

Life Before the Face of God, Part 2

Deuteronomy 15:1-16-17

I. A People Set Apart to the Lord: Distinct from the World (14:1-21)

II. A Giving People: Relying on God & Joyful Giving (Tithe) 14:22-29

III. A Forgiving and Merciful People (15:1-18)

- A. The release of debts in the seventh year (1-6)
 - 1. Release means a certain loss to the lender. Forgiveness of a debt doesn't mean no one pays (compare to forgiving others when they sin against us).
 - 2. What is the motive? (v. 4, 6).
- B. Giving and loaning with a generous heart (7-11)
- C. Dealing with those in debtors' enslavement (12-18)
- D. How does this apply in the New Covenant? (1 John 3:16-17, Eph. 4:32)

IV. A People that Realizes All Belongs to God (15:19-23)

V. A Remembering and Rejoicing People: A Calendar (16:1-17)

- A. Passover/Unleavened Bread (1-8)
 - 1. March/April
 - 2. Remember Yahweh's deliverance of them from slavery in Egypt.
- B. Weeks/Pentecost (9-12)
 - 1. 50 days after beginning grain harvest (in May/June)
 - 2. It involves a freewill offering – where they give out of the joy and abundance of God's blessings and bounty.
- C. Booths (13-15)
 - 1. Sept/Oct. at the end of the summer harvest of fruits like dates, grapes, and olives
 - 2. It is a reminder of their time in the wilderness and of God's provision and a celebration of God's current provision.

VI. Application

- A. While it looks different for us who are not under the Mosaic Covenant, we find many of these same principles at work.
- B. We are set apart as a holy people to God and should not look like the world.
- C. We, too, have God's generous abundance and should cheerfully give to the work of the gospel and good of brothers and sisters in Christ.
- D. We, too, can trust God by showing mercy and by forgiving debts – especially sin debts owed to us.
- E. We should build our life's rhythms around remembering and rejoicing in God's provision and sustaining grace.