

## **JUBILEE — “God’s Reset Button”**

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Leviticus 25:8-23

Since next Sunday begins our week of Jubilee services, let’s see what the Bible says about this word “Jubilee.” This celebration is explained in Leviticus 25—It is one of the most revolutionary concepts in all the Bible.

➡ “Jubilee” occurs 23 times in the KJV—16 are in Leviticus 25.

*Strong’s Greek and Hebrew Dictionary* says the Hebrew word (jobel) “jubile” means “shout of joy,” or “the joyful sound.” Our English word “jubilation” comes from “jubilee.” Christians have SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT! [Tonight I will preach on “**Reasons to Shout!**”]

The word “Jubilee” is a derivative of “Jubal,” the inventor of musical instruments in Genesis 4:21. Music ushered in the year of Jubilee by the sound of the trumpet (Lev. 25:9). Music was an important aspect!

Jew were to celebrate Jubilee every 50 years. It involved three things:

### **I. A return to FREEDOM** (Lev. 25:10).

#### A. SLAVES WERE FREED (25:10, 39-41, 54).

1. An Israelite could sell himself into the service of another to pay a debt, but he could not sell himself or his family forever into slavery—The Lord alone owned the sons of Israel since He had redeemed them from Egypt (25:42, 55).
2. At the start of the Year of Jubilee, people were commanded to release their bond servants so that they might return to their own families. How could the Jews celebrate Jubilee if some of their family were in bondage and away from their loved ones?
3. Jesus came to set us free from the bondage of sin. *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”* (John 8:32, 36).
  - Paul wrote, *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage”* (Gal. 5:1).

- Freed from the bondage of fear... greed... lust... drugs... legalism... peer pressure... etc.

**B. DEBTS WERE CANCELLED (vs. 13-17).**

1. What if we were to try this today? The average American owes \$7,000 on credit cards. The trumpet would sound and all debts would be completely erased! Did I hear someone say, "Amen?"
2. Jesus cancelled the sin debt when He died on the cross—"*It is finished.*" Paid in Full! You are free when you believe the Gospel.

**II. A rest of FAITH (Lev. 25:11-12).**

**A. It required faith to celebrate the year of Jubilee.**

1. The previous year—the 49<sup>th</sup>—would have been a Sabbath year when the crops would not have been cultivated (vs. 3-5).
2. The Jews had to trust God to provide for the 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> years, and during the 51<sup>st</sup> year while they waited for the harvest.
3. God promised to BLESS and provide if they obeyed (vs. 20-21).

➡ When you obey the Lord, He promises to take care of you!

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APPLICATION: God is in control - and we need to trust Him!

It doesn't matter what the economy looks like. It doesn't matter who controls the White house or who is in control of Congress—God is in control.

Stop listening to your fears, and start empowering your faith.

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- B. We need to rest to recharge our batteries. When God commands us to rest, we need to rest. He'll give us enough during the times we work, to provide during the times He commands us to rest.**

**III. A reason for FESTIVITY.**

- A. A RESTORATION of property (v. 13, 23-28).**

1. No mortgage could extend beyond the day of Jubilee because all debts were cancelled and lands reverted back to the original owner.
  - If you were to buy a piece of property three months before the Year of Jubilee, knowing it would be restored to its owner in three months, you would pay only a fraction of its price (vs. 15-16). If the Year of Jubilee was three years away, you'd pay a little more. And if it was forty-nine years away, you'd pay full price.

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APPLICATION: The further away one was from the Jubilee, the more valuable the property was. The same is true concerning that Jubilee in the sky when Jesus returns. The closer we get to heaven or the Lord's coming, the less valuable our earthly possessions become to us. If I am consumed with my possessions... my hobbies... my career, it is an indication that I'm not living in the reality of Christ's soon return.

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2. The Year of Jubilee was **God's 'Reset' button**—it was the 'Reboot' in the system—the 'Ctrl-Alt-Del' in the universe.
  - **Jubilee meant New beginnings!** Since lands returned to the original owners, debts were cancelled, and slaves were set free, everyone was given a fresh start.
  - The Jubilee was a new start for everyone. It was a chance to get a new beginning, a point of hope.

B. A RECLAIMING of heritage:

1. Old Time Preaching of the Old time Book (KJV)
2. Old Time Praying
3. Old Time Praising the Lord.

C. A REJOICING of forgiveness.

- ➡ The year of Jubilee would begin on the day of atonement (v. 9). There can be no joyful sound to sinful men apart from the atoning blood of Christ. It is only through the shed blood of Christ that we any cause to rejoice!

**SUMMATION:** Imagine what it may have been like for a Jew who was a bond-servant, or heavy in debt with his lands mortgaged.

All he could think about was Jubilee. He is waiting... Counting the years... 20..10..5..1 Counting the months... counting the days... waiting and listening for the sound of the trumpet announcing Jubilee.

Then suddenly—Throughout all the land, the trumpet sounds!

I think I know what those slaves, and indebted Jews would say when they heard the sound of the trumpet: They would *shout for joy*—“**It’s Jubilee time!** ...It’s finally here!” I’M FREE! My debt is cancelled! I can return to my lands. HALLELUJAH!

“Break out the tambourine / flute / drum / guitar / cymbals / piano / horn, and make a joyful noise!”

➡**Now here is a strange truth**—Although God gave Israel this 50 year “reset button,” there is no definitive evidence that Israel ever actually pressed “the button.” Israel never celebrated it! Incredible! WHY??? Was it because they lacked faith to trust God to supply? Wanting to retain control of bondservants? Keep possession of lands? Keep people indebted?

If Israel would have observed the principles of Jubilee, their economic system would have prospered... the land would have provided all they needed... and everybody would have been cared for. Because they didn't do it, the rich got richer... the poor got poorer... and the land was ruined. This is one reason God sent them in to captivity (to give the land a rest).

But, before we come down too hard on the Israelites, we should look in the mirror. While we don’t observe Jubilee as prescribed in the Law of Moses, we can have the “spirit” of Jubilee in our lives today.

1. To experience Jubilee in your life, it begins by **releasing people from the debt** in which you hold on them because you think they let you down, disappointed, or hurt you. It involves forgiving people and releasing them from their debt (Mt. 6:12; 18:27).
2. Secondly, you will experience Jubilee only to the degree that you **quit trying to earn God’s blessings**. When the trumpet sounded signaling the beginning of the Year of Jubilee, it applied to everyone equally.

Every person could have enjoyed the blessings of Jubilee. All they had to do was receive it. So, too, God has blessing for you if you'll just receive them.

3. Thirdly, the Year of Jubilee was to be a **year of restoration**. God wants to restore what you've lost because of sin.

➡ It could be a ministry... relationship... Hope... Peace... Joy (Ps. 51:12)!

**JESUS IS OUR JUBILEE**— He is our **Liberator**... our **Debt-canceller**... our **Rest**... our **Fresh start / New beginning**... the **Restorer** of everything that Adam lost... He is our reason to REJOICE!

One day, another trumpet will sound and all Christians will go to that great Jubilee in the sky! When that trumpet sounds...

- We'll be freed from this body of sin.
- We'll be released from this world of sin.
- When Jesus returns to earth, there will be a 1,000 year Jubilee REST. This earth will be restored to its ORIGINAL OWNER!

➡ We don't have to wait for the Rapture—You can have Jubilee NOW!