

Leviticus 25:1-55 The Sabbath Year and Year of Jubilee Part 2

The Sabbath day was made for man on the seventh day of creation. The Sabbath day is YeHoVaH's gift to man and to all His creation including the land. The Sabbath day is the gift that keeps on giving.

In Leviticus 23, we examined the seven additional Sabbath days besides the seventh-day weekly Sabbath. In this portion of Leviticus, we will explore the gift of the Sabbath Year and the Year of Jubilee.

In the teaching last week on "The Sabbath Year and Year of Jubilee", we concluded with Verse 23 where YeHoVaH made it clear to Israel that the land was His.

Lev 25:23 The land shall not be sold for ever: **for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.**

Strangers – **01616** גֵּר {gare} or (fully) גֵּרֵי (gare)

Meaning: 1) sojourner 1a) a temporary inhabitant, a newcomer lacking inherited rights 1b) of foreigners in Israel, though conceded rights

Usage: AV - stranger 87, alien 1, sojourner 1, stranger + 0376 1, stranger + 04480 1, strangers + 0582 1; 92

Sojourners – **08453** תּוֹשָׁב {to-shawb'} or תּוֹשָׁבִים (1 Ki 17:1) {to-shawb'}

Meaning: 1) sojourner, stranger

Usage: AV - sojourner 9, stranger 3, foreigner; 14

The Sabbath Year, called Shemitah, was the seventh year.

The lesson on Shemitah and Jubilee teaches us that the land and the people belong to YeHoVaH.

The seventh year, Hebrew slaves had to be released.

The seventh year, the land had to rest.

The fiftieth year, the land had to rest.

The fiftieth year, it had to revert back to the original steward family, The Redemption of the Land

Although the family possessed the land, the land belonged to YeHoVaH as stated by YeHoVaH in Verse 23.

Lev 25:23 The land shall not be sold for ever: **for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.**

Lev 25:24 And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.

Redemption of the land was commanded.

Redemption – **01353** גְּאֻלָּה {gheh-ool-law'}

Meaning: 1) kindred, redemption, right of redemption, price of redemption 1a) kin, kindred 1b) redemption 1c) right of redemption 1d) price of redemption, redemption price

Usage: AV - redeem 5, redemption 5, again 1, kindred 1, redeem + 04672 1, right 1; 14

Daughters could inherit tribal land and the land had to remain in the tribe and could not be transferred or bought by another tribe.

Nu 36:1 And the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near, and spake before Moses, and before the princes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel:

Nu 36:2 And they said, The LORD commanded my lord to give the land for an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel: and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother unto his daughters.

Nu 36:3 And if they be married to any of the sons of the *other* tribes of the children of Israel, then shall their inheritance be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and shall be put to the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall it be taken from the lot of our inheritance.

Nu 36:4 And when the jubilee of the children of Israel shall be, then shall their inheritance be put unto the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall their inheritance be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers.

Nu 36:5 And Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying, The tribe of the sons of Joseph hath said well.

Nu 36:6 This *is* the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry.

Nu 36:7 So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

Nu 36:8 And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father, that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers.

Nu 36:9 Neither shall the inheritance remove from *one* tribe to another tribe; but every one of the tribes of the children of Israel shall keep himself to his own inheritance.

Nu 36:10 Even as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad:

Nu 36:11 For Mahlah, Tirzah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married unto their father's brothers' sons:

Nu 36:12 *And* they were married into the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of the family of their father.

Lev 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

Lev 25:26 And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it;

Lev 25:27 Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession.

If the land is not redeemed, it must be returned in the fiftieth year.

Lev 25:28 But if he be not able to restore *it* to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of **jubilee**: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.

Land in a walled city must be redeemed in a year or it remains with the buyer. It will not be returned to the original family in the year of Jubilee.

Lev 25:29 And if a man sell a dwelling house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; *within* a full year may he redeem it.

Lev 25:30 And if it be not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house that *is* in the walled city shall be established for ever to him that bought it throughout his generations: it shall not go out in the jubilee.

Country and Village Tribal Land

Lev 25:31 But the houses of the villages which have no wall round about them shall be counted as the fields of the country: they may be redeemed, and they shall go out in the jubilee.

The Cities of the Levites, their Houses and their Fields

Each tribe was allotted tribal land except Levi.

The Levites were given country land and land within walled cities in tribal lands.

Lev 25:32 Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites, *and* the houses of the cities of their possession, may the Levites redeem at any time.

The Levites did not have a tribal territory but had cities, houses, and fields within the tribal lands of the tribes that had tribal land.

Lev 25:33 And if a man purchase of the Levites, then the house that was sold, and the city of his possession, shall go out in *the year of jubilee*: for the houses of the cities of the Levites **are their possession** among the children of Israel.

Lev 25:34 But the field of the suburbs of their cities may not be sold; for it *is* their perpetual possession.

Lending to the Poor Brother

Lev 25:35 And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: *yea, though he be* a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.

The Brother Is Not To Be Charged Interest

Lev 25:36 Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.

Lev 25:37 Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase.

As stated last week, debt had to be released in the seventh year, Shemitah.

Lev 25:38 I *am* the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, *and* to be your God.

Israelites could not treat other Israelites they purchased as slaves but must treat them as hired servants.

Lev 25:39 And if thy brother *that dwelleth* by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a **bondservant**:

Lev 25:40 *But* as an hired servant, *and* as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, *and* shall serve thee unto the year of jubilee:

Lev 25:41 And *then* shall he depart from thee, *both* he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return.

Lev 25:42 For they *are* my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen.

Lev 25:43 Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God.

Lev 25:44 Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, *shall be* of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids.

Lev 25:45 Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that *are* with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession.

Slaves could be passed down as an inheritance.

Lev 25:46 And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit *them* for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour.

Lev 25:47 And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother *that dwelleth* by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger *or sojourner* by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family:

Lev 25:48 After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him:

Lev 25:49 Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or *any* that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.

Lev 25:50 And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubilee: and the price of his sale shall be according unto the number of years, according to the time of an hired servant shall it be with him.

The value of the service would be per year up to the Jubilee. If the Israelite was redeemed before the number of years of service up to the Jubilee concluded, the money for the years he/she did not work would be returned.

Lev 25:51 If *there be* yet many years *behind*, according unto them he shall give again the price of his redemption out of the money that he was bought for.

Lev 25:52 And if there remain but few years unto the year of jubilee, then he shall count with him, *and* according unto his years shall he give him again the price of his redemption.

Lev 25:53 *And* as a yearly hired servant shall he be with him: *and the other* shall not rule with rigour over him in thy sight.

Rigour – **06531** רִקְרוֹקֶרֶק {peh'-rek}

Meaning: 1) harshness, severity, cruelty

Usage: AV - rigour 5, cruelty 1; 6

Israel was not to treat an Israelite with rigour, the way the Egyptians treated them.

Lev 25:54 And if he be not redeemed in these *years*, then he shall go out in the year of jubilee, *both* he, and his children with him.

Lev 25:55 For unto me the children of Israel *are* servants; they *are* my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

The English word Jubilee is not mentioned beyond the Torah.
It is not mentioned in the Prophets, the Writings, or the New Testament.

The Talmud indicates that Israel kept the Jubilee, but there is no evidence of it in Scripture.

According to Maimonides, the jubilee years were counted after the end of the Babylonian exile and the construction of the Second Temple, but they were not observed.

The Zionist Government of the State of Israel does not observe the Commandments of Jubilee or declare a Shemitah year of Release. Although, there are some families in the land of Israel who do.

The rabbis of Judaism teach that Jubilee cannot be observed and do not necessarily recognize tribal land according to YeHoVaH's Law.

As people of the diaspora, the land we live in cannot be returned in the Jubilee year to a tribal family. However, **the blessings of letting the land rest and the releasing of debt is something we can do.**

The wisdom of YeHoVaH is seen throughout the Torah from Genesis to Deuteronomy.

Contained in the Commandments are both blessings and curses as described by Deuteronomy 28.