

# Lessons in Liberty

## “Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land”

Text: Leviticus 20:15

“And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family” (Leviticus 25:10).

Introduction:

1. This statement was made as a part of the instructions for keeping the Jubilee Year.
2. In 1751, these words were inscribed on the bell used in the Pennsylvania State House located in Philadelphia.
3. In time, it came to be known as the Liberty Bell.
4. Legend claims that it was rung at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776.
5. In the 1830's, the Liberty Bell was adopted by abolitionists as a symbol for ending slavery throughout the country.
6. In the late 1800's, it was displayed in various cities across the nation as a symbol of liberty and unity following the Civil War.
7. This principle of proclaiming liberty is emphasized in similar ways in Scripture.

- I. Proclaim Liberty in Jubilee *Leviticus 20:15*
  - A. The year of Jubilee was to be kept every 50th year – after seven Sabbath years (49 years).
  - B. 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.
  - C. Yet, the word “Jubilee” refers to a shout of joy – a high, joyful sound.
  - D. There were four key principles associated with the Year of Jubilee:
    1. Faith
    2. Forgiveness
    3. Freedom
    4. Family
  - E. Imagine a year of such celebration!
  - F. The Christian must proclaim liberty in Jubilee!
- II. Proclaim Liberty in Obedience *Jeremiah 34:17*
  - A. Through Jeremiah, the Lord told King Zedekiah that Jerusalem would fall to Babylon and that he would be taken captive (34:1-7).
  - B. During the attack, Zedekiah had made a covenant with the people that all slaves were to be freed (34:8-11).
    1. This would allow them to escape the city and death.
    2. Yet, it would also allow those who remained in the city a better chance of survival.

# Lessons in Liberty

- C. After freeing the slaves, the Israelites changed their minds and brought them back into captivity.
- D. Because of their dishonesty and disobedience, God proclaimed liberty to the Israelites – to the sword, pestilence, famine, and captivity (34:12-22).
- E. True freedom can be found only in obedience to God (James 1:25).
- F. Disobedience – the choice of man's free will – only leads to the freedom to suffer for one's sins (cf. Matthew 7:2; Galatians 6:7-8).
- G. The Christian must proclaim liberty in obedience!

## III. Proclaim Liberty in Salvation *Isaiah 61:1-3*

- A. The Servant is anointed by God to proclaim liberty to the captives.
  - 1. Liberty "is a technical term for the release of debtors and slaves in the fiftieth year, the year of jubilee (Lev. 25:10; Jer. 34:8, 15)" [Hailey].
  - 2. Those held captive by Satan and sin are offered freedom.
- B. Those who were on spiritual "death row" would be heard by God and granted freedom through a full pardon (Psalm 102:16-22).
- C. The freed prisoners would be granted hope and abundant blessing from the Lord (Zechariah 9:9-12).
- D. All of this would be made possible because of the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Gospel (Luke 4:14-21; Romans 1:16-17).
- E. In Jesus, men may be free indeed (John 8:30-36)!
- F. The Christian must proclaim liberty in salvation!

### Conclusion:

- 1. The mission of the Christian is to proclaim liberty throughout all the land.
- 2. Live in freedom that others may be led to freedom!