BENEFITS OF BITCOIN

How Bitcoin will Reshape Marriage, Societies, the State, Trade, and Empower the Third World



Levi M. Johnson

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INTRODUCTION
AN ORANGE PILL STORY

Switching to Bitcoin from regular money like the US dollar is almost the same as my professional journey. It follows in some sense the development of my financial intelligence. I learned several years ago in reading a Robert Kiyosaki book that intelligence is the ability to make finer distinctions, and I wrote an entire book based on that axiom called How to Become Extremely Intelligent.

I first read Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki back around 2004, I think. That's when I started to learn about the financial finer distinctions of what an employee, business owner, self-employed, and investor are. But that's also when I learned at a subconscious level from Rich Dad Poor Dad that we live in a world of abundance, including financial abundance. However, it would take many years for that lesson to germinate further.

I was born in 1980 in Tulsa, Oklahoma and then at around 10 months old my parents and I moved to Lakehead, California. Then after my two younger sisters came along we all moved to Redding, California in 1995, the same year I turned fifteen.

While in Lakehead I was a natural salesman and entrepreneurial by nature. My sales team, my mom, sister, and I sold about $500 worth of candy bars to raise money for my little league organization and then the next year repeated the same feat. Then one year, I thought a good way to make money would be to sell mistletoe in front of our local gas station. So I had my mom take us out to certain local Oak Trees where mistletoe tends to grow and I climbed the Oaks and harvested Mistletoe from them. And then my sister and I tied bunches of it together and sold it to people in front of a gas station nearby during the Christmas season.

One year for Christmas, when my parents gave me a sled on Christmas day, there was a $50 bill taped to it. 50.00 bucks! That's so much money! I thought to myself. And at that time it was a good chunk of money, back in the 80's and early 90's when inflation hadn't eroded the strength of the dollar as much as it has eroded to this point in time.

These are some of my earliest interactions with and experiences with money. By the time my late teens rolled around, and I'd worked odd jobs and in construction for my dad, money came to be a tool I used to have fun. I remember thinking to myself that I needed to get paid before the weekend so that I could have fun with my friends.

My grandparents had been good with their money, investing in real estate and becoming quite wealthy, and I'd been through some financial training from my dad and had learned about compound interest and its power to make someone a millionaire if they invested a certain amount of money each year. So when I got paid $250 for helping a man sell his

motorhome, I took $100 of it and invested it into a Franklin Templeton Income Fund. I was around 16 at the time. For years it grew in capital gains and I presume dividends and managed to roughly doubled.

I hadn't learned about passive income, which would come later when I read Rich Dad Poor Dad in my twenties. I hadn't gotten acquainted with inflation and its injustices yet, but I would come to understand them all too well.

I decided to become an employee during my childhood because I wanted to attain regular, consistent income as an adult. In my twenties I worked several jobs in construction, custom home automation, Starbucks, and more. I started a photography business, then a sales and marketing consulting business. I delivered newspapers. I did whatever I needed to do to make ends meet, but I didn't think at all about the quality of the money I was using and how that was affecting financial outcomes in my life.

After trying several different ways to generate income in Redding, California, I decided to leave the United States and move to South Korea in early 2011 to teach English as a foreign language. I started using that income to pay off a good chunk of debt, and then started taking a masters degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and then moved to Harbin China in September of 2014 to become a professor. In China I started coming into a lot of spare time once I finished my masters degree program. I came to understand that I wanted to build financial independence through passive income, and

played CashFlow, the board game by Robert Kiyosaki, over a dozen times.

That game retrained how I interacted with and thought about money and generating income, in the game and in real life. Building assets in the game often meant going into debt which went against and goes against my psychological design, but I ate the meat and threw out the bones so to speak, of CashFlow. I didn't understand at the time that taking on debt using fiat currency was, in the fractional reserve banking system, an act of theft from the other users of that system. At the time, I noticed that I felt bad owing money, and that I suffered a lot less when I paid it back.

As an aside, I've noticed over time that even though debt can be used as a powerful way to make certain business ventures happen that it also imbues those business ventures with fragility. Personally I have strong resistance to fragility in business and in investing. So when I played CashFlow I took on as little debt as possible. This meant I couldn't scale as quickly, but it also meant that when the economy took a downturn my business in the game wasn't as vulnerable to going insolvent.

While in China I moved from Bengbu to Beijing and continued teaching. While there I read a book on the history of Bitcoin, and I did some reading on "blockchain," or what Jack Mallers would call time chain. Bitcoin had intellectually stimulating appeal to me, but lacking technical and economic insight into Bitcoin I came to the false conclusion that since Bitcoin could be forked, it was a flawed system

and could come to be worthless and so I unfortunately abandoned Bitcoin at that point. I have come to wish I didn't make that choice but the rise in buying power of Bitcoin is the cost of tuition. Thankfully, I later came around.

In 2021 I met and married an amazing lady from Sweden. Almost immediately we departed for Sweden for what would become a six month stay. We moved to Slagnas Sweden where my wife needed to finish out a working contract at a business hotel. It was the dead of winter in ice and snow-blanketed Slagnas, a town practically in the middle of nowhere with a population of 50 people. Outside of interacting with my wife when she got off work which was often more than full time, essentially the only other person to socialize with was the town grocery store owner and sometimes one or two other workers. And if you don't know about northern Sweden, in the winter there is snow as far as the eye can see and frozen lakes for something like 6 months out of the year. Suffice to say, I had little reason to leave our little, cozy apartment for subzero temperatures and almost no one to interact with.

I had planned on building an online business but found it difficult to focus on that work, so I whittled away the time on social media and YouTube. Then one fateful day I came across a post on Facebook where an acquaintance advertised a link to a company called Kryptex where I could download software to start crypto mining.

I downloaded their software and started mining with my gaming laptop and surprisingly, what my laptop could earn daily was a small but

somewhat impressive amount. Since we had essentially free electricity, the Bitcoin my computer was earning was 100% profit.

I started down a research rabbit hole on YouTube of what it would look like to expand my tiny crypto mining operation since this was a way to generate income without violating Swedish labor law because I was prohibited from working there. It gradually dawned on me that generating income using my computer to crypto mine was a way to increase my income autonomy. I'd been fired or let go from jobs over 20 times up to that point and was seriously done with pursuing an employee path. Additionally, I was exceptionally interested in building passive income. With crypto mining, I realized that I'd found a way through crypto mining to generate income wherever we might live or be traveling to, and that since it was my computer doing the work and not me, I couldn't really be fired.

Over the next two to three months, we purchased about $7000 in crypto mining equipment and I built out mining computers that started generating about $450 per month (in Bitcoin) of mostly passive income. This was a massive financial breakthrough for me because I had something like $6000 invested with Vanguard that was generating only about $50 every three months in dividends. The return on investment with crypto mining was far larger than investing with Vanguard. At one point we were generating a 60% yearly return on investment with crypto mining. It felt amazing that I had managed to achieve financial freedom because, aside from my debt our expenses were essentially lower than the income our crypto miners were generating.

Prior to this point I was very into the Financial Independence Retire Early movement. In order to generate $50,000 per year I would have needed to invest about $1,000,000 at roughly 7 to 10% interest in VTSAX, a popular FIRE movement index with Vanguard. This seemed very difficult to achieve, but suddenly with crypto mining I could essentially achieve financial independence with far less of an investment, and having a new wife to support I could build our crypto mining empire anywhere on earth with an internet connection and electricity. I felt tremendous hope for the first time in a long time as it regarded achieving financial freedom.

But I needed to make sure that Kryptex wasn't a scam. Could I actually get payouts from Kryptex? First, I tried cashing out in the dollar, but it didn't work. The thing was, Kryptex was actually paying out in Bitcoin. "Oh, I know about this," I thought to myself, "I still want dollars, but if cashing out in Bitcoin will work and I can sell it for dollars then I'm fine with that."

I cashed out the Bitcoin our crypto miners had earned to my Coinbase account, and managed to sell some of it for dollars. "Alright," I thought, "We can actually get money for mining. This is great!" I was relieved crypto mining with Kryptex wasn't a scam.

I could get dollars by selling the Bitcoin our crypto miners had earned, and admittedly I had almost no interest in Bitcoin but wanted dollars. But, with my copious amounts of spare time once I exhausted hours of crypto mining video on YouTube, I began to realize that Bitcoin was valuable. It was enabling me to get paid for crypto mining.

I also came to realize that I could generate Bitcoin anywhere and that it would be hard for the government to take it away from me.

While living in Sweden I showed my wife a video of a man who was pulled over by law enforcement. He allowed law enforcement to search his car, and they discovered tens of thousands of dollars in his trunk, but no drugs or anything to suggest the money didn't belong to him. It was simply his life savings. Law enforcement brought in a dog, tossed a bundle of the man's cash in the weeds, and allowed the dog to sniff it. The dog signaled that the cash had traces of drugs on it, which gave law enforcement legal justification to seize all of the man's life savings. However, something like over 70 or 75% of US dollars has traces of cocaine on it. The man was on his way to visit his daughters and law enforcement left him in a lurch. With lawyers, it took the man six months to get law enforcement to return all his cash. But the video also cited several other cases where law enforcement seized people's money. My wife and I learned that law enforcement in the United States, without justification, seizes people's money all the time.

My wife and I talked about this reality, and it dawned on me that if the man was holding his life savings in Bitcoin, law enforcement would have had a much harder time seizing his life savings, especially since Bitcoin has no traces of cocaine on it unlike US dollars. Suddenly, Bitcoin seemed to have a value proposition beyond me being able to cash out the crypto mining Bitcoin our computers had earned. It could also protect us from malicious government actors and increase our financial autonomy.

Jumping ahead several months, one night my wife and I were making food deliveries in Reno, Nevada when law enforcement pulled us over. They ordered my wife out of our van on a cold night and I was to stay put, in the driver's seat. After some time they ordered me out of our van and took me behind our van, and started asking me questions about what we were doing and why we were there in Reno. I did my best to answer their questions, but they were acting so strange relative to our appearance that I started pushing back in the interaction. When one law enforcement officer asked if he or they could search our van, I asked him if he had probable cause. He replied, "It's a simple question." "No," I replied. Then his partner tried to keep me busy in conversation while he searched our van from the outside with a flashlight since it was around midnight.

At the time, we held a large amount of money in Bitcoin and not cash. I'd been asked if we had large amounts of cash in our van and I was able to respond, "No." And I'm thankful that because of Bitcoin we didn't have a large chunk of our life savings confiscated (stolen) from us by law enforcement. My wife and I were eventually allowed to leave, though quite shaken by the experience. We'd seen in video that kind of thing happening, but having it happen to us wasn't fun. We left Reno, Nevada within the next 24 hours.

Earlier, back in Sweden I began to realize that Bitcoin could give us the autonomy in generating, saving, and protecting our money that neither the government nor bad actors could violate.

While watching an interview with Michael Saylor, a famous Bitcoiner in the Bitcoin community, he noted that:

> "For the first time in the history of the human race, you can actually take possession of your wealth and take it to the grave with you or take it anywhere else on Earth with you. And even if I put a gun to your head, the most I can do is kill you; I can't take it."

He goes on to say that Bitcoin is a disincentive to violence because if someone shoots you, they can take your gold or possessions, but that can't happen with Bitcoin.

These properties of Bitcoin, along with hundreds of hours of learning eventually brought me into Bitcoin land. Now virtually all the savings of my wife and I are in Bitcoin.

I'm telling you about my journey into Bitcoin because I want you to see that it's a human journey. It wasn't easy, but I believe it's been well worth the time invested to understand what sound money is and the benefits of using it.

This book isn't going to materially address what Bitcoin is or how to use it. This book isn't a how-to or technical guide. I am writing this book because I want learners like you to understand the benefits of Bitcoin. I want this book to influence you and inform you about what Bitcoin will meaningfully contribute to your life and the lives of everyone around the world. Not only is Bitcoin improving the lives of

men and women around the world, it can improve your life in many ways you've likely not considered.

But in all honesty, why even consider using Bitcoin if it doesn't contribute significantly to your experience of life, to your financial well-being, to your legacy, to the quality of your relationships, to reducing stress and improving your decision making? If Bitcoin won't accomplish great things for you and those that matter to you then why use it over the US dollar? This book will show you how Bitcoin will enhance your life and to some extent how fiat money is not helping your life and the lives of many people.

I don't like to tell people what to do. I much prefer to give people the best information I'm aware of and then give them the space to make their own choices. It's worth it to invest the time to understand Bitcoin and what it will contribute to your life. This book isn't intended to argue against crypto currencies because they are not the same as Bitcoin, but are securities. This book is intended to show what Bitcoin can, and will, do for many people now and forever.

If you want to join us in our new world of sound money, I'm extending an open invitation. If you want the benefits I'll be delineating, they are yours for the taking. What Bitcoin has contributed to my wife and I and our hope for a better future has become so important and real to us. Since the dollar is failing, we've needed a better way to build our life together financially speaking, and Bitcoin has given us a practical way to accomplish our goals and dreams.

In reading this book you will learn how Bitcoin is changing the world now and into the future. Hope is the general expectation that the future will be better than the present. For many, Bitcoin is hope. This book will show you why Bitcoin is hope for everyone, everywhere.

CHAPTER ONE
THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

It's easy for people who are technically oriented to understand immediately why using Bitcoin will benefit them, and the same goes for libertarian minded people to some extent. A driving value for Bitcoiners is, "Fix the money, fix the world." Part of the problem with this core value is that fixing the world isn't defined. When you get done with this book, you will understand why using Bitcoin will fix the world.

Discussions on Bitcoin Twitter and on podcasts and conferences often focus on macro-economic issues, and I think those issues are important. But the reality is that people who don't have time to invest in 100 hours of Bitcoin study but still want a better world need a way to understand why using Bitcoin is a strong financial option, distinct from worse choices. Someone needs to explicate the benefits of Bitcoin, especially in contrast to the financial options available to them. The dominant option people use right now to buy, sell and trade is the US dollar, the king of fiat currencies. It's not a great option, but compared to the other fiat currencies out there it's the money ship that's sinking the slowest, although it's still sinking.

What many people need to understand is that no money has ever

existed before like Bitcoin. Gold isn't as good as Bitcoin, but why? No fiat money in the history of humanity has existed that is as high quality as Bitcoin, but why? It can take a long time to learn the answers to the questions by sifting through books and videos like I've done, but that's time a lot of people don't really have. I want Benefits of Bitcoin to help cut through the noise to fast track many people into understanding why shifting their buying power from the US dollar, and any other store of value into Bitcoin, is the best decision you can make on a practical level to improve your life going forward.

A question I ask myself is, "What is one thing I can do today to improve the quality of my life tomorrow?" Among all the noise and many variables, it can be extremely difficult to sort helpful tips from unhelpful tips. For some of us, making choices is easy while for others making choices is extremely challenging. The reality is, shifting all of your buying power over to Bitcoin is one of the most powerful choices you can make to improve your tomorrows, but it's not fundamentally because other people are doing the same thing, or because it's the new hottest tech stock or any such reason. Benefits of Bitcoin will help you understand the short term and long term benefits of integrating Bitcoin into your financial life as deeply as you can. Bitcoin can't take the place of God or relationships, but it can remove a significant amount of lies and noise that interested parties want you to believe and inculcate.

Most people haven't experienced real evil in their lives, especially in the west. But real, deep evil exists. There are people who for many decades have plotted to enslave you, and have largely been successful. I

worked for these evil people for many years without knowing it, the lies and veil were so deep and big and well-constructed. The problem with evil is that it lies to you in ways that are difficult to detect explicitly. You may find yourself feeling or thinking or intuiting that something isn't right with the world you have found yourself in, much like Neo sensed something wasn't right about the world he lived in before he was shown the Matrix.

It may be challenging for you to accept some of the ideas I'm going to put forward in Benefits of Bitcoin. I'm a very well-studied man and I know what I'm talking about. But the reality is, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink." Just as Morpheus offered Neo the truth about the Matrix and, "nothing more", that's materially what I'm going to offer you. In my everyday life I enjoy showing people options they didn't realize existed because they can then become more free to live their ideal lives, and because giving people high quality and clarifying information brings me fulfillment.

As an out of the box thinker and risk taker, it's been far harder for me to learn how to get along with normal people than for most. But the truth is, most of the reasons to use Bitcoin are applicable to everyday life. If you look out into the world and see things getting worse, there are certain reasons for that and a lot of them can be traced back to the kind of monetary system they operate within.

People are driven to and fro by the systems they operate within if they aren't aware of what's happening. Your job, your money, the shows you watch, how the news is reported, and many other systems

have a profound effect on the behavior of billions of people that they are largely unaware of. Bitcoin is an exit from systems of manipulation that influence how you're feeling about the world and about your life up to this very moment.

An oft heard refrain from Bitcoiners is that, "Bitcoin is hope." In all reality, Bitcoin does lead to hope. Hope is the sense that generally the future is going to be better than the present. In part, what gives birth to hope is a personal realization that there is a practical and feasible path from your present life into future goals and dreams, that will work. It's easy to get distracted by the bad news of the world. Humans are designed to feel what they fix their attention upon, so if a person turns their attention to bad news on a continual basis and focuses on that, they are likely to lose hope because news isn't designed to give you hope. News is largely designed to trigger your survival response so that you feel your life will be threatened if you don't attend to what they are saying, and the news will drag you into a dark, hopeless pit if you allow it to.

But there are reasons to hope that aren't a pipe dream. Broken currency has often been the reason civilizations have declined. But technology has given us a way to engineer the flaws out of currency that have given way to a currency's decline. People who make evil choices are what cause the currency everyone uses to become worthless. But technology has given us a way to displace humans from money, using laws of money that can't be removed except at great difficulty. Ironically, removing humans from how money operates is a

powerful way to ensure the money people use stays sound and immune from evil people who would destroy it if they got the chance.

What many people don't realize is that there is a vicious battle between good and evil that's been raging for thousands of years around money. Since Bitcoin is sound money, this is the first time in human history that evil people can't contaminate money with their desire to enslave and murder and destroy. Bitcoin is the most pro-human flourishing money people have ever invented, whereas essentially all currency previous to Bitcoin, even though they got us to where we are, were broken because people could tamper with the money system. Separating people from money through Bitcoin is the first time humanity has had a sound money that wouldn't lose value because a handful of authoritarians couldn't resist the temptation to pretend to be God. In the Bitcoin money system, even if certain people believe they know best how humanity should behave, their ability to impose their will through force will be greatly reduced and there is nothing they can do to stop the erosion of their ability to control others. Freedom from authoritarians is on the horizon for all people because Bitcoin started to exist and continues working unabated. This is a good reason to feel hope for a better future, that that great, good future is coming whether evil people want it to or not.

Bitcoin will bring a flourishing life to all people of all classes and races everywhere. An exciting future is in store for humanity and for you, and you can help make that future happen.

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