financial resources enable to support the work of Elohim. These include renting places of worship, freely distributing the Bible, funding missionary travels, providing meals for the homeless, and offering material assistance to widows and orphans, among other things.

However, this does not mean that a doctrine of financial prosperity should be established.

**A:** The Word of Elohim reminds us not to be attached to money and to serve Mammon (material wealth personified as a deity): *“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve Elohim and mammon.”* (Luke 16:13)

We also learn that *“the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”* (1 Timothy 6:10)

**Q:** Everything is in the Bible! With a little wisdom, we would know that *“he that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

**A:** I am sad because sanctification and repentance are no longer preached in assemblies, unlike financial prosperity.

## 5. The Origins of the Prosperity Gospel Doctrine

**Q:** The prosperity gospel doctrine is the most popular in recent years. It can be summarised as *“Give to Elohim, He will give back to you a hundredfold!”* It is *“a Christian religious doctrine that asserts that financial blessing is Elohim’s blessing for Christians and that faith, the ‘positive confession’ will increase material wealth.”*<sup>11</sup>

This gospel, promoted by *“get-rich preachers”*, attracts many believers. Here are the passages used, sometimes in a puzzle of verses taken out of context:

- *“Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.”*  
(Genesis 26:12)

It seems that this verse refers to the law of sowing.

- *“The Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy Elohim, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them”.*

Deuteronomy 28:13 can be summed up by a Christian slogan used in various contexts: *“I am the head and not the tail!”*

- *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* (Joshua 1:8)

The focus here is on material success.

- *"[The blessed man] shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalms 1:3)*
- *"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." (Proverbs 3:9)*
- *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10)*

It's an "international anthem verse" about the tithe law.

- *"I [Yehoshua] am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)*

The term "abundantly" is often interpreted as referring to financial blessings.

The doctrine of prosperity gospel was born in the United States under the influence of its main leaders, E. W. Kenyon, Oral Roberts, A. A. Allen, Robert Tilton, T. L. Osborn, Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, and Kenneth Hagin.

**A:** I heard about this doctrine but did not know its origins. Fortunately, I have never attended one of the sermons of these prosperity gospel theologians.

**Q:** I can assure you otherwise. You have already attended it indirectly, if I may say so.

In an auction-like atmosphere, a speaker passionately urges believers to give a sum constituting a “modern sacrifice”, directly touching the heart of Elohim.

The preacher (the auctioneer), “divinely” inspired, announces to the audience (the bidder) the amount to be given in order to receive material blessings (the item up for auction).

The prophetic speeches is for example the following: *“Who can give \$1,000 for the construction of the temple (i.e., church building)? The Holy Spirit is speaking to me. Someone is ready to give \$3,000. Do not hesitate any longer! In this specific season, Elohim is opening a door. Your business will prosper! Hallelu-Yah!”*

**A:** This modus operandi rings the bell... [Sighs]

**Q:** In most cases, at least one charitable soul stands up to respond to the *prophetic call*. The auctioneer, purportedly anointed by Elohim, says words like these:

*“Thanks to the hostesses for distributing the envelopes. I pour forth a blessing of financial multiplication upon them and extend my blessings to those who have approached the altar.”*

**A:** You’ve told my story. It appears to be yours too, right?

**Q:** Alas! This is a way of proceeding deeply rooted in most of our congregations. The tragedy is that greedy false prophets, ravening wolves, strip the Lord’s sheep of their belongings, in plain view of everyone, through unscriptural practices.

**A:** I didn’t know it was to that extent!

**Q:** When I denounce these practices, the believers frequently retort, *“Do not touch the anointed of Elohim! Do not harm the prophets!”* (Psalms 105:15). However, under the new covenant, all Christians are Men/Women of Elohim, anointed by the Holy

Spirit (Romans 8:9).

**A:** The verse in question (Psalm 105) relates to physically touching, striking the anointed individuals, and not questioning the actions or teachings of a servant of Elohim.

## 6. A Seminar Case Study

**Q:** Have you attended Christian gatherings with themes like:

- 10 keys to an abundant and prosperous life,
- 3 pillars of personal success in the kingdom of Christ, or
- 7 secrets to possess your inheritance in finance and business?

The reverend pastor of an American church, a self-proclaimed archbishop, succeeding his late father, is organising a three-day seminar in June 2022, in the United States. The theme is the 12 keys to financial prosperity. The goal is to deepen the study of leadership and the role of Christians in business.

The congregation's vision is "Success, Entrepreneurship, Productivity in Christ (Mashiah)".

You serve in this 2,700-member megachurch, having signed the charter and internal rules<sup>12</sup>. Additionally, you possess a name badge and a \$25 per month membership card. Your dream is to join the pastoral body, which includes, among others, the leader, and his wife (who is also a pastor).

**A:** I was convinced that Christians were members of the Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12), with Yehoshua as the Head. Christians are not part of a religious, family, and dynastic enterprise (a succession from father to son) led by a leader with pompous and non-biblical titles.

**Q:** Unfortunately, the Church is modernising. In this single-headed enterprise, the clerical caste (ordained theologians) distinguishes itself from the parishioners, who become passive consumers of sermons.

**A:** ... Silent spectators, breaking their silence only to mechanically say "Amen".

**Q:** You will not miss the seminar, as attending church programs is one of your qualities: Monday, prayer; Tuesday, intercession; Wednesday, youth activities; Thursday, Bible study; Friday, choir rehearsal; Saturday, service meeting; Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> worship services.

**A:** Do I have time to care for my family?

**Q:** No. Your children refuse to convert and feel that Elohim has taken their dad.

**A:** These words resonate deeply within me: *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”* (1 Timothy 5:8).

**Q:** To ensure the event’s success, the pastor requests each parishioner to contribute \$50 to welcome a *prophet of the nations*, from England. This contribution covers expenses such as posters (XXL picture of the prophet in a suit and tie, microphone in hand), plane ticket, accommodation, catering, rental costs...

You contribute because *“he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* (2 Corinthians 9:6)

An additional mandatory contribution of \$500 is required from congregation members who serve (ministers of assistance, singers, musicians, mentors, STARS - Servants Tirelessly Advancing the Realm, etc.), and are believed to have a more significant role within the church.

The reverend encourages all the congregation to go into overdraft or take out a loan.

**A:** Unbelievable! Are you telling me the truth? This money loaned by the bank does not belong to the debtors. It will have to be returned with interest rates.

Proverbs (22:7) instructs: *“The rich ruleth over the poor, and **the borrower is servant to the lender.**”*

If we obey Elohim, we will be a source of blessings (not slaves to lenders): *“The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and **thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.** And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; **if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy Elohim, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them...**”* (Deuteronomy 28:12-13)

**Q:** *“Owe no man anything, but to love one another.”* (Romans 13:8)

Following mandatory contributions, the pastor promotes the purchase of a protocol outfit for \$30. The outfit features the church’s name, logo, and a biblical verse printed on it.

**A:** Occasionally, it may also feature a European Jesus depicted with white skin, a slim build, a beard, and long hair.

**Q:** With “Excellence in Christ” as your guiding principles, you rent a high-end luxury sedan especially for the seminar. Everyone is going to witness your penchant for “showing off”.

**A:** *“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour, is humility.”* (Proverbs 16:18; 18:12) *[Sighs]*

**Q:** The seminar begins with grandeur. Greeted with cheers from the crowd, the prophet makes his entrance. He wears a white cassock and clerical collar. He is surrounded by his bodyguards and accompanied by the Bible bearer.

**A:** Bible bearer? His bible must be very heavy... *[Sarcastic]*

**Q:** To emphasise this point, the man of Elohim gives the example of David designated to bear Shaul’s armour (1 Samuel 16:21).

**A:** I don’t see any connection...

**Q:** Sitting on a leather throne (plastic chairs for the believers), the prophet starts speaking: *“You are gods! You must be wealthy.*

*Claim your inheritance! Reign on Earth! Live the kingdom now! Yehoshua accomplished it all. If you're poor, it's your fault."*

In an enthusiastic atmosphere, the "sweat cleanup" person wipes the preacher's forehead. The preacher continues his "sermon":

*"I own a private jet, 6 luxury cars, and a villa in England valued at £6,000,000. Recently, I purchased a £6,000 diamond ring for my wife. I rub shoulders with the world's elites. I am the founder of a Christian television network."*

One hour after the start of his one-man show, the televangelist still hasn't opened his Bible.

**A:** The health of his bank account is more important to him than the health of souls.

**Q:** Having his belly as god, he minds earthly things (Philippians 3:19). He states these figures: *"In the New Testament, there are 215 verses on faith, 218 on salvation, 318 on the return of Yehoshua, and 2084 on money, financial management. Should we talk about money in the church? If the answer is no, we must remove 2084 verses from the Bible."*

**A:** These data are unverifiable.

**Q:** During the three-day gathering, the prophet asked for the "prophet's offering" because the labourer is worthy of his **reward**. Cents are not accepted, per Malachi 1:7.

**A:** This verse is taken out of context! YHWH reproached Israel for despising the table of the Lord by offering polluted bread upon the altar and presenting blind, lame, or sick animals for sacrifice.

**Q:** I am in vain searching for the analogy between cents and lame animals.

Please be aware that "the prophet's offering" in the churches has no scriptural basis, even though false preachers attempt to prove otherwise by referring to 1 Samuel 9 and 2 Kings 5.

On one hand, there is no mention of payment of money to the prophet Shemuel (Samuel) by Shaul and his servant (1 Samuel 9:5-8). Additionally, Shemuel declared to all of Israel that he had not taken anything from anyone's hand (1 Samuel 12:1-5).

On the other hand, the prophet Elisha refused gifts from Naaman as a gesture of gratitude for his healing, but his servant Gehazi took them out of greed and was struck with leprosy (2 Kings 5).

Finally, it should be noted that room and board constitute the reward of the labourer: *"In the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his **hire** (...)"* (Luke 10:7)

**A:** To my knowledge, "reward" and "hire" refer to money, as supported by specific biblical passages like:

- *"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour**, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."* (1 Timothy 5:17)
- *"Let him that is taught in the word **communicate unto him that teaches in all good things.**"* (Galatians 6:6)

**Q:** The Scriptures also encourage us to *"do good unto all men, especially **unto them who are of the household of faith.**"* (Galatians 6:10).

You may wonder what kind of "good" and "honour" the Scriptures refer to.

It's worth noting that Strong's Concordance by James Strong is an index of every word in the King James Version Bible, making it easier to locate and compare word usage within the text.

The same Greek term "*time*" (Strong #5092) is used for "honour" in the verses above. The word "good" corresponds to the same Greek term "*agathos*" (Strong #18), which means "*good, useful, happy, upright, honourable*".

It becomes clearer in Romans 12:9-10. There is no question of fees or cash.

*“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; **cleave to that which is good.** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; **in honour preferring one another.**”*

**A:** A very few bibles’ versions translate “time” (Strong #5092) by “double pay”, “paid well”, or “paid double” (See 1 Timothy 5:17. Good News Translation; Common English Bible).

**Q:** An incorrect translation distorts the primary meaning of the texts and may lead to false doctrines.

**A:** I can’t wait to learn Greek and Hebrew!

**Q:** A preacher should not request a monthly salary or material goods, as it may hinder the Gospel, as feared by the apostle Paul, despite his right as a preacher (1 Corinthians 9:1-18).

**A:** I agree with you on this point. Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for Elohim loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

**Q:** Through non-financial motivations, the apostle Paul was not a burden to anyone. He coveted no one’s silver, gold, or apparel (Acts 20:33-34; 2 Corinthians 11:9; 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12). His hands provided for his necessities. He was a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), not relying on believers for a salary, unlike modern pastors intentionally unemployed and church supported.

Let’s return to the narrative of the seminar. Privately, behind the scenes, the pastor (event’s host) and the *prophet of nations* agree to split the day’s donations fifty-fifty. They should earn a substantial sum of money!

In addition to the “prophet’s offering”, the man of Elohim requires an offering before the “prophetic healing prayer”. He lays his feet<sup>13</sup> (not his hands) on the sick persons.

**A:** Is it a joke? [*Shocked*]

**Q:** But there's more. A famous evangelist walks on the banknotes to anoint them<sup>14</sup>.

As you are struggling with health issues, you place \$80 on the stage at the prophet's feet (with him standing, and you kneeling) or in the basket using a specific-coloured envelope.

**A:** How can a person who has freely received a gift from Elohim, namely the gift of healing, use it for commercial purposes? Is it not written: "*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely you have received, freely give.***" (Matthew 10:8)?

**Q:** This bears similarities to the sale of indulgences practised by the Roman Catholic Church, granting full or partial remission of the punishment of sin<sup>15</sup>.

**A:** The parallel can be made with the story of Shimon, the sorcerer, who "*seeing that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money. Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Petros (Peter) said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because **thou hast thought that the gift of Elohim may be purchased with money.** Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of Elohim. **Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray Elohim, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.***" (Acts 8:18-22)

**Q:** After spending \$80 for the "prophetic healing prayer", do not forget the special offering of \$95 for the church.

To encourage you, a "slogan verse" is recited as usual: "*Do not appear before the Lord empty*" (Deuteronomy 16:16-17). However, according to this passage, the people of Israel were to bring their offerings to the temple in Jerusalem during the three annual pilgrimage feasts. This is not a weekly offering within a church building.

Bear in mind that you and a group of parishioners are part of the “partners’ fund”, which is intended to cover the church’s rent. The commitment is \$50 each per month.

**A:** A former “partner”, I terminated my commitment when I learnt that the pastor used part of the funds for his salary and another part for financing his political party’s campaign.

**Q:** The problem is the lack of transparency in using offerings.

**A:** Opaque handling of church finances. and questionable administrative practices emerge when subleasing church premises without the property owner’s prior approval.

**Q:** The first day of the seminar went well. However, you regret the scheduled Gospel choir not being there. They cancelled their appearance due to a lack of performance fees.

**A:** Christian vocalists are now professional artists, unlike the psalmist and King David.

**Q:** To compensate for the choir’s absence, the prophet ventured into singing, which he did remarkably well. The audience threw banknotes at him as an encouraging gesture.

**A:** Hmm... It’s typical in a nightclub to show appreciation for a singer or dancer.

**Q:** On the second day, you manage to avoid the deacon in charge of the “brothers’ committee fund”, which is funded solely by men.

Then, you personally hand over a tithe of \$120 to the pastor, hoping to avoid being cursed (Malachi 3). To monitor your faithfulness, the *spiritual Levite*, acting as a tax collector, stamps your tithing card, which has twelve boxes for the twelve months of the year.

**A:** *Spiritual Levite?* My pastor, being Canadian, is not from the tribe of Levi. Tithing card? The Hebrews did not maintain a record of donors’ names in a register.

**Q:** Six types of tithes<sup>16</sup> are mentioned in the Scriptures. Four of them, linked to the Levitical priesthood, were all annual and in kind (product of the soil and livestock).

**A:** [*Surprised*] I only know of one: a monthly cash tithe on all income. My wife tithes on her gross salary; my mother... on her family allowances; my father... on his retirement pension; my daughter... on her pocket money; my son... on his scholarship; my aunt... on her unemployment benefits.

**Q:** I tithe on the accumulated interest on my savings account.

Do you know that every seven years, the Israelites do not tithe because it's a Sabbath year? The tithing system is part of a period of 50 years: 7 cycles of 7 years ( $7 \times 7 = 49$ ). The 7<sup>th</sup> year of the seven-year cycle is the sabbatical year (*shmita*). The jubilee is the 50<sup>th</sup> year (Leviticus 25:1-23). Tithe is not paid in *shmita* and jubilee years. The Hebrew calendar is different from the Gregorian calendar used by Westerners. The current sabbatical year<sup>17</sup> is from September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Are the Christian tithing collectors observing this sabbatical year?

**A:** I have just learnt that I am exempt from the church taxation.

**Q:** Some preachers hide the truth and advocate for a “pastor-centred” gospel, placing the pastor, and not Yehoshua, at the centre of Christian theology. In other words, everything goes through the pastor.

**A:** To partake in communion during the Lord's Supper, get married, be baptised, receive deliverance, or dedicate a child to Elohim, the believers are often required to involve the pastor, usually with a generously filled envelope. The pastor has replaced the Catholic priest and the high priest of the old covenant.

**Q:** Idolised, revered, elevated to the rank of a demi-god, the

pastor remains unquestionable. Opponents, except those giving the largest tithes, risk suspension of the exercise of the priesthood or excommunication. Opposing the leader is seen as opposing Elohim.

**A:** On the contrary, getting closer to your spiritual guide would mean getting closer to Elohim. Lie! There is only one mediator between Elohim and humankind, the man Mashiah Yehoshua who gave himself a ransom for all (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

**Q:** Generally, the prosperity gospel and the cult of personality (advertising, building a temple to the glory of man...) go hand in hand. You observe this bitterly during the seminar.

The *prophet of nations* launches a fundraising campaign for the construction of what is referred to as *Elohim's house*. He seeks 600 individuals willing to commit to monthly donations of a multiple of \$1,000 for six months. The total project cost is \$3,500,000.

Despite the substantial project cost, you decide to contribute \$450 to this fundraising initiative titled "The 600 Builders-masons". Your motivation is driven by the fear of falling under a financial curse.

Contrary to common belief, the church building is not the temple of Elohim nor His house.

The Temple of Jerusalem no longer exists. It was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans. Only the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) remains today. Yehoshua prophesied the destruction of the temple (Matthew 24:1-2).

In the new covenant, the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Christians together form the "*ekklesia*" (Greek word for assembly), which is a "spiritual house" (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-6; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

By misuse of language, we say that "*we are going to church*" (the

building). It is more accurate to say: “*we are going to meet the Church*” (men and women).

**A:** For years, despite my modest income, I have been contributing to the construction of the so-called house of Elohim, yet I am still awaiting the laying of the foundation stone.

**Q:** “*Patience, you have sown, you will reap!*”. This is the expression repeatedly proclaimed by the servant of Elohim, met with enthusiastic “Amen” from the crowd.

The servant urges the believers to confess positive affirmations: “*I am a king, a champion, a leader, wealthy. Money, come to me!*”. And he continues: “*Close your eyes, visualise your desire, and claim it into existence (Name it. Claim it).*”

This is the translation of the word of faith, which involves “*putting faith into action through a word that proclaims with authority and without any doubt that what it says comes true*”<sup>18</sup>. Words have creative power: I possess what I confess.

**A:** It is undoubtedly true that death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21), and through it, we both bless Elohim and curse our fellow humans (James 3:9).

However, the teaching of word of faith, which is New Age, self-centred, and anthropocentric, contradicts the book of James 4:13-17. We do not possess knowledge of what tomorrow holds. Therefore, we should humbly say: “*If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that*”. We place our trust in Yehoshua and pray according to His will; He hears us (1 John 5:14-15).

**Q:** Right. YHWH’s thoughts are not our thoughts, neither His ways are our ways (Isaiah 55:8), and man’s thoughts are vanity (Psalms 94:11).

The last day of the seminar falls on Sunday in June, on Father’s Day. The church presents an offering to the pastor, also called the “spiritual father” or “daddy”.

The speaker declares: *“Just as Yehoshua had a donkey for transportation, our daddy must have a nice car. Thanks to this Father’s Day offering, we will be able to buy him one.”*

The celebration of this Christianised pagan feast would be justified by Genesis 12:2-3: *“And I [YHWH] will make of thee [Abraham] a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the Earth be blessed.”*

Convinced, you take out a wad of \$100 from your wallet.

**A:** It would take more to convince me. What connection is there between Abraham, the father of faith, a pastor called a spiritual father, and Father’s Day?

**Q:** The word “father”. *[Annoyed]*

**A:** Yehoshua said not to call anyone our father on Earth; we have only one is our Father, who is in heaven (Matthew 23:9). Given the presence of cult-like behaviour, we will celebrate Spiritual Grandfather’s Day, which honours the spiritual mentor of the local church’s pastor.

**Q:** You seem to have overlooked birthday celebrations. Hopefully, the seminar takes place in June, not in May (the pastor’s birthday month). So, there is not a special birthday offering!

Keep cash offerings for your shepherd’s 30<sup>th</sup> ministry anniversary in October and New Year’s Eve on December 31.

**A:** Offerings created out of thin air. Any means are good to fill the coffers.

**Q:** In fact, through promises of future benefits, the *prophet of nations* aims to recruit Christian customers into his sales network for organic medicinal coffees. The larger the network grows, the more he earns from membership fees and purchases made by his recruits.

**A:** The Gospel should be promoted instead of promoting a pyramid scheme, disguised as network marketing, and prohibited by national laws, such as French law.

**Q:** At the end of the three-day seminar, you take the opportunity to confirm your enrolment at the pastoral school for 8 courses at \$400, and to sponsor two students, thus benefiting from a 25% discount.

**A:** A paid diploma program is now a requirement for becoming a pastor. [*Amazed*]

**Q:** On that day, you purchase from the church store (registered with the Trade and Companies Register) for \$380: calendar, holy water from Lourdes<sup>19</sup>, anointing oil, incense, candle, crucifix, Star of David necklace, "God Loves Me" pencil, ICHTHUS sticker, Pope keychain, Love Jesus T-Shirt, mezuzah, Mary figurine, rosary, pins, CDs, PDFs, autographed pastor's books...

**A:** The religious building, called church, has become a genuine shopping centre. We tend to forget that the Lord cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple of Jerusalem because they had turned the house of prayer into a den of thieves (Luke 19:45-46).

Some argue that this verse is not applicable because the church's sale of products supports the ministry. However, in my opinion, the purpose remains the same, as pilgrims bought oxen, sheep, and doves (John 2:14) for offering sacrifices to YHWH.

**Q:** In both cases, it involves a trade in spiritual goods or items closely related to the spiritual realm.

**A:** It's obvious, but *simoniacs* always find excuses to justify their trade: "*Printers, publishers, and distributors must be paid.*"

**Q:** Recently, I wanted to purchase a book about the testimony of a sister in faith who visited heaven and hell. The price of the book, sold by a local church, was surprisingly higher than the

recommended retail price. It's the search for profit above all...

**A:** If the apostle John was monetising the book of Revelation, we would never have known about the mark and number (666) of the beast (Revelation 13).

**Q:** The apostles did not commercialise Elohim's Word and did not live in luxury. In Acts 3:6, the apostle Peter had neither silver nor gold to give to the man born lame.

**A:** *"If Paul really believed and taught the wealth gospel, as the get-rich preachers claim, why didn't he travel in a golden chariot pulled by six white horses - the modern equivalent of a Cadillac or Mercedes Benz, like the get-rich preachers do?"*<sup>20</sup> [Sacartisc]

**Q:** Five weeks after the end of the seminar, the whole sermons, in DVD, MP3, and audio CD formats, are available at the church store. You purchase the box set of 3 DVDs for \$50 (discount for the first twelve buyers). Ironically, you were the one who filmed all the *prophet of nations'* speeches.

To tell the truth, you have lost more than \$1,800 for an event supposed to make you rich. The enriched prophet came back to England with his offerings and the 12 keys to financial prosperity. He could have at least left you one key.

The positive point is that the entry to the seminar was free. Both you and your wife saved money on entrance fees, which are generally: \$280 per couple, \$150 for a single person, \$100 for the unemployed, and \$75 as a special price for students.

**A:** With such a business from religious entrepreneurs, the poor people will never have access to the Gospel.

Please note that Yehoshua **freely** gives the fountain of the water of life (Revelation 21:6): *"Everyone that thirsts, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk **without money and without price.**"* (Isaiah 55:1)

## 7. Wealth According to Elohim

**Q:** Nowadays, prosperity according to Christian standards is closely linked to money and personal success. In the collective unconscious, the windows of heaven would open to pour out rains of financial blessings that fill the bank accounts.

**A:** The Word reveals this: *“Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Lord Yehoshua ha Mashiah, **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**”* (Ephesians 1:3). The Scriptures specify that **we may prosper above all things and be in health, even as our soul prospers** (3 John 1:2).

**Q:** The Greek term used for the verb “prosper” is “*euodoo*” (Strong #2137), which can be translated as: (1) to grant a prosperous and expeditious journey, to lead by a direct and easy way; (3) to prosper, be successful

**A:** Considering the context, 3 John 1:2 primarily emphasises physical prosperity, health of the body, and spiritual prosperity — a happy soul in the peace of the Lord.

**Q:** That’s the case, but sadly, we have reduced the Gospel to the vain riches of this world and set aside the teachings on holiness, persecution, and the rapture of the Church.

**A:** The apostle Paul asserts that *“we can carry nothing out the world. And having food and raiment let us be content with these.”* He warns against *“those who desire to be rich since, falling into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts.”* He advises to *“follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”* (1 Timothy 6:7-11)

Furthermore, the Lord Yehoshua instructed us: *“seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek*

*ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Luke 12:29-31)*

**Q:** Reading all these verses, I’m surprised that money has taken such a prominent place, to the point of having a counter in the place of worship.

Dr. Marty Baker (founder and pastor of Stevens Creek Church in Georgia, USA) installed a counter called the “Giving kiosk” in his local church. This kiosk allows parishioners to contribute to the work of Elohim through tithes and offerings with their bank cards.

The kiosk, also known as the “ATM for Jesus”, collects donations and issues a receipt. Parishioners can even earn bonus airline miles by using their bank cards<sup>21</sup>.

**A:** The end justifies the means. The church cleverly utilises modern technologies.

**Q:** The “e-tithing” system is a good example of this: a system that allows you to pay your tithes by automatic bank transfer. The website eTithing.org states on its homepage:

*“Give your tithe online. You can use our site to give your tithe directly to your local house of worship right from your computer’s browser, at your convenience.”*

This system appears to be growing in popularity. The presence of ATMs in the house of Elohim, which may have initially alarmed the devout parishioners, is becoming commonplace, leading to a substantial increase in electronic donations<sup>22</sup>.

**A:** Should we stop using money for the needs of the ministry?

**Q:** I am not questioning contributions made through currency, credit cards, or bank transfers. Our Lord and His disciples had Judas as the treasurer (John 12:6). And they were supported by a group of women (with no indication that these women were wealthy; Luke 8:3).

I am opposed to the prosperity doctrine: a materialistic gospel focused on wealth.

**A:** The Bible is clear on this matter: *“Lay up for (ourselves) treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; **For where (our) treasure is, there will (our) heart be also.**”* (Matthew 6:19-21)

**Q:** Indeed, the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, rendering it unfruitful (parable of the Sower; Matthew 13:18-23).

It's time to return to the true Word. We should free ourselves from the love of money, and be content with what we have, knowing that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

**A:** There is a biblical reference where James (5:1-3) is highly critical of the rich: *“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. **Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire...**”*

James' message aligns with Yehoshua's statement: *“A rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven (...). It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of Elohim.”* (Matthew 19:23-24)

**Q:** This quote had surprised many Jews because wealth was considered as a sign of blessing. That's why the disciples asked, “who then can be saved?” (Matthew 19:25)

**A:** Should we conclude that a Christian must be poor?

**Q:** Let's refrain from advocating the gospel of poverty. The Scriptures use the term “hardly” and do not state that it is “impossible” for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.

In His divine sovereignty, the Lord can grant wealth to one of His

servants, as evidenced by Abraham's great riches in cattle, silver, and gold (Genesis 13:2).

However, this wealth should be limited to meeting only daily needs, to prevent the servant from becoming proud and forgetting Elohim after acquiring great wealth.

I invite you to reflect on Deuteronomy 8:10-14 as well as Proverbs 30:7-9: *"Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: **give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.**"*

For your information, the early believers placed their goods in common. *"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold. And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."* (Acts 4:34-35)

**A:** I would like to rephrase my question. Can a Christian be poor (rather than must be)? I was often taught that poverty is a curse that needs to be broken.

**Q:** When the apostle Paul learnt to be hungry and to suffer need, was he under curse? (Philippians 4:12). Persecuted Christians from the East, forced to abandon everything, are they cursed?

There are individuals in our congregations who are in need. The Scriptures advise against showing partiality and encourage not to differentiate between the poor and the rich (James 2:1-7). The Lord created both rich and poor (Proverbs 22:2). One who mocks the poor insults their Creator (Proverbs 17:5).

In the parable of the rich man and the poor man named Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), when both the rich and the poor died, who was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom (paradise)?

A: Lazarus.

Q: Who was buried and tormented in hell?

A: The rich man.

Q: A Christian *may* be poor. Despite their deep poverty, the churches of Macedonia demonstrated great generosity in supporting the saints (2 Corinthians 8:1-9).

Some preachers claim that Yehoshua made Christians financially rich: ***“For ye know the grace of our Lord Yehoshua Mashiah, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”*** (2 Corinthians 8:9)

A: What kind of wealth did the churches of Macedonia provide?

Q: These churches ***“abounded in the riches of their liberality”*** (2 Corinthians 8:2) and exercised the gift of generosity out of love for the advancement of Elohim’s work. If the Lord enriches us, it is for the purpose of assisting others.

This principle is confirmed by the following verses:

- The fool has laid up treasure for himself but is not rich toward Elohim. (Luke 12:13-34)
- ***“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living Elohim, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”*** (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- ***“And Elohim is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth***

*seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to Elohim. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” (2 Corinthians 9:8-12)*

**A:** So, what constitutes the wealth of Elohim?

**Q:** The answer can be found, among other verses, in Ephesians 2:4-7. *“But **Elohim, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Yehoshua Mashiah: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Yehoshua Mashiah.**”*

We focus on Yehoshua as Moshe did, by faith, *“refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of Elohim, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.” (Hebrews 11:24-26).*

**A:** That says it all!

## Prosperity Gospel Finally Uncovered

**Q:** Let's follow the advice given to the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-18:

*"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.**"*

**A:** What does this gold represent?

**Q:** YHWH Himself!

*"Shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, **the Almighty shall be thy [gold], and thou shalt have plenty of silver. For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto Elohim.**" (Job 22:24-26)*

The wealth of the Lord is not about enjoying material possessions but knowing Yehoshua ha Mashiah, the true Elohim, abiding in His peace and righteousness (a prosperous soul), and inheriting eternal life.

**A:** Amen. A very fitting conclusion.

**Q:** I hope our discussion now helps you understand what wealth means according to Elohim.

**A:** For sure! As I said earlier, our discussions are edifying. I have learnt a lot during our exchange.

**Q:** You're welcome. Thank you as well. May the Holy Spirit guide us in the name of Yehoshua.

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All websites have been consulted on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

<sup>1</sup>The Bible version used is the King James Version. Please note that we have replaced the name "Jesus Christ" with "Yehoshua (ha) Mashiah", and "God" with "Elohim".

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