

LEVITICUS 25: SABBATHS AND JUBILEES.

I. (1-7) The Sabbath Year.

This is a Sabbath for the land, where the land receives a rest one year of rest - they had to trust God that He would provide enough in the six years to see them through the seventh. It was also just plain good farming practice. Giving the land a rest every seven years would help restore fertility.

II. (8-17) The Year of Jubilee.

When Israel came into the Promised Land, the land was allotted according to tribes and families permanently - it could only be leased, and the amount of the lease would be based on how many years there were left until the Jubilee.

The Year Of Jubilee was also a Sabbath year, returning land to original owners, freeing slaves and forgiving debts.

Isaiah 61:1-3 - *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”*

i. (8-22) God's provision for the Sabbath year.

God promised that if Israel obeyed Him, He would provide so much on the sixth year, that they will not only be supplied for the seventh year, but they will also be eating the produce some three years later.

1Samuel 15:22 - *So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is **better than sacrifice**, and to heed **than** the fat of rams.*

Matthew 6:33-34 - *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

ii. (23) The Land is Mine.

The land of Israel belongs to the LORD, and He is free to distribute it as He wills - therefore, the land could be leased, but never sold - and the lease would always be up in the Year of Jubilee.

God is informing and reminding Israel that their real home was in heaven with Him, and that they were only strangers and visitors to this earth - even so we are.

Numbers 18:20 - *Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any **portion** among them; **I am your portion** and **your inheritance** among the children of Israel.*

Hebrews 11:13 - *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

Philippians 3:20-21 - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

iii. (24-34) Redeeming property.

This redemption of the land was accomplished through the **kinsman-redeemer**. He was a close relative who had the right (and responsibility) to buy the land back to its impoverished family.

In cities, property could be bought or sold more permanently; sold property was redeemable after one year.

The property of the Levites would be theirs forever, redeemable at any time, in a city or in a rural area.

1 Peter 1:17-19 - *And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

iv. (35-38) Lending to the poor.

These commands specifically prohibit making money off the misfortune of a poor brother; **You shall help him.**

Proverbs 19:17 - *He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.*

Luke 6:34-36 - *“And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

v. (39-55) Redeeming people.

Fellow impoverished or indebted could offer to be hired until the Year of Jubilee.

Foreigners could be retained for life and adopted as part of the family.

Any national who is impoverished and taken as an employee by a foreigner was redeemable by a close relative who can work their way to freedom till the Year of Jubilee.

Exodus 21:5 - *“But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’*

Isaiah 63:9 - *In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them all the days of old.*

2 Corinthians 4:5 - *For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.*