

“BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY” THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

Sabbatical and Jubilee Years:
Holy Living in the Land
Lev. 25



Problem: How can sinful man have fellowship with a holy God?



Ex. 40:35 Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

NASB



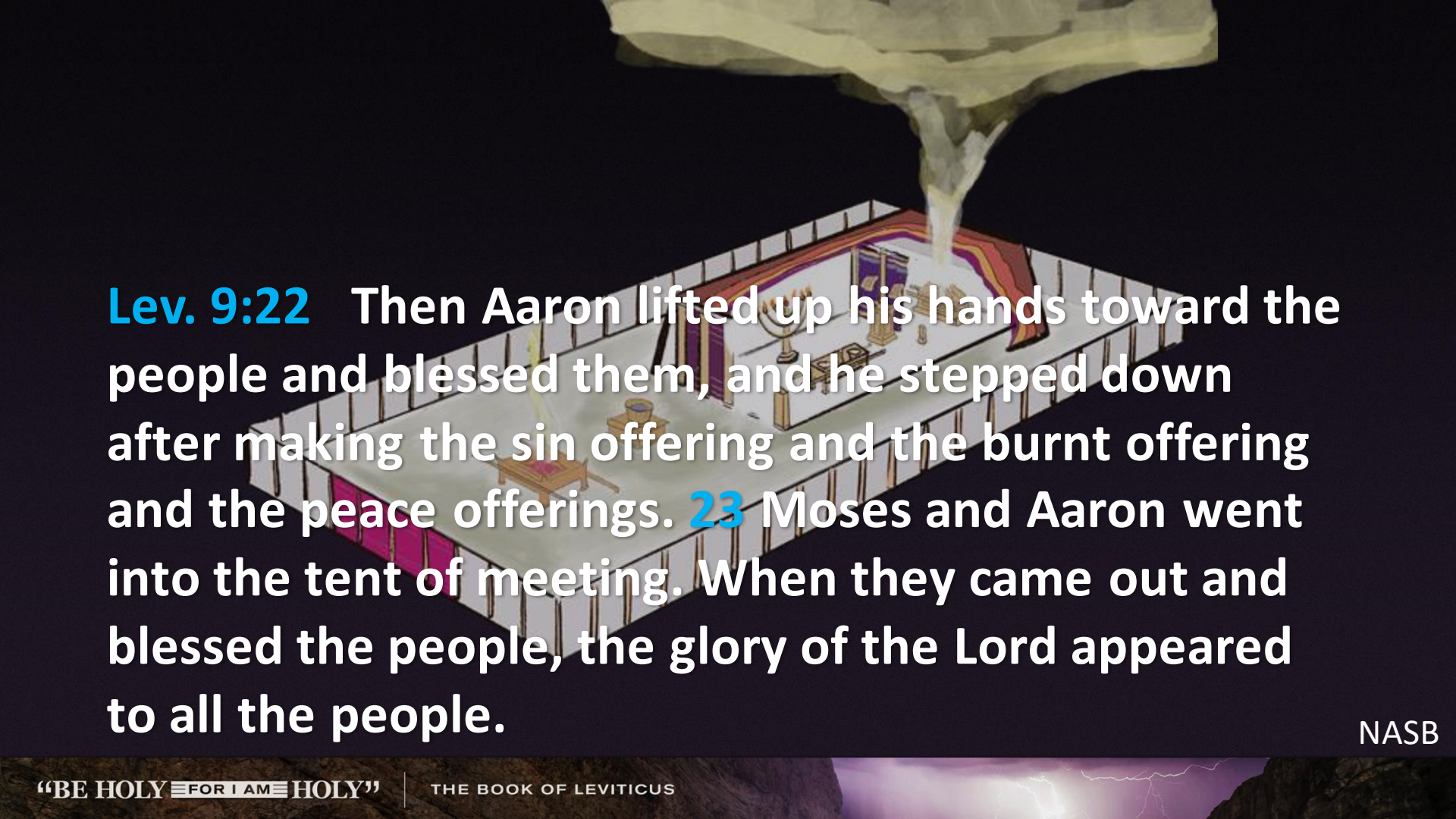
Lev. 1:1 Then the Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting ...

NASB

God Provides a Solution

- Offerings (Lev. 1-7)
- Priests (Lev. 8)
- Moses and Aaron can finally enter (Lev. 9)



A 3D cutaway illustration of the Tabernacle, showing its interior with various golden vessels like the table of showbread, the golden lampstand, and the golden altar. A bright, glowing light emanates from the roof of the structure, symbolizing the glory of the Lord. The background is dark, making the light and the structure stand out.

Lev. 9:22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he stepped down after making the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. **23** Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.

NASB

New Problem (Lev. 10)

- Nadab & Abihu enter improperly
 - Struck dead
 - Tabernacle is now defiled!
 - Not a fitting dwelling for a Holy God
 - Tabernacle needs cleansing

Lev. 10:10 [priests] to distinguish between the **holy** and the **common**, and between the **unclean** and the **clean**,

STATUS

HOLY

COMMON

CONDITION

CLEAN

UNCLEAN

Tabernacle Must be Cleansed

- Teaching on **Clean vs Unclean** (Lev. 11-15)
- Cleansing of Tabernacle on Day of Atonement (Lev. 16)
- Teaching on **Holy vs Common** (Lev. 17-27)

Lev 25-26: All One Speech

Lev. 25:1 And Jehovah speaketh unto
Moses,
in mount Sinai, saying, 2 'Speak unto
the sons of Israel, ...

Lev. 26:46 ... Jehovah hath given between Him and
the sons of Israel,
in mount Sinai, by the hand of
Moses.

Lev. 25: Holy Living in the Land

- Principles for Holy Living (1-17)
- Promises for Holy Living (18-22)
- Poverty and Holy Living (23-55)

Sabbatical Year

- **Lev. 25:1** The Lord then spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, saying, **2** “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you come into **the land which I shall give you**, then the land shall have a sabbath to the Lord. **3** ‘Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, **4** but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. **5** ‘Your harvest’s aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year.

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Sabbatical Year

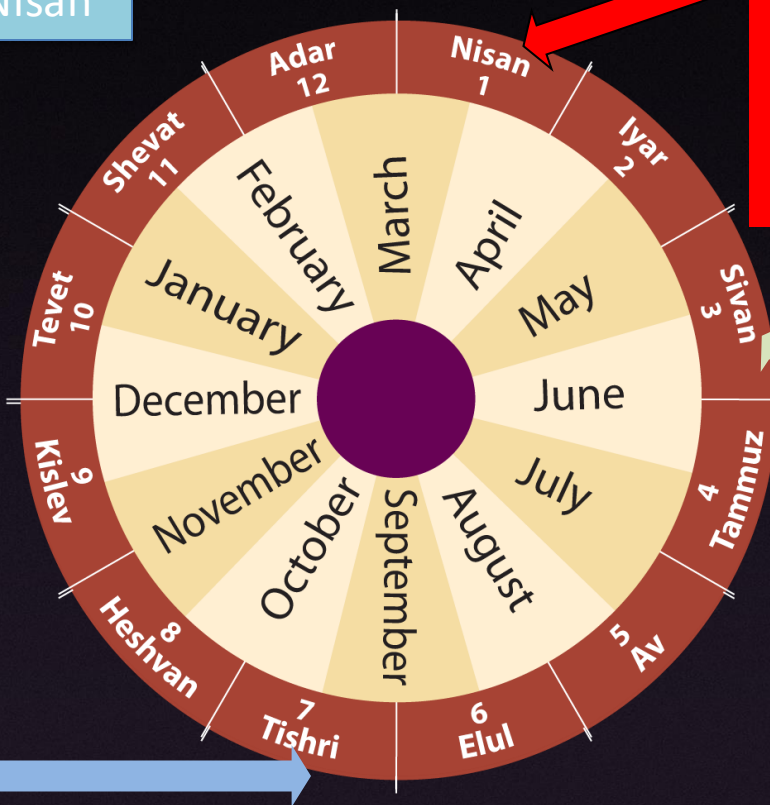
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Sabbatical Year

- **Deut 31:10** Then Moses commanded them, saying, “At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths, **11** when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place which He will choose, you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing.

- ❖ Civil Calendar Starts in Tishri
- ❖ Religious Calendar starts in Nisan

- ✓ Feast of Trumpets (Rosh HaShanah)
- ✓ Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
- ✓ Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (Sukkot)



- ✓ Passover (*Pesach*)
- ✓ Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzot)
- ✓ First Fruits (Yom HaBikkurim)

Pentecost or Feast of weeks (Shavuot)

Sabbatical Year

- 5 ‘Your harvest’s aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year. 6 ‘All of you shall have the sabbath *products* of the land for food; yourself, and your male and female slaves, and your hired man and your foreign resident, those who live as aliens with you. 7 ‘Even your cattle and the animals that are in your land shall have all its crops to eat.

Sabbatical Year

- Warning that disobedience regarding land Sabbaths would bring exile (Lev. 26:27-35)
- [2 Chr. 36:20](#) Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, [21](#) to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

Why A Sabbatical Year?

- Ecology? Good farming?
- A Sabbath for Land
 - Obedience based on trust in God

Sabbath Principle For Us

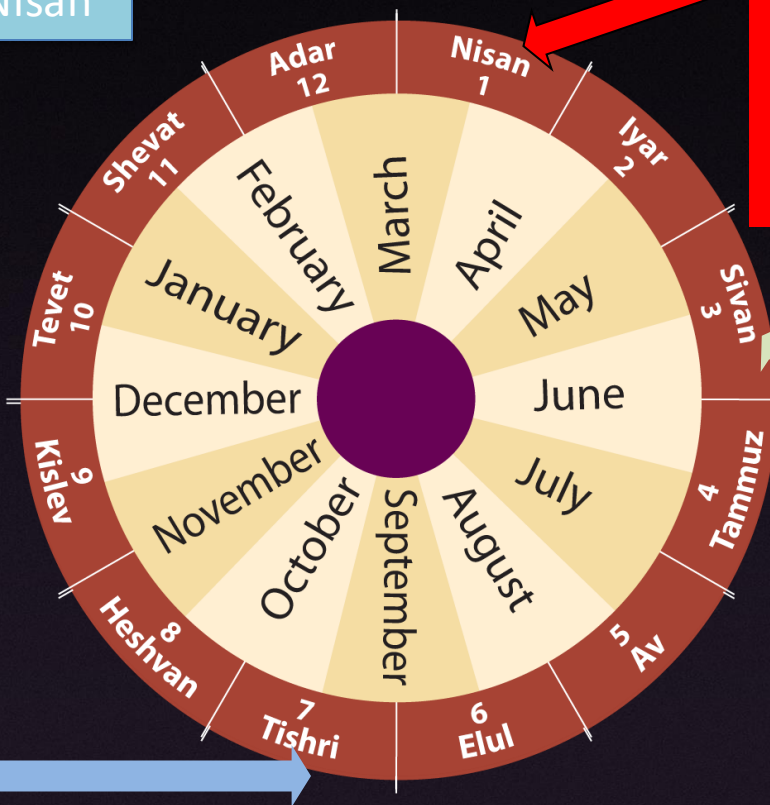
- [Heb. 3:18](#) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? [19](#) So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.
- [Heb. 4:3](#) For we who have believed enter that rest,
- [Heb. 4:9](#) So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. [10](#) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. [11](#) Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

Jubilee Year

- **Lev. 25:8** ‘You are also to count off seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of the seven sabbaths of years, *namely*, forty-nine years. **9** ‘You shall then sound a ram’s horn abroad on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the day of atonement you shall sound a horn all through your land.

- ❖ Civil Calendar Starts in Tishri
- ❖ Religious Calendar starts in Nisan

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Pentecost or Feast of weeks (Shavuot)

Jubilee Year

- 10 ‘You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. 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. 11 ‘You shall have the fiftieth year as a jubilee; you shall not sow, nor reap its aftergrowth, nor gather in from its untrimmed vines. 12 ‘For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its crops out of the field. 13 ‘On this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his own property.

Jubilee Year

- 10 ‘You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a **release** through the land to all its inhabitants. 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.
- **jubilee**: transliteration of יָבֵל yoveel, “ram” or “ram’s horn”

NASB

Jubilee Year

- Ezek. 46:16 ‘Thus says the Lord God, “If the prince gives a gift *out of* his inheritance to any of his sons, it shall belong to his sons; it is their possession by inheritance. 17 “But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, it shall be his until the **year of liberty**; then it shall return to the prince. His inheritance *shall be only his sons*’; it shall belong to them.

Jubilee Concept

- **Is. 61:1** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To **proclaim liberty to captives**
And **freedom to prisoners;**
- **2** To **proclaim the favorable year of the Lord**
- c.f. Lk 4:17-21—Jesus said He fulfills this

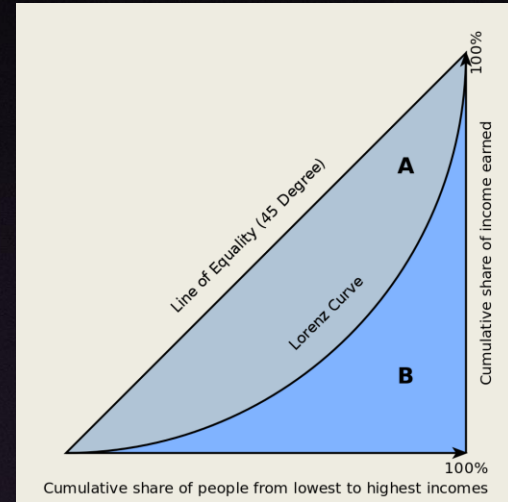
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Implications of Jubilee for Land Value (vv. 14-17)

- Land value proportional to number of growing seasons until Jubilee
- Land transactions were effectively a long-term lease, not a sale

Income and Wealth Inequality

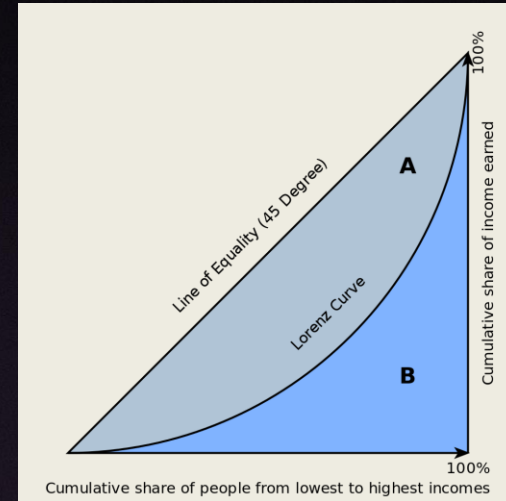
- Gini Coefficient
 - Measure of statistical inequality: $\text{Area A} / (\text{Area A} + \text{Area B})$
 - 0%=no inequality; 100%=complete inequality
 - Estimates available from World Bank, CIA, others



Income and Wealth Inequality

- Gini Coefficient
 - Measure of statistical inequality: Area $(A/(A+B))$
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Country	Gini: Pre Tax Income		
USA	49%		

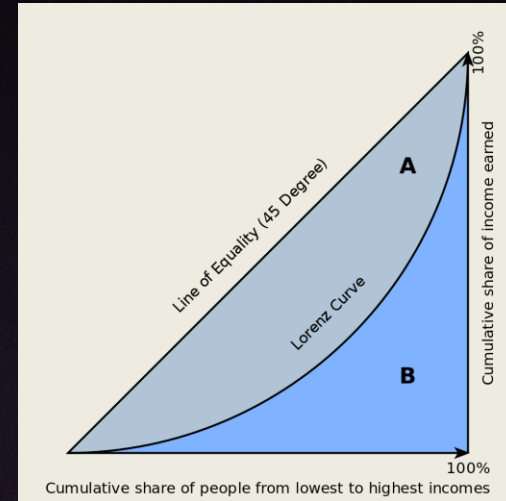


Data from World Bank and Global Finance Magazine

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Country	Gini: Pre Tax Income		
USA	49%		
Israel (Modern)	50%		
Sweden	43%		

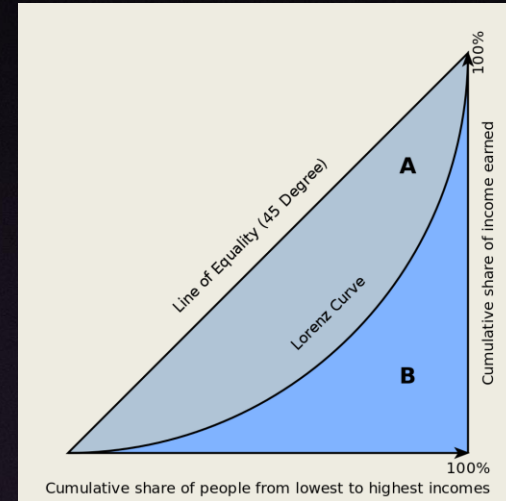


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Country	Gini: Pre Tax Income	Gini: After Tax Income	
USA	49%	38%	
Israel (Modern)	50%	37%	
Sweden	43%	27%	

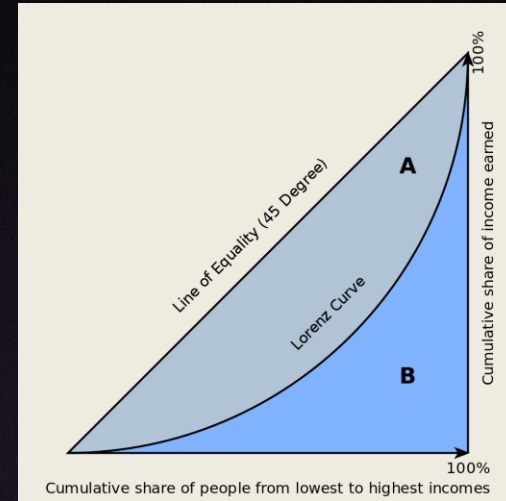


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Country	Gini: Pre Tax Income	Gini: After Tax Income	Gini: Wealth
USA	49%	38%	86%
Israel (Modern)	50%	37%	74%
Sweden	43%	27%	83%



Data from World Bank and Global Finance Magazine

Lev. 25: Holy Living in the Land

- Principles for Holy Living (1-17)
 - *Possessions are gifts from God, to be used His way*
 - *Trust & obey God*
- Promises for Holy Living (18-22)
- Poverty and Holy Living (23-55)

Promises for Holy Living

- **Lev. 25:18** ‘You shall thus **observe** My statutes and **keep** My judgments, so as to **carry** them **out**, that you may live securely on the land. **19** ‘Then the land will yield its produce, so that you can eat your fill and live securely on it.

Promises for Holy Living

- **Lev. 25:18** ‘You shall thus observe My statutes and keep My judgments, so as to carry them out, that you may **live securely** on the land. **19** ‘Then the land will **yield its produce**, so that you can **eat your fill** and **live securely** on it.
- Trust & Obedience brings Security & Abundance

Promises for Holy Living

- 20 ‘But if you say, “What are we going to eat on the seventh year if we do not sow or gather in our crops?” 21 then I will so order My blessing for you in the sixth year that it will bring forth the crop for three years. 22 ‘When you are sowing the eighth year, you can still eat old things from the crop, eating the old until the ninth year when its crop comes in.

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21 then I will so order My blessing for you in the sixth year that it will bring forth the crop for three years. 22 ‘When you are sowing the eighth year, you can still eat old things from the crop, eating the old until the ninth year when its crop comes in.

Year 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	*
Barley		Wheat, Pruning		Gather Grapes		Plough	Plant (Sow)					

Year 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	*
Barley		Wheat, Pruning		Gather Grapes		S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Year 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	*
S	S	S	S	S	S	Plough	Plant (Sow)					

Year 9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	*
Barley		Wheat, Pruning		Gather Grapes		Plough	Plant (Sow)					

Promises for Holy Living

- **Mt. 6:31** “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ **32** “For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

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 - *Trust & obey God*
- Promises for Holy Living (18-22)
 - *Put God ahead of possessions*
 - *Trust & obey God*
- Poverty and Holy Living (23-55)

Who Owns the Land?

- **Lev. 25:23** ‘The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for **the land is Mine**; for you are but **aliens and sojourners** with Me.
24 ‘Thus for every piece of your property, you are to provide for the redemption of the land.

Who Owns the Land?

- God is owner; “the land is mine” (v. 23)
- Israelites are “strangers and sojourners” (v. 23)
- Then why is land called “property” or “possession” of Israel? (vv. 10, 13, 24, 25, 27, 28, 33, 34, 41)
- **property** or **possession**: אַחֲזָזָה 'achuzza, from אַחָז 'achaz, “to hold”
- Better translated “holding” (e.g. JPS)

Who Owns YOUR Possessions?

- Psa. 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.
- God is the owner!
- We are but “holders” and stewards of His property

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Poverty and Holy Living: Three Stages of Poverty

- Stage 1. Lose part of property (25-34)
- Stage 2. Lose all property (35-38)
- Stage 3. Slavery (39-55)

Stage 1: Lose Part of Property (25-34)

- [Lev. 25:25](#) 'If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor he has to sell part of his property, ...
 - 1. Nearest kinsman should redeem the land (v. 25)
 - 2. If no kinsman can redeem it, seller can buy back at any time (v. 26-27)
 - 3. Otherwise, wait till Jubilee (v. 28)
- Exception: houses in walled cities can only be redeemed for one year (29-31) *not connected to agricultural land*
- Exception to exception: Houses in Levitical cities can be redeemed any time (32-34) *Levites had no tribal land*

Stage 2: Lose All Property (35-38)

- **Lev. 25:35** ‘Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner, ...
- i.e. allow to work as a dependent laborer
- Treat fairly; don't take advantage of him

NASB

Stage 3: Slavery (39-54)

- **Lev. 25:39** ‘If a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to you that he sells himself to you, ...
- Treat him better than a slave, as a hired hand
- If enslaved to a Non-Jew, a kinsman should try to redeem him

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God's Servants, Freed From Slavery

- 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.
- 42 'For they are My servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt; they are not to be sold in a slave sale.
- 55 'For the sons of Israel are My servants; they are My servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

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God's Servants, Freed From Slavery


- **1Pet. 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for God's own possession,**
- **Gal. 5:1** It was for freedom that **Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Lev 25-26: Central Point: Trust & Obey God

- **Lev. 26:1** ‘You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God. **2** ‘You shall keep My sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the Lord.

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- Promises for Holy Living (18-22)
 - *Put God ahead of possessions*
 - *Trust & obey God*
- Poverty and Holy Living (23-55)
 - *God owns our possessions, and us; we are stewards*
 - *Come to the aid of fellow believers*

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