

Leviticus 26-27

An Overview of Chapter 26

At the end of the law the Lord also gives a promise. If the Israelites will keep the laws and do what they say then he will bless them. Here are some of the promised blessings:

- rains
- abundance of crops year round
- peace in the land
- elimination of harmful beasts
- enemies will fall before them
- 100 of the enemy will flee from 5 Israelites
- they will be fruitful and multiply
- God will keep His covenant
- the Lord will live and walk amongst them

If they do not keep the Lords laws and follow them then the Lord promises many bad things in increasing difficulty. What is truly amazing about this passage is that the Lord says at least four times that the purpose of the bad things is to bring repentance (vs. 18, 21, 23, 27). If at any time the people repent He will remember the covenants, and the land He promised them.

An Overview of Chapter 27

Just when you thought this thing was wrapping up you get a chapter about making vows. This is similar to saying "I bet my life on it (or wife, or house, or whatever)." The Lord requires that vows be kept, but sometimes the thing vowed is too difficult to keep. In those cases there is a valuation placed for redemption.

For humans it is tiered by age and sex:

- men 20-60 years old = 50 shekels of silver (\$194)
- women 20-60 years old = 30 shekels of silver (\$116)
- men 5 years old to 20 = 20 shekels of silver (\$77.61)
- women 5 years old to 20 = 10 shekels of silver (\$38.81)
- men 1 month to 5 years old = 5 shekels of silver (\$19.40)
- women 1 month to 5 years old = 3 shekels of silver (\$11.64)
- men over 60 years old = 15 shekels of silver (\$58.21)
- women over 60 years old = 10 shekels (\$38.81)

If a person cannot afford to pay his valuation the priest may change it so he can afford it.

For animals and stuff they paid the value of the stuff plus 20% more.

Of course anything that belonged to the Lord they could not use in redemption of a vow.

Reflection

Consider your life, do you recognize more blessings in your life when you are following God? When you feel that God is disciplining you are you quick to repent and return to God's favor? Do you make foolish vows that are difficult to repay? How do you value life?

For Further Study

Repentance: 1Kings 8:46-52, Psalm 7:12-17, Luke 3:8, Luke 17:3-4, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:22, 2Corinthians 7:8-10, 2Timothy 2:24-26, Hebrews 6:1-6, 2Peter 3:9