

The True Basis of Social Concern

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Leviticus 25.

II. The Sabbath year.

A. The Sabbath teaches a basic principle that men were made to operate out of rest and rest is operating out of another.

B. The Israelites were not to grow crops--the land was to lie fallow.

III. The Jubilee.

A. This was a year of liberty.

B. It happened on the Day of Atonement demonstrating that all liberty happens through redemption.

C. Liberty is not doing whatever one wants--it is regaining lost inheritance and restoring broken relationships.

D. The great principles of the year of Jubilee.

1. The land does not support a person, God does.

2. There will be security when the principle of rest is learned.

3. The crops will be produced with little struggle.

E. Sadly, Israel never practiced a Jubilee.

F. The Jubilee teaches that the land is God's and that this land is not our home.

G. The poor were not to be locked into a position where they could not recover, no Israelite could be a slave, and a slave must be given the right to become free.

H. The life of the land is preserved through righteousness.

Application questions:

1. Should believers practice a "Sabbath year" today? Explain your answer.

2. Which principle of the Jubilee strikes you the most? Explain.

3. What are some things you have failed to trust God to provide for you? Spend some time in prayer believing in God's ability to provide for you when you ask Him in faith.
