### Leviticus

## Chapter 25

1Then the Lord spoke to Moses [while he was] on Mount SinAi and told him:  
  
 2‘Speak to the children of IsraEl and tell them this:  
  
 ‘When you enter the land that I’m giving to you, the ground must [be allowed] to rest during its Sabbaths to Jehovah.  
  
 3‘You may plant your fields, prune your vines, and gather their fruitage for 6 years. 4However, the 7th year will be a Sabbath, during which the land must rest.  
  
 ‘During this Sabbath to Jehovah, you may not plant your fields, prune your vines, 5or gather anything that starts to grow of its own in your fields, nor may you completely gather all the sacred grapes; for it’s to be a year of rest for the ground.  
  
 6‘However, during the Sabbaths on the land, [there’ll be enough] food for you and for your male and female servants, those who work for you, as well as for any aliens that live among you.  
  
 7‘But, as for your cattle and the wild animals that live on your land... They may eat whatever they wish.  
  
  
 8‘Thereafter, you must keep track and [count off] 7 Sabbaths of years (7 times 7 years) to make 7 weeks of years, or 49 years.  
  
 9‘Then in the 7th month, on the 10th day of the month (on the Day of Atonement), you must sound a trumpet and send a proclamation throughout the entire land with trumpeting... 10For, that year (the 50th year) is to be holy, and you must proclaim a release on the land and on all that live on it… It’s to be a year of setting free.  
  
 ‘It’s a Signal to you that each person may then return to his home and his family. 11The 50th year must be a Signal of Release among you.  
  
 ‘So, you may not plant or harvest any of the produce that grows from the ground on its own, or gather any of its sacred fruit... 12For it’s to be the Signal of Release, and it must be holy to you, during which you must eat the [stored] crops that you’ve harvested from the fields.  
  
 13‘In the year of the Release Signal, everyone must [be allowed] to return home...  
  
 14‘So, if you sell [your land] to a neighbor, or if you should buy your neighbor’s [land], it must not be [held permanently]. 15You must count the number of years after each Release Year from the time that you purchase [land] from your neighbor, then [figure out] how many years [you may own it] and how much you’ll likely harvest from it… 16The more years, the higher the [land’s] value.  
  
 ‘So, when there are few years, there’s less value, since there’ll be fewer crops, and [the price] should be [set lower]. 17No man should oppress his neighbor, for you must fear your God Jehovah… I am Jehovah your God!  
  
  
 18‘You must keep all My Laws and decisions and obey them. For if you follow and obey them, you’ll live in the land in safety, 19the ground will provide abundantly, you’ll have plenty to eat, and you’ll live there in security.  
  
  
 20‘Now, if you should ask what you’ll eat during the 7th year if you don’t plant anything or pick your fruit; 21I will send My blessings in the 6th year, and the land will produce abundant crops during [the previous] three years.  
  
 22‘Then you’ll start planting again in the 8th year and eat from your stored crops until the 9th year… Yes, until its crop comes in, you will eat from the stored crops.  
  
 23‘Therefore, no land may be sold permanently, since all the land is Mine and you’re just aliens and travelers before Me! 24So, any land that you [buy] must also be repurchased.  
  
  
 25‘If your brother who lives near you is poor and has to sell [you] some of his land, and his relative should thereafter come to assist him; he must be allowed to buy back the land that his brother sold. 26Or, if he has no such relative and he starts to prosper and finds enough money to buy it back himself... 27He must calculate how many years the land has been sold, and pay the person to whom he sold it a fair amount… And then it should be returned.  
  
 28‘But if he hasn’t prospered enough to buy back the property; the one who bought it will own the land through the 6th year before the year of Release… Then it should be returned and its owner can go back to his land.  
  
  
 29‘If anyone sells an inhabited house within a walled city, it [can be] bought back again before a one year buying-back time runs out...30But if it’s not bought back within that year, the house in the walled city will be transferred to the buyer throughout his generations – and it won’t be returned in the Release [Signal].  
  
 31‘But houses in villages that don’t have a wall around them will just be considered like the fields of the countryside... They’ll always be available to buy back, and they’ll be returned [automatically] in the release [year].  
  
  
 32‘The houses within cities owned by the Levites shall be always available to buy back by the Levites. 33And if anyone buys a Levite house, their purchased house will return in the Release [Signal]... Because the houses in the Levite cities are their possession within the children of Israel.  
  
 34‘Also, the land reserved for their cities can’t be sold, because this is their age-long possession.  
  
  
 35‘Also, if your brother who lives among you becomes poor and needs to [borrow some money] from you, you must help him as you would an alien or a traveler, so that your brother may continue to live among you. 36You must not charge him interest or [tell him] to pay you more; for you must fear your God… I am Jehovah!  
  
 ‘And you must [help] your brother to keep living among you.  
  
 37‘You must not lend your money to him for interest, and you must not lend him any food and expect him to pay you back with more, 38for I am Jehovah your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of CanaAn and to be your God.  
  
  
 39‘And if your brother should become so poorly off that he sells himself to you, he must not serve and work as your slave… 40You must treat him like a hired person or as a traveler, and he will only work for you until the Year of Release.  
  
 41‘Then, during the Release, he and his children will leave as a family, and they will hurry back to their family possessions, 42because they are My servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt.  
  
 ‘So, they can’t be sold as slaves, 43nor may you force them into hard labor... For you must fear Jehovah your God.  
  
  
 44‘If you wish to purchase male and female slaves, buy them from the nations that live around you.  
  
 45‘You may also buy the sons of the travelers who live among you. You may buy them and their relatives… All that live in your land may become your possession 46and may be left as an inheritance to your children after you, and be your [family] possession throughout the ages.  
  
 ‘However, you must never oppress your brothers of the children of IsraEl by forcing them to do hard labor.  
  
  
 47‘And if an alien or a traveler who lives among you should become rich, and your brother who is in need is sold to the alien or traveler who lives among you, or to an [IsraElite] convert... 48After he’s been sold, one of his brothers must buy him back. 49An uncle, a cousin, or another close relative from his tribe must be allowed to buy him… Or if he gets wealthy, he may buy himself back.  
  
 50‘The person who buys him must calculate how many years there were from the time that he sold himself until the Year of Release, and then pay the amount that would be paid to a hired person during that number of years.  
  
 51‘And if anyone has [enough money] to pay [the wages] for all those years, he must pay the ransom. 52If there’s just a short time until the Year of Release, he will pay the ransom [for that short period].  
  
 53‘[Also, the person who buys him] must treat him as hired help through the years… He must not be forced into hard labor!  
  
 54‘And if he can’t pay his own fair ransom, he and his children must be set free in the Year of Release. 55For the children of IsraEl are My servants… They are My attendants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt.’