

Scripture Readings on Trade Justice

The weight of the gold received annually by Solomon amounted to six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides what tolls and foreign trade brought in; all the Arab kings and the provincial governors also brought gold and silver to Solomon.

2 Chronicles 9:13-14

Make your views heard, on behalf of the dumb,
on behalf of all the unwanted;
make your views heard, pronounce an upright verdict,
defend the cause of the poor and the wretched.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Then again, I contemplate all the oppression that is committed under the sun.
Take for instance the tears of the oppressed. No one to comfort them! The
power their oppressors wield. No one to comfort them!

Ecclesiastes 4:1

The sleeplessness brought by wealth makes a person lose weight,
the worry it causes drives away sleep.

The worries of the daytime prevent you from sleeping,
like a serious illness, they keep sleep at bay.

The rich forever toils, piling up money,
and then, leaving off, he is gorged with luxuries;

the poor forever toils, barely making a living,
and then, leaving off, is poorer than ever.

No one who loves money can easily avoid sinning,
whoever pursues profit will be corrupted by it.

Ecclesiasticus 31:1-5

Yahweh is about to try the elders and the princes of his people, 'You are the
ones who have ravaged the vineyard, the spoils of the poor are in your
houses. By what right do you crush my people and grind the faces of the
poor?' says the Lord Yahweh Sabaoth.

Isaiah 3:14-15

"The Lord Yahweh says this:
Such is your skill in trading,
your fortune has continued to increase,
and your fortune has made your heart grow prouder.

Your behaviour was exemplary from the day you were created
until guilt first appeared in you,
because your busy trading
has filled you with violence and sin.
I have thrown you down from the mountain of God
and destroyed you, guardian winged creature, amid the coals."
Ezekiel 28:5, 15-16

"So turn back with God's help,
maintain faithful love and loyalty
and always put your trust in your God.
Merchants use fraudulent scales.
To defraud is his delight."
Hosea 12:7

"Listen to this, you who crush the needy
and reduce the oppressed to nothing,
you who say, 'When will the New Moon be over
so that we can sell our corn,
and Sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?
Then, we can make the bushel-measure smaller
and the shekel-weight bigger
by fraudulently tampering with the scales.
We can buy up the weak for silver
and the poor for a pair of sandals,
and even get a price for the sweepings of the wheat.'
Yahweh has sworn by the pride of Jacob,
'Never will I forget anything they have done.'"
Amos 8:4-7

"Disaster to anyone who amasses goods not his...and to anyone who weighs
himself down with goods taken in pledge...Since you have plundered many
nations, all the nations that remain will plunder you."
Habakkuk 2:6-8

Jesus said, "No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the
first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second.

You cannot be the slave both of God and of money."
Matthew 6:24

When the tie of the Jewish Passover was near Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting there. Making a whip out of cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, sheep and cattle as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the dove sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop using my Father's house as a market."
John 2:13-16

"Well now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow, we are off to this or that town; we are going to spend a year there, trading, and make some money.' You never know what will happen tomorrow: you are no more than a mist that appears for a little while and then disappears.... Can you hear crying out against you the wages which you kept back from the labourers mowing your fields? The cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord Sabaoth."
James 4:13-14, 5:4

"There will be weeping and distress over Babylon among all the traders of the earth when no one is left to buy their cargoes of goods, their stocks of gold and silver, jewels and pearls, linen and purple and silks and scarlet; all the sandalwood, every piece in ivory or fine wood, in bronze or iron or marble; the cinnamon and spices, the myrrh and ointment and incense; wine, oil, flour and corn; their stocks of cattle, sheep, horses and chariots, their slaves and their human cargo.

All the fruits you had set your hearts on have failed you; gone for ever, never to return again, is your life of magnificence and ease.

The traders who had made a fortune out of her will be standing at a safe distance through fear of her anguish, mourning and weeping. They will be saying:

'Mourn, mourn for this great city;
for all the linen and purple and scarlet that you wore,
for all your finery of gold and jewels and pearls;
your huge riches are all destroyed within a single hour.'
Revelation 18:11-17