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Day 55 – February 24

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## **The Laws of Moses (1450 – 1400 BCE)**

### ***Rules for the Priests***

### ***The Sabbatical Year***

### ***Year of Jubilee***

**Readings: *Leviticus 21:1-24; 22:1-16; 23:10-11; 25:1-34, 39-43, 47-55***

### ***Reflections:***

- The function of the Priests was to represent Israel to God through the Tabernacle worship and to represent God to the Israelites. They were to be holy (set apart) and clean (without anything that would defile). Like other places in the Law, the rules are stringent and at times hard to understand. Most of the strict laws are to continually reinforce the need for complete perfection (which no one can ultimately obtain apart from faith in Christ).
- How your hair is kept, who you marry, personal appearance and health (no eye problems), what you touch...the list goes on. Everything about holiness at this point is very external, pictures and symbols that reinforce the overarching concept of complete perfection as understood prior to the fall. Thank God he sent Jesus!
- The Sabbath Year for the land is vital for agriculture when using only natural means. This allows the land to rebuild nutrients.
- Seven times seven is forty-nine. The fiftieth year is a year of complete restoration. This law of returning all land ensured that poverty never overtook any family permanently. Owning land (except in the case of the Levites who were supported through the offerings) was a key to stability. The year of jubilee meant that the longest you could mortgage anything was forty-nine years. This is an interesting concept for ensuring the well-being of the nation. This was also true of bond-servants or slaves. Everyone was set free every fifty years. Again we see elements within the Law that are revolutionary for their time period. This nation-sized family had practices now that would ensure dignity and equality within their community. The ancient practice of social caste was fundamentally rejected by these kinds of laws. The total equality of all people will be most fully realized in the coming of Christ. Paul expresses this in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."