

**“The Year of Jubilee”
January 3, 2016**

Leviticus 25:8-12

1. Historical roots.

- Every 50 years, beginning on the Day of Atonement (*i.e. Yom- “day”; Kippur- “release”*)
- NOTE: Currently in Jewish Jubilee year from September 23, 2015 through October 11, 2016
- “Jubilee”- from the Hebrew word “yobel” (*a ram’s horn/trumpet—signifying a “trumpet blast of liberty”*)
- This amazing year of release and celebration included:
 - FREEDOM for all who were held captive as slaves or prisoners
 - RESTORATION of all that had been lost, stolen, or forfeited
 - FAVOR—receiving the provision and protection of the LORD
 - REST—both naturally (*i.e., fields rested*) and spiritually

2. Spiritual significance.

- Jesus announced that He had come to “proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:19)—the Year of Jubilee.
- Paul, in Colossians 2:17, revealed that all the observances under the Law of Moses—feast days, sacrifices, etc.—were like “shadows of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”
- Jesus has come to bring us ultimate:
 - FREEDOM
 - RESTORATION
 - FAVOR
 - REST

Today, Mark, Tim, La-Kita, and I will be leading us in:

- Understanding these various components of Jubilee
- Declaring that each of these dynamics have been fully accomplished for us by Jesus, the ultimate Jubilee!
- Praying for one another—that we may experience each of these

FREEDOM- Mark

When Jesus began His public ministry, He started by proclaiming verse 1 and part of verse 2 from Isaiah chapter 61. Jesus said that God anointed Him... to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.

Jesus ministry didn't mark a year of Jubilee as Israel knew it, but rather it marked an age of a spiritual Jubilee that will continue until He returns! Freedom from slavery is part of this promise!

There is a difference between captives and prisoners. A captive is someone who the enemy comes and imprisons them or forces them into slavery. They did nothing wrong and didn't deserve it, but this wrong has been done to them. A prisoner on the other hand is someone who is suffering a judgement as a result of breaking the law. It's someone that deserves to be in prison.

Jesus came to liberate both captives and prisoners, to set free both those who had horrible things done to them that were no fault of their own, and also to set free those who rightfully deserve the consequences of their disobedience in breaking the law. Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets. He came to extend grace and mercy.

The scriptures tell us that the things written about in the Old Testament regarding the nation of Israel were written as examples for us. (1 Cor 10:6) They were written to help us avoid the same mistakes Israel made, and also to show and illustrate the ways of God.

For Israel to enter into their land of promise (their own possession, their freedom from slavery in Egypt) God said that they would be given the promise one piece at a time. They would have to fight or overcome for each piece of the land, but the Lord would be with them and fight for them. They would have to learn to occupy the part of the promise that they had obtained, and then God would lead them on to conquer more and more of the promise until they would have all that God had promised them.

With the exception of two men (Joshua and Caleb) , the first generation of Israel were too afraid to enter the land of promise. They saw their enemies as bigger than God, stronger than God, and they feared them more than God. As a result, that entire generation did not obtain the promise.

Then the next generation were given an opportunity to take their promised land, and the Lord appointed Joshua and Caleb to lead them, because they were of a different spirit. They saw how big and strong their enemies were, but they knew that God was bigger and stronger. They feared God and knew that He was for them. And so, little by little, they overcame their enemies and learned to maintain and steward the promise that God have

given them.

The Lord has given us promises and He still extends freedom to captives and opens doors for prisoners. But in His wisdom, God partners with us in overcoming our enemies. He wants to grow us and mature us into sons and daughters of God that can steward what He gives to us.

So, if you connect with this and feel that there are areas in your life where you are being held captive or a prisoner in your soul, if you seem like your enemies are so large that you're terrified to fight, I want you to stand up and I'm going to ask the Lord to impart to you a Caleb spirit, a warring spirit, a faith that sees legitimate difficulty, but sees a God who is bigger than it all!

RESTORATION- Tim

The Lord frees us from the captivity and imprisonment of our enemies and then restores what was taken from us.

Year of Jubilee – a year of restoration and new beginnings

- Every possession a person lost was returned including businesses, land, houses, money and families.
- In Jesus, every day is a year of Jubilee—a day of restoration.

John 10:10

- *Thief* (klepto) - to steal; bandit, pickpocket who is artful in the way he steals and goes almost unnoticed
- *Kill* (thuo) - to sacrifice, surrender, give up something precious and dear
- *Destroy* - ruin, trash, devastate
- Jesus came to destroy too—the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) and RESTORE what was stolen, killed or destroyed--to fully restore us to His way of living.

RESTORE:

- To give (*something previously stolen, taken away, or lost*) back to the original owner
- To return, repair or renovate (*someone or something*) to a former condition or position
- To restock the empty shelves

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NLT)

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who

mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory."

- He restores freedom where there's been captivity
- He restores life and light where there's been imprisonment to darkness
- He restores a headdress of beauty where there's been ashes—*ashes were sprinkled on heads to signify mourning or repentance...a crown representing dignity and festivity is restored*
- He restores gladness where there's been mourning
- He restores praise where there's been despair
- Then they get to be a part of restoring (vs. 4)

Year of Jubilee was also a year of new beginnings.

- He gives second chances to His people because He loves you and believes in you.
- He gave the Israelites many second chances because He wanted a remnant of His people and He promised to give them the Promised Land.
- He extends second, third, fourth... chances to your life!

Potentially Pray:

Restoring finances, relationships, personal businesses, lost time, prodigals

FAVOR & PROTECTION- La-Kita

Favor is not earned but granted!

Isaiah 61:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

The Year of the Lord's Favor

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to **proclaim** good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to **proclaim** freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,[a]

2 to **proclaim** the year of the **Lord's favor**
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

During this celebratory year we are called to proclaim (shout, loud and boldly) God's promises. This is a year of divine favor and protection. Doors that were previously shut are being opened.

We expect to see extreme suddenly blessings!

- Receiving jobs that we would not be qualified for
- Unexpected income
- Divine wisdom

Psalm 5:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your **protection** over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

12 Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your **favor as with a shield.**

REST- Dave

“All who believe (Him) enter (His) rest” (Hebrews 4:3 NIV)

“REST”- *The calmly confident atmosphere in which God lives; place where strife ceases; place of fully enjoying unbroken relationship with Him*

1. PHYSICAL dimension

- We were created with a need for regular times of rest and refreshing (i.e., *“The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.” Mark 2:23 NLT*)
- This is His “command” (i.e., not simply a rule—*“Do this!”* Rather, an invitation to join Him in His rest!)
- It was a kindness extended to their beasts & their fields (Give others a “break” too!)

PRAY: “Lord, teach us to order our days—that we may experience a heart filled with wisdom!” (Psalm 90:12). GIVE US WISDOM TO PACE OURSELVES as we PLACE OUR TRUST IN YOU!”

2. SPIRITUAL & MENTAL/EMOTIONAL dimension

a. Freedom from LEGALISM (i.e., “Rule-driven”)

- a. *“We are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.” Romans 3:27-28 NLT*
- b. Doing things **FROM acceptance**—rather than **FOR acceptance!**
- c. *“Love fulfills the Law” (Romans 13:10) “If you love Me, keep My commands.” (John 14:15)*

b. Freedom from SIN & SHAME (i.e., "Guilt-ridden")

- ***"On that day a fountain will be opened for the dynasty of David and for the people of Jerusalem, a fountain to cleanse them from all their sins and impurity." (Zechariah 13:1 NLT)***
- ***"Let's go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."
(Hebrews 10:22 NLT)***

c. Freedom from WEARINESS & HEAVINESS OF SOUL (i.e., depression)

- ***"Come to Me all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens (i.e., depression of soul), and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29)***
- **The KEY?**
 - **Be "yoked to Me"—work with Me as I work in you**
 - **Break the chains of any other "controller"!**

PRAY: "Jesus, bring freedom from "rule-driven" and "guilt-ridden" and "world-weary" living! Break the power of sin, shame, and any other tormenting taskmasters in my life. Bring me into the glorious liberty your sons & daughters receive from You!"