

# **LEX TALIONIS AND THE JUBILEE YEAR**

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We have said lots of time that the whole Bible is important and valuable ... one book ... one Author.

We shouldn't avoid the Old Testament ... even though many churches out there tend to teach "it's all done away". Yet the early church only had the Old Testament ... yet saw 10,000's of disciples and mighty signs and wonders.

Actually ... you and I are more blessed. We have the additional revelation of the New Testament ... but shouldn't shun the Old Testament.

We can learn a great deal from the Old Testament ... even if a number of its laws and practices are not for today. The Jews count something like 613 commandments in the Torah. Many were purely temporary (animal sacrifices ... rules of ceremonial uncleanness in connection with the Tabernacle) ... but ... a number of them are genuine eternal moral laws (murder ... adultery ... incest ... homosexuals ... occult).

People often single out as their one big bug bear the Book of Leviticus for criticism ... as many of these laws are found there.

We've spent some time looking at the Code of Holiness in Leviticus to answer the question: Are these laws antiquated and absurd as some people say?

Hopefully ... we've seen that they are neither! There is much of value ... even in the laws that clearly don't apply today ... as they all reveal something of God's mind. And the underlying principles generally still apply.

We don't have to be concerned about ceremonial uncleanness ... but we do have to be spiritually clean ... and avoid spiritual uncleanness.

We don't have to be physically circumcised ... but we must be spiritually circumcised.

We don't have to be overly concerned about mixing different seeds in a field ... but we do need to keep ourselves separate from the world ... and the unconverted ... and not mix too closely.

Last week ... we completed a review of Leviticus Chapter 20 ... that's the chapter that deals with the death penalty for certain crimes ... child sacrifice ... mediums ... cursing your parents ... adultery ... homosexual conduct ... bestiality ... incest. Although not applicable in most of our societies ... the point is ... for those serious sins ... the death penalty has not gone away. The Lake of Fire applies ... they will experience the second death.

We finished in Leviticus Chapter 22 where God demanded that any offerings given to Him had to be of top quality ... "without blemish". Although we don't give animal sacrifices today ... Paul said in Romans Chapter 12:1 that we should give our bodies to God as "a living sacrifice". That applies to you and me. Our time and resources make up our lives ... God deserves some good quality.

Let's move on.

### **Leviticus 23:1-4 (NKJV)**

1 And **the Lord spoke to Moses**, saying,

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: '**The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.**'

3 "**Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation.** You shall do no work on it; **it is the Sabbath of the Lord** in all your dwellings.

4 "**These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.**

We won't spend much time in this chapter as we are very familiar with it!

God's Feasts ... not the Jews Feasts ... not the Church's Feasts ... not man's Feasts. And they're Holy. This is still part of the Code of Holiness.

No man or church can make a day Holy ... the Pope can't make any day Holy ... like xmas or Easter or the Feast of the Assumption. Mankind can trample on God's Holy Days ... but they can't make them unholy.

But what about the sacrifices that took place on the Holy Days mentioned in Leviticus Chapter 23?

#### **Leviticus 23:6-8 (NKJV)**

6 **And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.**

7 **On the first day you shall have a holy convocation;** you shall do no customary work on it.

8 But **you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation;** you shall do no customary work on it.' ”

Animals had to be offered made by fire for the seven days of Unleavened Bread? Does that mean that the whole Feast is not applicable anymore?

#### **Leviticus 23:15-21 (NKJV)**

15 **“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.**

16 **Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord. (The instruction for keeping Pentecost)**

17 You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven.

**They are the firstfruits to the Lord.**

18 **And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the Lord.**

19 **Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.**

20 **The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest.**

21 **And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you.** You shall do no customary work on it. **It shall be a statute forever** in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Quite a few animal sacrifices for Pentecost.

All of the Holy Days had sacrifices. Sacrifices were an integral part of Tabernacle/Temple worship system. The priests and Levites spent a lot of their time making sacrifices.

That system of worship has now gone as we saw a few weeks ago. Why? Firstly ... because Jesus is the Perfect Sacrifice and His blood is all we ever need ... and secondly ... the physical temple was totally destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

But ... the Holy Days existed before the sacrifices ... and they continued after them.

In Old Testament times sacrifices were closely associated with the Holy Days ... but they're actually quite separate.

Remember ... Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were clearly given in Egypt ... long before Israel came to Mount Sinai and long before the sacrificial system was set up.

And ... no surprise ... they continued into New Testament times. Why wouldn't you keep them ... they are God's Holy Days.

We covered this a couple of months ago so I'm not going to repeat. Just a couple of scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV)**

6 **Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?**

7 **Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

8 **Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Paul wrote round about 56AD about The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He gave us a strong admonition to keep them.

**Acts 20:15-16 (NKJV)**

15 We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to Miletus.

16 **For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus**, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; **for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.**

The New Testament church continued to keep God's Holy Days.

I won't belabour the point ... but the Holy days of Leviticus Chapter 23 continue. Why not? They give us an outline of God's plan of salvation for all of mankind. And Zechariah Chapter 14 shows the Feast of Tabernacles being kept in the Millennium after Jesus returns ... even by Gentile Heathen countries.

So the sacrifices being gone now are not an issue. Remember: there were sacrifices every day of the week ... every day of the year. The fact that the sacrifices have gone ... the days of the week haven't gone ... and the Holy Days haven't gone either.

Onto Leviticus Chapter 24.

**Leviticus 24:10-16 (NKJV)**

10 Now **the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian**, went out among the children of Israel; and **this Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp.**

11 And **the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the name of the Lord and cursed**; and **so they brought him to Moses**. (His mother's name was Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.)

12 Then they put him in custody, that the mind of the Lord might be shown to them.

13 **And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,**

14 **"Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.**

15 "Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: **'Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin.**

16 And **whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death.** **All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land.** **When he blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall be put to death.**

This was serious! To curse and blaspheme God's name "right under His nose". God was in the camp ... a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Highly provocative and a gross insult to God and His authority. The penalty was still the same ... the death penalty.

'Thou shalt not take the name of Thy God in vain". It still applies today! The penalty is not enforced in our society today ... but it does still apply and those people who blaspheme God's name ... will face the Lake of Fire.

In verse 16 ... the Jews take the Hebrew for "blaspheme" as meaning "to pronounce distinctly".

So they refuse to use the Hebrew name of God ... YHVH (Yahweh ... Yahuwah ... Yahoo ... Jehovah). I think that Jehovah stands up to scrutiny today. Partly why the pronunciation is disputed today.

The Jews typically replace the Tetragrammaton by "Adonai" (Lord) or "Ha-Shem" ("The Name").

It is all a mis-application of Verse 16. But ... we should remember that the death penalty still applies today.

#### **Leviticus 24:17-23 (NKJV)**

17 **"Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death.**

18 **Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, animal for animal.**

19 **'If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbour, as he has done, so shall it be done to him—**

**20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.** *(Talking about your compensation is to be of a similar value ... not that you knock their eye out or their tooth out. All dealt with in a fair way ... and Jesus totally upholds this)*

21 **And whoever kills an animal shall restore it; but whoever kills a man shall be put to death.**

22 You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the Lord your God.’ ”

23 Then Moses spoke to the children of Israel; and **they took outside the camp him who had cursed, and stoned him with stones.** So the children of Israel did as the Lord commanded Moses.

Verses 18-20 is often called the “Law of Retaliation” or “Law of revenge” ... also known as “Lex Talionis”.

It’s about the principle and practice of ensuring fair compensation. If you killed a neighbour’s chicken ... then the neighbour gets from you a chicken or the value of a chicken ... you didn’t have to replace it with a prize bull.

When it came to accidentally injuring a person ... there might be a natural carnal tendency to lash out ... get revenge. Maybe give them twice what they caused you. “They’ve injured my feelings so I’m going to beat them half to death”.

No! The judges would review ... and allocate fair and just compensation.

The principle underpins much of our civil law today. The Principle of Indemnity ... putting someone back in a similar position ... at least financially ... after an accident ... as they were before.

For example: if you damage their 20 year old car ... then compensation will be the approximate value of a similar item.

If you knock somebody over ... injure their foot ... and they lose two weeks’ work ... then compensation must fairly reflect the pain and suffering ... and loss of wages.

Verses 19-20 do not mean that you poke someone’s eye out if you’ve lost yours!

The law has two applications. Fair compensation ... and to prevent vengeance and ill-considered attempts to “get even”.

**Matthew 5:38-42 (NKJV)**

38 **“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ (Linking back to Leviticus. Jesus is talking about the commentary that is given by the rabbis ... see below)**

39 **But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.**

40 **If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.**

41 **And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.**

42 **Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.**

“It was said” refers to the teachings and traditions of the rabbis. They encouraged retaliation ... personal revenge ... almost the opposite of Leviticus. Jesus said that they made the Word of God of no effect with their traditions.

Jesus has got a different attitude. The attitude of the rabbis is not to be our approach. Not always seeking to “get even”. We should be patient ... willing to overlook an offence. Personal revenge should not be at the top of our list.

#### **Romans 12:17-21 (NKJV)**

17 **Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.**

18 **If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**

19 **Beloved, do not avenge yourselves**, but rather give place to wrath; for **it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.**

20 **Therefore**

**“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;**

**If he is thirsty, give him a drink;**

**For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”**

21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Vengeance belongs to God. In due time ... if necessary ... God will render righteous judgment.

So that passage in Leviticus Chapter 24 isn't some ancient savagery about chopping off the hands of a thief etc ... but a very sensible approach of dealing with fairness in compensation ... and still largely



followed today in many societies ... especially here in the United Kingdom.

Back to Leviticus. Let's quickly finish off the Code of Holiness.

### **Leviticus 25:1-4 (NKJV)**

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.

This is the Sabbath Year ... the Land Sabbath. Year 7 ... all was to stop.

I believe some in the Church have tried this in recent times. I suspect it wouldn't work. This was for the Promised Land. If Israel obeyed ... God promised to bless the entire land in the 6<sup>th</sup> year ... so there would be extra to take you through both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> years ... before harvesting again in the 9<sup>th</sup> year. And it was a specific 7<sup>th</sup> year ... not just "1 in 7". Today ... no idea of what year is the seventh! Because no one is too sure which year it was that the children of Israel crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land.

### **Leviticus 25:20-22 (NKJV)**

20 "And if you say, **"What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?"**  
21 **Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years.**  
22 **And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat of the old harvest.**

God's promise was for "the land" ... what you and I call Palestine. God's Holy Land ... with God's Holy people ... who would follow His agricultural principles. (There is no clear evidence that Israel ever kept the Land Sabbath). It is doubtful if we could apply the Land Sabbath to Farmer Joe in Warwickshire or Wisconsin! And ... we don't know which is the 7<sup>th</sup> year anyway.

The underlying principle is good? Be a good steward of your land. Give it some time to rest and for the soil to regenerate. Farmers have often left fields fallow at times ... rotated the crops ... though nowadays ... perhaps greed and availability of chemical fertilisers ... allows for the land to be abused?

More importantly than looking after the land ... in that year ... people didn't work. Almost everyone worked in agriculture directly or indirectly. You couldn't do any commercial activity ... though people could go out and get daily needs. It would have taught them to trust in God ... build faith in Him ... for their daily needs.

For you and I it is a picture of the World Tomorrow ... 6 x 1,000 years for man to "work" ... followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> 1,000 year Millennium when satan's carnal society has stopped.

#### **Leviticus 25:8-13 (NKJV)**

8 **"And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years.**

9 **Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.**

10 And **you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. *It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.***

11 ***That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you;*** in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine.

12 ***For it is the Jubilee;*** it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.

13 ***In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession.***

**CEV Verse 10: "This 50<sup>th</sup> year is sacred ... it is a time of FREEDOM AND CELEBRATION when everyone will receive. Back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families".**

It would have been a great year! Perhaps only once in a lifetime for many people?

Properties and land returned. All debts cancelled. All slaves/servants set free. The whole nation at rest ... no servile work.

However ... probably never kept? Also ... not just “one year in 50”. The 50<sup>th</sup> year from when Israel entered the Promised Land under Joshua ... they were to start counting ... for the Land Sabbaths and the Jubilee.

It would have required faith in God to stop working for the year ... cancel all debts owed to you ... return any land purchases in the past 50 years back to the original owners. There is no record that it was ever kept.

It was preceded by seven Land Sabbaths. This comes afterwards ... in the 50<sup>th</sup> year. It appears to be a type of what comes after the Millennium. The Jubilee Year is what comes after: The new Heavens and the New Earth ... where all mankind enjoy perfect freedom in the Family of God throughout eternity.

#### **Leviticus 26:1-2 (NKJV)**

1 **“You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God.**

2 ***You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord.***

Two key commandments. No idolatry ... keep the Sabbaths. Both in the “Big 10” ... both still apply today.

#### **Leviticus 26:3-13 (NKJV)**

3 **“If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,**

4 **then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.**

5 **Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing;**

**you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.**

6 **I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid;**

**I will rid the land of evil beasts,**

and the sword will not go through your land.

7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight;

your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

9 **“For I will look on you favourably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.**

10 You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new. *(so much abundance ... you can hardly find any room to put it)*

11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you.

12 **I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.**

13 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves;

I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

Promises of peace and prosperity in the land ... but ... conditional!

Leviticus 26:14-20 (NKJV)

14 **“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments,**

**15 and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant,**

16 I also will do this to you:

I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart.

And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 **I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies.**

Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

18 **“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.**

19 I will break the pride of your power;

I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

20 And your strength shall be spent in vain;

for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

The blessings and abundance were conditional. Curses if the nation is disobedient.

### **Leviticus 26:27-35 (NKJV)**

27 **“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me,**

28 **then I also will walk contrary to you in fury;**

**and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.**

29 You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.

30 **I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols;**

and **My soul shall abhor you.**

31 **I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation,**

and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas.

32 **I will bring the land to desolation,** and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.

33 **I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you;**

your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.

34 **Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land;**

**then the land shall rest and enjoy its sabbaths.**

35 **As long as it lies desolate it shall rest—**

**for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.**

Similar to Deuteronomy Chapter 28.

Unfortunately ... Israel did not heed God's words. Almost from the start they chose their own ways ... idolatry ... Sabbath-breaking ... all the abominations of the land.

So. God kept His word.

### **2 Chronicles 36:11-21 (NKJV)**

11 **Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.**

12 **He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord.**

13 And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but **he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel.**

14 **Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the Lord which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.**

15 **And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.** (God did His part over and over and over and over)

16 **But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.**

17 Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.

18 **And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon.**

19 **Then they burned the house of God**, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

20 And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

21 **to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.**

Note that the land would enjoy its Land Sabbaths (belatedly). 70 continuous Land Sabbaths might imply at least 490 years when the Land Sabbath wasn't kept?

The whole story of Israel's stubbornness ... pride ... rebellion ... refusal to listen to God's instructions and advice ... is a sad story. But it's a great insight into human nature ... which you and I share ... and the attractiveness of sin.

And ... it's written down for us to read and learn from. The History of Israel is written in pain and blood. We should know it and learn from it.

### **1 Corinthians 10:1-6 (NKJV)**

**1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,**

**2 all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,**

**3 all ate the same spiritual food,**

**4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**

**5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.**

**6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.**

### **1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (NKJV)**

**11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

**12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

**13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

### **1 Corinthians 10:11 (Voice)**

**11 All these things happened for a reason: to sound a warning. They were written down and passed down to us to teach us.** They were meant especially for us because the beginning of the end is happening in our time.

An important reminder from Paul about the value of Old Testament history (not to mention prophecy and general instruction).

But only valuable if we read it and know it!

As we've covered a number of times ... even those laws and practices which may have been temporary ... still show us God's heart. These can be underlying principles of value to us.

### **1 Corinthians 9:4-11 (NKJV)**

4 Do we have no right to eat and drink? *(Paul is being accused of only being after people's money)*

5 Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?

7 Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

8 **Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also?**

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about?

10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 **If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?** *(Talking about being supported properly here)*

Paul quotes Deuteronomy 25:4 as applicable today ... to himself!

Deuteronomy = "Second Law". It contains many laws similar to those we've looked at in Leviticus ... incest ... bestiality ... about wearing garments of linen and wool ... about shaving the head for the dead.

Our approach to Deuteronomy should be similar to the way we have approached Leviticus. We can learn from all of the laws ... even though many were only for the civil nation ... or for the Old Tabernacle/Temple worship system.

But ... we definitely shouldn't just ignore Deuteronomy as irrelevant any more than we should ignore Leviticus ... to us New Testament Christians.

The book of Deuteronomy contains what Jesus called the first and greatest commandment.



**Deuteronomy 6:1-5 (NKJV)**

1 **“Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,**

2 **that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.**

3 **Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’**

4 **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!**

5 **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.** *(The greatest of all of the commandments)*

Jesus quotes the 2 greatest commandments ... one here and the other in Leviticus Chapter 19 ... “thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”

Does that tell us something? Who says that the Old Testament is not relevant for us today?