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## Kingdom of God II: Jubilee Redemption and the Forgiveness of Sin

Jubilee redemption and forgiveness of sin is a biblical concept that originated from the Old Testament book of Leviticus. It is a religious practice that God commanded the Israelites to observe every 50 years. Jubilee redemption is the return of land, freedom, and forgiveness of debts. It is a time when slaves were released from bondage, land and sold to others returned to its original owners, and all debts were cancelled. The Jubilee redemption was designed to restore balance and justice in society, to prevent the accumulation of wealth and power by a few, and to provide opportunities for the less privileged. It was a time of joy and celebration when the entire community came to share the blessings of God.

The Jubilee redemption also symbolizes the forgiveness of sin. Sin is a weakness of humanity, and this is what separates us from God. We are reminded through redemption that God is forgiving and desires to restore His creation back to Himself. The Jubilee redemption also points to the ultimate redemption that comes through Jesus Christ. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus paid the price for sin, and this includes all of humanity. Jesus's death and resurrection open the way for all to believe in him to receive the forgiveness God provided for us. Jubilee redemption also teaches us about the kingdom of God. In the kingdom of God, there is no injustice, poverty or oppression. We are reminded that as citizens of God's kingdom, we have a responsibility to live according to God's principles. We are called to love and serve one another, to seek justice and bring healing to the brokenness of the world.

The Sabbath year, as described in Leviticus 25, was a time of rest and renewal for both the land and the people of Israel. In this law, God commanded the Israelites to let their land lie fallow every seventh year, and to refrain from planting, pruning, or harvesting during this time. This was a way for the land to replenish itself and for the people to trust in God's provision. The Sabbath year was not only a time of rest for the land but also for the people. During this year debts were forgiven, and slaves were set free. This was the Israelites way of showing compassion and generosity to one another. This was also a reminder they themselves were once slaves in Egypt and had been freed by God. One of the top reasons for the Sabbath year was to remind the Israelites of their dependence on God. By taking the year to refrain from harvesting the lands and having time off, it left them no choice but to depend on Gods provision. It was also a way of acknowledging God had the sole power over all, they submitted to His sovereignty. The Israelites were a chosen people by God, it showed on their behalf the trust they had in Him.

In the reading by Anderson, he shares on how the book of Isaiah divides into two separate works. One being a time when a so-called anonymous person who wrote lived in Babylonian exile. There was a metaphor of sin as debt the author speaks about. The second author of Isaiah also saw debt as a spiritual issue. He knew that debt could lead to greed and corruption, and it would cause people to lose sight of what was important. He warned the people of Judah they could not serve both God and money, they needed to put their trust in God. He saw debt as a hinderance to an intimate relationship with God. The prophet saw debt as a symptom of disobedience to God. He believed that the people had lost sight of God's will for their lives and had turned away from his commandments. They were also harming one another with these types of choices and blindness. The second author of Isaiah believed that God's judgement would come upon the people of Judah if they did not repent and turn from their ways.