

## THE POOR

**The Hebrew words for poor** are *ani*, *anaw*, *ebyon*, *dal* and *ras*.

*Ani* (and *anaw*) denotes one who is “wrongfully impoverished or dispossessed.”

*Ebyon* refers to a beggar imploring charity. *Dal* connotes a thin, weakly person, that is, an impoverished, deprived peasant. *Ras* is a neutral term. In their persistent polemic against the oppression of the poor, the prophets used terms *ebyon*, *ani* and *dal*. ( Sider 1997. P. 41).

In the New Testament, the primary word for the poor is *ptochos*, which refers to someone, like a beggar, who is completely destitute and must seek help from others. It is the Greek equivalent of *ani* and *dal*. Thus the primary connotation of “*the poor*” in the Scriptures has to do with low economic status usually due to calamity or some form of oppression ( Sider 1997. P. 41).

**According to M. Douglas Meeks who says ‘GOD is THE ECONOMIST.**

Greek word from which we derive economy, *oikonomia*, is a compound of *Oikos*, household, and *nomos*, law or management. Therefore, economy means literally “the law or the management of the household.” Household is connected with the production, distribution, and consumption of the necessities of life. Therefore, the word, household means the site of economy, the site of human livelihood (Meeks p. 3)

Economy of God is the distribution of God’s righteousness.

Righteous God is the one who does steadfast love and justice (Jer. 9:24; 23:5; Ps.15:1-2).  
God’s righteousness is God’s power to create/ liberate out of the power of nothingness.

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