

# Jubilee In Hebrew Scripture: Selected Passages

**LEVITICUS 25:8-14, 17-19:** You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month--on the day of atonement--you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces. In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another. ...

You shall not cheat one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am YHWH your God. You shall observe my statutes and faithfully keep my ordinances, so that you may live on the land securely. The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live on it securely."

**DEUT 15:1-18 (EXCERPTS):** Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. ... There will, however, be no one in need among you, because YHWH is sure to bless you in the land that YHWH your God is giving you as a possession to occupy ... If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that YHWH your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. ... You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to YHWH against you, and you

would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account YHWH your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

**ISAIAH 61:1-9 (EXCERPT):** The spirit of the Lord YHWH is upon me, because YHWH has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion: to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of YHWH, to display his glory.

**EZEKIEL 18:1-9 (EXCERPT):** If a person is righteous and does what is lawful and right-- if one does not eat upon the mountains or lift up one's eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile one's neighbor's wife or approach a woman during her menstrual period, does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor the pledge, commits no robbery, gives one's bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, does not take advance or accrued interest, withholds one's hand from iniquity, executes true justice between contending parties, follows my statutes, and is careful to observe my ordinances, acting faithfully--such a one is righteous; that one shall surely live, says the Lord YHWH.