

The Revealed Assessment of Material Wealth
From Hosea 14:8-9
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From Hosea 14:8,9. THE REVEALED ASSESSMENT OF MATERIAL WEALTH, PART 1

#1. The book of Hosea overturns all economic theories, philosophic, academic, intuitional, regarding material wealth and wellbeing.

#2. "O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like a luxuriant cypress; From Me comes your fruit" 14:8.

#3. The Israelites of Hosea's day were fully enchanted by materialism and its advantages 2:1-13. Material security drove their thought, speech, and behavior. The Lord had been excluded, necessarily, from acknowledgement.

#4. This material pursuit was called "harlotry" 2:1, 4; 3:1, 3; 4:2, 10-18; 5:3, 4; 6:10; 7:4. In contradiction to the Israelite perspective, Hosea reminded them and us about *the supernatural causal dependence of material wealth and wellbeing*.

#5. The prophet insists, however, that "Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them" 14:9.

#6. Wealth and material wellbeing are grounded in something completely incommensurable with money, precious metals and things. The harlots were wrong. Such blessings and advantages are grounded in God (the "cypress") and in revealed meaning ("wisdom") about such things.

#7. *Therefore, material wealth and wellbeing are not dependent upon the pursuit of them!* To believe this requires a strong grasp on incommensurability as a measure of wisdom, understanding, discernment and knowledge 14:9. It comes as a shock to those who not know "the ways of the Lord". The "righteous walk" in incommensurability; "but transgressors will stumble" 14:9.

From Hosea 14:8, 9. THE REVEALED ASSESSMENT OF MATERIAL WEALTH, PART 2

#1. In order to correctly assess material wealth, material wellbeing or any material advantage or disadvantage, a believer must appreciate the fact of incommensurability from the biblical point of view.

#2. The spiritual realities are immaterial and have no similarity to the tangible. They are fully incommensurable one to the other. Yet despite this fact, it was the invisible God who presented Himself as the actual source of Israel's material wellbeing. "It is I who answer and look after you. I am like a luxuriant cypress; From Me comes your fruit" 14:8.

#3. In the days of Hosea the people of Israel attached great significance to the issue of incommensurability . They did not buy it: It was absurd to trust an invisible and apparently distant God to provide them with the hard, tangible things of material security 2:5. But there was great commensurability between material wellbeing and the methods of the human acquisition of it 4:1-3. And that is precisely what they trusted, not the Almighty.

#4. Real believers find no loss of confidence in God because He is Spirit and our material needs are things. They do not deny *a causal relation between God-->and the realm of things*.

#5. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to biblical faith today, as always, is this issue of incommensurability.

#6. It is a forever issue. Shall we trust the Lord with our financial needs, our physical health and our material security? Or shall we confine God's causal relation to time to an increasingly removed historical period from our own time?

#7. That is the prevailing assessment in the churches. The biblical language manifold is considered to be incommensurable to the "real world" of the 21st century. That idea essentially silences the Bible, the silence of which is quite commensurable with modernity.