

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Text: Leviticus 25:8-55

Introduction:

1. The feasts commanded by God were physical observances that had mental and emotional benefits.
2. Of course, they also taught important spiritual lessons.
3. The Passover was instituted to remind the Israelites of the price paid for their deliverance from Egyptian slavery – and the bondage of sin.
4. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to remind Israel of God's deliverance and the danger of corruption.
5. The Feast of Firstfruits was to remind them of God's promises and to express gratitude for His faithfulness.
6. The Feast of Pentecost demonstrated the faithfulness of God – in providing for both the rich and the poor, in providing His Law, and in providing the church.
7. Though not technically a feast, it is important to consider the Year of Jubilee...

I. Israel's Jubilee (Leviticus 25)

A. Background: The Sabbath

1. The Sabbath Day (Exodus 20:8-11)
2. The Sabbath Year (Leviticus 25:1-7)
 - a. A year of rest for the land, animals, and man
 - b. There was to be no sowing or harvesting.
 - c. Yet, it was not a year of no activity (cf. Deut. 31:10-13).
 - d. Sadly, it seems that Israel did not keep the Sabbath year until after their captivity (26:34-35; 2 Chronicles 36:21).

B. The year of Jubilee was to be kept every 50th year – after seven Sabbath years (49 years).

C. The Jubilee began on the Day of Atonement – the most solemn day of the Israelite year, when the sins of the people were remembered and redeemed with blood before the Mercy Seat of God.

D. Yet, the word “Jubilee” refers to a shout of joy – a high, joyful sound.

E. There were four key principles associated with the Year of Jubilee:

1. Faith

- a. In the provision of God (25:18-22)
- b. Note that faith demanded obedience!

2. Forgiveness

- a. The Day of Atonement – remembrance and redemption
- b. From bondage due to debt (25:39-43)
- c. Of land from debt (25:23-28)

Bible Feasts

3. **Freedom** – Liberty proclaimed! (25:10)
 4. **Family** – Homecoming celebrated! (25:10)
 - F. What an amazing plan God had for His people!
- II. The Christian's Jubilee (Romans 10:13-18)
- A. The trumpet sounds when the Gospel is preached – announcing the hope of Jubilee (Romans 10:18).
 - B. The Christian's Jubilee begins on his day of atonement – the day his sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus (cf. Acts 8:36-39).
 - C. The Christian's Jubilee also includes those four principles:
 1. **Faith** (2 Corinthians 5:7; Matthew 6:33; Revelation 2:10)
 2. **Forgiveness** (Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:7-9)
 3. **Freedom** (Luke 4:18-21; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1, 13)
 4. **Family** (Ephesians 3:14-15; 1:5; Galatians 4:4-6)
 - D. What an amazing plan God has for His people!
- III. Heaven's Jubilee (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
- A. One day, the trumpet will sound to announce the eternal Jubilee of the saved in Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
 - B. God's own possession – the church – will come home to their eternal inheritance (Ephesians 1:14).
 - C. The children of God will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (John 14:1-3)!
 - D. This will be the greatest homecoming of all!
 - E. What an amazing plan God has for His faithful!

Conclusion: *Are you ready for Heaven's Jubilee?*