

# Ezekiel 46:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if he give a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his to the year of liberty; after it shall return to the prince: but his inheritance shall be his sons' for them.

## Analysis

**But if he give a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his to the year of liberty; after it shall return to the prince**—Land given to עבד ('eved, 'servant/slave') reverts in שָׁנָת הַדְּרוֹר (shēnat hadērōr, 'year of liberty/release')—the Jubilee year (Leviticus 25:10, Isaiah 61:1-2).

**But his inheritance shall be his sons' for them**—Sons retain inheritance permanently; servants only temporarily. This preserves family land tenure, preventing permanent alienation of tribal inheritances—a Jubilee principle (Leviticus 25:23-28). Land ultimately belongs to God; families are stewards across generations. The prince's gifts to servants revert, ensuring sons' inheritance remains intact. This demonstrates that God's ultimate inheritance (salvation, eternal life) belongs to sons (believers—Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:6-7), not hired servants. Sonship, not servanthood, secures eternal inheritance.

## Historical Context

Jubilee year (every 50th year) returned ancestral lands to original families, released debt-slaves, and reset economic inequalities (Leviticus 25). There's debate whether it was consistently observed, though Jeremiah 34:8-22 references slave release (if related). Ezekiel's vision includes Jubilee principles, showing that even in millennial kingdom, restorative justice operates. Christ proclaimed Jubilee's fulfillment (Luke 4:18-19)—ultimate liberation from sin's slavery.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## Study Questions

1. What does Jubilee's land restoration teach about God's ultimate ownership?
2. How does servant vs. son distinction relate to salvation (servanthood vs. sonship)?
3. How did Jesus proclaim Jubilee's fulfillment (Luke 4:18-19, Isaiah 61:1-2)?

## Interlinear Text

וְיִתֶּן	נִסְלָת	לְאַחֲד	מְאַבֵּד
H3588	מִתְנָה	לְאַחֲד	יְמִינָה
But if he give	but his inheritance	to one	of his servants
H5414	H5159	H259	H5650
וְיִתֶּן	שָׁנָת	פְּדָר וָר	וְשָׁב ת
H1961	H0	H1865	H7725
עַד לֹא	then it shall be his to the year	of liberty	after it shall return
H5704	H8141		
וְיִתֶּן	בְּנֵי	לְפָמ	מִתְהִיבָה
אֶת נִסְלָת	שָׁלַח יְא		
to the prince	but his inheritance	shall be his sons	H1961
H5387	H5159	H1121	

## Additional Cross-References

**Leviticus 25:10** (Parallel theme): And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.