

Instructions for the Lampstand and Bread Table (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 24:1–9

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
- 2 “Command the Israelites that they should bring pure olive oil *from* beaten *olives* for the light to present a lamp continually.
- 3 Aaron shall arrange for it outside the curtain of the testimony in *the* tent of assembly from evening until morning before Yahweh continually; *it shall be* a lasting statute throughout your generations.
- 4 On the pure *golden* lampstand he shall arrange for the lamps before Yahweh continually.
- 5 “And you shall take finely milled flour, and you shall bake *with* it twelve ring-shaped bread cakes: each one *shall be* two-tenths of an *ephah*.
- 6 And you shall place them *in* two rows, *six to the* row, on the pure *gold* table before Yahweh.
- 7 And you shall put pure frankincense on each row so that it shall be for the bread as a memorial offering, an offering made by fire for Yahweh.
- 8 On every Sabbath he shall arrange it in rows before Yahweh continually; *they are* from the Israelites *as* an everlasting covenant.
- 9 And it shall be for Aaron and for his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, because it *is* a most holy thing for him from Yahweh’s offerings made by fire—a lasting rule.”

Laws Apply Equally for Foreigners and Native-born Israelites (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 24:10–23

- 10 And an Israelite woman’s son, and he *was* an Egyptian man’s son, went out in the midst of the Israelites; and the Israelite woman’s son and an Israelite man fought in the camp.
- 11 Then the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the name, and he cursed, so they brought him to Moses—and the name of his mother *was* Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.
- 12 Then they put him in custody so that *the matter* might be made clear to them in accordance with the mouth of Yahweh.
- 13 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
- 14 “Bring the curser outside the camp, and all the hearers shall place their hands on his head, and the whole community shall stone him.
- 15 And you shall speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘Any man when he curses his God shall bear his sin.
- 16 And he who blasphemes Yahweh’s name certainly shall be put to death; the whole community certainly shall stone him. As the alien, so the native shall be put to death at blaspheming his name.
- 17 “ ‘And when a man kills any human being, he certainly shall be put to death.
- 18 And he who kills a domestic animal must repay *for* it life in place of life.
- 19 And when a man causes a physical defect in his fellow citizen according to what he has done, so it shall be done to him:
- 20 fracture in place of fracture, eye in place of eye, tooth in place of tooth—according to *the* physical defect he causes to the person, likewise it shall be caused to him. [[Exod 21:22–25](#); [Deut 19:21](#); [Matt 5:38–39](#)]
- 21 And a killer of a domestic animal must repay *for* it, and a killer of a human shall be put to death.
- 22 You must have one norm; as *for* the alien, so it must be *for* the native, because I *am* Yahweh your God.”
- 23 Thus Moses spoke to the Israelites, and they brought the curser outside the camp, and they stoned him *with* stones, and the Israelites did *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

The Year of Jubilee (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 25

A Sabbath for the Land (every seventh year)

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,
- 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘When you come into the land that I *am about to* give to you, then the land shall observe a Sabbath for Yahweh.
- 3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and you shall gather its yield.
- 4 But in the seventh year it shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land—a Sabbath for Yahweh; you must not sow your field, and you must not prune your vineyard.
- 5 You must not reap your harvest’s aftergrowth, and you must not harvest the grapes of your unpruned vines—it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.
- 6 And a Sabbath of the land shall be for food for you: for you and for your slave and for your slave woman and for your hired worker and for your temporary residents who are dwelling as aliens with you;
- 7 and all its yield shall be for your domestic animal and for the wild animal, which *are* in your land to eat.

The Year of Jubilee (every fiftieth year)

8 “ ‘And you shall count for yourself seven Sabbaths of years, seven times seven years, and they shall be for you time periods of years: forty-nine years.

9 And you shall cause a loud horn blast to be heard on the seventh month on the tenth of the month; on the Day of Atonement you shall cause a ram’s horn to be heard in all your land.

10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim a release in the land for all its inhabitants. It *is* a Jubilee; it shall be for you, and you shall return. You must return—everyone to his property and everyone to his clan.

11 You shall have the fiftieth year as a Jubilee; you must not reap its aftergrowth, and you must not harvest its unpruned vines.

12 Because it is a Jubilee, it shall be holy to you. You must eat its produce from the field.

Proper Payment Methodology (land is only leased, not sold, and the price is based on crop yield)

13 “ ‘In this Year of Jubilee each of you shall return to his property.

14 And when you sell something to your fellow citizen or *you* buy from your neighbor’s hand, you must not oppress one another.

15 You must buy from your fellow citizen according to *the* number of years after the Jubilee; he must sell to you according to *the* number of years of yield.

16 You must increase its price according to a greater number of years, but you must decrease its price according to a lesser number of years, because he is selling *its* yields to you.

17 And you must not oppress one another, but you shall revere your God, because I *am* Yahweh, your God.

Obedience Brings Blessing

18 “ ‘And you shall do my statutes, and you must keep my regulations, and you shall do them, so that you shall live securely on the land.

19 And the land shall give its fruit, and you shall eat your fill, and you shall live securely on it.

20 And if you should say, “What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we do not sow and we do not gather its yield?”

21 then I will command my blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it will make the yield for three years.

22 And you will sow *in* the eighth year, and you shall eat from the old yield; until the ninth year, until the coming of its yield, you shall eat *the* old *yield*.

Redemption and Release of Land (to prevent the land from ending up in the hands of a few wealthy families)

23 “ ‘But the land must not be sold in perpetuity, because the land *is* mine, because you *are* aliens and temporary residents with me.

24 And in all your property’s land you must provide redemption for the land.

25 “ ‘When your brother becomes poor and he sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come, and he shall redeem the thing sold by his brother.

26 But if a man does not have a redeemer, then he prospers and he finds enough for his redemption,

27 then he shall calculate the years of its selling, and he shall refund the balance to the man to whom he sold *it*, and he shall return to his property.

28 But if his hand does not find enough to refund to him, then what he has sold shall be in the buyer’s hand until the Year of Jubilee; and it shall go out *of the buyer’s hand* in the Jubilee, and he shall return to his property.

Redemption of City Homes

29 “ ‘And if a man sells a residential house in a walled city, then it shall be his redemption until completing a year after his selling; its redemption shall last a year.

30 But if it is not redeemed before a full year has passed, then the house that *is* in the walled city shall belong to the buyer in perpetuity throughout his generations; it shall not go out *of the buyer’s hand* in the Jubilee.

Redemption and Release of Village Homes

31 However, village houses that have no surrounding wall shall be considered open country; *there* is redemption for it, and in the Jubilee it shall go out *of the buyer’s hand*.

Levitical Homes and Land Exempted

32 “ ‘As for the cities of the Levites, *that is*, the houses in their property’s cities, it shall be a lasting redemption for the Levites.

33 And whatever *anyone* redeems from the Levites then must go out *of the buyer’s hand* in the Jubilee, *including* a house’s selling in his city’s property, because the houses in the cities of the Levites *are* their property in the midst of the Israelites.

34 But a field of their cities’ pastureland must not be sold, because it is their property for all time.

Proper Treatment of the Poor

35 “ ‘And if your countryman becomes poor and if he becomes dependent on you, then you shall support him *like* an alien and *like* a temporary resident, and he shall live with you.

36 You must not take interest or usury from him, but you shall revere your God, and your countryman shall live with you.

37 You must not give your money to him with interest or give your food for profit.

38 I *am* Yahweh your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, to be as God for you.

Release of Indentured Israelites

39 “ ‘And if your countryman *who is* with you becomes poor, and he is sold to you, you shall not treat him as a slave.

40 He shall be with you like a hired worker, like a temporary resident; he shall work with you until the Year of Jubilee.

41 And he and his sons with him shall go out from you, and he shall return to his clan, and to the property of his ancestors he shall return.

42 Because they *are* my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt, they shall not be sold as a slave.

43 You shall not rule over him with ruthlessness, but you shall revere your God.

Ownership of Non-Israelite Slaves

44 “ ‘As for your slave and your slave woman who are yours, from the nations that *are* all around you, from them you may buy a slave or a slave woman.

45 And you may buy also from the children of the temporary residents who are dwelling with you as aliens and from their clan who are with you, who have children in your land; indeed, they may be as property for you.

46 And you may pass them on as an inheritance to your sons after you to take possession of as property for all time—you may let them work. But *as for* your countrymen, the Israelites, you shall not rule with ruthlessness over one another.

Redemption of Indentured Israelites from Non-Israelites

47 “ ‘And if *the* alien or *the* temporary resident *who are* with you prosper, but your countryman *who is* with him becomes poor and he is sold to an alien, a temporary resident *who is* with you, or to a descendant of an alien’s clan,

48 after he is sold redemption shall be for him; one of his brothers may redeem him,

49 or his uncle or his uncle’s son may redeem him, or one of his close relatives from his clan may redeem him; or *if* he prospers, he may redeem himself.

50 And he shall calculate with his buyer from the year of his selling himself until the Jubilee; and the value of his selling shall be according to the number of years—it shall be with him like a hired worker’s days.

51 If *there are* still many years, in keeping with them he shall restore his redemption in proportion to his purchase price.

52 And if *there are* a few years left until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall calculate for himself; he shall restore his redemption according to the number of his years.

Treatment and Eventual Release of Indentured Israelites from Non-Israelites

53 He shall be with him as a yearly hired worker; he shall not rule over him with ruthlessness in your sight.

54 And if he is not redeemed by *any of these ways*, then he and his sons with him shall go out in the Year of Jubilee.

55 Indeed, the Israelites *are* servants for me; they *are* my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I *am* Yahweh your God.”

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