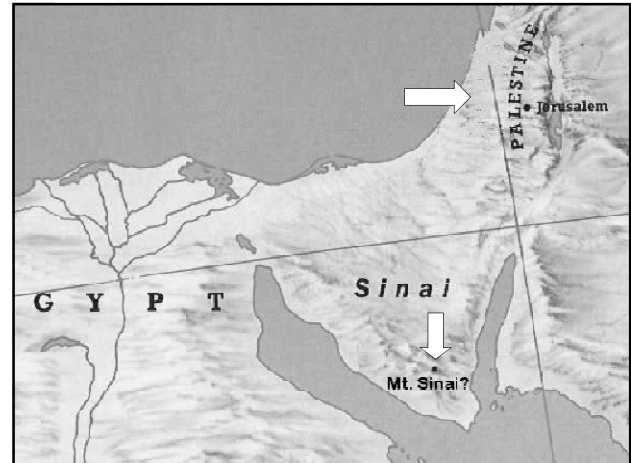


Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Year of Jubilee (pt 1)
(Leviticus 25)



Theology of the Land

Leviticus 25:1-7

Q: What is the significance of the sabbath of the land?

Theology of the Land

The Land in God's Kingdom

1. Creation/Eden

- The earth (land) is the location of God's original kingdom (Eden)
- Entering God's rest is the goal of creation (the meaning of the seventh day)

Theology of the Land

The Land in God's Kingdom

2. The Fall

- Sinful man is banished from the place (Eden) of God's unique presence
- The land itself is subjected to the curse – results in chaos and futility

Theology of the Land

The Land in God's Kingdom

3. The Promise of Restoration

- God promised to give the land of Canaan to the seed of Abraham as an everlasting possession
- Possessing the land of Canaan represents in part a return to Eden

Theology of the Land

The Land in God's Kingdom

4. The Ultimate Fulfillment

- Israel's possession of the land of Canaan is not the final fulfillment of the promise
- The land of Canaan foreshadows the ultimate kingdom of God = the new earth

The renewed earth is the place of God's eternal kingdom

Theology of the Land

Sabbath of the Land

1. Practical Function

- Reminder that the land belonged to the Lord – they relinquished their "rights"
- It demonstrated dependence upon and trust in the Lord

Theology of the Land

Sabbath of the Land

2. Theological Significance

- it was a reflection of Eden – the "rest" of the land before the curse
- it was an anticipation of the restoration and renewal of the land brought by Jesus

The Sabbath of the land is fulfilled in the renewal of the earth

Theology of the Land

"And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them.

Also the cow and the bear will graze together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

They will not hurt or destroy in My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

– Isaiah 11:6-9