

**ye shall
not rule
one over another
with rigour**

chapter twenty-five Leviticus

~ The Promised Land will have specific laws and precepts that the Lord will require be followed by the nation Israel when they inhabit said land; and some of those laws are written right here in this chapter for our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We will traverse time in this report through the Sabbatic year, the Year of Jubilee, and then we have a lecture on redemption of personal property and the rights that go along with that. This makes for another very interesting - but also very long - chapter! We're going to get some added light shed on the land today that we will not get anywhere else in Scripture. The Mosaic economy was directed not only at the children of Israel but is also geared particularly to Palestine. The physical land and the associated legal system are inextricably intertwined. We're going to discover that both are painstakingly emphasized in this chapter.

The laws we are given do not apply to the children of Israel when they are out there wandering in the wilderness. It is only after they enter the land of Canaan that these statutes will become governing ordinances. These laws do not happen to fit into the land where you live, either, by the way! God is going to say ten times in this chapter, "...when you come into the land, rest unto the land....proclaim liberty throughout all the land." God says this so many times that it must be pretty important. The words that are inscribed on the Liberty Bell are found here, too. The prominence of the number seven is inescapable in the Book of Leviticus, and throughout the entire Bible actually, but it is NOT a number that denotes perfection. Seven is a number that represents completeness

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto the LORD.

3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;

4 But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

~ Anytime we see the word "rest" it means the keeping of the Sabbath. The writer to the Hebrews says, "...there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God for he that is entered into his rest." This is the satisfactory Sabbath rest of redemption; it is the peace that passes all understanding. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Sabbath rest. This has nothing to do with a specific day of the week. Christ has ceased from His Own works as God did from His after He created the Heavens and the earth! Let us continually – as in every second of every minute of every hour of every day of every week of every month of every year of every decade of our lives - work to enter into that rest, lest any man fall into the same example of unbelief.

Allowing the land to lie fallow every seven years was good for the land itself; and it was also good for the people. So, God required them to do this. This lesson of resting the land is something that was learned by modern mankind the hard way, particularly in the United States. There was a time when the land was planted with cotton every year; year after year until the land was literally worn out and the Dust Bowl resulted. Man doesn't do that anymore. God just happens to understand smart agricultural processes; and He seems to know all about the specifics of farming and growing things....

5 That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land.

6 And the Sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee,

7 And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat.

~ I think this is very interesting as God shows how the children of Israel are to be provided for during that Sabbatic year. The land was so productive that it was unnecessary to plant each year. In the Euphrates areas in the days of Abraham it wasn't necessary to plant grain at all! In Israel, enough could easily be grown to cover the needs of the landowner, his family, the stranger and there would be enough left to sell. We have already seen God's poverty program for the poor people in the land. The poor were not out there taking more than they needed but they did get enough to eat. If anyone reading this thinks they keep the Sabbath today, please write to me and tell me when your Sabbatic year is so I can come glean your fields! You may think I'm being funny but, quite frankly, I happen to be among the poor people, and I would like to come into your fields and get my grapes. Seriously, though, all of you legal people would never let me in your fields; you know that - I know that - God knows that! This is God's way of telling the children of Israel that there is a curse on the land! The design is that no single man will take all the land and oppress the poor. God told Adam, "cursed is the ground for thy sake; and in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." Isaiah tells us of the day in the future when the curse will be removed:

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. 2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God ~

This had tremendous spiritual meaning for the children of Israel. This earth is currently capable of providing enough food to feed all of its inhabitants every day. We throw away enough food each day to feed all people in all nations. However, that ability to sustain life on this planet will not last

forever. A population explosion is now upon us and I believe there will come a day when all of the inhabitants of the earth simply can't be fed. Today, we have men that will prevent anyone and everyone from being fed - just out of spite! In that day, we will have men honestly trying to feed everyone, but will be able to feed no one - not even themselves....

8 And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

~ Jubilee occurs on a ten and a seven as we scale the ever-ascending calendar of God! Every fifty years this event reoccurred for the children of Israel. Seven Sabbatic years were numbered seven times, and the following year would be Jubilee. That would make two years of Jubilee in every century. What we have here is the crowning moment of the entire Sabbatical instructions to the nation Israel! In many respects this was the most anticipated and most highly revered time in the Mosaic economy! The Hebrew word means the "horn of a ram" and the other word associated with Jubilee means trumpet! This is translated twenty-one times as Jubilee and five times as the ram's horn; but only one time as a trumpet! Some may question how one blast of a coronet could be heard from Dan to Beersheba. One possible explanation is that in every area a simultaneous sounding of the horns would usher in the year of Jubilee. It likely began at the tabernacle and then there were others stationed at varying distances that sounded off as they heard their cue. This would go on until the noise had been carried out to the ends of the land....

10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

~ The way this works out in real life is that a man might mortgage his land. In the year of Jubilee that land would return back to the original owner. This was the way God protected the land from ever getting away from its original owners forever. If you held the mortgage on that land, you could not permanently take the land from him. It could be taken away for a period of almost fifty years; but in the year of Jubilee, it went back to him or his descendants. Now, suppose a man had sold himself into slavery. Well, the moment the trumpet sounded in the year of Jubilee that man was free again! The shackles of slavery were broken! Today, we are to use the same method: and the word "proclaim" and "to herald" means to sound the trumpet.

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness
~

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord ~

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth into the arms of the wicked one. 20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life ~

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Jesus also saith, "if the Son maketh you free you shall be free, indeed!" In the year of Jubilee, everyone went free, and all land debts were cancelled. When we turn to Christ our sin question is settled. The penalty for our sins has been paid and we can now go free. There is a great day of Jubilee coming for the believer in the wonderful, magnificent plan of Almighty God. When Jesus preached Isaiah in the synagogue, He heralded and trumpeted deliverance of the sick and healing for the blind; and when Jesus says, in that sermon, "the acceptable time" – that means the year of Jubilee!

Romans 6:22 *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life ~*

Romans 8:21 *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God ~*

**~ return
to Leviticus ~**

11 A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow; neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.

12 For it is the jubile; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field.

13 In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession.

14 And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another:

15 According to the number of years after the jubile thou shalt buy of thy neighbour, and according unto the number of years of the fruits he shall sell unto thee:

16 According to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it: for according to the number of the years of the fruits doth he sell unto thee.

17 Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God.

18 Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety.

19 And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety.

20 And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase:

21 Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.

22 And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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 jubile: and in the jubile it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.

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.

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 jubile.

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 jubile.

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

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 jubile: for the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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:

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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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:

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

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.

50 And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubile: 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

~ We're going to conclude this leg of our Spiritual Safari with a lengthy Scriptural reading; and I trust you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and have read the Bible text carefully in your own Bible. We will continue with the personal property aspect of this chapter when we arrive in the Book of Ruth; because this is the law of the Kinsman Redeemer that is central to Ruth. This is a very strange law that very few Christians know anything about; and those who do know about it don't seem to understand it properly. You and I have a Kinsman Redeemer. The Lord Jesus Christ has paid the price for this world; and He is coming to redeem it one day ~
