

JUDAISM AND THE MARKET ECONOMY

ACTON UNIVERSITY 2023

RABBI MITCHELL ROCKLIN, PH.D.

1. The significance of wealth
 - a. A clearly positive view of wealth; a small minority ascetic streak
 - b. River v. rain, farmer v. shepherd: Biblical covenantal economics
 - c. The type and use of wealth, not the amount, as key
2. Inequality: a problem or an acceptable fact of life?
 - a. The unprecedented 10th commandment: a ban on jealousy
 - b. Understanding the prophets: a call for charity, not socialism
 - c. Charity: restoring a failure to his station, not fighting inequality
3. The Problem of Poverty
 - a. The Bible's unique privatization of charity in the ancient world
 - b. Coerced charity only existed only where ritual laws were coerced
4. The Family as the Basic Economic Unit
 - a. Biblical urban land and liquidity as a root of market economics
 - b. Markets and private property in the Bible as an ideal
5. Dynamism, economic change and tradition: the creation of free markets
 - a. The development of investment and the preservation of charity
 - b. Industry and beauty as allies and the move to subjective value
6. The Myth of *Tikkun Olam* and Jewish Social Justice
7. Conclusion: The Human Being's Role as God's Partner, Not Imitator