

**The Book of Leviticus:
Why It Matters to Christians**

“Sanctification of the Land”

Leviticus 25



Leviticus

Week	Date	Topic
1	Oct 1	Leviticus Introduction
2	Oct 8	Sacrifices: Leviticus 1-7
3	Oct 15	Priesthood of Aaron: Leviticus 8-10
4	Oct 22	Ritual Cleanliness: Leviticus 11-15
5	Oct 29	Day of Atonement: Leviticus 16
6	Nov 5	Holiness of Conduct: Leviticus 17-20
7	Nov 12	Holiness of Priests: Leviticus 21-22
8	Nov 19	Sabbath and Feasts: Leviticus 23
9	Nov 26	Preparation and Punishments: Leviticus 24
10	Dec 3	Sanctification of the Land: Leviticus 25
11	Dec 10	Promises and Warnings: Leviticus 26
12	Dec 17	Vows and Redemption of Tithes: Leviticus 27
13	Dec 24	Summary class

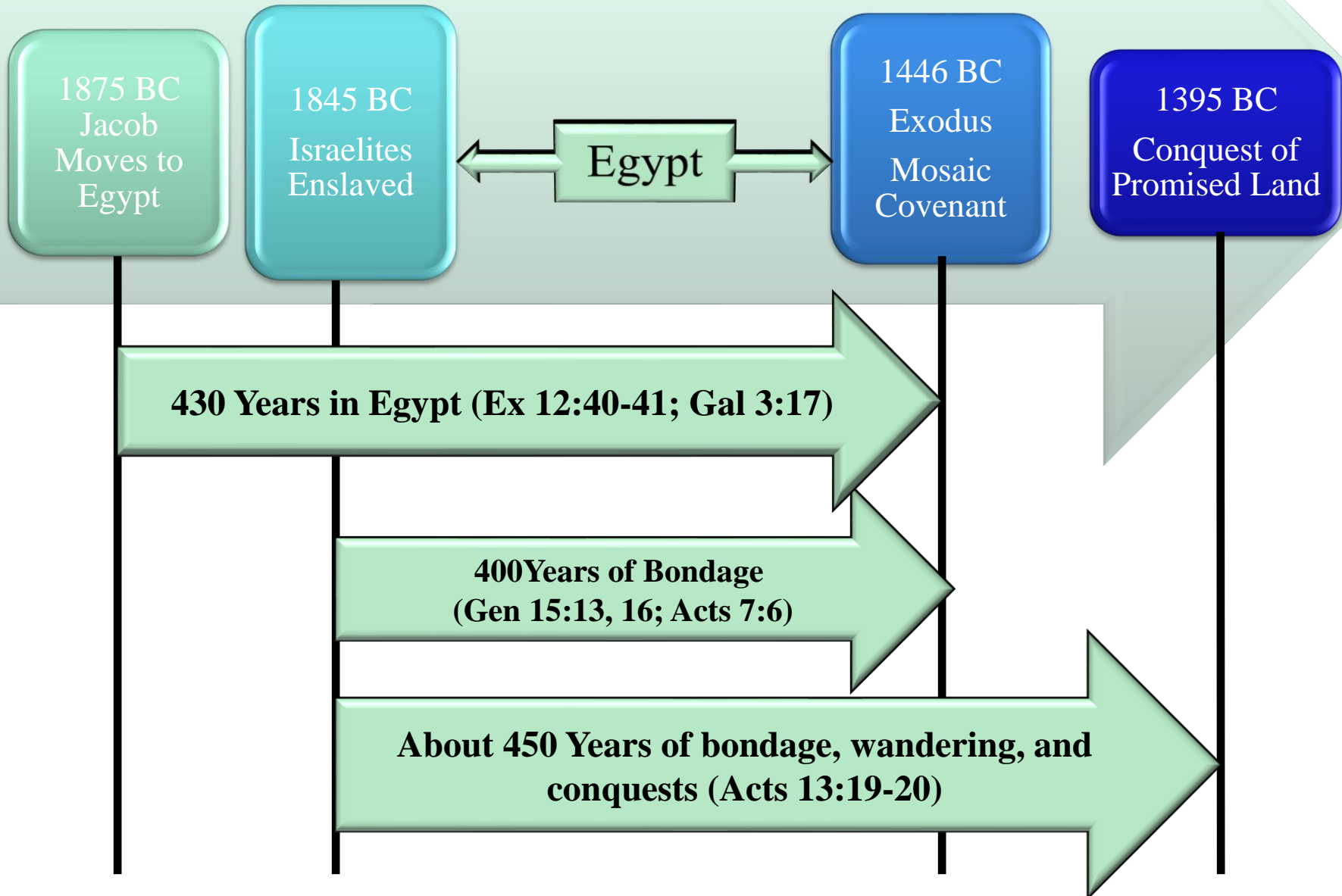
Today's Objectives

- Review last week's lesson
- Learn about the sabbatical year
- Learn about the year of the jubilee and its importance to the less fortunate in Israel
- See how the year of jubilee is observed
 - Concerning possession of property
 - Concerning personal freedom
- Learn about the kinsman redeemer
 - OT examples
 - Jesus as our kinsman redeemer

Last week

- Learned about the lamps and the olive oil used to keep the lamps burning continually
- Learned about ancient processing of olive oil
- Learned about the 12 loaves of bread provided each Sabbath to the temple
- Learned about punishment for the irreverent, specifically those that used God's name in vain
- Reviewed NT scripture regarding, lamps, bread, and retribution

Early Israelite Timeline



Overview of Chapter 25

- Concludes the laws that God gave to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai
 - Only laws regarding land ownership in the first five books of the bible.
 - Correspond with laws original given by Moses to the people of Israel
- Central theme of the chapter is about restoration
 - Israel's life was to be governed by a period of seven-year periods or Sabbath years
 - A seven periods of seven years, Israel would enter a Year of Jubilee or the 50th year
 - This 50th year becomes the year of restoration

Sabbatical Year (25:1-7)

- God orders the people to let the land rest every seventh year
 - Remember, the people were also told to rest
 - People and land renewed their strength and productivity
 - Productivity increase more than if they were to work and work the land
 - Land belonged to God
 - By using the land properly, the Israelites sanctified their possession of it
- Crops grown during the sabbatical year was given as an offering to Yahweh
 - Not to harvest, but given to slaves, hired people, foreign residents , aliens, cattle, animals (vs. 6-7)

Year of Jubilee (25:8-12)

- Overview
 - Hebrew work *yabal*, meaning “to bring forth”
 - Did for the land what the Day of Atonement did for the people
 - God brings back the land into His intended condition
 - Priests announced year of jubilee on the Day of Atonement (v. 9)
- Observe jubilee every fiftieth year
 - Priest to blow the ram’s horn (shophar)
 - Began on the Day of Atonement
 - No planting or harvest was to take place
- Year of Jubilee only mentioned in the OT Pentateuch, indicating it may have been violated

Impact of the Jubilee (25:13-34)

- Property reverted to its original tribal “leasee”
 - Reminded the Israelites that they were not the owner, but merely a borrower from God, the true owner (vs. 23)
 - The Promised Land was a gift from God, not to be bought or sold at will
 - Could only release the land under extreme hardship (v. 24)
 - Kinsman redeemer could recover the lost property
 - Seller could redeem the property
 - Year of jubilee would return it to him
 - Exceptions to the normal rules in cases of a walled city (vs 29-30) and property of the Levites (vs 32-34)

Impact of the Jubilee (25:13-34)

- Responsibilities of the Israelite kinsman redeemer
 - Buy back persons or property because of economic distress (vs. 25)
 - Could not afford to pay a ransom price (27:11-13)
 - When someone killed a person, the victim's kinsman redeemer could take the life of the killer under some circumstances (Num 35:10-29)
- Levirate marriage
 - Marriage of a widow and her husband's brother or nearest relative to keep the family line going
 - Gen 38

Impact Upon Individuals (25:35-46)

- During the year of jubilee, Israelites be especially considerate of those less fortunate (vs. 35-38)
 - Not charge interest or make profit (vs. 37)
 - See Deut. 23:19-20
- Wealthier Israelites to treat poor Israelite servants as family, not as slaves (vs. 39-43)
- God permitted the Israelites to own slaves from other nations (vs. 44-46)
 - Treated like property but must treat them fairly
- Israelites could buy back (redeem) their countrymen who had sold themselves as slaves to non-Israelites
 - Calculate in view of the coming jubilee (vs. 44-46)
 - Romans 6:15-22 for a NT comparison

Kinsmen Redeemer (25:47-55)

- Requirements of the kinsmen redeemer
 - Redeemer must be a kinsman
 - Must be free himself
 - Must be able to pay the price
 - Willing to pay the price
- Provision of redemption by a relative - examples
 - Boaz and Ruth
 - Boaz fulfilled the responsibility of a kinsmen redeemer by buying Mahlon's land for Ruth and then married Ruth
 - Ruth 3:1-9
 - Jesus, see Psalms 111:9 and Hebrews 2:11-18
 - Jesus is our kinsmen redeemer

Review

- Reviewed last weeks lesson concerning the lamps, bread, and retribution
- Learned about the sabbatical seventh year
- Learn about the 50th year of the jubilee and it's importance to the less fortunate in Israel
- Saw how the year of jubilee was observed
- Learned about the kinsman redeemer
- Examples of kinsman redeemers are found in the book of Ruth and Job
- Jesus as our kinsman redeemer
- Next week: Leviticus 26, Promises and Warnings