

Rediscovering Economic Justice in the Mosaic Law: An Indispensable Insight from Revealed Scriptures to Restore the Global Economic Order

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Abstract

This paper explores the economic principles embedded in the Mosaic Law and demonstrates their enduring relevance to contemporary global economic challenges. It argues that the Mosaic directives on property, debt, labor, trade, and social welfare reflect an integrated framework of economic justice that balances individual rights with communal responsibilities. Drawing on revealed scriptures, this study offers indispensable insights into building a just, sustainable, and resilient global economic order. The paper also examines potential applications, showing how ancient ethical wisdom can inform modern policies on debt relief, labor protection, wealth redistribution, and market integrity.

Keywords: Mosaic Law, economic justice, Jubilee, social welfare, debt forgiveness, global economy

1. Introduction

Economic systems today face unprecedented challenges. Inequality is rising, global debt burdens are unsustainable, and market practices often prioritize profit over social justice. While conventional economic theories emphasize efficiency, growth, and market equilibrium, they frequently overlook moral and ethical considerations that underpin social cohesion.

The Mosaic Law, revealed in the Torah (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), offers a framework where economic behavior is inseparable from ethical responsibility. These laws, given thousands of years ago to an agrarian society, address fundamental issues—property, debt, labor, trade ethics, and redistribution—that resonate with contemporary concerns.

This paper contends that rediscovering the economic justice inherent in the Mosaic Law provides an indispensable insight from revealed scriptures, offering a blueprint to restore equity, sustainability, and morality to the global economic order.

2. Mosaic Law as a Framework for Economic Justice

The Mosaic Law is more than a set of religious ordinances; it is a **holistic economic ethic**. Laws pertaining to economics were integrated with social responsibility, ethical conduct, and environmental stewardship. Key features include:

- 1. Property Rights with Social Responsibility:** Ownership is recognized but limited by communal obligations (Numbers 27:1–11; Leviticus 25:23–28).
- 2. Debt Relief and Jubilee:** Systems of cyclical debt forgiveness prevent long-term economic exploitation (Leviticus 25:8–17; Deuteronomy 15:1–2).
- 3. Labor Ethics:** Workers' rights and fair compensation are protected (Deuteronomy 24:14–15).
- 4. Social Welfare:** Gleaning laws and interest prohibitions ensure the vulnerable are supported (Leviticus 19:9–10; Exodus 22:25).

5. **Market Integrity:** Honest measures and prohibitions against deceit promote trust in commerce (Leviticus 19:35–36).

3. Core Economic Principles in the Mosaic Law

3.1. Property and Wealth Management

Mosaic Law emphasizes **equitable ownership** rather than absolute accumulation. Land inheritance and Jubilee principles prevent permanent concentration of resources, balancing economic freedom with social responsibility.

Application: Modern economic policy can incorporate **caps on extreme wealth accumulation** and legal frameworks that promote equitable distribution of critical resources such as land and housing.

3.2. Debt Forgiveness and Economic Reset

Debt forgiveness, both in the Sabbatical year and Jubilee cycles, protects individuals and communities from long-term oppression due to debt.

Application: Contemporary governments and financial institutions can adopt **structured debt relief programs** to prevent cycles of poverty and ensure sustainable economic development.

3.3. Labor Protection and Fair Compensation

The Mosaic laws demand prompt payment of wages and humane treatment of workers. This reflects the intrinsic dignity of labor.

Application: International labor standards and corporate social responsibility frameworks can draw inspiration from these principles to **combat exploitation and ensure fair compensation globally**.

3.4. Social Welfare and Redistribution

The Torah integrates systemic redistribution through gleaning laws and interest restrictions. These mechanisms ensure the poor, foreigners, and vulnerable are cared for as a matter of justice, not charity.

Application: Modern social safety nets and welfare programs can reflect this principle, emphasizing justice and equality rather than discretionary charity.

3.5. Ethical Trade and Market Conduct

Honest weights and prohibitions on deceit highlight that markets require **ethical foundations** to function sustainably.

Application: Global trade and financial systems can adopt stronger transparency, accountability, and regulatory standards to **promote trust and reduce corruption**.

4. Implications for Restoring the Global Economic Order

4.1. Sustainable Economic Policies

Applying Mosaic principles encourages sustainable resource management, debt relief, and socially responsible wealth distribution, fostering long-term stability.

4.2. Moral and Ethical Governance

Ethical governance, rooted in scripture-inspired principles, can reduce corruption, ensure fair labor practices, and enforce equitable market regulations.

4.3. Reducing Inequality

Jubilee-inspired redistribution and social welfare laws provide insights for **addressing systemic inequality** both within and between nations.

4.4. Ecological Responsibility

The Sabbath year for the land anticipates environmental stewardship, offering guidance for sustainable agriculture and climate-conscious policies.

5. Criticisms and Counterpoints

Some argue that Mosaic laws were context-specific and cannot be directly applied today. However, the **ethical principles**—justice, care for the vulnerable, restraint in wealth accumulation, and trust in markets—are **universally applicable** and compatible with modern human rights and economic ethics.

Concerns about reduced economic incentives through debt relief or redistribution can be mitigated by structuring policies that **balance justice with productivity**, echoing the measured balance found in Mosaic Law.

6. Conclusion

Rediscovering the economic justice inherent in the Mosaic Law provides an **indispensable insight** from revealed scriptures to address contemporary global economic challenges. By integrating ethical principles with economic policies, nations can restore equity, sustainability, and trust in the global economic order. The Mosaic framework demonstrates that morality and economics are inseparable and that long-term prosperity depends on justice, responsibility, and care for the vulnerable.

The wisdom of these ancient laws offers more than historical or religious insight—it provides a **visionary foundation for building a just and sustainable global economy**.

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