

~LANDOWNER (1091)

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· From very early times, property rights of landowners or landholders **Hebrew, *be `a-lim'***, literally, owners have been recognized. Abraham bargained with Ephron the Hittite for a burial place for his wife Sarah, finally buying a field for a stated sum, the transaction being legalized before the townspeople.

- And Sarah's life got to be a hundred and twenty-seven years long. They were the years of Sarah's life. (**Genesis 23:1**)
- So Sarah died in Kiriatharba, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came in to bewail Sarah and to weep over her. (**Genesis 23:2**)
- Then Abraham got up from before his dead and proceeded to speak to the sons of Heth, saying; (**Genesis 23:3**)
- An alien resident and settler I am among you. Give me the possession of a burial place among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight. (**Genesis 23:4**)
- At this the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him: (**Genesis 23:5**)
- Hear us, my lord. A chieftain of God you are in the midst of us. In the choicest of our burial places bury your dead. None of us will hold back his burial place from you to prevent burying your dead. (**Genesis 23:6**)
- Thereupon Abraham got up and bowed down to the natives, to the sons of Heth. (**Genesis 23:7**)
- And spoke with them, saying; If your souls agree to bury my dead out of my sight, listen to me and urge Ephron the son of

Zohar for me,
(Genesis 23:8)

- That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which is his, which is at the extremity of his field. For the full amount of silver let him give it to me in the midst of you for the possession of a burial place. (Genesis 23:9)
- As it was, Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth. So Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth with all those entering the gate of his city, saying; (Genesis 23:10)
- No, my lord! Listen to me. The field I do give to you, and the cave that is in it to you I do give it. Before the eyes of the sons of my people I do give it to you. Bury your dead. (Genesis 23:11)
- At that Abraham bowed down before the natives. (Genesis 23:12)
- And spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the natives, saying; Only if you, no, listen to me! I will give you the amount of silver for the field. Take it from me, that I may bury my dead there. (Genesis 23:13)
- Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him. (Genesis 23:14)
- My lord, listen to me. A **land** plot worth four hundred silver shekels, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead. (Genesis 23:15)
- Accordingly Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out to Ephron the amount of silver that he had spoken in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred silver shekels current with the merchants. (Genesis 23:16)
- Thus the **field** of Ephron that was in Machpelah, which is in front of Mamre, the field and the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all its boundaries round about, became confirmed. (Genesis 23:17)
- To Abraham as his **purchased property** before the eyes of the sons of Heth among all those entering the gate of his city. (Genesis 23:18)

- And after that Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the **cave** of the field of Machpelah in front of Mamre, that is to say, Hebron, in the land of Canaan. (**Genesis 23:19**)
- Thus the field and the **cave** that was in it became confirmed to Abraham for the **possession** of a **burial place** at the hands of the sons of Heth. (**Genesis 23:20**)
- During a famine in Egypt, Joseph bought land for Pharaoh from Egyptian **landowners**, in exchange for food.
- So Joseph bought all the land of the Egyptians for Pharaoh, because the Egyptians sold each one his field, for the famine had got a strong grip on them, and the land came to be Pharaoh's. (**Genesis 47:20**)
- As for the people, he removed them into cities from one end of the territory of Egypt to its other end. (**Genesis 47:21**)
- Only the land of the priests he did not buy, because the rations for the priests were from Pharaoh and they ate their rations that Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land. (**Genesis 47:22**)
- Then Joseph said to the people; See, I have today bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you, and you must sow the land with it. (**Genesis 47:23**)
- When it has resulted in produce, then you must give a fifth to Pharaoh, but four parts will become yours as seed for the field and as food for you and for those who are in your houses and for your little ones to eat. (**Genesis 47:24**)
- Consequently they said; You have preserved our lives. Let us find favor in the eyes of my lord, and we will become slaves to Pharaoh. (**Genesis 47:25**)
- And Joseph proceeded to make it a decree down to this day over the **landed estate** of Egypt for Pharaoh to have to the amount of a fifth. Only the land of the priests as a distinct group did not become Pharaoh's. (**Genesis 47:26**)

- **God's faithful servant Job, living in the land of Uz, possessed inheritable property, doubtless including land, that he gave to his sons and daughters.**
- **And his sons went and held a banquet at the house of each one on his own day, and they sent and invited their three sisters to eat and drink with them. (Job 1:4)**
- **And no women were found as pretty as Job's daughters in all the land, and their father proceeded to give them an inheritance in among their brothers. (Job 42:15)**
- **However, Yehowah is the Supreme **Landowner**, and his dealings demonstrate that human's are accountable to him for the way they use his property.**
- **To Yehowah belong the **earth** and that which fills it, the productive land and those dwelling in it. (Psalms 24:1)**
- **For to me belongs every wild animal of the forest, the beasts upon a thousand mountains. (Psalms 50:10)**
- **I well know every winged creature of the mountains, and the animal throngs of the open field are with me. (Psalms 50:11)**
- **If I were hungry, I would not say it to you, for to me the productive land and its fullness belong. (Psalms 50:12)**

.. In Israel

- **When Yehowah brought Israel into Canaan he exercised his right as Lord and **Owner** of the whole earth to dispossess the Canaanites, who were, in effect, squatters on the land.**
- **Look! The ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth is passing before you into the Jordan. (Joshua 3:11)**
- **For to Yehowah belong the earth and that which fills it. (1 Corinthians 10:26)**
- **The period of God's tolerating their holding the **land** had run out. Although more than 450 years previously God had promised the **land** to Abraham's seed, he had told Abraham.**

- Then he added to him; I am Yehowah, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take it in possession. (**Genesis 15:7**)
- To this he said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, by what shall I know that I shall take it in possession? (**Genesis 15:8**)
- After a while the sun was about to set, and a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and, look! A frightfully great darkness was falling upon him. (**Genesis 15:12**)
- And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an alien resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. (**Genesis 15:13**)
- But the nation that they will serve I am judging, and after that they will go out with many goods. (**Genesis 15:14**)
- As for you, you will go to your forefathers in peace; You will be buried at a good old age. (**Genesis 15:15**)
- But in the fourth generation they will return here, because the error of the Amorites has not yet come to completion. (**Genesis 15:16**)
- Therefore, as the Christian martyr Stephen told the Jews, God did not give Abraham **any inheritable possession** in it, no, not a footbreadth, but he promised to give it to him as a possession, and after him to his seed, while as yet he had no child.
- And yet he did not give him any inheritable possession in it, no, not a footbreadth, but he promised to give it to him as a possession, and after him to his seed, while as yet he had no child. (**Acts of Apostles 7:5**)
- Israel was not to fight wars of aggression, continuing to expand its territory by taking the property of surrounding nations. Yehowah warned Israel that they must respect the property rights of certain nations to whom he had assigned land. These nations were Edom, Moab, and Ammon, related to the Israelites through Esau, Edom and Lot, Moab and Ammon.
- And command the people, saying; You are passing along by the

border of your brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, and they will be afraid because of you, and you must be very careful. ([Deuteronomy 2:4](#))

- Do not engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you of their land so much as the width of the sole of the foot, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a holding. ([Deuteronomy 2:5](#))
- Yehowah then said to me; Do not molest Moab or engage in war with them, because I shall not give you any of his **land** as a holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding. ([Deuteronomy 2:9](#))
- And you must get close in front of the sons of Ammon. Do not molest them or engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you any of the **land** of the sons of Ammon as a holding, for it is to the sons of Lot that I have given it as a holding. ([Deuteronomy 2:19](#))

.. Promised Land Held In Trust

- Even the people Israel, to whom God had given the land for them to enjoy as **landowners**, were told by Yehowah that they were not actually **owners** of it but only held it in trust.
- He said concerning the sale of a family land estate; So the land should not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is mine. For you are alien residents and settlers from my standpoint.
- So the land should not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is mine. For you are alien residents and settlers from my standpoint. ([Leviticus 25:23](#))
- God had ousted the Canaanites from the land for their disgusting practices. He warned he would also take away all title from Israel and drive them out of the land if they followed such practices, and when they later did, they were sent into exile.
- Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, because by all these things the nations whom I am sending out from before you have made themselves unclean. ([Leviticus 18:24](#))
- Consequently the land is unclean, and I shall bring punishment for its error upon it, and the land will vomit its inhabitants out.

(Leviticus 18:25)

- **And you yourselves must keep my statutes and my judicial decisions, and you must not do any of all these detestable things, whether a native or an alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst. (Leviticus 18:26)**
- **For all these detestable things the men of the land who were before you have done, so that the land is unclean. (Leviticus 18:27)**
- **Then the land will not vomit you out for your defiling it the same way as it will certainly vomit the nations out who were before you. (Leviticus 18:28)**
- **In case anyone does any of all these detestable things, then the souls doing them must be cut off from among their people. (Leviticus 18:29)**
- **And you must keep your obligation to me not to carry on any of the detestable customs that have been carried on before you, that you may not make yourselves unclean by them. I am Yehowah your God. (Leviticus 18:30)**
- **So you must carry out my statutes and you should keep my judicial decisions and you must carry them out. Then you will certainly dwell on the land in security. (Leviticus 25:18)**
- **And the land will indeed give its fruitage, and you will certainly eat to satisfaction and dwell in security on it. (Leviticus 25:19)**
- **If, however, with this you will not listen to me and you just must walk in opposition to me. (Leviticus 26:27)**
- **I shall then have to walk in heated opposition to you, and I, yes, I, shall have to chastise you seven times for your sins. (Leviticus 26:28)**
- **So you will have to eat the flesh of your sons, and you will eat the flesh of your daughters. (Leviticus 26:29)**
- **And I shall certainly annihilate your sacred high places and cut off your incense stands and lay your own carcasses upon the carcasses of your dungy idols, and my soul will simply abhor you.**

(Leviticus 26:30)

- **And I shall indeed give your cities to the sword and lay your sanctuaries desolate, and I shall not smell your restful odors. (Leviticus 26:31)**
- **And I, for my part, will lay the land desolate, and your enemies who are dwelling in it will simply stare in amazement over it. (Leviticus 26:32)**
- **And you I shall scatter among the nations, and I will unsheathe a sword after you, and your land must become a desolation, and your cities will become a desolate ruin. (Leviticus 26:33)**
- **And these the king of Babylon proceeded to strike down and to put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah went into exile from off its soil. (Jeremiah 52:27)**
- **After 70 years of desolation of their land, from 607 B.C.E. to 537 B.C.E, God mercifully reestablished them, but this time under Gentile domination. Eventually, in 70 C.E, the Romans completely destroyed Jerusalem and scattered its people.**
- **Within the nation, tribes were assigned sections of the land or cities inside the boundaries of other tribes. Priests and Levites had cities with pasture grounds. (Joshua Chapters 15-21)**
- **In turn, within the tribes families were allotted inheritances. These divisions became smaller as families subdivided their own allotments because of increase in numbers.**
- **This resulted in thorough cultivation and use of the land. Inheritances were not allowed to circulate from one tribe to another. To prevent this, women who inherited land, because there were no living brothers, had to marry within the tribe to hold their inheritance.**
- **And the heads of the fathers of the family of the sons of Gilead the son of Machir the son of Manasseh of the families of the sons of Joseph proceeded to come near and speak before Moses and the chieftains, the heads of the fathers of the sons of Israel. (Numbers 36:1)**
- **And say; Yehowah commanded my lord to give the land in inheritance by lot to the sons of Israel, and my lord was**

commanded by Yehowah to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother to his daughters. (**Numbers 36:2**)

- If any of the sons of the other tribes of the sons of Israel happened to get them as wives, the women's inheritance must also be withdrawn from the inheritance of our fathers and must be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they may come to belong, so that it would be withdrawn from the lot of our inheritance. (**Numbers 36:3**)
- Now if the Jubilee takes place for the sons of Israel, the women's inheritance must also be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they may come to belong, so that their inheritance would be withdrawn from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers. (**Numbers 36:4**)
- Then Moses commanded the sons of Israel at the order of Yehowah, saying; The tribe of the sons of Joseph is speaking right. (**Numbers 36:5**)
- This is the word that Yehowah has commanded for the daughters of Zelophehad, saying; To whom it is good in their eyes they may become wives. Only it is to the family of the tribe of their fathers that they should become wives. (**Numbers 36:6**)
- And no inheritance of the sons of Israel should circulate from tribe to tribe, because the sons of Israel should cleave each one to the inheritance of the tribe of his forefathers. (**Numbers 36:7**)
- And every daughter getting possession of an inheritance out of the tribes of the sons of Israel, to one of the family of the tribe of her father she should become a wife, in order, that the sons of Israel may get possession each one of the inheritance of his forefathers. (**Numbers 36:8**)
- And no inheritance should circulate from one tribe to another tribe, because the tribes of the sons of Israel should cleave each to its own inheritance. (**Numbers 36:9**)
- Just as Yehowah had commanded Moses, that is the way the daughters of Zelophehad did. (**Numbers 36:10**)
- Accordingly Mahlah, Tirzah and Hoglah and Milcah and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, became the wives of the sons of their

father's brothers. (Numbers 36:11)

- **To some of the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph they became wives, that their inheritance might continue together with the tribe of the family of their father. (Numbers 36:12)**
- **If a man died without having a son, his brother, or, if no brothers, his nearest of kin, could marry his widow to bring forth offspring from her. The man marrying the widow could also repurchase the dead man's inheritance, if it had been sold.**
- **Then Boaz said to the older men and all the people; You are witnesses today that I do buy all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. (Ruth 4:9)**
- **And also Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (Ruth 4:10)**
- **He now said to the repurchaser; The tract of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned from the field of Moab, must sell. (Ruth 4:3)**
- **As for me, I thought that I should disclose it to you, saying; Buy it in front of the inhabitants and the older men of my people. If you will repurchase it, repurchase it, but if you will not repurchase it, do tell me, that I may know, for there is no one else but you to do the repurchasing, and I am next to you. At that he said; I shall be the one to repurchase it. (Ruth 4:4)**
- **Then Boaz said; On the day that you buy the field from Naomi's hand, it is also from Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead man, that you must buy it so as to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance. (Ruth 4:5)**
- **To this the repurchaser said; I am unable to repurchase it for myself, for fear I may ruin my own inheritance. You repurchase it for yourself with my right of repurchase, because I am not able to do the repurchasing. (Ruth 4:6)**
- **Now this was the custom of former times in Israel concerning the**

right of repurchase and concerning the exchange, to establish every sort of thing. A man had to draw his sandal off and give it to his fellow, and this was the attestation in Israel. (**Ruth 4:7**)

- So when the repurchaser said to Boaz; Buy it for yourself, he proceeded to draw his sandal off. (**Ruth 4:8**)
- Then Boaz said to the older men and all the people; You are witnesses today that I do buy all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. (**Ruth 4:9**)
- And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (**Ruth 4:10**)
- At this all the people that were in the gate and the older men said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in Ephrathah and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (**Ruth 4:11**)
- And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, from the offspring that Yehowah will give you out of this young woman. (**Ruth 4:12**)
- Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (**Ruth 4:13**)
- And the women began to say to Naomi; Blessed be Yehowah, who has not let a repurchaser fail for you today, that his name may be proclaimed in Israel. (**Ruth 4:14**)
- And he has become a restorer of your soul and one to nourish your old age, because your daughter-in-law who does love you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him. (**Ruth 4:15**)
- And Naomi proceeded to take the child and to put it in her bosom, and she came to be its nurse. (**Ruth 4:16**)

- Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying; A son has been born to Naomi. And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David's father. (**Ruth 4:17**)
- The woman's firstborn would take the name, not of his actual father, but of the widows first husband, thus possessing the land inheritance and keeping the man's name alive over his inheritance in Israel.
- In case brothers dwell together and one of them has died without his having a son, the wife of the dead one should not become a strange man's outside. Her brother-in-law should go to her, and he must take her as his wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her. (**Deuteronomy 25:5**)
- And it must occur that the firstborn whom she will bear should succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be wiped out of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 25:6**)

•• The Jubilee Year

- God had said to Israel; **No one should come to be poor among you.**
- However, no one should come to be poor among you, because Yehowah will without fail bless you in the **land** that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 15:4**)
- Only if you will without fail listen to the voice of Yehowah your God so as to be careful to do all this commandment that I am commanding you today. (**Deuteronomy 15:5**)
- The Jubilee year, as long as observed, prevented the nation from sinking into a situation where only two classes existed, the very rich and the very poor.
- On every 50th year, counted from the time of Israel's entering Canaan, every man returned to his inheritance, and any **land** he had sold was to be restored to him.
- Because of this law, the price of **land** decreased every year as the Jubilee approached. Actually, the buyer, in a sense, only leased the land, the price depending on the number of crops until the Jubilee year.

- In this year of the Jubilee you should return each one to his possession. ([Leviticus 25:13](#))
- Now in case you should sell merchandise to your associate or be buying from your associates hand, do not you wrong one another. ([Leviticus 25:14](#))
- By the number of the years after the Jubilee you should buy from your associate, by the number of the years of the crops he should sell to you. ([Leviticus 25:15](#))
- In proportion to the great number of years he should increase its purchase value, and in proportion to the fewness of years he should reduce its purchase value, because the number of the crops is what he is selling to you. ([Leviticus 25:16](#))
- But if his hand does not find enough to give back to him, what he sold must also continue in the hand of its purchaser until the Jubilee year, and it must go out in the Jubilee, and he must return to his possession. ([Leviticus 25:28](#))
- Even a buyer of another's inheritance could not necessarily hold it until the Jubilee. If the original owner acquired enough money, he could repurchase the land. Also, any repurchaser, close relative, could repurchase it for the original owner.
- And in all the land of your possession you should grant to the land the right of buying back. ([Leviticus 25:24](#))
- In case your brother grows poor and has to sell some of his possession, a repurchaser closely related to him must also come and buy back what his brother sold. ([Leviticus 25:25](#))
- And in case anyone proves to have no repurchaser and his own hand does make gain and he does find enough for its repurchase. ([Leviticus 25:26](#))
- He must also calculate the years from when he sold it and he must return what money remains over to the man to whom he made the sale, and he must return to his possession. ([Leviticus 25:27](#))

- **A man could not be forced to sell his property. Neither did the principle of eminent domain apply in Israel. This was illustrated in the refusal of Naboth to sell a field of his inheritance to King Ahab.**
- **And it came about after these things that there was a vineyard that happened to belong to Naboth the Jezreelite, which was in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab the king of Samaria. (1 Kings 21:1)**
- **So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying; Do give me your vineyard, that it may serve as a garden of vegetables to me, for it is close by my house, and let me give you in place of it a vineyard better than it. Or if it is good in your eyes, I will give you money as the price of this. (1 Kings 21:2)**
- **But Naboth said to Ahab; It is unthinkable on my part, from Yehowah's standpoint, for me to give the hereditary possession of my forefathers to you. (1 Kings 21:3)**
- **Consequently Ahab came into his house, sullen and dejected over the word that Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him, when he said; I shall not give you the hereditary possession of my forefathers. Then he lay down upon his couch and kept his face turned, and he did not eat bread. (1 Kings 21:4)**
- **And Yehowah's word came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying; (1 Kings 21:17)**
- **Rise up, go down to meet Ahab the king of Israel, who is in Samaria. There he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. (1 Kings 21:18)**
- **And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said, Have you murdered and also taken possession? And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours. (1 Kings 21:19)**
- **And the chieftain should not take any of the inheritance of the people so as to force them out of their possession. From his own possession he should give his sons an inheritance, to the end that my people may not be scattered each one from his possession. (Ezekiel 46:18)**

.. The Levites

- **As a protection to the Levites, their fields could not be sold, this was because Levites had no individual land inheritance they had been given only houses in the Levite cities and the pasture grounds surrounding them.**
- **If a Levite sold his house in a Levite city, the right of repurchase continued for him, and in the Jubilee, at the latest, it was returned to him.**
- **As for cities of the Levites with the houses of the cities of their possession, the right of repurchase should continue to time indefinite for the Levites. (Leviticus 25:32)**
- **And where property of the Levites is not bought back, the house sold in the city of his possession must also go out in the Jubilee, because the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession in the midst of the sons of Israel. (Leviticus 25:33)**
- **Moreover, the field of pasture ground of their cities may not be sold, because it is a possession to time indefinite for them. (Leviticus 25:34)**
- **As the productive land yielded fruitage, the Great Proprietor of all the land was not to be left out of the picture. By means of the tithing arrangement, a tenth of the produce was to be used to support the Levites in their important functions related to Yehowah's worship, thus spiritually benefiting all Israel.**
- **And to the sons of Levi, look! I have given every tenth part in Israel as an inheritance in return for their service that they are carrying on, the service of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 18:21)**
- **And the sons of Israel should no more come near to the tent of meeting to incur sin so as to die. (Numbers 18:22)**
- **And the Levites themselves must carry on the service of the tent of meeting, and they are the ones who should answer for their error. It is a statute to time indefinite during your generations that in the midst of the sons of Israel they should not get possession of an inheritance. (Numbers 18:23)**
- **For the tenth part of the sons of Israel, which they will contribute**

to Yehowah as a contribution, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance. That is why I have said to them, In the midst of the sons of Israel they should not get possession of an inheritance. **(Numbers 18:24)**

- Without fail you should give a tenth of all the produce of your seed, that which comes forth of the field year by year. **(Deuteronomy 14:22)**
- And before Yehowah your God, in the place that he will choose to have his name reside there, you must eat the tenth part of your grain, your new wine and your oil and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock, in order, that you may learn to fear Yehowah your God always. **(Deuteronomy 14:23)**
- Now in case the journey should be too long for you, because you will not be able to carry it, since the place that Yehowah your God will choose to place his name there will be too far away for you, because Yehowah your God will bless you. **(Deuteronomy 14:24)**
- You must then turn it into money, and you must wrap the money up in your hand and travel to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. **(Deuteronomy 14:25)**
- You must also give the money for whatever your soul may crave in the way of cattle and sheep and goats and wine and intoxicating liquor and anything that your soul may ask of you, and you must eat there before Yehowah your God and rejoice, you and your household. **(Deuteronomy 14:26)**
- And the Levite who is inside your gates, you must not abandon him, for he has no share or inheritance with you. **(Deuteronomy 14:27)**
- At the end of three years you will bring out the entire tenth part of your produce in that year, and you must deposit it inside your gates. **(Deuteronomy 14:28)**
- And the Levite, because he has no share or inheritance with you, and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are inside your gates, must come, and they must eat and satisfy themselves, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand that you will do. **(Deuteronomy 14:29)**

· The Sanctuary

- The sanctuary of Yehowah could also become a landholder by reason of fields sanctified to Yehowah, that is, the produce of these fields went to the sanctuary for a period of time designated by the owner or possessor.
- And if it is some of the field of his possession that a man would sanctify to Yehowah, the value must then be estimated in proportion to its seed, if a homer of barley seed, then at fifty shekels of silver. ([Leviticus 27:16](#))
- If he should sanctify his field from the year of Jubilee on, it should cost according to the estimated value. ([Leviticus 27:17](#))
- And if it is after the Jubilee that he sanctifies his field, the priest must then calculate for him the price in proportion to the years that are left over until the next year of Jubilee, and a deduction should be made from the estimated value. ([Leviticus 27:18](#))
- But if the sanctifier of it would at all buy the field back, he must then give a fifth of the money of the estimated value in addition to it, and it must stand fast as his. ([Leviticus 27:19](#))
- If a **field** that was sanctified by the owner was not repurchased, but was sold to another man, that field would become the permanent possession of the sanctuary at the time of the Jubilee.
- Now if he should not buy the **field** back but if the **field** is sold to another man, it may not be bought back again. ([Leviticus 27:20](#))
- And the **field** when it goes out in the Jubilee must become something holy to Yehowah, as a **field** that is devoted. The possession of it will become the priests. ([Leviticus 27:21](#))
- Also, **fields** devoted to the sanctuary by their owners remained the permanent possession of the sanctuary.
- Only no sort of devoted thing that a man might devote to Yehowah for destruction out of all that is his, whether from mankind or beasts or from the field of his possession, may be sold, and no sort of devoted thing may be bought back. It is something most holy to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 27:28](#))

· In The Christian Congregation

- **The Bible makes it clear that individual property rights were recognized in the Christian congregation. When the congregation was established, on Pentecost day, 33 C.E, many Jews and proselytes of the Jewish religion from other lands had gathered at Jerusalem to observe the festival. A large number of these were present to hear Peter's discourse and began to be believers in Christ.**

- **Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (Acts of Apostles 2:1)**
- **As it was, there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, reverent men, from every nation of those under heaven. (Acts of Apostles 2:5)**
- **Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of Asia. (Acts of Apostles 2:9)**
- **And Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. (Acts of Apostles 2:10)**
- **Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues about the magnificent things of God. (Acts of Apostles 2:11)**
- **Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added. (Acts of Apostles 2:41)**
- **And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. (Acts of Apostles 2:42)**
- **Praising God and finding favor with all the people. At the same time Yehowah continued to join to them daily those being saved. (Acts of Apostles 2:47)**
- **They remained to learn more. So the Christians voluntarily sold possessions and distributed the proceeds to help these visiting ones and others who were needy. They had all things in common.**
- **All those who became believers were together in having all**

things in common. (**Acts of Apostles 2:44**)

- And they went selling their possessions and properties and distributing the proceeds to all, just as anyone would have the need. (**Acts of Apostles 2:45**)
- And day after day they were in constant attendance at the temple with one accord, and they took their meals in private homes and partook of food with great rejoicing and sincerity of heart. (**Acts of Apostles 2:46**)
- This was not socialism or communism, but a **voluntary sharing** for the purpose of aiding persons interested in the Good News and in furthering the spread of it.
- Later, for similar reasons, and partly because of persecution of the Christians by Jerusalem's rulers, this practice continued, under the spirit and undeserved kindness of God.
- Fields were sold and the proceeds brought to the apostles, who administered the assistance program.
- And when they had made supplication, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were one and all filled with the Holy Spirit and were speaking the word of God with boldness. (**Acts of Apostles 4:31**)
- Moreover, the multitude of those who had believed had one heart and soul, and not even one would say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. (**Acts of Apostles 4:32**)
- Also, with great power the apostles continued giving forth the witness concerning the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and undeserved kindness in large measure was upon them all. (**Acts of Apostles 4:33**)
- In fact, there was not one in need among them, for all those who were possessors of fields or houses would sell them and bring the values of the things sold (**Acts of Apostles 4:34**)
- And they would deposit them at the feet of the apostles. In turn distribution would be made to each one, just as he would have the need. (**Acts of Apostles 4:35**)

- So Joseph, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a Levite, a native of Cyprus. ([Acts of Apostles 4:36](#))
- Possessing a piece of land, sold it and brought the money and deposited it at the feet of the apostles. ([Acts of Apostles 4:37](#))
- But each Christians property was his own and his rights were inviolable, he was under no compulsion to put property into a common pool. It was counted as a privilege to do so, not a duty. It was right motive that dominated and moved these generous Christians.
- In the case of Ananias and Sapphira, however, a hypocritical show was made in order to get plaudits and honor of men. They conspired together to sell a field and to give only part of the proceeds to the apostles, with the claim that they were generously giving up all the possession.
- Peter, by direction of Holy Spirit, discerned what they were doing. He did **not** say; Why did you not **give** us **all** the money you received for the field? As if they were under obligation to do so.
- Rather, he said; Ananias, why has Satan emboldened you to play false to the Holy Spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field?
- As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played false, not to men, but to God.
- However, a certain man, Ananias by name, together with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession ([Acts of Apostles 5:1](#))
- And secretly held back some of the price, his wife also knowing about it, and he brought just a part and deposited it at the feet of the apostles. ([Acts of Apostles 5:2](#))
- But Peter said; Ananias, why has Satan emboldened you to play false to the Holy Spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? ([Acts of Apostles 5:3](#))
- As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after

it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played false, not to men, but to God. ([Acts of Apostles 5:4](#))

- About three hours later, when Sapphira came in, not knowing what had happened, she made the same claim, and Peter replied; Why was it agreed upon between you two to make a test of the spirit of Yehowah?
- Now after an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ([Acts of Apostles 5:7](#))
- Peter said to her; Tell me, did you two sell the field for so much? She said; Yes, for so much. ([Acts of Apostles 5:8](#))
- So Peter said to her; Why was it agreed upon between you two to make a test of the spirit of Yehowah? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out. ([Acts of Apostles 5:9](#))
- Their sin was in lying to Yehowah, making a mockery of him and his congregation, as if God's spirit were not upon it.
- Do not be misled! God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap. ([Galatians 6:7](#))
- It was not that they were compelled to part with their property in some sort of communal arrangement.

.. Yehowah's Ownership Must Be Recognized

- Since Yehowah is the Owner of all the **land**, the **landowner** on earth must respect his possession and use it properly. Otherwise it will become a ruin and he will eventually suffer complete loss of it.
- I passed along by the field of the lazy individual and by the vineyard of the man in need of heart. ([Proverbs 24:30](#))
- And, look! All of it produced weeds. Nettles covered its very surface, and its stone wall itself had been torn down. ([Proverbs 24:31](#))
- So I proceeded to behold, I myself. I began taking it to heart, I saw, I took the discipline. ([Proverbs 24:32](#))

- A little sleeping, a little slumbering, a little folding of the hands to lie down. (**Proverbs 24:33**)
- And as a highwayman your poverty will certainly come and your neediness as an armed man. (**Proverbs 24:34**)
- Even nations must recognize this fact.
- Look! Yehowah is emptying the land and laying it waste, and he has twisted the face of it and scattered its inhabitants. (**Isaiah 24:1**)
- And it must come to be the same for the people as for the priest, the same for the servant as for his master, the same for the maidservant as for her mistress, the same for the buyer as for the seller, the same for the lender as for the borrower, the same for the interest taker as for the one paying the interest. (**Isaiah 24:2**)
- Without fail the **land** will be emptied, and without fail it will be plundered, for Yehowah himself has spoken this word. (**Isaiah 24:3**)
- The **land** has gone to mourning, has faded away. The productive land has withered, has faded away. The high ones of the people of the land have withered. (**Isaiah 24:4**)
- And the very **land** has been polluted under its inhabitants, for they have bypassed the laws, changed the regulation, broken the indefinitely lasting covenant. (**Isaiah 24:5**)
- That is why the curse itself has eaten up the **land**, and those inhabiting it are held guilty. That is why the inhabitants of the **land** have decreased in number, and very few mortal men have remained over. (**Isaiah 24:6**)
- For it is with adulterers that the land has become full. For because of the curse the **land** has gone to mourning, the pasture grounds of the wilderness have dried up, and their course of action proves to be bad, and their mightiness is not right. (**Jeremiah 23:10**)

- **Eventually those who ignore this principle will themselves be ruined.**
- **But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time for the dead to be judged, and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets and to the holy ones and to those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those **ruining the earth**. (**Revelation 11:18**)**
- **Recognition of God's real **ownership** will also prevent one from trying to gain possession of land in a greedy or wrongful way.**
- **An inheritance is being got by greed at first, but its own future will not be blessed. (**Proverbs 20:21**)**
- **Do not move back the boundary of long ago, and into the field of fatherless boys do not enter. (**Proverbs 23:10**)**
- **For their Redeemer is strong. He himself will plead their cause with you. (**Proverbs 23:11**)**
- **When Israel departed from God's Law, there were men against whom God expressed condemnation, saying;**
- **Woe to the ones joining house to house, and those who annex field to field until there is no more room and you men have been made to dwell all by yourselves in the midst of the **land**! (**Isaiah 5:8**)**
- **Woe to those who are scheming what is harmful, and to those practicing what is bad, upon their beds! By the light of the morning they proceed to do it, because it is in the power of their hand. (**Micah 2:1**)**
- **And they have desired fields and have seized them, also houses, and have taken them, and they have defrauded an able-bodied man and his household, a man and his hereditary possession. (**Micah 2:2**)**
- **Therefore this is what Yehowah has said; Here I am thinking up against this family a calamity from which you people will not remove your necks, so that you will not walk haughtily, because it is a time of calamity. (**Micah 2:3**)**

- In that day one will raise up concerning you people a proverbial saying and will certainly lament a lamentation, even a lamentation. One will have to say; We have positively been despoiled! The very portion of my people he alters. How he removes it from me! To the unfaithful one he apports out our own fields. (**Micah 2:4**)
- On the other hand, Jesus said;
- Happy are the mild-tempered ones, since they will inherit the earth. (**Matthew 5:5**)
- For evildoers themselves will be cut off, but those hoping in Yehowah are the ones that will possess the earth. (**Psalms 37:9**)
- For those being blessed by him will themselves possess the earth, but those upon whom evil is called by him will be cut off. (**Psalms 37:22**)
- The righteous themselves will **possess the earth**, and they will reside forever upon it. (**Psalms 37:29**)
- He taught his followers to pray to God;
- Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth. (**Matthew 6:10**)
- Under the Kingdom sovereignty of the Great **Landowner** himself, those holding land in trust for him in faithfulness are to experience the full joy of ownership in complete security.
- God stated his viewpoint of proper conditions as regards land ownership when he gave restoration prophecies through the mouths of Isaiah and Micah.
- These indicate what situation he will bring about when his will takes place on earth. He said of his people;
- And they will certainly build houses and have occupancy, and they will certainly plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. (**Isaiah 65:21**)
- They will not build and someone else have occupancy, they will not plant and someone else do the eating. For like the days of a

tree will the days of my people be, and the work of their own hands my chosen ones will use to the full. (**Isaiah 65:22**)

- And they will actually sit, each one under his vine and under his fig tree, and there will be no one making them tremble, for the very mouth of Yehowah of armies has spoken it. (**Micah 4:4**)

See Also PEOPLE OF THE LAND (EARTH)