

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTERS 15-16 - Debt Canceled Every Seven Years; Generosity to the Poor; The Law Concerning Bondservants; The Law Concerning Firstborn Animals; The Passover Reviewed; The Feast of Weeks & Tabernacles Reviewed; Justice Must Be Administered

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

DEUTERONOMY 15 – LAWS REGARDING THE POOR
(God did not guarantee prosperity for any one in Israel; but He did guarantee opportunity for prosperity for an obedient Israel.)

A. Laws regarding the poor.

- (1-6) Release of debts every seventh year.
- (7-11) The command to be generous to the poor.
- (12-15) The command to release slaves every seventh year.
- (16-18) The law of the bond-slave.

B. The law of the firstborn.

- (19) The principle of the firstborn.
- (20-23) What to do with the giving of the firstborn.

DEUTERONOMY 16 – THE THREE MAJOR FEASTS

A. The observance of Passover.

- (1-2) The sacrifice of the Passover.
Passover lamb and applied its blood to the door posts of the home.
- (3-4) The Feast of Unleavened Bread, associated with Passover.
- (5-8) Regulations for Passover.

B. The observance of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost).

- (9-10) The Feast of Weeks.
- (11-12) The joy of Pentecost.

C. The observance of the Feast of Tabernacles.

- (13-15) How to observe the Feast of Tabernacles.
- (16-17) The command to observe each of these three feasts.
- (21-22) Prohibition of idol trees and pillars.

Significance of the seventh day!
Gen 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. [2] And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. [3] Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

The Seven Feasts from Exodus/Leviticus:

- Pesach or Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First-fruits
- Shavuot the Festival of Weeks or Pentecost
- Rosh Hashanah or Feast of Trumpets
- Yom Kippur or The Day of Atonement
- Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feasts from Deuteronomy Chapter 16 – These three feasts were to be attended by all males (Dt. 16:16):

- Pesach or Passover/Unleavened Bread
- Shavuot the Festival of Weeks or Pentecost
- Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feasts in the Millennium from Ez. Chapter 45:

- Pesach or Passover/Unleavened Bread
- Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles

Deu 15:6 For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.

Just a few decades ago, the US was the world's premier creditor nation. Today it's the number one debtor nation.

TOP TEN DEBTOR NATIONS - 2010

Country	GDP (2010 est., USD)	Debt as % of GDP
	\$14.6 trillion (current)	
United States	19.3 trillion	92.7
China	\$5.7 trillion	19.1
Japan	\$5.4 trillion	225.9
Germany	\$3.3 trillion	75.3
France	\$2.6 trillion	84.2
United Kingdom	\$2.3 trillion	76.7
Italy	\$2.0 trillion	118.4
Brazil	\$2.0 trillion	66.8
Canada	\$1.6 trillion	81.7
Russia	\$1.5 trillion	11.1

All to Jesus I surrender – Judson Van de Venter - Maranatha

*I - All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.
Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

*2 - All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now.*

*3 - All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.*

*4 - All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me.*

*5 - All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel the sacred flame.
Oh, the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name!*

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Debt Canceled Every Seven Years;

Deu 15:1 "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts.

Deu 15:2 And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD's release.

Deu 15:3 Of a foreigner you may require it; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother,

Deu 15:4 except when there may be no poor among you; for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance—

Deu 15:5 only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today.

Deu 15:6 For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.

Generosity to the Poor;

Deu 15:7 "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,

Deu 15:8 but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

Deu 15:9 Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you.

Deu 15:10 You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.

vs. 1-2 Every seventh year was to be a sabbatical year. The land was to rest. **No crops were to be planted or harvested.**

The people were to rest. No work was to be done. And the debts were to be released every seventh year. Were they cancelled in totality or just for that year? Quite possibly the latter because in the year of Jubilee that occurred every fifty years, debts were cancelled completely.

v. 3 but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release; An **outsider living in the land still had to make his payment.**

v. 4 If Israel tithed for the poor every third year as seen in chapter 14, **if they released debts every seven years and cancelled them completely every fifty**, if they followed God's economic plan for them, poverty would be entirely eradicated from their nation. Canceling debts for a year, canceling debts entirely, and giving money to the poor doesn't make sense financially. But God said, "If you trust Me and be obedient to Me, you'll be blessed. Poverty will be nonexistent in your culture. How? By being generous, by being merciful, by giving with a rejoicing heart." It didn't work out that way for Israel, for as far as we know, did they celebrate the year of Jubilee. It didn't make sense to them. After all, there were bills to pay, budgets to keep.

vs. 5-6 "If you do what the Lord commands, you'll be the financiers—the lenders rather than the borrowers," Moses told the people of Israel. The Jewish people did indeed become the great financiers of world economy when, during the Middle Ages, a papal edict forbade Christians from lending money. Thus, the Jews became the bankers of Europe.

vs. 7-10 Here is a great piece of business advice, a very important principle that doesn't make sense to us rationally. God says, "Be careful when the sixth year is coming that you don't refuse to lend money because it won't be paid back in the seventh year. Rather, share and open your hand wide to the people who need help from you at any time no matter what year it might be. If you do this, if you don't close your heart and close your hand, I will bless you in whatever you do." If you're a businessman, be as generous as you can. Find people to whom you can give your treasure, your energy, your talent, your abilities. "I'm having a tough time making ends meet as it is," we protest. But God says, "If you will have a generous heart and an open hand, watch and see how I will bless you."

A. Laws regarding the poor.

1. (1-6) Release of debts every seventh year. Following the sabbatical year practice, there was a release of debts and servants.

v. 1-2 Following the sabbatical year practice, there were to be no debt payments required every seventh year. The debts of the poor were either forgiven completely or the enforcement of their payments probably were not legally required after the seventh year. Also things loaned to a neighbor shall be released. It was called the LORD's release.

Application: How does the LORD's release affect your practice of forgiveness?

v. 4 God established an economic system wherein no one had to be chronically poor. If people would obey the LORD, He would bless (both sovereignly and as the natural result of the obedience), and they would not be poor.

v. 6 The LORD says a lending nation will reign over many nations. It's interesting that during the last 50 years, the USA has gone from the greatest lending nation to the greatest borrowing nation in the world. Are you personally mostly a lender or a borrower? Do you hate debt? The Bible says the borrower is a servant to the lender!

Application: Do you hate debt? Would you generally consider yourself a lender or a borrower?

2. (7-11) The command to be generous to the poor.

v. 7-8 The LORD cares for the poor, but not to prosper one's wealth for 10 lifetimes. He is not talking about the lazy bum, but about the working poor. God's word speaks against laziness throughout. **2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**

v. 9-10 Do you look down on "your poor brother"? **Pro 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.** The law of release in the seventh year was never to be used to discourage giving to those in need.

Application: What is your attitude towards the poor?

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Deu 15:11 For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'

The Law Concerning Bondservants:

Deu 15:12 "If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.

Deu 15:13 And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed;

Deu 15:14 you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD has blessed you with, you shall give to him.

Deu 15:15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

Deu 15:16 And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you,

Deu 15:17 then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

Deu 15:18 It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

The Law Concerning Firstborn Animals;

Deu 15:19 "All the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify to the LORD your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.

Deu 15:20 You and your household shall eat it before the LORD your God year by year in the place which the LORD chooses.

Deu 15:21 But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

Deu 15:22 You may eat it within your gates; the unclean and the clean person alike may eat it, as if it were a gazelle or a deer.

Deu 15:23 Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it on the ground like water.

vs. 11-18 The reference here is to the slave serving as an indentured servant to pay his bills. On the seventh year he was to be released and set free. He was to be given provisions upon his release.

v. 15 Help the released servant to get started in his new life.

v. 17 But if he so chose, he could remain in his master's service for the rest of his days, signified by the hole that would be pierced in his ear.

vs. 19-23 Only sacrifices without blemish were to be offered to God. Yet we who are blind, lame, and full of blemishes are accepted as sacrifices (Romans 12:1, 2) because we are covered by the blood of the perfect, spotless Lamb of God. This was for three reasons:

First, because Israel was God's firstborn (Ex. 4:22), and this honored that fact.

Second, because the firstborn was thought to be the best, and the best was always given to God.

Third, it was to be a reminder to all generations of when God redeemed Israel, His firstborn.

3. (12-15) The command to release slaves every seventh year.

v. 11 *For the poor will never cease from the land.* God is not contradicting Himself with what He said back in verse four. Not at all. He knows that He has established a system where no one must be chronically poor, yet He knew that because of disobedience, some would, and there would always be the poor in Israel. So, God did not guarantee prosperity for any one in Israel; but He did guarantee opportunity for prosperity for an obedient Israel.

4. (16-18) The law of the bond-slave.

v. 17 Note this great testimony to the servant/master relationship – the desire of the servant to be a bondservant for his lifetime. But I don't want to go. They would be taken to the doorpost and an awl would be thrust through their ear indicating that they would be a lifelong bondservant to that master, have three things:

1 They did it voluntarily;

2 They did because of their love for their master;

3 It was a commitment for their lifetime

The Apostle Paul several times in his epistles uses this example to describe his commitment to the Lord!

Jesus is the great fulfillment of this willing slave. He said prophetically in **Psalms 40:6**: *My ears You have opened*, it speaks of this opening of the ear in the bond-slave ceremony. He was the willing bond-slave of God the Father. **Isaiah 50:5-7** shows that Jesus character as the willing slave was most perfectly shown in His sufferings at the cross: *The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard;*

Application: Do you consider yourself to be a bond slave to Christ?

B. The law of the firstborn. - 1. (19) The principle of the firstborn. 2. (20-23) What to do with the giving of the firstborn.

v. 19 the Israelites were to give all firstborn males from the herds and flocks to the Lord – unused! The Lord knows our tendency to use things before giving them to God!

Application: Is that the way we are?

v. 21 If there was a defect, the animal was given to the priests, but not sacrificed unto the LORD - or, it was redeemed for money and the money given unto the LORD

Application: Do you always give your best to the Lord?

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The Passover Reviewed:

Deu 16:1 "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

Deu 16:2 Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name.

Deu 16:3 You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

Deu 16:4 And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.

Deu 16:5 "You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you;

Deu 16:6 but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt.

Deu 16:7 And you shall roast and eat it in the place which the LORD your God chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

Deu 16:8 Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.

The Feast of Weeks Reviewed:

Deu 16:9 "You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain.

Deu 16:10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

Deu 16:11 You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

vs. 1-8 Passover took place in the spring and commemorated the way the children of Israel were released from Egypt.

vs. 9-12 Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks took place fifty days after Passover in anticipation of God's provision as His people waved the first harvest of the summer season before Him.

DEUTERONOMY 16 – THE THREE MAJOR FEASTS –

The LORD's requirement of Israel's keeping the feasts as they go into the land, at the chosen place. Each has a great spiritual reality with each Feast. To remember then on an annual basis.

A. The observance of Passover.

vs. (1-2) The sacrifice of the **Passover**.

Passover lamb and applied its blood to the door posts of the home. Reminding Israel of God's great deliverance of them from the bondage of Egypt!

Similar to our being pulled out of the world, which we need to celebrate every day!. A picture of Christ *1 Cor. 5:7 "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. [8] Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*

Application: vs. (3-4) The Feast of Unleavened Bread,

associated with Passover. Passover was one day – the seven days that followed were to be without leaven, in a response to Passover. Our picture is that Jesus came into the world not only for His death and resurrection, but to have **the power to live a life free from sin!**

Application: Are you thankful every day for that power?

vs. (5-8) Regulations for Passover.

B. The observance of the **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)**.

vs. (9-10) The Feast of Weeks. Always 50 days after Passover!

This was a time when Israel **celebrated God as their provider** of their provision, physically.

This reminds us and was a **shadow of the church being born (Acts, chapter 2) and the power of the Holy Spirit**, being sent on the church, poured out upon each believer, and **providing the substance of power** to live a Godly life and to celebrate the ingathering – 3,000 souls added on that day!

vs. (11-12) The joy of Pentecost. "You shall rejoice"!

Application: Do you rejoice in the birth of the church; the infilling of each believer with the power of the Holy Spirit?

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Deu 16:12 And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

The Feast of Tabernacles Reviewed:

Deu 16:13 "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.

Deu 16:14 And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.

Deu 16:15 Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

Deu 16:16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

Deu 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

Justice Must Be Administered

Deu 16:18 "You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Deu 16:19 You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

Deu 16:20 You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Deu 16:21 "You shall not plant for yourself any tree, as a wooden image, near the altar which you build for yourself to the LORD your God.

Deu 16:22 You shall not set up a sacred pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

vs. 13-15 The Feast of Tabernacles took place in the fall as the Jews dwelt in lean-to's in celebration of the way God brought the children of Israel through the wilderness.

v. 16-17 Although the women and children were invited to attend these three feasts, **the men were required to do so.** And they were not to come empty-handed. The same is true today. When we come before the Lord, when we meet together, we're to come ready to give. We're to come, saying, "Who can I pray for? Who can I encourage? Who can I help?" The brother or sister who understands this is the one who leaves times of fellowship and corporate worship with a heart full, excited for the Lord.

v. 18 The gates referred to here were actually more like a room through which the people entered and exited the city and in which disputes were settled—more like a city hall. Possibly Jesus was referring to this in **Mat 16:18** *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

v. 19 They shall not pervert justice but judging the people with just judgment! Incorruptible, never taking a bribe, complicates your thanking!

v. 20 How blessed is a country that would totally follow the justice laid out by the Lord!

vs. 19-21 This is a reference to the groves and high places of pagan worship. "Do not make any provision for the flesh," we are told in **Romans 13:14**. Don't allow any groves in your home. Don't allow yourselves to be in a position where you can veer off into "shady" areas—be they books, magazines, movies, music, Internet sites, or anything else which obstructs your view of the true and living God.

v. 22 If you want a clear image of Jesus, read the description found in Revelation 1:11–16. Anything less limits our understanding of the King of kings.

C. The observance of the **Feast of Tabernacles.**

vs. (13-15) How to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. Would come in the fall, after the crops had come in! Looking back on the harvest, to settle down and **celebrate** for 7 days of **how good God has been** to us! "*You shall rejoice*"!

For us, clear fulfillment by Jesus has not yet occurred. An interesting thing was the 15 days before the Feast, the trumpets would be blown. Could this not be a type or foreshadowing of the Rapture? - **1Co 15:52** *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

1Th 4:14-17 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. [15] For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

This then will be followed by the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, when we will look back, not just on the previous year, but look back **on our entire lifetime celebrating how faithful God has been to us!**

Application: Are you including thanksgiving for God's faithfulness to you, in your prayers?

vs. (16-17) The command to observe each of these three feasts. **The men were required to attend these three feasts.** They were not to come empty-handed.

vs. (21-22) Prohibition of idol trees and pillars. The Israelites were forbidden to worship Ashtoreth or any of the false gods of the Canaanites.

Application: What things in your life are hindering your closeness and love of the Lord?