

LEVITICUS 25 vs 1

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The book of Leviticus ends with building the first temple in Jerusalem. More than 50 times in this book, we read the Lord spoke to Moses; and they built the temple according to the pattern God gave to Moses. And what is written here is for the benefit of all Israel, literally all who are ruled by God.

The Sabbath of the Seventh Year,

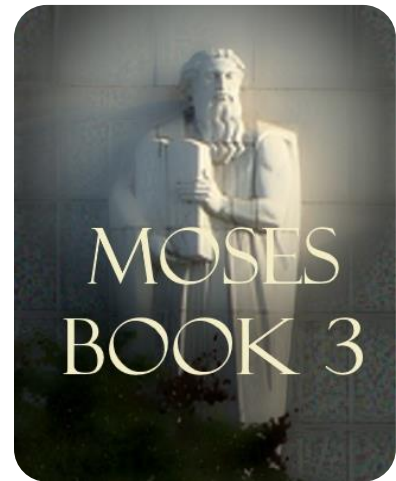
¹ Then the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,

² Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When you come into the land which I give you, then the land will keep a sabbath to the Lord. ³ Six years you will sow your field, and six years you will prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴ but in the seventh year there will be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord. You will neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. ⁵ What grows of its own accord of your harvest you will 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 will 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 will be for food.

The Year of Jubilee,

⁸ And you will count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years will be to you forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you will cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you will make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you will consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a Jubilee for you; and each of you will return to his possession, and each of you will return to his family. ¹¹ That fiftieth year will be a Jubilee to you; in it you will 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 will be holy to you; you will eat its produce from the field.

¹³ In this Year of Jubilee, each of you will return to his possession. ¹⁴ And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you will not oppress one another. ¹⁵ According to the number of years after the Jubilee you will buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he will sell to you. ¹⁶ According to the multitude of years you will increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you will diminish its price; for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the crops. ¹⁷ So you will not oppress one another, but you will fear your God; for I am the Lord your God.



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Provisions for the Seventh Year,

¹⁸ So you will 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.

²⁰ And if you say, What will we eat in the seventh year, since we will 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 will sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you will eat of the old harvest.

Redemption of Property,

²³ The land will not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. ²⁴ And in all the land of your possession you will grant redemption of the land.

²⁵ ‘If one of your brothers or sisters 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. 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 will remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it will be released, and he will return to his possession.

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 will belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations. It will not be released in the Jubilee. ³¹ However the houses of villages which have no wall around them will be counted as the fields of the country. They may be redeemed, and they will 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 will 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.

Lending to the Poor,

³⁵ If one of your brothers or sisters becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you will help him, like a foreigner 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 will 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.

The Law Concerning Slavery,

39 ‘And if one of your brothers or sisters who dwells by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you will not compel him to serve as a slave. **40** As a hired servant and a sojourner he will be with you, **and will serve you until the Year of Jubilee.** **41** And then he will depart from you -- he and his children with him -- and will return to his own family. He will return to the possession of his fathers. **42** For they are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they will not be sold as slaves. **43** You will not rule over him with rigor, **but you will 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 will become your property. **46** And you may take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession; they will be your permanent slaves. **But regarding your brothers or sisters, the children of Israel, you will not rule over one another with rigor.**

47 ‘Now if a sojourner or foreigner close to you becomes rich, and one of your brothers or sisters who dwell by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the foreigner'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. / in God's economy selling yourself to slavery is better understood as selling your service and work skills, until you were able to stand alone. It had nothing to do with whips and detention.

50 Thus he will consider with him who bought him: The price of his release will be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it will be according to the time of a hired servant for him. **51** If there are still many years remaining, according to them he will 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 will consider with him, and according to his years he will repay him the price of his redemption.

53 He will be with him as a yearly hired servant, and he will not rule with rigor over him in your sight.

54 And if he is not redeemed in these years,

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then he will be released in the Year of Jubilee -- he and his children with him.

⁵⁵For 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.

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