

B'har Leviticus 25:1-26:2

(Lev 25:1 CJB) Adonai spoke to Moshe on Mount Sinai; he said,

(Lev 25:2 CJB) "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'When you enter the land I am giving you, the land itself is to observe a Shabbat rest for Adonai.

(Lev 25:3 CJB) Six years you will sow your field; six years you will prune your grapevines and gather their produce.

(Lev 25:4 CJB) But in the seventh year is to be a Shabbat of complete rest for the land, a Shabbat for Adonai; you will neither sow your field nor prune your grapevines.

(Lev 25:5 CJB) You are not to harvest what grows by itself from the seeds left by your previous harvest, and you are not to gather the grapes of your untended vine; it is to be a year of complete rest for the land.

(Lev 25:6 CJB) But what the land produces during the year of Shabbat will be food for all of you — you, your servant, your maid, your employee, anyone living near you,

(Lev 25:7 CJB) your livestock and the wild animals on your land; everything the land produces may be used for food.

(Lev 25:8 CJB) " 'You are to count seven Shabbats of years, seven times seven years, that is, forty-nine years.

(Lev 25:9 CJB) Then, on the tenth day of the seventh month, on Yom-Kippur, you are to sound a blast on the shofar; you are to sound the shofar all through your land;

(Lev 25:10 CJB) and you are to consecrate the fiftieth year, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a yovel for you; you will return everyone to the land he owns, and everyone is to return to his family.

(Lev 25:11 CJB) That fiftieth year will be a yovel for you; in that year you are not to sow, harvest what grows by itself or gather the grapes of untended vines;

(Lev 25:12 CJB) because it is a yovel. It will be holy for you; whatever the fields produce will be food for all of you.

(Lev 25:13 CJB) In this year of yovel, every one of you is to return to the land he owns.

(Lev 25:14 CJB) " 'If you sell anything to your neighbor or buy anything from him, neither of you is to exploit the other.

(Lev 25:15 CJB) Rather, you are to take into account the number of years after the yovel when you buy land from your neighbor, and he is to sell to you according to the number of years crops will be raised.

(Lev 25:16 CJB) If the number of years remaining is large, you will raise the price; if few years remain, you will lower it; because what he is really selling you is the number of crops to be produced.

(Lev 25:17 CJB) Thus you are not to take advantage of each other, but you are to fear your God; for I am Adonai your God.

(Lev 25:18 CJB) " 'Rather, you are to keep my regulations and rulings and act accordingly. If you do, you will live securely in the land.

(Lev 25:19 CJB) The land will yield its produce, you will eat until you have enough, and you will live there securely.

(Lev 25:20 CJB) " 'If you ask, "If we aren't allowed to sow seed or harvest what our land produces, what are we going to eat the seventh year?"

(Lev 25:21 CJB) then I will order my blessing on you during the sixth year, so that the land brings forth enough produce for all three years.

(Lev 25:22 CJB) The eighth year you will sow seed, but eat the old, stored produce until the ninth year; that is, until the produce of the eighth year comes in, you will eat the old, stored food.

(Lev 25:23 CJB) " 'The land is not to be sold in perpetuity, because the land belongs to me — you are only foreigners and temporary residents with me.

(Lev 25:24 CJB) Therefore, when you sell your property, you must include the right of redemption.

(Lev 25:25 CJB) That is, if one of you becomes poor and sells some of his property, his next-of-kin can come and buy back what his relative sold.

(Lev 25:26 CJB) If the seller has no one to redeem it but becomes rich enough to redeem it himself,

(Lev 25:27 CJB) he will calculate the number of years the land was sold for, refund the excess to its buyer, and return to his property.

(Lev 25:28 CJB) If he hasn't sufficient means to get it back himself, then what he sold will remain in the hands of the buyer until the year of yovel; in the yovel the buyer will vacate it and the seller return to his property.

(Lev 25:29 CJB) " 'If someone sells a dwelling in a walled city, he has one year after the date of sale in which to redeem it. For a full year he will have the right of redemption;

(Lev 25:30 CJB) but if he has not redeemed the dwelling in the walled city within the year, then title in perpetuity passes to the buyer through all his generations; it will not revert in the yovel.

(Lev 25:31 CJB) However, houses in villages not surrounded by walls are to be dealt with like the fields in the countryside — they may be redeemed [*before the yovel*], and they revert in the yovel.

(Lev 25:32 CJB) " 'Concerning the cities of the L'vi'im and the houses in the cities they possess, the L'vi'im are to have a permanent right of redemption.

(Lev 25:33 CJB) If someone purchases a house from one of the L'vi'im, then the house he sold in the city where he owns property will still revert to him in the yovel; because the houses in the cities of the L'vi'im are their tribe's possession among the people of Isra'el.

(Lev 25:34 CJB) The fields in the open land around their cities may not be sold, because that is their permanent possession.

(Lev 25:35 CJB) " 'If a member of your people has become poor, so that he can't support himself among you, you are to assist him as you would a foreigner or a temporary resident, so that he can continue living with you.

(Lev 25:36 CJB) Do not charge him interest or otherwise profit from him, but fear your God, so that your brother can continue living with you.

(Lev 25:37 CJB) Do not take interest when you loan him money or take a profit when you sell him food.

(Lev 25:38 CJB) I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt in order to give you the land of Kena`an and be your God.

(Lev 25:39 CJB) " 'If a member of your people has become poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him do the work of a slave.

(Lev 25:40 CJB) Rather, you are to treat him like an employee or a tenant; he will work for you until the year of yovel.

(Lev 25:41 CJB) Then he will leave you, he and his children with him, and return to his own family and regain possession of his ancestral land.

(Lev 25:42 CJB) For they are my slaves, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; therefore they are not to be sold as slaves.

(Lev 25:43 CJB) Do not treat him harshly, but fear your God.

(Lev 25:44 CJB) " 'Concerning the men and women you may have as slaves: you are to buy men- and women-slaves from the nations surrounding you.

(Lev 25:45 CJB) You may also buy the children of foreigners living with you and members of their families born in your land; you may own these.

(Lev 25:46 CJB) You may also bequeath them to your children to own; from these groups you may take your slaves forever. But as far as your brothers the people of Isra'el are concerned, you are not to treat each other harshly.

(Lev 25:47 CJB) " 'If a foreigner living with you has grown rich, and a member of your people has become poor and sells himself to this foreigner living with you or to a member of the foreigner's family,

(Lev 25:48 CJB) he may be redeemed after he has been sold. One of his brothers may redeem him;

(Lev 25:49 CJB) or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or any near relative of his may redeem him; or, if he becomes rich, he may redeem himself.

(Lev 25:50 CJB) He will calculate with the person who bought him the time from the year he sold himself to him to the year of yovel; and the amount to be paid will be according to the number of years and his time at an employee's wage.

(Lev 25:51 CJB) If many years remain, according to them will he refund the amount for his redemption from the amount he was bought for.

(Lev 25:52 CJB) If there remain only a few years until the year of yovel, then he will calculate with him; according to his years will he refund the amount for his redemption.

(Lev 25:53 CJB) He will be like a worker hired year by year. You will see to it that he is not treated harshly.

(Lev 25:54 CJB) " 'If he has not been redeemed by any of these procedures, nevertheless he will go free in the year of yovel — he and his children with him.

(Lev 25:55 CJB) For to me the people of Isra'el are slaves; they are my slaves whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; I am Adonai your God.

(Lev 26:1 CJB) " 'You are not to make yourselves any idols, erect a carved statue or a standing-stone, or place any carved stone anywhere in your land in order to bow down to it. I am Adonai your God.

(Lev 26:2 CJB) " 'Keep my Shabbats, and revere my sanctuary; I am Adonai.

Haftarah B'har: Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 32:6-27

(Jer 32:6 CJB) Yirmeyahu said, "This word of Adonai came to me:

(Jer 32:7 CJB) 'Hanam'el, the son of your uncle Shalum, will approach you and say, "Buy my field at `Anatot; you have next-of-kin's right to redeem it; so buy it." ' "

(Jer 32:8 CJB) As Adonai had said, my cousin Hanam'el came to me in the guards' quarters and said, "Please buy my field at `Anatot, in the territory of Binyamin; because you will inherit it, and you have next-of-kin's right to redeem it, so buy it for yourself." Then I was certain that this was Adonai's word.

(Jer 32:9 CJB) So I bought the field at `Anatot which belonged to my cousin Hanam'el and weighed out the money for him, seven ounces of silver shekels.

(Jer 32:10 CJB) I signed on the purchase contract, sealed it, called witnesses and weighed out the money for him on a balance scale.

(Jer 32:11 CJB) I took the purchase contract, both the sealed copy with the terms and conditions, and the unsealed copy,

(Jer 32:12 CJB) and gave the purchase contract to Barukh the son of Neriya, the son of Machseyah, in the presence of my cousin Hanam'el, the witnesses who had signed the purchase contract and the people from Y'hudah sitting by the guards' quarters.

(Jer 32:13 CJB) In their presence I instructed Barukh as follows:

(Jer 32:14 CJB) "Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says: 'Take these contracts, both the sealed and unsealed copies, and place them in a day jar, so that they can be preserved for a long time.'

(Jer 32:15 CJB) For Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says that one day homes, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land."

(Jer 32:16 CJB) After giving the purchase contract to Barukh son of Neriya, I prayed to Adonai:

(Jer 32:17 CJB) "Adonai, God! You made heaven and earth by your great power and outstretched arm; nothing is too hard for you.

(Jer 32:18 CJB) You display your grace to thousands but also repay the guilt of the fathers into the lap of their children who follow them. Great, powerful God, whose name is Adonai-Tzva'ot,

(Jer 32:19 CJB) great in counsel, mighty in deed! Your eyes are open to all the ways of human beings in order to repay each one according to his ways, according to the consequences of what he does.

(Jer 32:20 CJB) You gave signs and performed miracles in the land of Egypt which continue to this day, also in Isra'el and among other people; thus you made yourself the reputation you have today.

(Jer 32:21 CJB) You brought your people of Isra'el out of the land of Egypt with signs and miracles, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror.

(Jer 32:22 CJB) Then you gave them this land, which you had sworn to their ancestors that you would give them, a land flowing with milk and honey.

(Jer 32:23 CJB) They entered and took possession of it; but they did not pay attention to your voice, did not live according to your Torah, and did nothing of all you ordered them to do. Therefore you made this complete disaster befall them —

(Jer 32:24 CJB) the siege-works are already there; they have come to the city to capture it; and the city, by means of sword, famine and plague, is being handed over to the Kasdim fighting against it. What you foretold is being fulfilled; here, you see it, yourself.

(Jer 32:25 CJB) Yet you, Adonai, God, have said to me, 'Buy the field for money, and call witnesses; even as the city is being turned over to the Kasdim!' "

(Jer 32:26 CJB) Then this word of Adonai came to Yirmeyahu:

(Jer 32:27 CJB) "Look, I am Adonai, the God of every living creature; is there anything too hard for me?"

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah B'har: Luke 4:16-21; 1 Corinthian 7:21-24; Galatians 6:7-10

(Luk 4:16 CJB) Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read,

(Luk 4:17 CJB) and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha`yahu. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

(Luk 4:18 CJB) "The Spirit of Adonai is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed,

(Luk 4:19 CJB) to proclaim a year of the favor of Adonai."

(Luk 4:20 CJB) After closing the scroll and returning it to the shammash, he sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him.

(Luk 4:21 CJB) He started to speak to them: "Today, as you heard it read, this passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled!"

(1Co 7:21 CJB) Were you a slave when you were called? Well, don't let it bother you; although if you can gain your freedom, take advantage of the opportunity.

(1Co 7:22 CJB) For a person who was a slave when he was called is the Lord's freedman; likewise, someone who was a free man when he was called is a slave of the Messiah.

(1Co 7:23 CJB) You were bought at a price, so do not become slaves of other human beings.

(1Co 7:24 CJB) Brothers, let each one remain with God in the condition in which he was called.

(Gal 6:7 CJB) Don't delude yourselves: no one makes a fool of God! A person reaps what he sows.

(Gal 6:8 CJB) Those who keep sowing in the field of their old nature, in order to meet its demands, will eventually reap ruin; but those who keep sowing in the field of the Spirit will reap from the Spirit everlasting life.

(Gal 6:9 CJB) So let us not grow weary of doing what is good; for if we don't give up, we will in due time reap the harvest.

(Gal 6:10 CJB) Therefore, as the opportunity arises, let us do what is good to everyone, and especially to the family of those who are trustingly faithful.