

Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Lev. 25:1-9	Land Sabbath Instruction
Tuesday:	Lev. 25:10-19	Jubilee Year Instruction - land
Wednesday:	Lev. 25:20-34	Jubilee Year Instruction - land, poor brother, houses, cities of Lewites
Thursday:	Lev. 25:35-39	Jubilee Year Instruction - poor brother
Friday:	Lev. 25:40-55	Jubilee Year Instruction - servant or sojourner

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be studying the instruction and right-rulings to the children of Yisra'el regarding land rest every 7th year (shmitah) and the Jubilee year (Yobel - an event that happens every 50 years) when entering the land of Kena'an. Now, let's read Lev. 25.

PARSHA POINTS

- Yahweh spoke to Mosheh on Mt. Sinai instructing him to speak to the children of Yisra'el - 25:1-2
- Yahweh told Mosheh to speak to them regarding a Sabbath rest for the land when entering the land of Kena'an - 25:2
- Yahweh told them that He was the one who brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim, to give them the land of Kena'an and be their Elohim - 25:38

Years 1-7

- Yahweh said to them regarding years 1-6: (25:3; Ex. 23:10)
 - 6 (**shesh**) years you sow (**tizra**) your field (**sadeh**)
 - 6 years you prune (**tizmor**) your vineyard (**kerem**) and gather its fruit
- Yahweh said to them regarding the 7th year: (25:4-5; Ex. 23:11)



- Do NOT sow your field
- Do NOT prune your vineyard
- Do NOT reap what grows of its own of your harvest
- Do NOT gather the grapes of your unpruned vine



- Yahweh told them that the Sabbath rest for the land would provide sustenance (food) for: (25:6-7)
 - oneself and family
 - male and female and hired servants
 - stranger within their gates
 - animals in their lands

Jubilee Year - Yobel

- Count 7 (**sheva**) Sabbaths of years; $7 \times 7 = 49$ years - 25:8
- Sound a shofar on the 10th (**eser**) day of the 7th month (Yom HaKippurim) to be heard throughout the land to proclaim this - 25:9
- The 50th (**chamishim**) year is a Jubilee (Yobel) to you - 25:11
- Set the 50th year apart - 25:10, 12
- Proclaim a release throughout the land for everyone for a Yobel - 25:10
- Everyone shall return to their possession (land and homes) and their clan - 25:10, 13
- Do NOT sow in the 50th year - 25:11
- Do NOT reap what grows of its own in the 50th year - 25:11
- Do NOT gather its unpruned vine in the 50th year - 25:11
- You may eat from the field its crops - 25:12



Right-Rulings Regarding Your Neighbor's Property or Possessions

- Do NOT exploit one another (interest or profit), when you do a business transaction with your neighbor in the years between the Yobel - 25:14-16
- Do NOT oppress one another - 25:17
- When someone falls upon hard times and you purchase something of their possession:
 - their relative (redeemer) will be allowed the opportunity to purchase the possession back - 25:23-25
 - they themselves will be allowed to purchase the possession back when they are able - 25:26-27
 - if they are not able to purchase it back, you must hold onto the possession until the Yobel and give it back to them - 25:28
- When someone falls upon hard times and you purchase their house in a walled city:
 - they may purchase it back within a year - 25:29
 - if they are not able to purchase it back within a year, then it is yours and you do not have to give it back in the Yobel - 25:30
- When someone falls upon hard times and you purchase their house in a village but NOT a walled city:
 - a right of redemption belongs to it, if possible - 25:31
 - it must be released in the Yobel, if it is not able to be redeemed before that - 25:31



Right-Rulings Regarding Your Brother

- When your brother has become poor, you are to strengthen him - 25:35
- When your brother has become poor, he shall live with you - 25:35-36
- When your brother has become poor, do NOT take interest or obtain profit from him regarding silver or food - 25:36-37
- When your brother who dwells by you becomes poor and sells himself to you, do NOT make him a slave, but a hired servant, until the year of the Yobel wherein he will return to his own clan and family - 25:39-42
- You are NOT to rule over your brother with harshness - 25:43, 46b



Blessings for Obedience Regarding the Land Sabbath

- You shall dwell in the land in safety - 25:18, 19
- The land will yield its fruit - 25:19
- You will eat to satisfaction/fullness - 25:19
- Starting in the 6th year and for 3 (**shalosh**) years, the land will grow it's crops - 25:21
- You may sow in the 8th (**shmoneh**) year and eat the old crop until the 9th (**tesha**) year - 25:22

Right-Rulings Regarding Lewites

- The Lewites have a right of redemption forever regarding cities and houses in their possession - 25:32
- In the year of the Yobel, their house and city will be released - 25:33
- The field of the open land in their cities is never to be sold - 25:34

Right-Rulings Regarding the Nations or Foreigner in Your Land

- Your male and female servants from the nations that are around you, are yours as an inheritance for all time - 25:44-46
- If a sojourner or settler becomes rich in your land and if a native Yisra'elite becomes his servant, the poor man can be redeemed by a family member before the year of Jubilee by paying back his debt - 25:49-50
- The sojourner or settler living in the land who acquired a native Yisra'elite as his servant must not treat him with harshness - 25:53
- If a native Yisra'elite is not able to be redeemed before the year of Jubilee by a family member, he will be released along with his children in the year of Jubilee, because the children of Yisra'el are Yahweh's servants - 25:54-55

DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- What trust and reliance would the children of Yisra'el have to have in order to believe that Yahweh would provide enough in the harvest of six years to see them through the seventh year of land rest, as well as the 8th year when they are sowing again?
- What benefits are there to giving the land a rest every 7 years? Discuss nutrients and depletion if there is no rest.
- How do you think someone of a wealthy stature would feel the 7th year when they are not sowing or plowing and living like everyone else, trusting in Yahweh's instructions to sustain them as He does the poor of the land? How do you think someone of a wealthy stature would feel the 50th year when they had to release the person or property they had acquired?
- Discuss how kind and merciful Yahweh is that He would designate the year of Jubilee as a time for all servants to be released from their servitude unless they chose to stay (Ex. 21:2-6; Deut. 15:12-18).
- Discuss how kind and merciful Yahweh is that everyone was able to start over again in the 50th year.
- Discuss the fairness to the purchaser (whether a native or foreigner) that Yahweh put in place for when a relative is redeeming a property or person found in Lev. 25:14-17, 50-52 and how the price of redemption is calculated depending on how many years are left until the Yobel.
- Discuss the difference between a servant and a slave according to Scripture.
- Notice that Yahweh says that the land is His (v. 23), not ours and that we are His servants (v. 42, 55). What does that mean?

