

<p style="text-align: center;">The Presence: Instructions for the Congregation Leviticus 25</p>

The Sabbath Year (vv.1-7)

1. Described
 - a. Sow for six years
 - b. Let the land rest during the seventh
 - c. Make provision for all in the land
2. Purpose
 - a. To remind people of creation
 - b. To remind people of the fall
 - c. To remind people that God possesses the land
 - d. To bless the people
3. Benefits
 - a. Regular provision through hard work
 - b. Fruitfulness and provision in the land
4. Principles
 - a. Focus on worship (be Christ centered here)
 - b. Trust God's timing
 - c. Be patient (not passive)
 - d. Enjoy God's provision (reminds us that creation is made for man, NOT the other way around - that would distort God's image)
 - e. Look to His redemption (now and then)

The Year of Jubilee (vv.8-34)

1. Described
 - a. Trumpet blast at the end of the 49th year on the Day of Atonement
 - b. The 50th year is consecrated for this special purpose
 - c. Liberty is proclaimed to everyone
 - d. Property is reclaimed by all according to family groups, geographically situated
 - e. No reaping or sowing (consume only the produce of the field)
 - f. Taking care of family and the greater congregation is of great import during this year
 - g. Only other mention is Ezekiel 49:17

2. Purpose
 - a. Freedom of slaves
 - b. Return to homelands and properties
 - c. Restoration of families
 - d. Redeeming others with property to be an identifiable people
 - e. Ultimately, it was a year of celebration of freedom and grace due to redemption
3. Benefits (Easton's)
 - a. It would prevent the accumulation of land on the part of the a few to the detriment of the community at large
 - b. It would render it impossible for any one to be born to absolute poverty, since every one had his hereditary land
 - c. It would preclude those inequalities which are produced by extremes of riches and poverty, and which make one man domineering over another
 - d. It would utterly do away with slavery
 - e. It would afford a fresh opportunity to those who were reduced by adverse circumstances to begin again their career of industry in the patrimony which they had temporarily forfeited
 - f. It would periodically rectify the disorders which crept into the state in the course of time, preclude the division of the people into nobles and plebeians, and preserve the theocracy inviolate
4. Principles
 - a. There's really no equivalent for Israel's laws today. We believe all of the ceremonial and civil laws to be satisfied in Christ for His church.
 - b. The atonement for sin by a gracious God changes everything
 - c. **VV.13-17**: Obeying God's Word extends to your business dealings (it wasn't prudent fiscally to do what was prescribed here, except the understanding that if God is not pleased with your labor, there really is no point)
 - d. Again, the redemptive images are most pronounced.
 - e. God's grace is on display in common grace exercised in the midst of a fallen world

Related to the Poor (vv.35-55)

1. Described
 - a. Support the poor brother like a stranger or sojourner (charging no interest)

- b. Could hire him, but not as a slave (reminder of God's deliverance)
 - c. Constantly keeping God in mind in this time (deliverance, fear)
 - d. The second half of this section (vv.47-55) deals with the redemption of poor relatives
 - e. In the worst case scenario, if redemption could not be made, the relative would be released in the year of jubilee
 - f. The final point is God's... The people (all of them) are servants of God. He has redeemed them, ransomed, and rescued them. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.
2. Principles
- a. To care for the poor, particularly those closest
 - b. To NEVER seek to profit from caring for the poor (health / wealth travesties)
 - c. To NEVER treat the poor we care for as slaves (as if they owe us) -- Christ himself tells us that the poor will always be among us
 - d. Impartiality of God's sovereign redemption on display (Exodus meets James)
 - e. Redemption is costly (with money or time -- year of jubilee at worst)
 - f. Regardless of your position, those in Christ are all servants, redeemed slaves. He has set us all free. None of God's people can permanently remain a slave to another.

Conclusion

1. God is Holy
 - a. All Year (**Chp.23**)
 - b. Every Day (**Chp.24**)
 - c. For Life (**Chp.25**)
2. God Owns Everything
 - a. Time, because He made it, orchestrates it, and instructs His people to orient it around Him
 - b. Land, because He made it
 - c. People because He made them all, and redeems many
3. God has redeemed His people
 - a. God refers his people regularly to the Exodus, which is the great
 - b. Old Testament image of God's deliverance in Jesus Christ
 - c. Though out of Egypt to Canaan...this still wasn't the final resting place (Duncan)
 - d. From God, By God, For God

- e. He has built in worship "reminders" all along the way
4. His people should obey Him
 - a. Because He has spoken
 - b. Because He has redeemed his own, his own should be redemptive
 - i. Dealing with the congregation in remembrance of freedom and grace
 - ii. Dealing with the poor
 - iii. Dealing in ways that at least image our eternal redemption with the express purpose of proclamation...Thus saith the Lord!
 - b. We should celebrate and worship in a way that exalts Christ and the cross
 - i. The narrative of Scripture all points to Christ and His redemptive work
 - ii. Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, Return
 - c. We should live dependent upon Him
 - i. Trust His providence and timing
 - ii. Being careful not to exalt His creation to a place of Creator (not the environment, not our own bodies, not blaming Him for sinful choices we make)
 - iii. To die to pride. You don't own what you think you own. You haven't accomplished near as much as you think. God is Creator, Redeemer, Judge. How do you live toward Him with others that says you care more about that than temporal things?
 - d. He made us to take pleasure in Him, and it pleases Him when we obey as objects of His redeeming grace
 - i. This concludes our section on holiness related to time. Does your time management reveal pleasure in your Redeemer?
 - ii. Do you manage your possessions as a steward, or do they manage you?
 - iii. Looking to His coming
 1. **Romans 8:18-24**
 2. **Ephesians 4:30**
 - e. Are you redeemed? Are you still in bondage? Are you free?
 - i. Christ can set you free!
 - ii. **Romans 3:23-25a**
 - iii. **Romans 6:23** (the price to ransom is death)
 - iv. **Romans 5:8** (Christ paid that price, ransomed, His own)
 - v. **Hebrews 9:11-12**