

# 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

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**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 (יָבֵל, '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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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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וְאָמַר H518	יְהוָה ה' יִבְרָכְךָ H1961	וְהָיָה H3104	לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל H1121	וְנִסְפָּה H3478	יְהוָה יִבְרָכְךָ H3254
מִן הַיִּרְשָׁה H5159	עַל H5921	מִן הַיִּרְשָׁה H5159	מִן הַטִּבֵּן H4294	וְאֶשְׁרָר H834	וְהָיָה יְהוָה יִבְרָכְךָ H1961
לְהָרִם H0	מִן הַיִּרְשָׁה H5159	מִן הַטִּבֵּן H4294	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ H1	וְנִסְפָּה H1639	
מִן הַיִּרְשָׁה H5159					