

In "Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions," Craig L. Blomberg offers a comprehensive examination of the Bible's teachings on material wealth and possessions. The title, drawn from Proverbs 30:8, encapsulates the book's central theme: seeking a balanced approach to material resources that avoids the extremes of destitution and excessive wealth.

Blomberg structures his analysis chronologically, beginning with the Old Testament. He explores the historical books, highlighting figures like Abraham and Joseph, who exemplify that wealth, when accompanied by righteousness and generosity, is portrayed positively. He also discusses the Mosaic Law's provisions aimed at protecting the vulnerable, such as regulations against charging interest and mandates for periodic debt forgiveness. The wisdom literature and prophetic writings further underscore themes of justice, care for the poor, and warnings against the corrupting influence of wealth.

Transitioning to the intertestamental period, Blomberg examines socio-political developments and Jewish literature that influenced New Testament perspectives on possessions. This context enriches the understanding of economic conditions and attitudes during Jesus' time.

In the New Testament, Blomberg delves into Jesus' teachings in the Synoptic Gospels, emphasizing parables and directives that advocate for generosity, warn against greed, and call for trust in God's provision. The practices of the early Christian community in Acts demonstrate a spirit of sharing and communal support, while Paul's epistles provide guidance on contentment, responsible stewardship, and aiding those in need.

Blomberg concludes that the Bible does not mandate asceticism, nor does it endorse unbridled accumulation of wealth. Instead, it promotes a balanced stewardship where material blessings are received with gratitude and shared generously. This approach fosters economic justice and reflects a heart aligned with God's values.