

TIMELINE OF TRUTH: Deuteronomy 15:1-18 – God Directs Generosity Towards the Poor

<p>¹ "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. (14:28)</p> <p>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. (Ex 23:10-11; Lev 25:1-7)</p> <p>³ "Of a foreigner you may require it; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother,</p> <p>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--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.</p> <p>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. (Prov 22:27)</p>	<p>1. By the Periodic _____ of Debt</p> <p>a. The Timing: Every ____ years (14:28)</p> <p>b. The Process: _____ payments</p> <p>c. [The Reason: The _____ year]</p> <p>d. The Exception: Not _____</p> <p>e. The Desire: No _____</p> <p>f. The Requirement: Carefully _____</p> <p>g. The Goal: Lend, not _____</p>
<p>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, ⁸ "but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.'</p>	<p>2. By Encouraging Generous _____</p> <p>a. Your poor _____</p> <p>b. Your _____ hand</p> <p>c. Your _____ lending</p> <p>d. Give whatever he _____</p> <p>e. Your dangerous _____</p> <p>f. God promises _____ for giving</p> <p>g. God _____ your generosity</p> <p>h. _____ brother, poor, needy</p>
<p>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. (Ex 21:2-8; Lev 25:39-43)</p> <p>¹³ "And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; ¹⁴ "you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD your God has blessed you with, you shall give to him.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>3. By Limiting Time of _____ Service</p> <p>a. _____ man or woman</p> <p>b. Sold to work off _____</p> <p>c. _____ for six years</p> <p>d. _____ in seventh year</p> <p>e. _____ generously at end</p> <p>f. Option given to _____</p> <p>g. _____ at release</p>

Exodus 23:10-11

¹⁰ "Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce,

¹¹ "but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove.

Leviticus 25:1-7

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD.

³ 'Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴ 'but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

⁵ 'What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land.

⁶ 'And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, ⁷ 'for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land-- all its produce shall be for food.

Exodus 21:2-8

² "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.

³ "If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he *comes in* married, then his wife shall go out with him.

⁴ "If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.

⁵ "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'

⁶ "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

⁷ "And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do.

⁸ "If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her.

Leviticus 25:39-43

³⁹ "And if *one of your brethren who dwells* by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave.

⁴⁰ "As a hired servant *and* a sojourner he shall be with you, *and* shall serve you until the Year of Jubilee.

⁴¹ "And *then* he shall depart from you-- he and his children with him-- and shall return to his own family. He shall return to the possession of his fathers.

⁴² "For they *are* My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves.

⁴³ "You shall not rule over him with rigor, but you shall fear your God.

On "Release":

- The difficulty referred to [translating "release"] is whether a debt was to be terminated permanently, or suspended for the year, menacing that repayment could not be demanded during the course of the seventh year. The latter alternative seems more probable; in the seventh year, when the land was left fallow, many people would not have been in a position to repay a debt because of the temporary interruption of their normal source of income. NICOT p.236
- Here we have an enlarged exposition of the previously given law. The debtor was not to be pressed then for what he owed and nothing was to be exacted from him. While the land rested all debts and obligations had also to rest. It does therefore not mean a complete remission of all debts forever. And linked with this merciful institution is the promise of blessing. GCC p. 175

On "Lending":

- Throughout the Word of God the poor are mentioned to be remembered in kindness and some most blessed promises are given to those who obey these gracious words. See Proverbs 14:21; 19:17; 22:9; 28:8,27; Ps. 41:1. Oppression of the poor is a sin, which God specially marks. See Isaiah 3:14,15; 10:2; Ezek. 18:11-13; Amos 2:6; 4:1; 5:11; James 2:6. When the Lord comes He will remember the poor and deliver them. See Ps. 72:2,4,12,13; 113:7; 132:15; Isaiah 11:4. GCC p.176
- Prov 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.
- Prov 22:9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.
- Prov 28:27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.
- Note, however, that it is not charity, in the sense of almsgiving, that is advocated here; it is a charitable attitude to be expressed by lending the poor man whatever he needs for himself, while he pledged to repay the loan in due course (v.8). NICOT p.237

On "Debt-Service":

- "... the reason for the sale would be default in the repayment of a debt, and a period of servitude would substitute for that repayment." NICOT p.238

NICOT: The New International Commentary on the Old Testament – The Book of Deuteronomy – Peter C. Craigie. © 1976 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI.

GCC: Gaebelein's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible – Arno C. Gaebelein. © 1970, 1985 by Loizeaux Brothers, Inc.

New Testament Summary Verses:

- **Acts 20:34-35** Yes¹, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
- **2 Cor 9:5-8** Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you *had* previously promised, that it may be ready as a *matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation. ⁶ But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So *let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.
- **Gal 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- **Heb 13:16** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- **Heb 13:16** and of doing good, and of fellowship, be not forgetful, for with such sacrifices God is well-pleased. (*Young's Literal Translation*)