

Leviticus 25

Jesus

I. The Land Sabbath C.f. Ex 23:11

1 And **the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai**, saying, 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**. 3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; 4 but 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. 5 What 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**. 6 And 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, 7 for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—**all its produce shall be for food**.

- **Israel:** Encamped at the base of Mt. Sinai for one year. Ex 10 - Num 11
- **Moses:** Meeting w/God atop Mt. Sinai...

For 40 Days Moses receives the Law *from God/through angels...*

Galatians 3:19b [The Law was] ...appointed **through angels** by the hand of a mediator.

Acts 7:53 [OT Israel...] **received the law by the direction of angels...**

Hebrews 2:2 ...if the word **spoken through angels** [The law] **proved steadfast**, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation

Moses continued receiving the Law *from God-through angels* for 40 days

When you come into the Land... IOWs Good as done
Keep a Land Sabbath unto the LORD: Let the land Rest every 7th Yr

- No Sowing/Pruning. Eat of what grows

So, How do we spend our time during Sabbath Year?

- During the Feast of Tabernacles on that Sabbath year..
 1. **Law was read** to all the people by the priests
 2. **A time of getting into the Word** for the whole nation

Deuteronomy 31:11b ...you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

- An important time of reset/centering on the LORD

Judah was Exiled to Babylon for Idolatry/Social Injustice, and...
Not observing the Land Sabbath

Leviticus 26:33 [Warning for not keeping the Law] I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. **Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths** as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest and **enjoy its sabbaths**. 35 As long as it lies desolate it shall rest— **for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.**

But Israel did not keep the Law... Scattered

2 Chronicles 36:21 ...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.**

- Judah *denied the land* its 70 Sabbaths for 490 yrs
- Judah *paid back the land* 70 Sabbaths: Allowing it rest their 70 yrs in Babylon

After returning, Israel vowed to Keep the Land Sabbath in Neh 10

- **Rationale for the Land Sabbath:** heb. *Shmita*
 1. Honor God's ownership of the earth
 2. Replenishing of nutrients to the soil [McGee cotton]

Observe the Land Sabbath

Temptation: Greed and Unbelief leading to Compromise

- Sell land on Sabbath yr to a gentile to work it/Buy it back after/Claim it wasn't yours
- Cultivate 6/7th at any one time/Over 7 yrs the entire land has had a year of rest

Q. Do we really believe God is our Provider?

II. Year of Jubilee

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.**

Every 49th/50th Year: Two Land Sabbaths in a Row

Every 50th Year on the Day of Atonement began the Year of Jubilee

- **Jubilee:** heb. *ter-oo-aw'* lit. A Blast. Give/have a blast

Sound the Trumpet! Proclaim Liberty! Time of Great Joy beginning with Sorrow
Year Of Jubilee began on the Day of Atonement

- **Land Returned:** Land sold in distress now given back to original owners
- **Sins Forgiven:** Freedom Proclaimed. Slaves set free

No True Freedom w/out Atonement of Sin

John 8:32 "...you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**" **34** "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin ...**36**...if the Son makes you free, **you shall be free indeed.**

Romans 6:6 ...our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves of sin ...16** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? **17** But God be thanked that **though you were slaves of sin**, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which **you were delivered.** **18** And having been **set free from sin**, you became **slaves of righteousness ...22** But now having been **set free from sin**, and having become **slaves of God**, you have your fruit to **holiness**, and the end, **everlasting life.**

Jesus may have begun His ministry during the Year of Jubilee
Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophesy of the Messiah bringing True Freedom

Isaiah 61:1 "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; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³To 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." [Quoted in part in Luke 4:18-19]

Juxtaposition of the Year of Jubilee starting on the Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16:29 "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall **afflict your souls**, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.

Day of Atonement: A Day to Afflict our Souls
Year of Jubilee: A Year to Rejoice in our Freedom

Psalms 30:5 ...His **anger is but for a moment**, His **favor is for life**; Weeping may endure for a night, But **joy comes in the morning.**

We will never be totally free until we realize and accept our position in Christ; i.e., that because of Christ's atonement we are presently seated in the heavenlies with Him.

- **Liberty Bell:** Proclaim liberty throughout all the land

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.

50 Year Reset in Israel: Back to Center

Debts were to be remitted, slaves emancipated, and so the mountains of wealth and the valleys of poverty were to be somewhat levelled, and the nation carried back to its original framework of a simple agricultural community of small owners, each 'sitting under his own vine and fig-tree. [Maclaren]

No Family would be Forever w/out their Land ...

When Israel came into the Promised Land, the land was allotted according to tribes and families. These initial tracts of land would be the permanent possession of those families, and therefore land in Israel could never be permanently sold; it could only be leased, and the amount of the lease would be based on the number of years which were left until the Jubilee. [Guzik]

17 Therefore **you shall not oppress one another**, but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God.

Therefore: Because of God's kindness to you in returning your lost property
Do not oppress/gouge your poor brothers/sisters [e.g. Covid]

Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor **reproaches his Maker**, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

Proverbs 22:22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor **Nor oppress the afflicted** at the gate...

1 Thessalonians 4:6 ...no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother...because **the Lord is the avenger of all such**, as we also forewarned you and testified.

Year of Jubilee began on the Day of Atonement
True Freedom for us began w/the Affliction of Jesus

III. Provisions for the Seventh Year

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

OT Law was an ***If you-Then I*** Contract. No wiggle room
IF you Keep My Law **THEN you** will dwell in the land safely and flourish

Obedience to God brings a sense of Safety...Disobedience to God not so much
Israel will never truly know security until Jesus returns/He is their King

Jeremiah 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, And **Israel will dwell safely**; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

IF you Keep My Law **THEN you** will dwell in the land safely and flourish

20 'And if you say, "What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?" 21 Then **I will command** My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce **enough for three years**. 22 And 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.

Call to Trust God: During the 6th yr. I will provide for 3 more yrs
IOWs I will Command a *Triple Blessing* on the Land as you trust Me

Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... **31** "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For **your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things**. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble..."

Rest in Faith during the Sixth year
I will provide for the Seventh Year and beyond

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think...**

1 Corinthians 2:9 Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The **things which God has prepared for those who love Him**.

IV. Redemption of Property

23 'The land shall **not be sold permanently**, for the **land is Mine**

That Real Estate I give you is yours Forever

- **After** Entering the Land:

1. Joshua will delegate Boundaries [Josh 13-21]
2. Private land may be sold till Jubilee
3. Every lease on land expires the Year of Jubilee

Ultimately the Land is Mine. I made it.

The World is Mine. I made it.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. 2 For **He has founded it** upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

Do not sell My land...

...for you are **strangers and sojourners with Me.**

Hebrews 11:13 [God's faithful] ...confessed they were **strangers/pilgrims on the earth.**

1 Peter 2:11 ... **sojourners and pilgrims**

Jesus is a Stranger/Pilgrim w/us on this Planet
He Numbered Himself *with us* during His stay on this Strange Place

1 Chronicles 29:15 For we are **aliens and pilgrims before You**, As were all our fathers...

Not only before Jesus... but w/Him...

Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord, And give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a **stranger with You, A sojourner**, as all my fathers were.

Jesus is a stranger/sojourner w/us on this earth. Empathy for us
Fulfilled in Jesus: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us

The Land of Israel belongs to Israel Forever

24 And in all the land of your possession **you shall grant redemption of the land.** 25 '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.**

- **Redemption/Buying back:** Vehicle was a redeeming relative; i.e. Goel
- **Goel/Kinsman Redeemer:** Close relative w/Rights/Responsibilities
 1. **Redeem** a family member from slavery
 2. **Redeem** a family's land sold outside the family
 3. **Avenge** the murder of Ca family member
- **Example in Ruth of Kinsman Redeemer**
 1. Naomi [poor/in debt] returns from Moab to Isreal
 2. Nearest relative refuses to redeem as Ruth is part of package
 3. Boaz the next in line fulfills the responsibility buying back the land for her

Jesus: Our brother and Kinsman Redeemer
Bought us back from Sin's Slavery/Restored our Inheritance/Avenged our enemy

1 Peter 1:18 ...you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Job 19:25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth...

A Kinsman could redeem/buy back the land for a poor relative

26 Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, 27 then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession. 28 But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the **Year of Jubilee**; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.

If neither a relative nor he himself could redeem
He would wait for the Year of Jubilee/It would be returned to him

29 `If a man sells a house in a walled city, then **he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold**; within a full year he may redeem it. 30 But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations. It shall not be released in the Jubilee. 31 However the houses of villages which have no wall around them shall be counted as the fields of the country. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the Jubilee. 32 Nevertheless the **cities of the Levites**, and the houses in the cities of their possession, the **Levites may redeem at any time**. 33 And if a man purchases a house from the Levites, then the house that was sold in the city of his possession shall be released in the Jubilee; for the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel. 34 But the field of the common-land of their cities may not be sold, for it is their **perpetual possession**.

Walled cities could be bought/sold freely
Exemption: Houses w/in walled cities of the Levites would be theirs forever

V. Lending to the Poor

35 `If one of your brethren **becomes poor**, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, **that he may live with you**. 36 Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you. 37 You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit. 38 I am the LORD your God, who **brought you out of the land of Egypt**, to **give you the land** of Canaan and to **be your God**.

Galatians 2:10 [Leaders in Jerusalem to Paul] **...desired only that we should remember the poor**, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

Do not take advantage/gouge the poor
Instead help them

- **Brother become poor:** Lit. When his hands fail
 1. Charge no interest on a loan
 2. Fearing the God who saved you

I AM the LORD. I bought you. I brought you.
I gave you what you did not deserve

Luke 6:35 ...lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

VI. Law Concerning Slavery

39 'And if one of your **brethren** who dwells by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you **shall not compel him to serve as a slave**. 40 As a hired **servant and a sojourner he shall be with** you, and shall serve you until the **Year of Jubilee**. 41 And **then he shall depart** from you—he and his children with him—and shall return to his own family. He shall return to the possession of his fathers. 42 For **they are My servants**, whom **I brought out** of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. 43 You **shall not rule over him with rigor**, but you shall **fear your God**.

When you buy a poor brother
Treat him as a Hired Servant/Fellow Sojourner

Free him/his family at the Year of Jubilee
v 42 ...For he is actually My servant not yours

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge **another's servant**? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for **God is able to make him stand**.

Matthew 25:40 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as **you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**'

Do not rule rigorously [severely] but instead fear your God

Exodus 1:13 ...the Egyptians made the children of Israel **serve with rigor.**

Colossians 4:1 Masters, **give your bondservants what is just and fair**, knowing that you also have a **Master in heaven**.

They are My servants...Fear your God

44 And as for your male and female slaves whom you may have—from the **nations that are around you**, from them you may buy male and female slaves. 45 Moreover you may buy the children of the strangers who dwell

among you, and their families who are with you, which they beget in your land; and they shall **become your property**. 46 And you may take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession; they **shall be your permanent slaves**. But regarding your brethren, the children of Israel, **you shall not rule over one another with rigor**.

Foreign slaves did not have the same rights as Israelite slaves
IOWs Slaves forever if that's what it took to pay off their debt

- Bought/Not kidnapped as pagan nations [as USA] acquired slaves
- Not treated inhumanely: E.g. No work on the Sabbath Ex.20

47 'Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family, 48 after he is sold **he may be redeemed again**. One of his brothers may redeem him; 49 or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself. 50 Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release shall be according to the number of years, **from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee**; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him. 51 If there are still many years remaining, according to them he shall repay the price of his redemption from the money with which he was bought. 52 And if there remain but a few years until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall reckon with him, and according to his years he shall repay him the price of his redemption. 53 He shall be with him as a yearly hired servant, and he shall not rule with rigor over him in your sight. 54 And if he is not redeemed in these years, then he shall be **released in the Year of Jubilee**—he and his children with him.

- Poor Israelite selling himself to rich foreigner
 1. After being sold may be redeemed
 2. Kinsman redeemer or by his own means
 3. Price calculated in relation to Year of Jubilee

Reset: Back to Center

55 For the children of Israel are **servants to Me**; they are **My servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt**: I am the LORD your God.

We are servants of God. Bought by God. Brought by God
I Am the LORD your God