

ECONOMICS as RELIGION

Robert H. Nelson, *ECONOMICS as RELIGION* (University Park, PA: Penn. State University Press, 2001),

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INTRODUCTION

Max L. Stackhouse, Princeton Theological Seminary, who wrote Foreword in the Nelson's book stated that many of the classic founders of the field of economics not only were guided by theological assumptions but also viewed the field in messianic terms. That is, they presumed that the primary reason for human pain, suffering, and death (what theologians identify as a consequence of sin in a fallen world) is that we are in a state of scarcity. Moreover, we can only be delivered from this perilous existence by the overcoming of material deprivation – a prospect that can only come from rightly formulated, rightly believed, and rightly lived principles and policies. Economics can deliver us, bring about a redeemed state of affairs on earth, and lead us to abundant living – the materially incarnate form of salvation (Economics as Religion Foreword).