

## Bible Study

### Human Trafficking for Labour

#### Introducing the Topic

This study examines the economy of ancient Israel as illustrated in biblical principles. The provision of jubilee in Leviticus 25 offers liberty to those who have lost their livelihood. It also challenges followers of Christ to be faithful to God's will in the midst of the present reality of human trafficking for labour.

#### Studying the Scripture: Leviticus 25

Read Leviticus 25 aloud as a whole. Take a few moments for silent reflection.

Read verses 1-12. Notice the rhythm of the cycle of years.

Read verses 13-22. What does the year of jubilee mean for Israelites?

What situations of debt might an Israelite face?

- Verses 25-28
- Verses 35-38
- Verses 39-43
- Verses 47-55

Read these passages of Scripture again. What provisions are set out to *redeem* Israelites who are in deep difficulty because of debt?

- Verses 25-28
- Verses 35-38
- Verses 39-43
- Verses 47-55

What role does the Year of Jubilee play in each situation?

- Verses 25-28
- Verses 35-38

- Verses 39-43
- Verses 47-55

Consider the relationship *God* has with the Israelites and the land. What do the following portions of Leviticus 25 reveal?

- Verses 23-24, 55
- Verses 20-21
- Verses 17-19, 36-38, 42-43

Read verses 42-46.

- Who may be slaves?
- How may slaves be treated?

How is slavery viewed elsewhere in the Scriptures?

Jubilee tells us something of what God wanted for Israel. What might this be?

### **Applying the Scripture: Human Trafficking for Labour**

How can we act in the interests of people who are trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked for their labour?

### **References**

If you are interested in learning more, the following websites offer information and advocacy tools regarding human trafficking for labour, debt bondage, bonded labour and product supply chains.

Jubilee Debt Campaign: <http://jubileedebt.org.uk/>

Jubilee USA Network: <http://www.jubileeusa.org/>

Made in a Free World, "How Many Slaves Work for You?": <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>

Free2Work: <http://www.free2work.org/>