# Lesson 57 – God's Care for the Poor

1) According to the Old Testament, what belongs to God?
   **Leviticus 27:30-32** And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the _____ of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD… …And concerning the tithe of the _____, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.
2) Who was supported by the tithe?
   **Numbers 18:21** And, behold, I have given the children of _____ all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The Levites had no inheritance in the country of Israel except 48 cities spread throughout the land. They were to teach and be spiritual helpers throughout and maintain cities of refuge.

3) Did God ask the people for any extra beyond the tithe?
   **Deuteronomy 14:23** And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the _____ which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always…
   **Deuteronomy 14:29** And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be _____; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

This tithe, or its equivalent in money, they were for two years to bring to the place where the sanctuary was established. After presenting a thank offering to God, and a specified portion to the priest, the offerers were to use the remainder for a religious feast, in which the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow should participate. Thus, provision was made for the thank offerings and feasts at the yearly festivals, and the people were drawn to the society of the priests and Levites, that they might receive instruction and encouragement in the service of God.

4) What were they to do in the third year?
   **Deuteronomy 26:12** When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within _____ _____, and be filled;

Although God had promised greatly to bless His people, it was not His design that poverty should be wholly unknown among them. He declared that the poor should never cease out of the land. There would ever be those among His people who would call into exercise their sympathy, tenderness, and benevolence. Then, as now, persons were subject to misfortune, sickness, and loss of property; yet so long as they followed the instruction given by God, there were no beggars among them, neither any who suffered for food.



Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

5) What did the poor have access to?
**Deuteronomy 24:19** When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to _____ it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.
**Deuteronomy 24:20-21** When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not _____ over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not _____ it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.
6) Similar to the Sabbath, what did God do for the land?
**Leviticus 25:4-5** But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the _____, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not _____, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land.

Every seventh-year special provision was made for the poor. The sabbatical year, as it was called, began at the end of the harvest. At the seedtime, which followed the ingathering, the people were not to sow; they should not dress the vineyard in the spring; and they must expect neither harvest nor vintage. Of that which the land produced spontaneously they might eat while fresh, but they were not to lay up any portion of it in their storehouses. The yield of this year was to be free for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and even for the creatures of the field.

7) What were the people supposed to eat in the Sabbatical year?
**Leviticus 25:21-22** Then I will command my blessing upon you in the _____ year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

The observance of the sabbatical year was to be a benefit to both the land and the people. The soil, lying untilled for one season, would afterward produce more plentifully. The people were released from the pressing labors of the field; and while there were various branches of work that could be followed during this time, all enjoyed greater leisure, which afforded opportunity for the restoration of their physical powers for the exertions of the following years. They had more time for meditation and prayer, for acquainting themselves with the teachings and requirements of the Lord, and for the instruction of their households.

8) What else happened in the Sabbatical Year?
**Deuteronomy 15:12** And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go _____ from thee.
9) Did you just kick him (or her) to the curb?
**Deuteronomy 15:13-14** And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away _____: Thou shalt furnish him _____ out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.
10) How were workers to be treated?
**Deuteronomy 24:14-15** Thou shalt not _____ an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give him his _____, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.


Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

11) What was to be done with runaway slave?
**Deuteronomy 23:15-16** Thou _____ _____ deliver unto his master the servant which is escaped from his master unto thee: He shall dwell with _____, even among you, in that place which he shall choose in one of thy gates, where it liketh him best: thou shalt not oppress him.

12) How were God's people to treat each other?
**Leviticus 25:35-37** And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt _____ him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon _____, nor lend him thy victuals for increase.

If the debt remained unpaid until the year of release, the principal itself could not be recovered.

13) How were we supposed to care for people?
**Deuteronomy 15:7-8** If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not _____ thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his _____, in that which he wanteth.

14) What if someone wanted to borrow from you in the sixth year?
**Deuteronomy 15:9-10** Beware that there be not a thought in thy _____ heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely _____ him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

15) Where does our wealth come from?
**Deuteronomy 15:6** For the LORD thy God _____ thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.

None need fear that their liberality would bring them to want. Obedience to God's commandments would surely result in prosperity.

16) What was celebrated every 50th year?
**Leviticus 25:9-10** Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of _____ shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a _____ unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

As in the sabbatical year, the land was not to be sown or reaped, and all that it produced was to be regarded as the rightful property of the poor. Certain classes of Hebrew slaves, all who did not receive their liberty in the sabbatical year, were now set free. But that which especially distinguished the year of jubilee was the reversion of all landed property to the family of the original possessor..



Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

17) Who really owns everything?
**Leviticus 25:23** The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and _____ with me.

The people were to be impressed with the fact that it was God's land which they were permitted to possess for a time; that He was the rightful owner, the original proprietor, and that He would have special consideration made for the poor and unfortunate. It was to be impressed upon the minds of all that the poor have as much right to a place in God's world as have the more wealthy.

Without some restraint the power of the wealthy would become a monopoly, and the poor, though in every respect fully as worthy in God's sight, would be regarded and treated as inferior to their more prosperous brethren. The sense of this oppression would arouse the passions of the poorer class. There would be a feeling of despair and desperation which would tend to demoralize society and open the door to crimes of every description. The regulations that God established were designed to promote social equality. The provisions of the sabbatical year and the jubilee would, in a great measure, set right that which during the interval had gone wrong in the social and political economy of the nation.

18) If we would follow God's direction, what would we have?
**Leviticus 26:3-5** If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her _____, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the _____, and dwell in your land safely.
**Leviticus 26:15-16** And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.
**Leviticus 36:17** And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

The principles which God has enjoined, would prevent the terrible evils that in all ages have resulted from the oppression of the rich toward the poor and the suspicion and hatred of the poor toward the rich. While they might hinder the amassing of great wealth and the indulgence of unbounded luxury, they would prevent the consequent ignorance and degradation of tens of thousands whose ill-paid servitude is required to build up these colossal fortunes. They would bring a peaceful solution of those problems that now threaten to fill the world with anarchy and bloodshed.

# Can you see that God's way is better?

# Would you like to be blessed?

# When is it time to be kind like God is kind?



Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org