LEVITICUS 25:
THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Israel Jubilee

REGULATIONS CONCERNING PROPERTY RIGHTS

➤ Jubilee is about God's mercy and restoration

➤ Jubilee came once every 50 years

➤ It was a year of "new starts" for a poor man

➤ Usual reason for poverty was debt

➤ All debt in the Hebrew system was "secured" debt

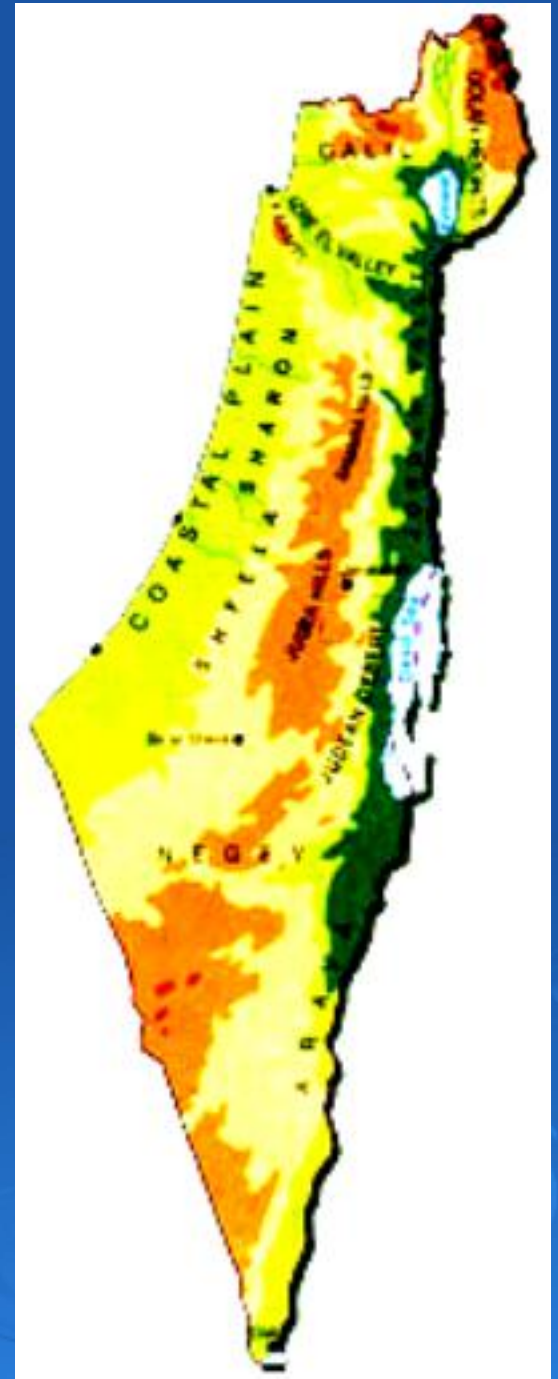➤ Land was the usual security, could be a human

YEHOVEH GAVE ISRAEL A LONG-TERM LEASE ON THE LAND

➤ Vs. 2: *"....when you enter this land I am giving you...."*

➤ Giving = nathan

➤ Nathan means *bestow, added to you, set-apart for you*

➤ NOT a transfer of ownership, rather its being given as something to use

➤ YEHOVEH retained ownership, Israel got the exclusive use of it

PRINCIPLE OF LAND TENURE

- ➤ Possessing something you do not own

- ➤ Israel holds a PERPETUAL LEASE on the land of Israel

- ➤ *'achuzzah* = holding (lease-hold)

- ➤ May NOT sell the land, because they don't OWN the land

THE SABBATH YEAR

- ➢ KEY CONDITION OF THE LEASE: Israel must give the land a one year Sabbath rest after every 6 years

- ➢ In the 7th year Israel could ***not*** : sow, till, plant, prune, weed, fertilize or harvest

- ➢ Can only eat what comes up from the ground on its own

SAFIACH AND SHACHIS

➢ When seeds fell off of the stalks of grain, and grew *new* plants, the Israelites could NOT harvest or eat this in the Sabbatical Year

➢ When the roots of the *existing* grain stalk put up new shoots, this was OK to harvest and eat in the Sabbatical Year

➢ The 2nd growth (cutting) called "safiach"

➢ The 3rd growth (cutting) called "shachis"

IN THE SABBATICAL YEAR, IT WAS LIKE IT WAS IN THE EXODUS

- ➤ The Sabbatical Year was for the benefit of the land, not the people
- ➤ People were required to have faith that God would provide, as He did with the Manna
- ➤ **PRINCIPLE:** It was not a man's work, but God's grace, that brought forth food from the earth

- Vs. 8 begins call for "Year of Jubilee"
- Cycle is to be "7 sabbaths of years"   7 x 7 = 49 years
- AFTER 49 years, Jubilee is the NEXT year…..the 50th year
- Year of Jubilee is a Sabbatical Year just like the 7th year of the 7 year cycle
- So we now have 7 day, 7 year, and 49 year cycles

TISHRI (7TH MONTH)

JUBILEE begins on Yom Kippur

						1 Rosh Ha-Shanah
2 Rosh Ha Shanah	3 Fast of Gedaliah	4	5	6	7	8
	10 Yom Kippur	11	12	13	14	15 Sukkot
16 Sukkot	17 Sukkot	18 Sukkot	19 Sukkot	20 Sukkot	21 Sukkot	22 Shemini Atzeret
23 Simchat Torah	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

START OF JUBILEE BEGINS WITH A SHOFAR BLAST

➢ Jubilee a transliteration of the Hebrew *"yovel"*

➢ *Yovel* = ram or ram's horn

➢ 50th year Jubilee connects with 50th day Pentecost

➢ Lord instructed that if Israel did not observe the Jubilee, they would be exiled and foreigners would get to use their land

➢ On Pentecost, Holy Spirit came to foreigners (gentiles) as well as Jews; those who did not observe God's provision was cut-off from the Kingdom of God
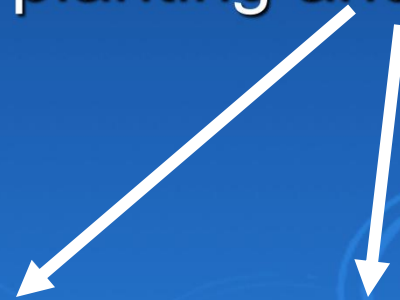
IN JUBILEE, LAND OWNERS HAD TO RETURN LAND TO FORMER OWNER

> Once each 50 years, the original owners could reclaim their land without cost!

> The 50 year Jubilee also meant TWO years in a row, there was no planting and no harvest!

1) YEAR 1   2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR

2) YEAR 1 2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR

3) YEAR 1 2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR

4) YEAR 1 2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR

5) YEAR 1 2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR

6) YEAR 1 2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR

7) YEAR 1 2   3   4   5   6   SABBATH YEAR (49TH YR.) ➡ 50TH YEAR SABBATH

Vs. 10: "…..you are to proclaim _derar_ throughout the land….."

- *Derar* is at the heart of what Jubilee is about

- Derar = release

- Akkadian *anduraru* = a legal term, when a new king would forgive debts and release servants

- *Derar* is about being released from debt and bondage

JUBILEE REQUIREMENTS

1) A 2nd Sabbatical year in a row, no planting, sowing, pruning, harvesting

2) A release of debts, land returned to original owners, bondservants freed

3) The only food that could be eaten was what came up on its own, or had been stored away

"……every man returning to his land……"

- Means that a man returns to the land he used to own (hold)
- Almost always a man lost his land due to a debt
- *'achuzzah*…..NOBODY owned the land, it was just in there care (held) for a time
- How LONG could a person hold land he obtained by foreclosure? 49 YEARS maximum

Hebrew system NOT the American System

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➤ U.S.A. We can OWN property

➤ Bible, you can HOLD property

➤ What a Hebrew paid for property determined by:

1) How many years of possession until the next Jubilee

2) Value of crops grown on the land during that period of time

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JUBILEE WELCOMED BY THE POOR, NOT WELCOMED BY THE RICH!

- **EXAMPLE:** Person acquires land the year after Jubilee…..therefore 49 years of holding the land is possible
- 1 year's crops worth $100   49 years crops = $4900
- **EXAMPLE:** Person acquires land when only 14 more years until the next Jubilee is possible
- 1 year's crop worth $100   14 years crops = $1400

- The poor got a release from debts and servitude
- But…..it came at the expense of the rich
- The common element was that both rich and poor could NOT have high quality, fresh produce for about a 2 year period.

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VS. 18-19
LIVE UPON THE LAND IN SECURITY AND THE LAND WILL YIELD IT'S FRUIT

➢ In Bible times Israel was the breadbasket of the Middle East

➢ When Israel was in exile, the land quit producing

"…..Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes.."

- Mark Twain 1867

"…hills barren…. Unsightly deserts….

- *" ….silent, mournful expanse…."*

- G. A. Smith 1830

"…Jews who bought this worthless land were called children of death"