

Numbers 36:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the jubile of the children of Israel shall be, then shall their inheritance be put unto the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall their inheritance be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers.

Analysis

And when the jubile of the children of Israel shall be, then shall their inheritance be put unto the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received—The yovel (יּוֹבֵל, 'jubilee,' every 50th year) normally restored sold land to original tribal owners (Leviticus 25:10-28). However, if heiresses married into other tribes, even jubilee couldn't restore land to the original tribe—the transfer would be permanent. This unique situation required legislative clarification beyond standard jubilee provisions.

Jubilee embodied God's economic justice: debt forgiveness, land restoration, liberty for indentured servants. Yet jubilee had limits—it couldn't override marital unity or inheritance law. God's laws work in harmony, each principle balanced against others.

Historical Context

The Jubilee year occurred after seven sabbatical cycles ($7 \times 7 = 49$ years), beginning on the Day of Atonement. It was announced by ram's horn (shofar/yovel), hence the name. While Jubilee provisions are detailed in Leviticus 25, historical evidence for its consistent practice is limited, though the principles shaped Israel's economic theology.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Jubilee principle challenge modern economic systems that concentrate wealth without periodic redistribution?
2. What does the interplay between different laws (inheritance, marriage, jubilee) teach about biblical interpretation?
3. In what ways does Christ's proclamation of 'the year of the Lord's favor' (Luke 4:19) represent the ultimate Jubilee?

Interlinear Text

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| וְנִזְמַּפְּה | ישָׂרָאֵל | לְבָנָי | הַיּוֹבֵל | יְהִי הַיּוֹם | וְנִזְמַּפְּה |
| H3254 | H3478 | H1121 | H3104 | H1961 | H518 |
| be put | of Israel | of the children | the jubile | when | and |
| תְּמֻלֵּת | רֵאשִׁית | עַל | תְּמֻלֵּת | מִתְּמֻלֵּת | תְּמֻלֵּת |
| from the inheritance | of the tribe | from the inheritance | from the inheritance | of the tribe | of the inheritance |
| H5159 | H4294 | H5921 | H5159 | H834 | H1961 |
| לְקַרְבָּן | אֲבָתֵּינוּ | מִתְּמֻלֵּת | תְּמֻלֵּת | עַל | לְקַרְבָּן |
| from the inheritance | of our fathers | of the tribe | from the inheritance | be taken away | from the inheritance |
| H5159 | H1 | H4294 | H0 | H1639 | H5159 |