Sunday School Lesson



Mrs. Lawrence

Subject: God Proclaims Year of Jubilee October 24, 1982

Lesson Scripture Sabbath Year Unto The Lord Lev. 25:1.2 Year of Jubilee

Sweet Land of Liberty Lev. 25:8-12; 23-24 Let My People Go Lev. 25:39-43

Background Scripture...Lev. 25:1-55 **Lesson Background**

The ideas in Leviticus 25 were intended to keep the economy healthy and the people concerned for one another. Leviticus is the third book of Moses. It takes its name from the priestly tribe of Levi, to whom God committed the ceremonial part of Israel's worship. The book touches on many areas of public and private life; from diet to defilment; sexual and social relationships, to Sabbaths and Jubilee.

God's purpose is to preserve the spiritual. moral and physical well-being of His covenant people, Israel, as they prepare to enter the Promised Land. Three months after they were rescued from Egyptian bondage, they were led by Moses to Mount Sinai. It was here that the law of Jubilee was given them by God (Exodus 19:1).

Lesson Explained From the Jewish aspect "The Year of Jubilee" was a safeguard to prevent the Israelites from permanently enslaving themselves, and from changing God's plan for allotting the land. The establishment of these regulations was God's way of insisting that "The earth's the Lords, and the fullness thereof," (Psalms 24:1). Verses 1-2 refer to the Sabbath Year of rest, to be observed every seventh year; not the Sabbath day of rest. These verses are God's own words, uttered while they were encamped at Mount Sinai. The phrase, keep a "Sabbath unto the Lord" means that the Hebrews were to let their land rest every seventh year. It was to lie uncultivated, and there would be no sowing nor reaping, (vss. 1-2).

Verses 4-7, not printed, tell us that wild animals would be allowed to eat the produce. Then came another command for social and economic adjustment: the years were to be numbered and kept every seven years. Then after a period of seven Sabbath years, there was to be a celebration of the Year of Jubilee. This fiftieth year celebration would begin with the sounding of the trumpet throughout the land, (vss. 8-9). After the Israelites had taken possession of the land of Canaan, and cultivated it for 49 years, they would begin the observance of the Year of Jubilee. People who had been forced to sell their property, would have it restored to them at a fair price. Jubilee was a "Holy" year, a time when hungry people could pluck food growing anywhere in Palestine, (vss. 10-12). Slaves were to be returned to their family or releatives.

Verses 23-24 announce a law concerning the land: the Israelites were reminded that they were only tenants on the land and God was the landlord. "They were strangers and sojourners" and were to grant a redemption for the land. Read Lev. 25:25-34 about specific regulations concerning the redemption of land and property.

Beginning with verse 36 of this chapter, there is an exhortation to support those who were impoverished. Their personal freedom was also to be preserved. The discussion is continued in verses 39-43 where there is a law concerning servants' work, their release and a law about the fear of the Lord. Instruction regarding treatment of those persons who have become slaves of another because of poverty. They were to be treated as a hired servant and not as a bondservant. And they were to serve only until the Year of Jubilee.

Verse 43 serves as a reminder to the Israelites that they themselves were ruled over with rigor. We can say here, that every regulation instituted for this special year was designed to demonstrate God's ownership.

Closing Summary Israel's Sabbath year and Jubilee observance were included in the Levitical calendar to give the people and their property a rest. Symbolically, these precepts ullustrated what Christ will later bring to people; freedom, rest, reunion, renewal and joy. Many of the regulations were for a particular people at a specific time in their history. Some writers have said they are not meant to be applied in full detail, to our day. But as Christians, we can use these divine principles in fulfilling our role as good stewards of all God give us.

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C. Don Steger ... Assistant City Manager

Memorial Men's Council To Sponsor Worship Service

The Men's Council of the speaker next Sunday. Memorial United Presbyterian Church will sponsor the Laymen's Day Worship Service Sunday, October 24 at the 11 a.m. service.

Speaker will be C. Don Steger, Assistant City Manager of the City of Char- common life.

Steger received his Ph.D. degree from the University of South Florida in urgent needs of society. Tampa, in 1976 in Urban Educational Research. Born in Madison County, Alabama, Steger is married to Elizabeth Sutton. They have one daughter, Lisa Monique.

The men of Memorial United Presbyterian Church are proud to pre-sent Steger. The theme of the program will be "Together In Missions.'

"The Men's Council is all about mission work," according to Oren McCullough, who will introduce

The Men's Council of the church is dedicated and bound to promote the Kingdom of God worldwide by encouraging all men to serve Jesus Christ in the work of the church and to

The group also completes other tasks such as making effective responses to the

follow in the vocation of the

The Men's Council will also sponsor a barbecue Saturday, October 23 from 11 a.m. until. The cost is \$3 for dinners and menus will consist of beef, pork and chicken.

Memorial United Presbyterian Church, 2600 Beatties Ford Road, is pastored by Rev. Edward Newberry, Rev. H. W. Givens is pastor emeritus. The men of the church cordially invite you to attend what promises to be an inspiring service.

Food Town To Host Recycled Packaging Week

The Junior Woman's Club of Charlotte together with Food Town supermarkets is launching a "Recycled Packaging Awareness week " in several of the chain's local stores, beginning October 25.

The week-long event is part of a national consumer . education and awareness program called "Shopping for the Symbol of the 80's.' It informs consumers about the benefits of recycled paperboard packaging and focuses attention on the recycling symbol three arrows that form a connecting circle.

Food Junior Woman's Club hope to make the entire community aware of recycled paperboard packaging and its important role in managing the nation's solid

waste. To accomplish this, volunteering club members are highlighting products packaged in recycled paperboard with special shelf labels that carry the recycling symbol and logo "This Product Packaged in Recycled Paperboard."

The participating club is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs - the world's largest women's volunteer service organization whose membership includes approximately 12,000 clubs throughout the United States. The Federation has selected "Shopping for the Symbol of the official conservation project for its 1982-84 program

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