

# Abrogated Laws: Prohibition of Charging Interest

Bahá'u'lláh



## Interest and profit on gold and silver

*“As to thy question concerning interest and profit on gold and silver: Some years ago the following passage was revealed from the heaven of the All-Merciful in honour of the one who beareth the name of God, entitled Zaynu'l-Muqarrabín - upon him be the glory of the Most Glorious. He - exalted be His Word - saith: Many people stand in need of this. Because if there were no prospect for gaining interest, the affairs of men would suffer collapse or dislocation. One can seldom find a person who would manifest such consideration towards his fellow-man, his countryman or towards his own brother and would show such tender solicitude for him as to be well-disposed to grant him a loan on benevolent terms. Therefore as a token of favour towards men We have prescribed that interest on money should be treated like other business transactions that are current amongst men. Thus, now that this lucid commandment hath descended from the heaven of the Will of God, it is lawful and proper to charge interest on money, that the people of the world may, in a spirit of amity and fellowship and with joy and gladness, devotedly engage themselves in magnifying the Name of Him Who is the Well-Beloved of all mankind. Verily He ordaineth according to His Own choosing. He hath now made interest on money lawful, even as He had made it unlawful in the past. Within His grasp He holdeth the kingdom of authority. He doeth and ordaineth. He is in truth the Ordainer, the All-Knowing.”<sup>1</sup>*



## Babi Dispensation

See the Persian Bayan, Wahid V, Chapter XVIII

## Qur'anic Dispensation

*“Those who devour usury will not stand except as stand one whom the Evil one by his touch Hath driven to madness. That is because they say: “Trade is like usury,” but Allah hath permitted trade and forbidden usury. Those who after receiving direction from their Lord, desist, shall be pardoned for the past; their case is for Allah (to judge); but those who repeat (The offence) are companions of the Fire: They will abide therein (for ever).”<sup>2</sup>*

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1. Baha'u'llah, Splendors (Ishraqat)

2. The Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqarah 2:275



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*“O you who have believed, do not consume usury, doubled and multiplied, but fear Allah that you may be successful.”<sup>3</sup>*

*“And [for] their taking of usury while they had been forbidden from it, and their consuming of the people’s wealth unjustly. And we have prepared for the disbelievers among them a painful punishment.”<sup>4</sup>*

## Bible Dispensation

The Holy Bible explicitly prohibits charging interest on loans to fellow Israelites (Exodus 22:25). While interest was forbidden among Israelites, it was permitted to charge interest to foreigners (Deuteronomy 23:20).



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<sup>3</sup>. The Holy Qur’an, Surah Al Imran 3:130

<sup>4</sup>. The Holy Qur’an, Surah Al-Nisa’ 4:161