

Message #46**Leviticus 25:1-22**

Leviticus 25 is an interesting chapter that features one noun that is used at least 18 times –the noun is the word “land” (25:2 - twice, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, 19, 23-twice, 24, 38-twice, 42, 45, 55). As the chapter opens in **verse 1**, it is typical to begin a new section in Leviticus with the words “The LORD then spoke to Moses.” What is not typical is for God to add the word “at Mount Sinai.” What God is doing here for Israel is twofold: 1) He is encouraging Israel that He is going to take her to a specific land; 2) He is reminding her that she is not in that land yet and it will only happen by His grace. Israel was in a wilderness when God started revealing things about land. Having been in slavery, God is saying I am in the process of setting you free, now don’t start disobeying Me and thwart the process.

WHEN GOD, IN HIS GRACE, GIVES HIS PEOPLE HIS BLESSINGS, THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HONOR GOD BY DEMONSTRATING GRACE IN EVERY AREA AND CARING FOR WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM.

Whether it is physical land or physical people, whether it is spiritual ministries or entrustments, we have the responsibility to graciously care for what God has given to us.

In II Chronicles 36:21, we learn of something very interesting–God permitted the Israelites to be taken captive by the Babylonians for 70 years because they did not obey God and celebrate the Sabbatical year of rest. In other words, they would have enjoyed more freedoms and blessings had they obeyed God rather than disobeying God. Had they willingly responded to God concerning the taking of a Sabbatical year, they would have enjoyed life rather than being miserable.

TIME DIVISION #1 – The year of the Sabbatical. 25:2-7

When God gave His people the Promised Land, they were to work it for six straight years and then rest it for one. In other words, for six years you work your land, you prune it, you water it, you fertilize it, you harvest crops and then on the seventh year you were to let it grow and not touch it. No according to **verses 6-7**, God would see to it that so much would just naturally grow that all the people and the cattle would have plenty to eat.

Now why would God put this principle into effect? Why was there to be a Sabbath day of rest every seven days and a year of rest every seven years? **Because, ladies and gentlemen, salvation is not by works; it is by resting in the work of God in our behalf.** When the Israelite took the year off, he had to see that it was God who was completely and totally providing for him. He was doing nothing. He was given the land by God and He was being provided for by God while he rested in what God had given and how God was providing.

TIME DIVISION #2 – The year of Jubilee. 25:8-16

Seven Sabbatical years were numbered in seven-year intervals making the total of 49 years.

Then in the 50th year, the year was set aside as a “Year of Jubilee.” The “Year of Jubilee” was the most anticipated and joyous year that all looked forward to. It obviously was a year that only came around every 50 years. It began with a trumpet blast on the tenth day of the seventh month on the Day of Atonement (**v. 9**). Apparently, various people stationed throughout the land would hear the blast and in turn blow on their trumpet until the sound rang out in all of Israel.

If the land had been mortgaged or if one had sold himself as a slave to someone, when that trumpet sounded the land went back to the original owner and the slave went free (**25:10**). During this celebration no work was to be done (**v. 11**). It was a holy day, it was a joyful day. It was a time when God’s people dealt honestly and lovingly with one another (**vs. 14-17**).

We may say that this year of Jubilee is much like our Age of Grace. In the year we come to faith in Jesus Christ, our debt to God is canceled. Everything is settled and we go free.

God wanted His people remembering these important days. He wanted them to fear Him and obey Him (**25:17**). If they would, there would be three wonderful results:

(Result #1) - Those who fear God and obey God will live securely in an insecure world. **25:18**

(Result #2) - Those who fear God and obey God will see God produce wonderful fruit. **25:19**

(Result #3) - Those who fear God and obey God will be continually blessed year after year.
25:20-22