

"God's Treasured Possession!"

The Book of Deuteronomy-

Old Israel and New Israel = The Church

Date: 2-12-17 Study: #15 Text: Chapter 15

Lesson 15 for us:

"As the Lord your God has blessed you, you shall give to him"

A. THE TEXT:

(1) "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. (2) And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because **the Lord's release** has been proclaimed. (3) Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release.

(4) But there will be no poor among you; for the Lord will bless you in the land that **the Lord your God** is giving you for an inheritance to possess-- (5) if only you will strictly **obey the voice of the Lord your God**, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. (6) For **the Lord your God** will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.

(7) "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that **the Lord your God** is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, (8) but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. (9) Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to **the Lord** against you, and you be guilty of sin. (10) You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this **the Lord your God** will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. (11) For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

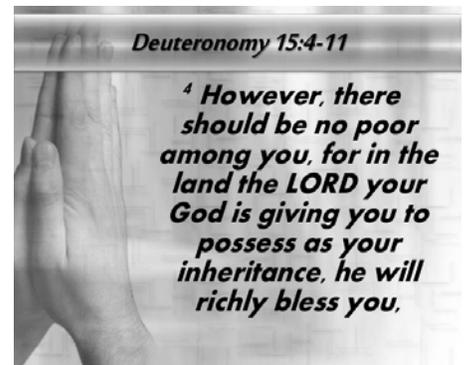
(12) "If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. (13) And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. (14) You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As **the Lord your God** has blessed you, you shall give to him.

(15) You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and **the Lord your God** redeemed you; therefore I command you this today. (16) But if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' because he loves you and your household, since he is well-off with you, (17) then you shall take an awl, and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever. And to your female slave you shall do the same. (18) It shall not seem hard to you when you let him go free from you, for at half the cost of a hired servant he has served you six years. So **the Lord your God** will bless you in all that you do.

(19) "All the firstborn males that are born of your herd and flock you shall dedicate **to the Lord your God**. You shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. (20) You shall eat it, you and your household, before **the Lord your God** year by year at the place that the Lord will choose. (21) But if it has any blemish, if it is lame or blind or has any serious blemish whatever, you shall not sacrifice it to **the Lord your God**. (22) You shall eat it within your towns. The unclean and the clean alike may eat it, as though it were a gazelle or a deer. (23) Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it out on the ground like water.

B. Study Notes:

1. The seven year release and canceling debts, so there will be no poor among you (**Ex 23:10,11; Lev 25:1-7**)
The Lord had blessed them, so the 7th Sabbath rest year was so that those who had had economic distress



could experience relief and be freed from indebtedness. There was a way to equalize wealth. The Year of Jubilee was another provision like this, an act of mercy (**Lev 25:8-38**).

2. Sadly however, there will always be poor among us (**Mt 26:11**). The uncertainties of life, the variations among people will result in some people being poor – for various reasons. The Lord commands his people then to exhibit generosity, kindness, mercy and assistance for the truly poor (the elderly, sick, disabled, widows, orphans and refugees).

The wealthy should not hoard their money for their source of security. They should trust God in all their business dealings, so that as they prosper, they can live out this trust by freely sharing with those in need!

(Mt 5:42; 20:15; 25:41,42; 26:11; Mk 14:7; Lk 6:34,35; Jn 12:8; Ac 24:17; 2 Cor 9:5-7; Gal 6:10; 1 Tim 5:8; 1 Jn 3:7; Jas 2:15,16; 5:4)

3. Some servants may have been treated well and thus love their masters – they can stay with them. The awl and earlobe are explained in: (**Ex 21:5,6**) But because some of their fellow Hebrews, in desperate circumstances, had to sell themselves into slavery, a way was provided for them in seven years to get a new start.

4. The setting apart of the firstborn male was remembering how the Lord saved Israel from the plague of death upon the first-born in Egypt, because the blood of the lamb was smeared over their door posts.

(Ex 12:12,29; 13:2,5; Num 18:17-19)

Note: We are saved because of the blood of the first-born Son and Lamb - Jesus Christ – who took upon himself the plague of death on the cross and his blood has been placed upon us.

(Heb ch. 9 & 10; 1 Pet 1:17-19; Rev 7:13-17)

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“Let us then make efforts to attach ourselves to the poor and to the mourners who have the promise rather than to the ungodly who, even though they flourish for a time, are finally overthrown and destroyed. But the godly, who are oppressed for a time, have certain protection and consolation in GOD, who is present and sustains the afflicted, mitigates their troubles, and gives eternal life and glory to the little flock when it again emerges from troubles. Nor should we be shattered in spirit, even though great toils and adversities must be endured, but we should conclude that God’s Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the guardian and leader of all who labor and are oppressed in the world, is at our side even as He has promised (Matt. 28:20): “I am with you always, to the close of the age,” to whom with the eternal Father and Holy Spirit be praise and glory forever! Amen.”

C. Life Application:

1. The Lord your God is giving you wealth and prosperity.

Why must you not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother?

2. There will never cease to be poor in the land.

Therefore he commands:

'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land'

As the Lord your God has blessed you, how can you give to others?