

20 Iyyar, 57776 (28/6/16) **Jubilee: Focusing On Our Kingdom Freedom**

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Behar **On The Mountain** **Focusing on our Kingdom Freedom**

Torah: Leviticus 25:1-26:2

Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6-27

Brit Chadashah: Luke 4:16-21

(Colette p. 147) **Ps. 112** Jewish Hero: Zadok Torah Carrier: Jack

Melissa David

This portion deals with the Sabbatical and Jubilee years and during these special years, the people were to eat both their previous harvests from the sixth year, getting a double harvest in the sixth year before a sabbatical year and a triple harvest in the sixth year before a Jubilee year (Lev. 25:21) and they were also to eat whatever grew of itself in the land without having been sown or harvested (25:6 and 25:12).

This cycle of sabbatical years was to be recognition by the people that the land ultimately belonged to G-d and they were just strangers and pilgrims passing through. We also need to remain conscious that the earth is the L-rd's and that we are only tenants passing through – and our tithe is the rent He requires for the privilege He grants to us to earn a living in the land which belongs to Him.

Further, during the Sabbatical year, all land reverted to its original members (tenants) and all slaves were set free as a sign that all the children of Israel had been set free from Egypt to become the slaves (property) of YHVH (25:53). We also need to see ourselves as slaves who were freed from this world to become slaves of YHVH. He bought us and He owns us – a very comforting and sobering thought.

Sadly there is no record that the Children of Israel ever fulfilled the requirements of the Sabbatical or the Jubilee year and part of the reason they went into captivity is that they forgot that both their land and their very lives belonged to G-d.

They no longer lived like YHVH's slaves, as tenants in the Land He gave them. He promised that He would provide abundance for both requirements (Sabbatical and Jubilee) and that the people would not suffer any kind of loss or deprivation as they practised obedience to this particular stipulation of His Word.

These stipulations were given for us to see that all that we are and all that we own belong to our King and He will bless us on our generational pilgrimage through this life if we remain focused on our Kingdom freedom, first during this life and then in the life which is to come.

The Brit Chadashah portion takes this one step further and the L-rd says that the Jubilee year was fulfilled in Him because He came to set the captives free and offer them kingdom entrance.

In other words as the people celebrated their freedom from Egyptian slavery once a generation (at the fiftieth year), now He has come to offer us an eternal deliverance from the slavery of this world.

He won it for us forever when He died on the cross and when He rose again and as we wait for

its ultimate arrival, we need to focus on our Kingdom Freedom as we wander through this life. And just as He provided abundantly for those who kept the Sabbatical year and the Jubilee year, so He will provide abundantly for all those who walk with Him through this life focusing on Kingdom Freedom.

For us it is first a spiritual freedom that we live in a perpetual state of Jubilee freedom as we wander through this life. Secondly, it will become an eternal freedom when He returns and when we receive our new bodies in a new kingdom and bask in the endless freedom of His eternal reign over all the nations and generations of mankind.

Jubilee is all about kingdom freedom and divine ownership and as we approach the end of the counting of the Omer, we need to renew our understanding of His divine ownership of all we have and of all we are. This is a true Kingdom perspective so that our lives are lived as faithful stewards and not as self-serving servants who have forgotten the One who paid such an amazing price to set them free.

We have no permanent home we should return to once a generation and even though orthodox Jews still practice a shemitah (seventh year), the lesson we need to learn from this stipulation is that the land belongs to the Lord and it is never really ours to own outright.

We belong to Him and we need to learn to live as tenants in the kingdom freedom He has provided us. Part of this freedom is to be Sabbath powered and festival driven and to make sure we pay our double rent to our celestial landlord: faith and obedience (which includes the tithing of our resources and of our time (ten percent in the first case, 1/7 in the second case).

We are set free, even if we have to stumble through the growing darkness of this world that is yearly slipping further and further into criminal paganism and our first line of attack and of defence is our Kingdom freedom. The first stage is our spiritual release where we escape from the darkness of this world to walk in the light of the Coming Kingdom. The second stage will be the arrival of the actual kingdom where we will be forever set free from all the darkness and folly of this fading world.

Do you understand that when you accepted the Messiah, you entered into a lifelong Jubilee freedom where He will meet your temporal and spiritual needs as long as you fulfil your obligations? Kingdom freedom means acknowledging His ownership over all that we have and all that we are. Our tenant obligations mean that we put all of our resources at His disposal – our time, our energy and all of our resources.

This requires faith in His ability to provide for us even in a greedy world full of competition where people cheat, lie and steal (to become the king of the castle and get all they can, can all they get and sit on the lid). Being empowered by Sabbath observance (regular devotions and Bible Study) and being festival driven keeps us kingdom focused and prevents us from slipping back into the darkness and the slime from which we were delivered.

How is your kingdom freedom doing? Are you living a Kingdom focused life?