

February 24 Answers

- 1) Leviticus 25 contains the laws for the **Sabbath** year and the **Jubilee** year. The Sabbath year was a year of solemn rest for the **land**. For six years the people were allowed to sow their fields, prune their vineyards and orchards, and harvest their crops. But on the seventh year, the land was to lie **fallow**. They could pick and eat whatever the land grew **naturally**, but they were forbidden from sowing, pruning and full-scale harvesting. This teaches us about the character of God. He shows loving **care** to all His creation, whether the land, the **animals** who roam it, the **slaves**, workers and sojourners who work it, or the Israelites who were called to tend it. This also reminds us that God is the supreme **provider**. The people were always tempted to **rely** on the land rather than God. By setting aside the normal agricultural work that went on during the year, the people were **sanctifying** the land to God. They were reminding themselves that the land belonged to God, and that He was the true provider. After **seven** Sabbath years had gone by, the next year was the Jubilee year. This year was the same as the Sabbath year (no sowing, pruning, or reaping), but with an additional, wonderful **gift** from God. Everyone who had been forced to sell themselves into slavery was **released**, and all the land which had been sold was **returned** to its original owner. This teaches us several lessons. Economically, the Jubilee stressed the importance of both **equity** and **opportunity**. Socially, the Jubilee emphasized the importance of **family**. Theologically, the Jubilee reminded the Israelites that **they** and their **land** belonged to God. Finally, it may be noted that **Jesus** took the principles of the Jubilee and applied them to His mission. First, He showed great concern for the **poor**, and He told His disciples to do the same (Luke 7:20–23; 14:13). He also released people from physical sickness and demonic oppression. Second, and most important, Jesus released us from the debt of our **sins**, giving us a present **peace**, as well as a future **hope** of final restoration in eternity.