



Leviticus 25-27

1. We can trust God will continue to provide during those times He appoints rest or removes from our lives those things once appointed to provide for our needs (25:1-22; 2- "When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord" = The Sabbath/jubilee laws of release were tied to the tribal [or "clan"] land of Israel inherited from God during the time they possessed it. Hence the reason such laws did not apply before or after their inheritance was no longer theirs)
2. God provides no redemption if we permanently sell-off (or forfeit) His inheritance (25:23-34; e.g. forfeit our spiritual birthright thru apostasy – Gen 25:33 w/Heb 12:16-17).
3. It is the responsibility of those in the covenant community to see that the needs (i.e. nourishment and covering: food, clothing and shelter – 1Ti 6:8) of their poor (i.e. those unable to financially maintain their needs) are met (Deu 15:4, 8). There are two options for accomplishing this: 1) 6 yr interest/profit free loans with credit/collateral (25:35-38 – "becomes poor with you ...that you brother may live [w/you] beside you" = still possesses credit/collateral to cover the loan – e.g. land; Deu 15:1-2, 7-11), 2) 6 yr interest/profit free loans w/indentured servitude for those w/no credit/collateral (Lev 25:39-46 – "becomes poor beside you sells himself...as hired" = not enough credit/collateral to cover the loan so becomes indentured servant versus slave = the former has rights; "jubilee" = [literally] release; Deu 15:12; Exo 21:1-2).
4. Though unbelievers can be slaves (personal property of owner w/no rights or contract) (25:43-46a), covenant bros/sis can only serve as indentured servants (hired under a 6 yr contract w/rights and the right of redemption) b/c they are already God's slaves (25:42, 46a, 55, 25:47-54;). In this respect, both the Christians in the North and the Christians in the South were wrong in their views at the time of the Civil War (the North viewed all slavery as wrong; the South possessed slaves who were Christians making the issue truly one of race [and therefore sinful] rather than God's distinction – which is religion).
5. God's OT instruction regarding covenant members as slaves informs our interpretation of such NT passages as (1Ti 6:2) and the book of Philemon.
6. There are two types of apostasy: 1) insubordination apostasy = apostasy due to unrepentance (26:18-39 – "sevenfold for your sins"; Mat 18:17; see Rev 6-11, 15-16), 2) insurrection apostasy = apostasy due to blasphemy of those serving in God's sacred office (Num 15:30-31 16:1-50; Mat 12:22-32).
7. Keeping (or maintaining) the covenant of salvation and receiving God's blessing/promises (26:1-13 versus 14-39) requires: 1) sound theology (proper) (26:1), 2) keeping the covenant sign(s) (26:2a [OC = Sabbaths] w/9, 15, 25, 42, 44-45; Under the NC = Baptism and the LT; Gal 3:27 w/Col 2:11-12 and Luk 22:19-20 w/1Co 11:26), 3) reverence for God's house (26:2b), 4) walking in faithfulness to God's laws (26:3), 5) confession and real repentance (i.e. making our wrongs right by seeking/serving justice) when guilty of sin (26:40-46, esp. 40 and 43).
8. LORD BEFORE SAVIOR (26:1-46).
9. God responds in kind (26:15 w/30, 18, 21, 23-24, 27-28, 40-41).
10. Like NC Christians today, the OC Israelites enjoyed the blessing of covenant legacy (i.e. certain descendants gaining salvation/covenant relationship w/God upon their creation). The difference was that theirs was based on the forefathers whereas ours (is based) on our parents (26:44-45; Act 2:38-39).
11. Whenever we promise to give God something in exchange for His special help with specific people or things, it is important that we give exactly what we promised (according to its biblical value – 27:1-12, 14-25), when we promised it (Deu 23:21-23; Mal 1:14; Psa 22:25, 50:14, 61:5, 8, 116:4 w/14, 18; e.g. Gen 28:20-22; Num 21:2; Jug 11:30-31; 1Sa 1:11; Jon 1:16) since : 1) giving something in its place (a substitute of) does not get us off the hook (i.e. we will still owe what we originally promised) (27:10, 33), 2) any portion redeemed (or not given) will be owed w/an additional 20% interest (27:13, 15, 19, 27), 3) failure will mean God becoming angry and destroy our efforts to get ahead in life (Ecc 5:4-6; Pro 20:25).
12. God owns our tithe which means anytime we fail to give it, we are borrowing from Him and must pay an additional 20% interest (27:30-32).
13. Anything God identifies as "devoted to destruction" cannot be ransomed/redeemed (27:28-29; e.g. those committing capital crimes or apostate).

Numbers 1

1. God views the men of the covenant community (any male "from twenty years old and upward") as either: 1) the warriors advancing His kingdom (1:1-46), OR 2) the guardians protecting His house (1:47-54).
2. It is righteous for a country to establish a mandatory military draft among its eligible male population to supply troops for necessary and just wars (1:1-46).