

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#48) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:26-Corrupt Commerce

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 11:26:

The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

It is bad business to withhold products that are needed. "Buy low and sell high" may be popular in the Stock Market, but in the marketplace, it loses future business! Companies, or individuals, who buy up needed products in "bad" times, in order to sell them at higher prices during "harder" times, not only incur the wrath of customers, but also the curse of God, Himself.

In condemning corrupted Israel, God gave Amos a vision for those "who swallow up the needy, and make the poor of the land fail, Saying:

When will the New Moon be past, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, falsifying the scales by deceit, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals- Even sell the bad wheat? (**Amos 8:4-6**)

"Swallowing up the needy," and "making the poor fail" describe business and/ or governmental practices that slant economics away from hard work being rewarded with honest pay and profit. Those evil practices included: cutting product sizes with short scales, while increasing the price of the goods sold; making the "poor" go into such debt they are bought for "silver;" reducing them down to such need their price is the same as shoes; and selling them damaged goods! Today, this would be called "re-packaging," "inflation," "over-extended credit buying," "depression economy," and "selling expired goods."

When the Israelites were returned to their Promised Land, fulfilling all prophecies on that subject, the "nobles' and rulers'" practices were listed as:

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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For there were those who said, 'We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live.' There were also some who said, 'We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine.' There were also those who said, 'We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards. Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards'. (**Nehemiah 5:2-5**)

When the leaders of a people, whether business or government, adopt practices or legislation that take unfair advantage of the hard-working families under their care, God will hold them accountable. James wrote:

Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." (**James 5:4**)

Jesus Christ endorsed truth with: "the laborer is worthy of his wages" (**Luke 10:7**); "he who reaps receives wages" (**John 4:36**); and Paul added to this with: "to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt" (**Romans 4:4**). Wages are earned, not given, and everything that is done to keep honest work from being rewarded with honest wages is against God's Will!

Another proverb upholds this teaching:

- **Proverbs 30:14**: "There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, And whose fangs are like knives, To devour the poor from off the earth, And the needy from among men."

