



Tuesday, December 4, 2007

"A Time to Release"

Deuteronomy 15: 1 (KJV)
Deuteronomy 31: 10 – 13 (NKJV)

Pastor Darrell Jackson, Sr.

- As we approach the end of yet another year, many people are going to be taking an inventory of all the things that have or have not occurred in their lives.
- However, I strongly believe that a better use of our time is not to look back, but to look forward.
- It is important to understand that it is almost impossible to go forward when you are burdened with things that are holding you back or weighing you down; things that have held you back all year long.
- Now, in December, we declare that it is time to release.
- Before this year is over, perhaps we all need to let some people go, put some things behind us, and prepare for new beginnings.
- As we examine our scripture **text**, we see what God says to the children of Israel as they prepare to transition from their wilderness experience to Canaan, a place of promise.
- In our text, God instructs the children of Israel, through Moses, on how they should live once they are in the Promise Land.
- In Deuteronomy **15:1**, Moses tells them that when they are in Canaan, a land of provision and prosperity, every seventh year shall be set aside as **a year of release.**"
- The word, *release*, is defined as "to let go or to set free from confinement".

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- In Deuteronomy **31:10**, Moses says that at the end of every seven years, at **the appointed time** there shall be a release.
- Moses tells them at this appointed time of release that they should gather together and worship God through the reading and hearing of His Word.
- God's Word gives us the faith to go forward, the courage to let go, and the joy to feel good about it.
- The question often asked is, "Why every seven years?"
- The answer is found not in the significance of the number seven, but in the significance of the number eight.
- In biblical context, the eighth year represents "New Beginnings".
- The Lord was saying to the children of Israel that you cannot go into something new carrying around something old.
- As they were on the verge of entering into a land of promise it was important for them to understand that there were some things they should not carry with them.
- Moses was telling them not to carry old debt, old grudges, or old demons.
- Now, as we enter this last month of the year 2007, let us all identify issues in our lives that should not follow us into the new year.
- Let these next few weeks in 2007 be **a time of release**.
- Also, get ready for God to release some things on your behalf.

"And all these blessing shall come on thee, and overtake thee..."

Deuteronomy 28:2