

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

## MOSES: Laws of Land Use

Chapter 25

5 April 2023



### ➤ The Sabbath year (vv. 1-7)

- ❖ God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai. (v. 1)
- ❖ God was given the land of Canaan to Israel. He wanted a Sabbath in return. (v. 2)
- ❖ God allowed Israel to sow their fields and prune their vineyards for six years. (v. 3)
- ❖ On the seventh year, God declared a Sabbath year – a year of rest from working the land. (v. 4)
- ❖ Israel could eat and gather directly from the fields. God forbade regular harvest work. (v. 5)
  - ☐ The produce in the sixth year would be so abundant there would be a surplus.
  - ☐ The natural produce from the land would feed the poor.
- ❖ The Sabbath of the land would provide. God blessed the obedience of His people. (v. 6)
- ❖ There would be plenty to feed the people, their livestock, & the wild animals. (v. 7)

### ➤ The year of Jubilee (vv. 8-22)

- ❖ Jubilee: blowing of the ram's horn; which was done to announce the year.
  - ☐ This name only occurs in Leviticus and Numbers 36:4.
  - ☐ The idea of those released from debt – v. 10; Isaiah 61:1; Jeremiah 34:8; & Ezekiel 46:17
- ❖ Jubal
  - ☐ The root occurs in this word.
  - ☐ Jubal was the father of musicians (Genesis 4:21).
- ❖ Hebrew – seven Sabbaths of years, totaling 49 years. (v. 8)
- ❖ Day of Atonement: 10<sup>th</sup> day of seventh month (Tishri) (v. 9)
  - ☐ The Jubilee announcement came on this day.
- ❖ 50<sup>th</sup> year: Liberty was proclaimed throughout Israel. (vv. 10-12)
  - ☐ Those in debt returned to their former homes. (v. 10)
  - ☐ Family members returned from servitude to their families.
  - ☐ Jews neither sowed nor reaped. (v. 11)
  - ☐ This was a holy year. They ate from the land's bounty. (v. 12)
- ❖ In this year, everyone returned to his own property. (v. 13)
- ❖ A Jew could not buy or sell wrongly with his neighbor. (v. 14)
- ❖ One paid his neighbor according to the years after the jubilee. (v. 15)
- ❖ A Jew's neighbor sold to the owner according to the number of years for crops.



- ❖ The years dictated the price for the number of crops he was selling the land. (v. 16)
- ❖ No one was to wrong his neighbor by seeking personal gain. (v. 17)
- ❖ Every Jew was to follow God's commands, so they could live in safety and security. (v. 18)
- ❖ In obedience, God blessed – the land yielded its bounty. (v. 19)
- ❖ God's blessings in the sixth year produced a surplus for the jubilee year. (vv. 20-21)
- ❖ When one sowed in the eighth year, he would be eating bounty from the old crop. (v. 22)

➤ Redemption of Property (vv. 23-34)

- ❖ Spells out the details of the Jubilee. (vv. 23-24)

☐ There were certain exceptions and special regulations.

- The land must not be permanently sold. (v. 23)
- The law of land reform was perpetual.
- The land, when sold, was sold for a limited time only.
- The land belonged to God.
- In Jubilee, the land was to return to the original family. (v. 24)
- A man forced to sell his land out of necessity could buy it back when he was financially able to do so.

- ❖ If a brother became poor, & sold his property, a nearest kinsmen redeemer could redeem it – remember Naomi (OT). (v. 25)

- ❖ If no redeemer, the following scenarios existed. (vv. 26-28)

- ☐ If the man became prosperous, he could redeem it. (v. 26)
- ☐ He calculated the years since he sold the property. (v. 27)
- ☐ Then, he would pay the balance to the man he sold it to. Then, return to his property.
- ☐ If he could not recover it, it remained in the buyer's hand until the year of Jubilee. (v. 28)
- ☐ In Jubilee, the buyer released the property back to the original owner.

- ❖ If a man sold a house in a walled city, he could redeem it within a full year. (v. 29)
- ❖ If he could not redeem it within a full year, the house permanently belonged to the buyer. (v. 30)
- ❖ Houses in villages, with no walls around them, were classified with the fields of land. (v. 31)
- ❖ They could be redeemed. They were released in the year of Jubilee.
- ❖ In Levite cities, Levites could redeem their houses at any time. (v. 32)
- ❖ If a Levite exercised his right of redemption, the house was released in Jubilee. (v. 33)
- ❖ A Levite's house was his possession among the people of Israel.
- ❖ The fields of pastureland belonging to Levite cities could not be sold. (v. 34)
- ❖ That was their possession forever.

➤ Kindness for poor brothers (vv. 35-46)



- ❖ If your brother cannot make a living, he will live with you so you can support him. (v. 35)
- ❖ Fear God, treat your brother well & let him dwell with you. (v. 36)
- ❖ Do not charge him interest for money you give him. Do not charge him for food. (v. 37)
- ❖ This is what the God of Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Joshua commanded. (v. 38)
- ❖ If your brother becomes poor, & sells himself to you, you shall not make him your slave. (v. 39)
- ❖ Your brother shall serve with you as a hired worker until the year of Jubilee. (v. 40)
- ❖ In Jubilee, your brother may return to his own clan. (v. 41)
- ❖ They are God's servants and shall not be sold as slaves. (v. 42)
- ❖ Fear God and treat them well. (v. 43)
- ❖ You may buy male and female slaves from the nations around you. (v. 44)
- ❖ You may also acquire slaves from the strangers who sojourn around you. (v. 45)
- ❖ You may bequeath your slaves to your sons as a permanent possession. (v. 46)
- ❖ But, for fellow Jews, you shall not rule over ruthlessly.

➤ Redeeming a poor man (vv. 47-55)

- ❖ If a poor man sells himself to a stranger, after he is sold, he may be redeemed. (vv. 47-48)
- ❖ A brother, uncle, cousin, or close relative from his clan may redeem him. (vv. 48-49)
- ❖ Or, if he grows rich, he may redeem himself. (v. 49)
- ❖ Redemption was calculated from the year he was sold until the year of Jubilee. (v. 50)
- ❖ The years of servitude dictate the selling price for freedom. (v. 51)
- ❖ Either few or many years until Jubilee, he would calculate his redemptive selling price. (v. 52)
- ❖ The owner would treat the worker well. (v. 53)
- ❖ If no redemption is paid, the worker and his family were released in the year of Jubilee. (v. 54)
- ❖ The people of Israel were slaves to God. God gave them their freedom from Egypt. (v. 55)



## Group Questions

1) Every seventh year was a sabbath year, the Jews could not farm the land. To understand this more effectively, read Genesis 3:17-18 and Romans 8:20-22. Apply our Bible study method to these passages to garner insight into what the seventh year of rest really meant.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

2) Read verses 13-21. God looked after His people with love, fairness, and justness. In these verses, discuss how God used the year of Jubilee to ensure no Israelite family would be permanently disadvantaged.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

3) Write down one other notable thing you learned from this chapter.

