



Equipping People for Life

The Year of Jubilee

Leviticus 25, October 8, 2016

Introduction:

Luke 4:16-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

¹⁹ *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)

¹ "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*;
² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
³ 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."

Liberty – דְּרוֹר [der·ore] – Leviticus 25:10 (NKJV) – ⁹ on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land to all its inhabitants.

Notes

Failure to honor sabbatical laws were at the core of Babylonian Exile.

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 (NKJV) – ²⁰ And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹ to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. **(Also: Jer. 25:9-12; 27:6-8; & 29:10)**

Overview of the Sabbatical Year and the Year of Jubilee

Purpose: keep people from utter financial despair.

Isaiah 5:8 (NIV) – Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land.

Amos 2:6 (NIV) – This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals.

The Sabbath year (Lev. 25:2-7, 18-22):

- Gives the land a rest (Lev. 25:4),
- Sets covenant-slaves free (Exo. 21:1-3),
- This is a test of faith!

Leviticus 25:2-7 & 18-22 (NKJV)

²“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. ³Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. ⁵What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, *for* it is a year of rest for the land. ⁶And the sabbath *produce* of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, ⁷for your livestock and the beasts that *are* in your land—all its produce shall be for food.

¹⁸‘So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. ¹⁹Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety.

²⁰‘And if you say, “What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?” ²¹Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years. ²²And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat *of* the old *harvest*.

The land ultimately belongs to God (Lev. 25:23-24).

- God gave the land to Israel. (Genesis 15:7; 17*; 24:7; Exodus 6:4; Leviticus 20:24; 25:2, 38; Deuteronomy 5:16)
- Every tribe and every family within a tribe is given a portion of land (Numbers 32; Joshua 13ff).
- We are residents and settlers in the land – stewards of God’s stuff.

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV) – Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

Leviticus 25:23-24 (NKJV) – ²³‘The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. ²⁴ And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

The Year of Jubilee (Lev. 25:8-17):

- Gives the land a rest (Lev. 25:11-12)
- Families are restored (Lev. 25:10,
- Sets covenant slaves free (Lev. 25:40)
- People and land are restored to each other (Lev. 25:10)
- Prevents the circumstances under which a man would sell his land or himself off permanently.
- Once in a life time.

Leviticus 25:8-17 (NKJV) –

⁸‘And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather *the grapes* of your untended vine. ¹² For it *is* the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.

¹³‘In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession. ¹⁴ And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor’s hand, you shall not oppress one another. ¹⁵ According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you. ¹⁶ According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you *according* to the number of *the years* of the crops. ¹⁷ Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I *am* the LORD your God.

Word Jubilee is often translated as “ram’s horn.” (יוֹבֵל, yo·bale); For example: Joshua 6:4, 5, 6, 8, 13.

Ultimately, God's solution to bankruptcy: Kinsman-Redeemer

Leviticus 25:25 (NKJV) – If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold *some* of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.

The Kinsman-Redeemer (גֹּאֵל, *gaw-al*) (Word appears 104 times including: **Leviticus** 25:25, 26, 30, 33, 48, 49, 54; **Numbers** 35:12, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27; **Ruth** 2:20; 3:9, 12, 13; 4:1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 14); **Isaiah** 35:9; 41:14; 43:1, 14; 44:6, 22, 23, 24; 47:4; 48:17, 20; 49:7, 26; 52:10; 52:3, 9; 54:5, 8; 59:20; 60:16; 62:12; 63:4, 9, 16; **and more....**)

- **גֹּאֵל**: next of kin with the means and will to rescue a near relative.
 - Redeem land (Lev. 25:35),
 - Redeem from slavery (Lev. 25:48-49),
 - Exact vengeance (“Avenger of blood” – Num. 35:19) .
 - Marrying a brother's widow to beget a child for him (Deu. 25:5)

Slavery – God wants people to be free.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) – Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

- Slavery in Israel was different from other nations.
 - It was similar to modern imprisonment.
 - It was for those who could not pay a fine or work off a debt.
 - In some respects, less degrading than a modern penitentiary. (People were not cut off from society.)
 - The Jubilee only applied to Israelis – not foreigners. Why? God had redeemed His people from Egyptian slavery. It was unfitting that those who were once redeemed should be sold back into slavery.
 - Israel was not allowed to oppress foreigners.

Deuteronomy 23:7 (NKJV) – ⁷ “You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he *is* your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 (NKJV) – ¹⁴ “You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, *whether* one of your brethren or one of the aliens who *is* in your land within your gates. ¹⁵ Each day you shall give *him* his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he *is* poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you.

Jesus died to set people free.

John 10:10 (NKJV) – **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**