

**Deuteronomy II**  
***Release and Sacrifice***  
**Deuteronomy 15:1-23**

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Compassion
- iii. Admonishment

B. Usage of Words

i. “*thou*”

- I. Used thirty-two (32 x) times in twenty (20) verses (Deuteronomy 15:1; Deuteronomy 15:3; Deuteronomy 15:5; Deuteronomy 15:6; Deuteronomy 15:7; Deuteronomy 15:8; Deuteronomy 15:9; Deuteronomy 15:10; Deuteronomy 15:11; Deuteronomy 15:12; Deuteronomy 15:13; Deuteronomy 15:14; Deuteronomy 15:15; Deuteronomy 15:17; Deuteronomy 15:18; Deuteronomy 15:19; Deuteronomy 15:20; Deuteronomy 15:21; Deuteronomy 15:22; Deuteronomy 15; 23)

- II. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.

ii. “*thy*”

- I. Used thirty-five (35 x) times in seventeen (17) verses (Deuteronomy 15:3; Deuteronomy 15:4; Deuteronomy 15:5; Deuteronomy 15:6; Deuteronomy 15:7; Deuteronomy 15:9; Deuteronomy 15:10; Deuteronomy 15:11; Deuteronomy 15:12; Deuteronomy 15:14; Deuteronomy 15:15; Deuteronomy 15:17; Deuteronomy 15:18; Deuteronomy 15:19; Deuteronomy 15:20; Deuteronomy 15:21; Deuteronomy 15:22)

- II. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.

C. Usage of Phrases

i. “*Thou shalt*”

- I. Used seventeen (17 x) times in thirteen (13) verses (Deuteronomy 15:1; Deuteronomy 15:6; Deuteronomy 15:8; Deuteronomy 15:10; Deuteronomy 15:11; Deuteronomy 15:12; Deuteronomy 15:14; Deuteronomy 15:15; Deuteronomy 15:17; Deuteronomy 15:19; Deuteronomy 15:20; Deuteronomy 15:22; Deuteronomy 15:23)

- II. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.

- ii. *“Thou shalt not”*
  - I. Used five (5 x) times in five (5) verses (Deuteronomy 15:6; Deuteronomy 15:7; Deuteronomy 15:13; Deuteronomy 15:21; Deuteronomy 23)
  - II. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.

## II. THE LORD’S RELEASE (Deuteronomy 15:1-5; 7-11)

### A. The Manner of the Release (Deuteronomy 15:1-2; 7-11)

- i. To be done at the end of every seven years
- ii. Every creditor that lended to his neighbor was to release it
  - I. He was to not exact it of his neighbor
  - II. Or his brother
  - III. Because it was the Lord’s release (Deuteronomy 15:2)
- iii. For the poor that was among them (Deuteronomy 15:3-4; 7-11)
  - I. The lending to be done without usury (Exodus 22:25)
    - a. *Usury = “practice of lending money at interest”*
    - b. Was permitted for the stranger, but not a fellow Israelite (Deuteronomy 32:19-20)
  - II. It appears that this may only have applied to the poor
  - III. Not to the wealthy
  - IV. Notice verse four of Deuteronomy 15 (Deuteronomy 15:4)
    - a. This is a continuation of verse three where it says, *“but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release;”*
    - b. Verse four: *“Save when there shall be no poor among you”*
  - V. Notice verses seven through eleven in Deuteronomy 15 (Deuteronomy 15:7-14)
    - a. To give without a hard heart (Deuteronomy 15:7)
    - b. Commanded to lend sufficiently (Deuteronomy 15:8)
    - c. Not to withhold from the poor (Deuteronomy 15:9)
    - d. To be done with the right spirit (Deuteronomy 15:10)
    - e. To open their hand wide (Deuteronomy 15:11)

### B. The Exceptions to the Release (Deuteronomy 15:3-4)

- i. Permitted to exact it again in the year if it was a foreigner
- ii. Not permitted if it were a brother/Israelite
- iii. When there was no poor among them

### C. Comments on How This Was Observed

- i. Some “scholars” have claimed that this release was only good for the 7<sup>th</sup> year and that the debtor would begin to pay the remaining debt again the following year.

- ii. While this may be true, if you look at the chapter (Deuteronomy 15) as a whole you notice that the release of the servant mentioned later was a permanent occurrence. (Deuteronomy 15:12-14)
- D. Compared to The Lord's Deliverance By Jesus Christ
  - i. The seventh year release
    - I. In many respects it was a year of mercy to the poor
    - II. The name given here is "The Lord's release"
  - ii. It finds a higher "type/connection" to the "acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:19) – A true "Lord's release"
    - I. The Lord came unto His own and gave them relief and offered Himself (Luke 4:17-18)
      - a. The Lord preached unto the poor
      - b. Healed those that were brokenhearted
      - c. Healed those that were blind (both physically and spiritually)
      - d. And set at liberty those that were bruised
    - II. He also came for the Church and came to save those that were lost
      - a. At the appointed time Christ came (2 Corinthians 5:19)
      - b. It was an accepted time (2 Corinthians 6:2)
      - c. It is a time of forgiveness to those who believe – a "Lord's release", not from a monetary debt, but a spiritual debt (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24), not temporary, but eternal.
      - d. It is a time of setting free of those that have been "bondsmen" to Satan and the flesh (Romans 6:18)
- E. The Careful Observance of the Commandments (Deuteronomy 15:5)
  - i. Told to carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD
  - ii. To do ALL of these commandments

### III. THE PROMISE OF BLESSINGS FROM GOD (Deuteronomy 15:6)

- A. To Lend Unto Other Nations
  - i. The Lord would make them to prosper (Deuteronomy 28:12)
  - ii. The Lord would make them the head over all others (Deuteronomy 28:13)
    - I. They saw this to some extent during the reign of Solomon (1 Kings 4:21, 24)
    - II. This will be truly fulfilled during the Millennial reign of Christ.
- B. Not to Borrow From Other Nations
  - i. The borrower is servant unto the lender (Proverbs 22:7)
  - ii. In the history of nations you see this illustrated today.

IV. THE COMMANDMENTS FOR LENDING UNTO THE POOR (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)

- A. To Be Done Liberally (Deuteronomy 15:7-8)
  - i. To be done without a hard heart
  - ii. To be done with an open hand (Proverbs 22:9)
  - iii. To not be done with usury (Leviticus 25:35-36)
- B. To Be Done with the Right Spirit (Deuteronomy 15:9-11)
  - i. Paul charged those that were rich to have the right kind of heart and to give without grudging (1 Timothy 6:17-18)
  - ii. When it is in thy hand to do it (1 John 3:16-17)
  - iii. God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16)