

What the Bible Says About Money, by Larry Burkett.

The specific passages I see that are about lending with interest are:

Exodus 22:25

[God says] "If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be to him as a creditor, and you **shall not exact interest from him**. If ever you take your neighbor's garment in pledge, you shall restore it to him before the sun goes down; for that is his only covering, it is his mantle for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate."

Leviticus 25:35-37

[God said] "And if your brother becomes poor, and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall maintain him; as a stranger and a sojourner he shall live with you. **Take no interest from him or increase**, but fear your God; that your brother may live beside you. **You shall not lend him your money at interest**, nor give him your food for profit. I am the Lord your God, who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God."

Deuteronomy 23:19-20

You shall not lend upon interest to your brother, interest on money, interest on victuals, interest on anything that is lent for interest. To a foreigner you may lend upon interest, but to your brother you shall not lend upon interest; that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are entering to take possession it."

Nehemiah 5: 1-13

Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brethren. For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many; let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the kin's tax upon our fields and our vineyards. Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children are as their children; yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved; but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "**You are exacting interest, each from his brother.**" And I held a great assembly against the, and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brethren who have been sold to the nations; but you even sell

your brethren that they may be sold to us!" They were silent, and could not find a word to say. So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? Moreover I and my brethren and my servants are lending them money and grain. **Let us leave off this interest. Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the hundredth of money, grain, wind, and gold which you have been exacting of them.**" Then they said, "**We will restore these and require nothing from them.** We will do as you say." And I called the priests, and took an oath of them to do as they had promised. I also shook out my lap and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not perform this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "amen" and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Psalm 15

O Lord, who shall sojourn in thy tent?
Who shall dwell on thy holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly, and does what is right,
And speaks truth from his heart;
Who does not slander with his tongue,
And does no evil to his friend,
Nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
In whose eyes a reprobate is despised,
But who honors those who fear the Lord;
Who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
Who does not put out his money at interest,
And does not take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

Proverbs 28: 8

He who **augments his wealth by interest and increase** gathers it for him who is kind to the poor.

Ezekiel 18:5-18

[God says] "If a man is righteous and does what is lawful and right -- if he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not oppress any one, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, **does not lend at interest or take any increase**, withholds his hand from iniquity, executes true justice between man and man, walks in my statutes, and is careful to observe my ordinances -- his is righteous, he shall surely live, says the Lord God."

"If he begets a son who is a robber, a shedder of blood, who does none of these duties, but eats upon the mountains, defiles his neighbor's wife, oppresses the

poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore the pledge, lifts up his eyes to the idols, commits abomination, **lends at interest**, and takes increase; shall he then live? He shall not live. He has done all these abominable things; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon himself.

“But if this man begets a son who sees all the sins which his father has done, and fears, and does not do likewise, who does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor’s wife, does not wrong any one, exact no pledge, commits no robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, withholds his hand from iniquity, **takes no interest or increase**, observes my ordinances, and walks in my statutes; he shall not die for his father’s iniquity; he shall surely live. As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother, and did what is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity.

Habakkuk 2:6-7

“Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own – for how long? – and loads himself with pledges (loans?)!”

Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make your tremble? Then you will be booty for them.

Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of men and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell therein.

Luke 6:27-36

[Jesus said] “But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your cloak do not withhold your coat as well. Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods, do not ask them again. And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.** But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.