

Message #52**Leviticus 27:9-25**

When it comes to God and the things of God, there are various vows and promises that people make. Some of the vows involve the promise of a person or a promise to dedicate a person to the Lord. Other vows promise or dedicate animals or property to God.

GOD EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH PROMISES AND THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO THOSE WHO DON'T.

Now a vow was a promise one made to God to dedicate something to Him. If, for example, the dedication was a child, the promise was that this child would be turned over to the leadership for training in the things of God. If the vow was a promise of land or of a house, it was a promise that it would be turned over to the priesthood for their perusal.

Following through with things is part of holiness. Holy people are people of their word. When they promise something to God, they follow through with what they promise.

AREA OF PROMISE #1 – The promise of giving animals to the Lord. **27:9-13**

Now some animals were set aside for the Lord's work. Some animals were obviously set aside to be a sacrificial animal.

(Principle #1) - The animal must be holy. **27:9**

A specific decision was made about the animal, that it was holy—set apart for God's use.

(Principle #2) - The dedicated animal could not be exchanged. **27:10**

Once an animal had been given to the Lord, it was the Lord's. One could not go back on his word when it came to a sacrifice. This was exactly the sin in Malachi's day—1:13-14.

(Principle #3) - If the animal being given to the Lord is an unclean animal, it is to be taken to the priest and the priest is to determine whether this animal is valuable to the Lord's work or not. **27:11-12**

Notice carefully the value of the animal was considered in view of the market value. Both the priest and the person were to consider the value of the animal being given to God's service.

(Principle #4) - If the man wished to buy his animal back, it would cost 120% of the value. **27:13**

Here is one time God expected interest to be charged; a 20% interest penalty for one that promised something to God and then went back on his promise.

AREA OF PROMISE #2 – The promise to give a house to the Lord. **27:14-15**

When a home was given to God, it became a place that priests could use. In other words, the home became a place where priests could live and stay.

Verse 14 says that if a man dedicated his house to the Lord, the priests were to value it as either a good home or a bad home. What this tells us is that there were nice homes and there were homes not so nice. Regardless, the one who dedicated the home could redeem it by paying 120% of the value.

AREA OF PROMISE#3 – The promise to give land to the Lord. **27:16-25**

Land Type #1 - Land that is one's own property. **27:16-21**

A person could dedicate some of his land to the Lord for his service and work.

(Principle #1) - The value of the land was to be determined by the amount of seed that was needed for that piece of land. **27:16**

(Principle #2) - If the land is dedicated as of the year of jubilee, then there is to be full value placed on the land. **27:17**

(Principle #3) - If land is dedicated after the year of jubilee, the value of the land is to be reduced based on time remaining until the year of jubilee. **27:18**

(Principle #4) - If one wishes to buy back his dedicated land, it is to cost him 120% of the price. **27:19**

(Principle #5) - If one who dedicated the land sells it to another person, it cannot ever be redeemed and becomes the property of the priests. **27:20-21**

Land Type #2 - Land that is not originally one's own property. **27:22-25**

If a person dedicated some land to the Lord or the sale of it to the Lord which he did not previously own, then he was to calculate the value up until the year of jubilee and at the year of jubilee it went back to the original owner.

There is no question that people gave things to see to it that God's work went forward.

When one promised something to God, it was imperative that one follow through on his promise. That is clearly what God expected. The more holy one is, the more one will be true to his word. We need people to make this ministry go. We need committed and dedicated people. We have many and we thank God for you. When you sign-up or start something, see it through for that is what truly does please God and that is truly what does mean you are holy.