



July 19, 2020

THE SLAVE

The Freed Slave

07.19.2020 | 8:45/10:15 AM

rainsvillefirst.com



David Cofield

Pastor

“The Slave: The Freed Slave”

Rainsville First Baptist Church

223 Church Avenue
Rainsville, AL 35986

rainsvillefirst.com



"THE SLAVE: The Freed Slave"

We are going to walk back into a time that is unfamiliar to most, even Bible readers. A time of Jewish history that, according to even a modern day rabbi, they have not celebrated or observed for 2600 years. It's called the Year of Jubilee – The Year of Release.

Yet there is a verse here – **Leviticus 25:10** – that is very familiar in American history. This verse is inscribed on the Liberty Bell. **"Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."**

The Year of Jubilee is the 50th year. It comes after the seventh (perfect number, number of completion) seven years of rest.

From the very beginning of creation, God set into motion – work six days and on the sabbath or seventh day, you shall not work, but rest.

Every seventh year, the Jews were to let the land rest and no crops were to be planted or harvested. Since the majority of the Jews were farmers, this meant they had time on their hands, and they devoted that time to studying the Torah and prayer.

Then, at the end of seven such cycles, the 50th year, it was the Year of Jubilee. It was the seventh cycle – completion – perfection.

Four things happened in the Year of Jubilee:

- Rest From Your Work

So why did God require a weekly sabbath, a seventh-year rest of the land, and a Year of Jubilee?

It was a reminder that God was in control. He had a right to control their schedule. It also was a reminder that God owns everything. Success can go to your head, and you think if you can have all of this success in six days, look how much more you can have in seven. And you begin to think you own everything, and everything you have is due to you.

But as one Rabbi called it – "a hard reset" – every seventh day and seventh year and every 50th year.



"THE SLAVE: The Freed Slave"

- **Returning of All the Land to the Original Tribes and Families**

Verses 25-28: If a Jew had to sell his land because he was poor or needed money, he could later have his property redeemed by a family member, if they would. If not, in the Year of Jubilee everything would be returned and restored.

- **Renounce all Debts**
- **Release All Slaves**

The Year of Jubilee would begin in the seventh month, and according to verse 9, on the tenth day of the month – a shophar would be blown.

The Rabbi I listened to said he was not clear on which of the following had to occur:

1. If everyone had to blow the Shophar on the Day
2. If you have to be able to hear the Shophar blowing

But the impact of the blowing of the Shophar was significant – it was the shout of freedom!!

But it had to impact you. Can you image what a noise of celebration it would cause when it would blow on the Day of Atonement, in the Year of Jubilee? The whole nation of Israel blowing shophars at the same time – FREEDOM!!!!

You've never heard guests on Dave Ramsey yell like that!

I want to focus on the releasing of the slaves...

I. Perpetual Freedom Proclaimed by the Lord

Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

II. Provided by the Lord

Romans 6:18 – "...and having been liberated from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness."

Romans 8:1-2 – "Therefore, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus, because the Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."



“THE SLAVE: The Freed Slave”

This is not Scripture, but when the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the Qumran caves, there were 15 copies of a book entitled **“The Book of Jubilees”** also found that listed all the Jubilees of the Jews and it said the 30th Jubilee was the year Christ was crucified.

III. Personal Choice of the Freed Slave

Deuteronomy 15:12-18

“If your fellow Hebrew, a man or woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, you must set him free in the seventh year. When you set him free, do not send him away empty-handed. Give generously to him from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress. You are to give him whatever the Lord your God has blessed you with. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you; that is why I am giving you this command today. But if your slave says to you, ‘I don’t want to leave you,’ because he loves you and your family, and is well off with you, take an awl and pierce through his ear into the door, and he will become your slave for life. Also treat your female slave the same way. Do not regard it as a hardship when you set him free, because he worked for you six years—worth twice the wages of a hired worker. Then the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.”

If you chose to leave, **Deut. 15:12** – you would not be sent away empty handed.

If you chose not to leave, **Deut. 15** – then you would take an anvil and pierce your ear.

No wonder **Dr. Adrian Rogers** would say, **“I don’t work for my salvation – that work has been done by my Lord. But, I will work like any slave for the love of God.”**

Galatians 6:17 – “because I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.”

In the historical drama about the American Revolutionary War, *The Patriot*, a slave named Occam is signed up for the militia in place of his enslaver, who is too cowardly to fight himself. Occam goes to war because he has been forced to go. He is thrust into duty. But, the sub-plot thickens.

Occam later discovers that General George Washington has issued a declaration that promises freedom to any man who fights in the militia for one year. As soon as he discovers this, his attitude changes to one of determination and hope for freedom. His racist comrades assume, that as a reluctant conscript, Occam will quit fighting for the cause as soon as he gains his freedom; however, after fighting for a full year, the warrior is granted his freedom, and for the first time, he has the choice to do as he pleases. He shows his mettle when he chooses to remain in his fighting unit, of his own volition, fighting for the cause as a compatriot, not as a slave.