

# Relativizing the Value of Economic Growth: Community-Centered Insights from Leviticus and Deuteronomy

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## Abstract

Economic growth has long been viewed as a cornerstone of human progress, supported by biblical notions of humans as co-creators with God and creation designed for human pleasure and well-being. At the same time, the biblical texts of Leviticus and Deuteronomy present a vision of economic life that emphasizes communal well-being, offering principles such as Jubilee, Sabbath rest, and provisions for the vulnerable. These texts challenge growth-centric paradigms by framing the economy within the bounds of relational ethics, stewardship, and mutual care, revealing a dialogue between individual accumulation and community-centered economic order. This paper explores how these perspectives yield a framework for economic policymaking that integrates theological anthropology, the imago Dei, and principles of sustainable growth, contributing to contemporary debates on how economic practices can support human flourishing while respecting biblical constraints.

## Bibliography

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