

Message Ten

The Jubilee (1)

MC Hymns: 600

Scripture Reading: Lev. 25:8-17; Isa. 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-22; Acts 26:16-19

- Lev 25:8 And you shall count off seven Sabbaths of years to yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of seven Sabbaths of years, that is, forty-nine years.
- Lev 25:9 Then you shall sound aloud the ram's horn in the seventh month on the tenth day of the month; on the Day of Expiation you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.
- Lev 25:10 And you shall sanctify the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.
- Lev 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; you shall not sow nor reap its aftergrowth nor gather from its unpruned vines.
- Lev 25:12 For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its produce out of the field.
- Lev 25:13 In this year of jubilee each one of you shall return to his possession.
- Lev 25:14 And if you sell anything to your fellow countryman or buy from the hand of your fellow countryman, you shall not wrong one another.
- Lev 25:15 According to the number of years after the jubilee you shall buy from your fellow countryman; according to the number of crop years remaining he shall sell to you.
- Lev 25:16 According to the extent of the years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewness of the years you shall diminish its price; for it is the number of crop years that he sells to you.
- Lev 25:17 And you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am Jehovah your God.
- Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon Me, / Because Jehovah has anointed Me / To bring good news to the afflicted; / He has sent Me to bind up the wounds of the brokenhearted, / To proclaim liberty to the captives, / And the opening of the eyes to those who are bound;
- Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of Jehovah / And the day of vengeance of our God; / To comfort all who mourn;
- Isa 61:3 To grant to those who mourn in Zion, / To give to them a headdress instead of ashes, / The oil of gladness instead of mourning, / The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of heaviness; / That they may be called the terebinths of righteousness, / The planting of Jehovah, that He may be glorified.
- Luke 4:16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and according to His custom He entered on the Sabbath day into the synagogue and stood up to read.
- Luke 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,
- Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,
- Luke 4:19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."
- Luke 4:20 And when He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant, He sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.
- Luke 4:21 And He began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.
- Luke 4:22 And all bore witness to Him and marveled at the words of grace proceeding out of His mouth, and they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
- Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;
- Acts 26:17 Delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you,
- Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
- Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

I. The year of jubilee in Leviticus 25:8-17 is recorded as a prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-3 and is fulfilled in reality in Luke 4:16-22:

- Lev 25:8-17 be omitted.
Isa 61:1-3 be omitted.
Luke 4:16-22 be omitted.

A. In the year of jubilee there were two main blessings: the returning of every man to his lost possession and the liberation from slavery—Lev. 25:8-17:

Lev 25:8 And you shall count off seven Sabbaths of years to yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of seven Sabbaths of years, that is, forty-nine years.

Lev 25:9 Then you shall sound aloud the ram's horn in the seventh month on the tenth day of the month; on the Day of Expiation you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.

Lev 25:10 And you shall sanctify the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.

Lev 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; you shall not sow nor reap its aftergrowth nor gather from its unpruned vines.

Lev 25:12 For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its produce out of the field.

Lev 25:13 In this year of jubilee each one of you shall return to his possession.

Lev 25:14 And if you sell anything to your fellow countryman or buy from the hand of your fellow countryman, you shall not wrong one another.

Lev 25:15 According to the number of years after the jubilee you shall buy from your fellow countryman; according to the number of crop years remaining he shall sell to you.

Lev 25:16 According to the extent of the years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewness of the years you shall diminish its price; for it is the number of crop years that he sells to you.

Lev 25:17 And you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am Jehovah your God.

1. In the year of jubilee everyone who had sold his possession, his allotted portion of the good land, was returned to it without paying anything to redeem it (vv. 10, 13, 28), and everyone who had sold himself into slavery regained his freedom and returned to his family (vv. 39-41).

Lev 25:10 And you shall sanctify the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.

Lev 25:13 In this year of jubilee each one of you shall return to his possession.

Lev 25:28 But if he has not found sufficient means to restore it for himself, then what he has sold shall remain in the hand of the one who has purchased it until the year of jubilee; and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return to his possession.

Lev 25:39 And if your brother beside you becomes poor, and he sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave.

Lev 25:40 He shall be beside you as a hired servant, as a sojourner; he shall serve beside you until the year of jubilee.

Lev 25:41 Then he shall go out from you, he and his children with him, and return to his own family, and he shall return to the possession of his forefathers.

2. Returning to one's possession and being freed and returning to one's family signify that in the New Testament jubilee the believers have returned to God as their lost divine possession, have been released from all bondage, and have returned to the church as their divine family—Eph. 1:13-14; John 8:32, 36; cf. Psa. 68:5-6.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

Psa 68:5 A Father to the orphans and a Judge for the widows / Is God in His holy habitation.

Psa 68:6 God causes the solitary to dwell in a household; / He brings the prisoners forth into prosperity; / But the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

B. In the Old Testament type the jubilee lasted for one year, but in the fulfillment it refers to the entire New Testament age, the age of grace, as the time when God accepts the returned captives of sin (Isa. 49:8; Luke 15:17-24; 2 Cor. 6:2) and when those oppressed under the

bondage of sin enjoy the release of God's salvation (Rom. 7:14—8:2).

Isa 49:8 Thus says Jehovah, / In an acceptable time I have answered You, / And in a day of salvation I have helped You; / And I will preserve You and give You for a covenant of the people, / To restore the land, to apportion the desolate inheritances,

Luke 15:17 But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!

Luke 15:18 I will rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Luke 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.

Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.

Luke 15:21 And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

2 Cor 6:2 For He says, "In an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the well-acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am fleshy, sold under sin.

Rom 7:15 For what I work out, I do not acknowledge; for what I will, this I do not practice; but what I hate, this I do.

Rom 7:16 But if what I do not will, this I do, I agree with the law that it is good.

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no longer I that work it out, but sin that dwells in me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

Rom 7:19 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice.

Rom 7:20 But if what I do not will, this I do, it is no longer I that work it out but sin that dwells in me.

Rom 7:21 I find then the law with me who wills to do the good, that is, the evil is present with me.

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inner man,

Rom 7:23 But I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and making me a captive to the law of sin which is in my members.

Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?

Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.

Rom 8:1 There is now then no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

C. The believers' enjoyment of the jubilee in the age of grace (their enjoyment of Christ as God's grace to them) will issue in the full enjoyment of the jubilee in the millennium and in the fullest enjoyment in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth—John 1:16-17; Rom. 5:17; Phil. 3:14; Rev. 22:1-2a.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:2a And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; ...

II. The year of jubilee is the age of Christ as grace dispensed into us for our enjoyment by His words of grace; the New Testament jubilee is an age of ecstasy for our salvation—Luke 4:22; Psa. 45:2; John 1:14-17; 2 Cor. 6:2:

- Luke 4:22 And all bore witness to Him and marveled at the words of grace proceeding out of His mouth, and they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
- Psa 45:2 You are fairer than the sons of men; / Grace is poured upon Your lips; / Therefore God has blessed You forever.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:15 John testified concerning Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, He who is coming after me has become ahead of me, because He was before me.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- 2 Cor 6:2 For He says, "In an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the well-acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
- A. The New Testament age is an age of ecstasy, and a Christian is a person in ecstasy; if we have never been in ecstasy before God, this shows that we do not have a sufficient enjoyment of God—5:13; Acts 11:5; 22:17; Psa. 43:4a; 51:12; 1 Pet. 1:8; Isa. 12:3-6.
- 2 Cor 5:13 For whether we were beside ourselves, it was to God; or whether we are sober-minded, it is for you.
- Acts 11:5 I was in the city of Joppa praying, and I saw in a trance a vision, a certain vessel like a great sheet descending, being let down by four corners out of heaven; and it came unto me.
- Acts 22:17 And when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I went into a trance;
- Psa 43:4a And I will go to the altar of God, / To God my exceeding joy; ...
- Psa 51:12 Restore to me the gladness of Your salvation, / And sustain me with a willing spirit.
- 1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,
- Isa 12:3 Therefore you will draw water with rejoicing / From the springs of salvation,
- Isa 12:4 And you will say in that day, / Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! / Make His deeds known among the peoples; / Remind them that His name is exalted.
- Isa 12:5 Sing psalms to Jehovah, for He has done something majestic! / Let it be made known in all the earth!
- Isa 12:6 Cry out and give a ringing shout, O inhabitant of Zion, / For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
- B. *Jubilee* means having no worry or anxiety, no concern or care, no lack or shortage, no sickness or calamity, and no problems whatsoever but, rather, having all benefits; hence, all things are pleasant and satisfying to our heart, and we are free from anxiety, at ease, excited, and exultant—Psa. 103:1-5.
- Psa 103:1 Bless Jehovah, O my soul; / And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
- Psa 103:2 Bless Jehovah, O my soul; / And do not forget all His benefits:
- Psa 103:3 He pardons all your iniquities; / He heals all your diseases;
- Psa 103:4 He redeems your life from the pit; / He crowns you with lovingkindness and compassions;
- Psa 103:5 He satisfies the prime of your life with good, / So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- C. We must receive the Lord Jesus as the real jubilee in us; if we have Him, we have God as our possession and can be delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan to have real freedom and rest—Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:13-14; Col. 1:12; Matt. 11:28; John 8:32, 36:
- Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

1. When we receive Christ as our Savior and life, He comes into us to be our jubilee, but unless we allow Him to live in us and unless we live by Him, we are not practically living in the jubilee—Lev. 25:11-12.

Lev 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; you shall not sow nor reap its aftergrowth nor gather from its unpruned vines.

Lev 25:12 For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its produce out of the field.

2. If our heart is set on any person, thing, or matter other than the Lord, this is idolatry, and the end is wretchedness—1 John 5:21; cf. Ezek. 14:3, 5; 6:9.

1 John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Ezek 14:3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I be inquired of at all by them?

Ezek 14:5 That I may lay hold of the house of Israel in their heart, who have become estranged from Me because of all their idols.

Ezek 6:9 And those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they are carried away, how I am broken with their heart of harlotry, which turned away from Me, and with their eyes that go as harlots after their idols; and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils that they have done, for all their abominations.

3. If we allow Christ to live in us and we live by Him, everything is to our satisfaction; otherwise, everything is a problem, and nothing is a jubilee.

D. Everything can be satisfying to us only after we have gained the all-inclusive Christ as our enjoyment; it is not outward persons, matters, or things but Christ within us who enables us to be calm and free of worries as we face all kinds of situations—Phil. 3:8-9; 4:5-8, 11-13.

Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

III. The proclamation of the jubilee in Luke 4 governs the central thought of the whole Gospel of Luke, and the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 is an excellent illustration of the jubilee—vv. 11-32:

Luke 4 be omitted.

Luke 15:11 And He said, A certain man had two sons.

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to the father, Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me. And he distributed to them his living.

Luke 15:13 And not many days after, the younger son, having gathered everything together, went abroad to a distant country and there squandered his estate by living dissolutely.

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, a severe famine occurred throughout that country, and he began to be in want.

Luke 15:15 And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed hogs.

Luke 15:16 And he longed to be satisfied with the carob pods which the hogs were eating, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:17 But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!

Luke 15:18 I will rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Luke 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.

Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.

Luke 15:21 And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:25 Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing,

Luke 15:26 And calling to him one of the servants, he inquired what these things might be.

Luke 15:27 And he said to him, Your brother has come, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has received him back healthy.

Luke 15:28 But he became angry and was not willing to enter. And his father came out and entreated him.

Luke 15:29 But he answered and said to his father, Behold, so many years I have been slaving for you and have never neglected a command of yours, and you have never given me a goat that I might be merry with my friends;

Luke 15:30 But when this son of yours came, who devoured your living with harlots, you slaughtered for him the fattened calf.

Luke 15:31 And he said to him, Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

Luke 15:32 But we had to be merry and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life, and he was lost and has been found.

A. The prodigal son left his father's house, selling his possession and himself:

1. The content of a vessel is its possession, and man is a vessel of God; hence, if man does not have God as his possession and enjoyment, he is empty and poor—Rom. 9:21-23; Eph. 2:12; Psa. 16:5; Rev. 3:17-18.
 - Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
 - Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,
 - Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
 - Eph 2:12 That you were at that time apart from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 - Psa 16:5 Jehovah is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup; / You maintain my lot.
 - Rev 3:17 Because you say, I am wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
 - Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

2. Adam lost his portion of the enjoyment of God when he did not take the tree of life; all the unbelieving people of the world have lost God as their possession and enjoyment and have sold their members to sin in order to become slaves of sin—Eph. 2:12; Rom. 7:14; 6:19.
- Eph 2:12 That you were at that time apart from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am fleshy, sold under sin.
- Rom 6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.
3. Human life is nothing but labor and sorrow and will soon be gone; the true condition of human life is vanity of vanities, emptiness of emptiness—a chasing after wind—Psa. 90:10; 73:14, 16-17, 25; Eccl. 1:2-11, 14.
- Psa 90:10 The days of our years are seventy years, / Or, if because of strength, eighty years; / But their pride is labor and sorrow, / For it is soon gone, and we fly away.
- Psa 73:14 For I have been plagued all day long / And chastened every morning.
- Psa 73:16 When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight,
- Psa 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end.
- Psa 73:25 Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.
- Eccl 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; / Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.
- Eccl 1:3 What advantage does a man have in all his work / Which he does under the sun?
- Eccl 1:4 A generation goes and a generation comes, / But the earth stands forever.
- Eccl 1:5 Also, the sun rises, and the sun sets / And hurries to its place where it rises.
- Eccl 1:6 Going to the south, then turning to the north, / Turning about continually, the wind goes on; / And following its circuits, the wind returns.
- Eccl 1:7 All the rivers run to the sea, / Yet the sea is not full; / To the place where the rivers run, / There they run again.
- Eccl 1:8 All things are wearisome; / No one is able to tell it; / The eye is not satisfied with seeing, / Nor is the ear filled with hearing.
- Eccl 1:9 What has been is what will be, / And what has been done is what will be done, / And there is nothing new under the sun.
- Eccl 1:10 Is there anything of which one can say, See, this is new? / Already it has been, in the ages that were before us.
- Eccl 1:11 There is no remembrance of those who were before; / And also those who will come to be afterward, for them there will be no / remembrance / With those who come to be after them.
- Eccl 1:14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun, and indeed, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.
4. Fallen people have no real dwelling place; they are drifting about and wandering without a home, because God is man's real dwelling place—Psa. 90:1; Gen. 28:17-19; John 15:4; Matt. 11:28.
- Psa 90:1 O Lord, You have been our dwelling place / In all generations.
- Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.
- Gen 28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.
- Gen 28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz previously.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

- B. One day the prodigal son returned to his possession and his father's house; that was a jubilee, a liberation, and everything became pleasant and satisfying—Luke 15:20, 24; cf. Lev. 25:11-12:

Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.

Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

Lev 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; you shall not sow nor reap its aftergrowth nor gather from its unpruned vines.

Lev 25:12 For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its produce out of the field.

1. In redemption God is our possession for our enjoyment; to be saved is to return to our inheritance, to return to God, to come back to God and enjoy Him anew as our possession—Eph. 1:13-14.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

2. To be saved is to gain God; when we have God, we have everything; without God, we have nothing—Col. 1:12; *Hymns*, #1080.

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Hymns #1080

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| 1. What profit all the labor here?
Remember not the former things,
Vanity! Vanity!
'Tis chasing the wind, | There's nothing new for you and me!
They're all vanity!
Vanity! Vanity!
It's all vanity! |
| 2. Man's life is full of grief and pain:
Increasing knowledge addeth woe!
Vanity! Vanity!
'Tis chasing the wind, | Much wisdom bringeth misery!
It's all vanity!
Vanity! Vanity!
It's all vanity! |
| 3. What good our pleasure and our wealth?
We'll have our worries just the same!
Vanity! Vanity!
'Tis chasing the wind, | Though joys we have and family,
It's all vanity!
Vanity! Vanity!
It's all vanity! |
| 4. Days of toil to gain and restless nights:
When death comes it is gone for aye!
Vanity! Vanity!
'Tis chasing the wind, | Though gained without calamity,
It's all vanity!
Vanity! Vanity!
It's all vanity! |
| 5. Remember God in days of youth!
With Him you will be satisfied,
Christ without, all is vain!
All things are vain, | Fear Him, and such will be your gain!
For He is not vain!
Christ within, all is gain!
Christ only is gain! |

3. God has become our blessed portion in Christ, but many Christians are unhappy and are like lights that do not shine, because they do not “turn on the switch” by taking God as their portion—Eph. 4:18; Phil. 2:12-16.

Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Phil 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings

Phil 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

Phil 2:16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

C. The father's acceptance of the son and the son's returning to his father and his father's house were the year of jubilee to the son, the year of grace—Luke 15:20:

Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.

1. God in Christ has become the fattened calf for the enjoyment of the repentant and returned prodigal sons—v. 23.

Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

2. This corresponds to Leviticus 25:11-12, which says that the people were neither to sow nor reap in the year of the jubilee but only to eat and enjoy; once we repent and return to God by receiving the Lord Jesus, we obtain God within, and this is the beginning of our jubilee.

Lev 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; you shall not sow nor reap its aftergrowth nor gather from its unpruned vines.

Lev 25:12 For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its produce out of the field.

3. We are not the Father's hired servants but His enjoying sons, and we can continually enjoy God as our possession from now unto eternity.