



# Deuteronomy 15

(2019)

## WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Deuteronomy 15.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

---

**INTRODUCTION:** this is a continuation of the previous chapter; Israel is soon to cross over the River Jordan and enter into the Promised Land. The primary focus of all the following chapters is upon Moses re-telling to the new generation about to cross the River Jordan all the covenant laws the LORD originally gave to Israel at Mount Sinai so that the new generation would renew the covenant with the LORD before they enter the Promised Land. The final chapter finishes with the LORD burying Moses and Joshua being ready to lead Israel over the River Jordan and into the Promised Land (see also the introduction to chapter one).

**NOTE:** for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

---

### DEUTERONOMY 15 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

---

- **Deuteronomy 15:1-23** “At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release.<sup>2</sup> And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD’s release has been proclaimed.<sup>3</sup> Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release.<sup>4</sup> But there will be no poor among you; for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess—<sup>5</sup> if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today.<sup>6</sup> For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.<sup>7</sup> “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother,<sup>8</sup> but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.<sup>9</sup> Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, ‘The seventh year, the year of release is near,’ and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin.<sup>10</sup> You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.<sup>11</sup> For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’<sup>12</sup> “If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.<sup>13</sup> And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed.<sup>14</sup> You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the LORD your God has blessed you, you shall give to him.<sup>15</sup> You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.<sup>16</sup> But if he says to you, ‘I will not go out from you,’ because he loves you and your household, since he is well-off with you,<sup>17</sup> then you shall take an awl, and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever. And to your female slave you shall do the same.<sup>18</sup> It shall not seem hard to you when you let him go free from you, for at half the cost of a hired worker he has served you six years. So the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.<sup>19</sup> “All the firstborn males that are born of your herd and flock you shall dedicate to the LORD your God. You shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.<sup>20</sup> You shall eat it, you and your household, before the LORD your God year by year at the place that the LORD will choose.<sup>21</sup> But if it has any blemish, if it is lame or blind or has any serious blemish whatever, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.<sup>22</sup> You shall eat it within your towns. The unclean and the clean alike may eat it, as though it were a gazelle or a deer.<sup>23</sup> Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it out on the ground like water.

At the end of every seven years the LORD'S release was proclaimed, Israel was to grant a release. Whatever was lent to an Israelite brother was to be released, every creditor was to release what they had lent to their neighbour the creditor was not to allow for any variations if it was his neighbour or his brother, but the creditor could allow for variations from a foreigner.

---

### **Laws for the poor**

---

There was to be no poor among Israel because the LORD would bless the land that He is giving Israel for an inheritance to possess, if one of Israel's brothers did become poor they were not to harden their heart or refuse to help them, they were to help their brothers in need and lend them sufficient for their need, whatever it may be. Israel was not to think that the seventh year is near and look grudgingly on their poor. They were to give to their poor freely and not be grudging when they give to them. If they did not help their poor they would be guilty of sin. There would always be poor in the land that is why the LORD commands Israel to help the needy and the poor.

---

### **Laws for an Israelite that is sold as a slave and desires to go free**

---

If a brother of Israel or a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman is sold to an Israelite, they were to serve six years and in the seventh year they were to be set free. When they were set free they were not to go out empty-handed, they were to be furnished liberally from their master's own goods and it was not to seem hard to the master when he let them go free because at half the cost of a hired servant they have served him six years.

---

### **Laws for an Israelite that is sold as a slave and desires to remain as a servant**

---

If the Hebrew slave did not want to go out from their master because they loved their master and his household, since they are well off with them, then the master was to take an awl and put it through the Hebrew slave's ear into the door and they would be his slave forever. This same rule applied to the male and female Hebrew slaves.

---

### **Laws for the firstborn males of the herd and flocks**

---

All the firstborn males that were born of Israel's herd and flock were to be dedicated to the LORD their God. Israel was not to do any work with the firstborn of their herd or shear it. All Israel's household was to eat the firstborn before the LORD year by year at the place that the LORD chose. They were not to eat the blood of the firstborn but pour it out on the ground like water. If the firstborn was lame, blind or had any serious blemish whatever it was not to be sacrifice it to the LORD, but could be eaten in the towns of Israel, the unclean and the clean alike (people) may eat it, as though it was a gazelle or a deer (both clean animals) so that it wasn't wasted it still became food for the people (but not holy food).

---

### **Blessings**

---

Moses tells Israel while they are all standing on the wilderness side (east side) of the Jordan River waiting to cross it and enter the Promised Land if they strictly obeyed the voice of the LORD their God to do all that Moses has commanded them the LORD would: -

- Bless them as He promised them.
- Prosper them so that they would not have to borrow from nations, but would lend too many.
- Exalt them so that no nation would rule over them, but they would rule over many nations.

---

*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

---

Bible House of Grace