



God's Way to Bless Everyone

May 20, 2018

Leviticus 25:1-12

“Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you” (Leviticus 25:6).

The LORD required a “Year of Jubilee” in the Promised Land every fifty years. The fiftieth year was set aside as a “Sabbath Year.” During that year no one in the land was to plow, sow, or reap. The year was set aside by the LORD almost as a year of vacation for everyone, but other daily tasks still needed to be done. In that year, the LORD would bless the land, and without their labor-intensive work the land would yield food and drink for everyone, not just those who believed in the LORD. Since the LORD would feed everyone in the Promised Land, the LORD forbade landowners from requiring their slaves, or hired or foreign laborers to work in their fields. In addition, in Leviticus 25:10, God commanded, “It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family.” Israelites who had sold themselves or their family into slavery to pay a debt or for other reasons were freed from slavery, all debts were considered “Paid in Full!” Everyone could return to their own land. Just as the LORD gave His people a new beginning when He freed them from slavery in Egypt, everyone was given a new beginning every fifty years. Obeying the LORD, not working their fields, forgiving debtors, breaking up land holdings, returning land to their families, and freeing their slaves required faith in the LORD; so, perhaps very few Israelites obeyed the LORD and celebrated the “Year of Jubilee.”

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God established days and years of rest for people, animals, plants, and the land?

2. What are some of the possible consequences when people do not know about or disregard days of rest for themselves and/or others?

3. Why do you think the Year of Jubilee was to begin after the Day of Atonement?

4. Why do you think God gave laws for the caring of needy relatives?

5. In what ways can we make our days of rest more holy to us? What are some benefits of taking extra time and making our rest time more holy to us?

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083-1052 and lgp@theiblf.com.