

Title:           **GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

Text:         John 1:15-18

Subject:     *The Supremacy, Fulness and Grace of Christ*

Date:         Sunday Morning — February 3, 2008

Tape:         John #6

Reading:     *Leviticus 25:1-18*

Introduction:

My subject today is **GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**. We read about the year of Jubilee in Leviticus 25. Every forty-ninth year God required the nation of Israel to begin a year long sabbath called "*The Year of Jubilee.*" Every 50<sup>th</sup> year was a sabbatical year.

In the Old Testament everything revolved around the sabbath. At the end of creation, the Lord God rested on the seventh day, the sabbath. In the giving of the law, the Lord commanded Israel to keep the sabbath day holy. But, did you ever notice how many sabbath days the Lord required the children of Israel to keep? He required them to keep...

- A seventh day sabbath,
- A seventh week (50<sup>th</sup> day) sabbath,
- A seventh year sabbath,
- And a 50<sup>th</sup> year sabbath.

This 50<sup>th</sup> year sabbath, "*The Year of Jubilee,*" was, like everything else in the law, typical and prophetic of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Sabbath, salvation in him and the gospel of God's free grace. This year of jubilee was a season appointed by God during which the children of Israel were required to adjust their social affairs once every fifty years, setting their brethren free from bondage and free from all debt, and restoring lost possessions, lost property, lost inheritances to those who had lost them. It portrayed and typified the great work of our Lord Jesus Christ in restoring chosen sinners to God and to one another, and bringing us at last into that great sabbath of eternal rest in "*the glorious liberty of the sons of God.*" To many throughout the land the year of jubilee was "*the accepted time*" and "*the day of salvation.*"

**The year of jubilee was announced by the blowing of a trumpet throughout all the land.** That is, of course, a representation of gospel preaching (Isaiah 27:13; Psalm 89:15).

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

(Isaiah 27:13) “And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”

(Psalms 89:15) “Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.”

Pause, O my soul, adore and wonder! Rejoice and give thanks! Blessed are these ears that have been made to hear the joyful sound of God's free grace, of God's great, free, everlasting salvation in Christ!

**FOUR TRUMPETS**

There were four distinct and special sounds of the trumpet in the camp of Israel. Each one distinctly portrayed the preaching of the gospel.

- **Memorial trumpets** were sounded to announce the new moon and call the people together in a joyful assembly of worship (Leviticus 23:24; Psalm 81:3).
- **Battle trumpets**, trumpets of war (Judges 3:27) were sounded to gather the people to battle (1 Corinthians 14:8).
- **Trumpets of alarm** warned men of impending judgment and called them to repentance (Joel 2:1).
- And the **jubilee trumpet** announced the beginning of that joyous year of restoration (Leviticus 25:9).

The jubilee trumpet was different from the others. This trumpet's sound was never heard except once every fifty years. Yet, its sound was so sweet and so distinct that no poor captive in the land of Israel was at a moment's loss to know its music and its gracious meaning.

That is just exactly the way it is when God the Holy Spirit causes a poor, needy, captive sinner to hear the gospel, when he proclaims pardon to the guilty, pardon by the blood of Christ, he causes the sinner to understand that atonement has been made and accepted. At that very moment, jubilee commences. The soul long held captive to sin to Satan, and to the law, is set free and walks and dances in liberty.

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

**What a joyful sound! What a joyful day! When the gospel jubilee trumpet first sounded in my soul, the acceptable year of the Lord began** (Isaiah 61:1-2; 63:4).

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise!  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

He breaks the power of cancelled sin  
And sets the prisoners free!  
His blood can make the foulest clean—  
His blood availed for me!

**THE JUBILEE TRUMPET**

The jubilee trumpet, like the gospel of Christ, proclaimed seven things, seven things that sound like heavenly music in the sinner's ear.

1. **Atonement** — The jubilee trumpet was to be sounded on the day of atonement (Leviticus 25:9). That is where gospel preaching always begins. The gospel has not been preached until atonement has been proclaimed! There can be no joyful sound apart from the sin-atonement blood of Christ. The jubilee trumpet declared atonement blood shed, atonement blood accepted, atonement finished! The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was delivered unto death under the wrath of God because our sins imputed to him. He was raised again the third day because our justification was accomplished, because our sins were forever put away!
2. **Liberty** — The year of jubilee began on the day of atonement, and it began with the proclamation of liberty, liberty according to the very demands of God's holy law (Leviticus 25:10). Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us plainly that he is the Liberator and the One who proclaims liberty (Luke 4:17-21). **Be sure you do not miss this** — The liberty proclaimed in the year of jubilee, the liberty proclaimed in the gospel is the blessed liberty of grace, but it is liberty demanded by God's holy law. Unlike the other ceremonies of the Levitical law, this law concerning the year of jubilee was given at Sinai, at the very time God gave the law to Moses (Leviticus 25:1). **The law of God, being totally**

## GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE

**satisfied by the blood of our Substitute, demands the liberty of every redeemed sinner.** Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:20-21).

- Judicial Liberty!
- Spiritual Liberty!
- Glorious Liberty!

3. **Forgiveness** — The year of jubilee was a time of forgiveness (Leviticus 25:35). The poor wretch who had lost everything, who had incurred such a tremendous load of debt that he sold his land, then his house, and at last sold himself into bondage, when the jubilee trumpet sounded was released from bondage and released from debt, forgiven completely, freely, and forever. **His debt did not bar him from the joy of jubilee. His debt qualified him as the one for whom the trumpet sounded.** Hear me, now. — I am sent to preach the gospel, to blow the jubilee trumpet, to the poor.

“Not the righteous, not the righteous,  
Sinners Jesus came to call!”

His blood has cancelled my debt! I am entirely, forever forgiven!  
That's liberty, my friend. That's liberty!

4. **Rest** — The year of jubilee was a year of rest (Leviticus 25:3-5). The gospel of Christ is a proclamation of rest, calling weary sinners to rest, promising eternal rest (Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:1-11; Psalm 116:7; Galatians 5:1-4).
5. **Bounty** — The year of jubilee was a year of great, unparalleled bounty. — *“Ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety”* (Leviticus 25:19). Oh, what a gospel this is! In Christ we are made to dwell in **complete safety** in a land of **infinite bounty**. Here we lie down in green pastures and fear no evil! Our treasury is the unsearchable riches of Christ! *“All things are yours, for ye are Christ's!”* We who have been brought by the grace of God into the liberty of the gospel have been brought into his fulness! Let us therefore be careful for nothing, but in all things give thanks!
6. **Restoration** — In the year of jubilee every man who had lost his inheritance had it returned to him in total, free and clear, with no mortgage of any kind, no lien of any kind against it (Leviticus 25:13). All that we lost in Adam, Christ has restored. All that we lost by our

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

own willful rebellion and sin, Christ has restored. David understood this. He sang, “*He restoreth my soul!*” We who “*were by nature children of wrath, even as others,*” are now made to be “*heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ!*”

7. **Brotherly Love** — In the year of jubilee the children of Israel were required by law to love their brethren. — “*Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God*”(Leviticus 25:17). In the gospel jubilee saved sinners are constrained and taught by grace to love one another. “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” — Have I been loved freely? Let me love freely. — Have I been forgiven freely? Let me forgive freely. We read in Matthew 18 of a forgiven servant who took his fellow servant by the throat and demanded payment on the spot. He was obviously bold enough to deal with the man face to face; but he was utterly destitute of the grace, compassion, and forgiveness he had experienced from his master. — Have I received freely? Let me give freely.

Now, let me ask you a question. — Do you have any idea who began preaching at the beginning of the very last Jubilee? It was John the Baptist, who was sent of God to proclaim that the year of the Lord had come, to tell sinners that he who would perform all that was promised, typified and hoped for in the year of Jubilee, the Lamb of God had come!

So, I want you to open your Bibles to John 1:15-18, and read God’s jubilee message with me. Here is the message typified in the jubilee trumpet.

(John 1:1) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

(John 1:14) “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

(John 1:15-18) “John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. (16) And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (17) For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (18) No man hath seen

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”

**Divisions:** John 1:15-18 shows us four things, to which I call your attention.

1. The Baptist's Witness
2. The Redeemer's Fulness
3. The Savior's Supremacy
4. The Son's Declaration

**THE BAPTIST'S WITNESS**

As the year of jubilee began, “*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*” In verse 15 we have John the Apostle's description of the ministry of John the Baptist. He describes John's whole work as that of a witness. **Here is the Baptist's witness.**

(John 1:15) “John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.”

“**John bare witness of him.**” — That's what a preacher does. He bears witness of the Savior. He tells what he knows. We bear witness of him, — the Lord Jesus!

- Not a Doctrine — Him!
- Not a Denomination — Him!
- Not a Theological System — Him!

Like John the Baptist, God's servants are sent “*for a witness, to bear witness the Light*” (v. 7). Faithful men bear faithful witness of him who loved us and gave himself for us. They bear witness of...

- His Person!
- His Purpose!
- His Performance!

“*John bare witness of him, **and cried.***” — As the voice of one crying in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3), John the Baptist came crying, like the crier sent to blow the jubilee trumpet when atonement was made and the year of jubilee began. John cried. That is what the preacher does. He cries, “Redemption is done! Justice is satisfied! Sin is put away!” They cry with earnest zeal and fervency, “Repent, for repentance, the turning of sinners to God by the blood of Christ is accomplished!”

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

- They cry in the open, clearly and publicly.
- They cry with assurance, confidence and certainty.
- They cry with joy and expectation.

They cry, “This is the Christ!” — “*This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.*” Christ came into the world six months after John the Baptist; and he came after him to be baptized by him. But he was before him. He is the eternal God!

And Christ is preferred before him, preferred before John, preferred before Moses, any of the prophets, any apostle, any preacher, any man, any angel, or anything (Colossians 1:18-19).

(Colossians 1:18-19) “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. (19) For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell.”

**THE REDEEMER'S FULNESS**

That brings us to my second point, the Redeemer's fulness (v. 16).

(John 1:16) “And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.”

All fulness is in Christ. That is God's jubilee message. All fulness is in Christ as our Mediator. It is in him for us! Everything we lost in the sin and fall of our father Adam has been recovered for us by Christ and is found in him. It is Christ, and Christ alone, who supplies all the needs of our souls. — “*Of his fullness have we all received, and grace for grace.*”

There is an infinite fullness in our Savior! — “*It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.*” — “*In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*” — “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him*” (Colossians 1:19 2:3, 9-10). There is in the Lord Jesus Christ a boundless, infinite supply grace for poor, needy sinners, exceeding great riches of grace for time and eternity! — “**His Fulness!**” What a thought! — “**His Fulness!**” “*His fulness*” is all fulness. All the fulness of...

- God's Love, Mercy and Grace!

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

- God's Purpose, Providence and Promises!
- God's Greatness, Goodness and Glory!
- God's Purity, Prudence and Power!
- God's Wisdom, Will and Work!
- God's Righteousness, Redemption and Revelation!

Watch the next word. — “*Of his fullness have we all received.*” All we who were chosen in him, redeemed by him, called to him, born of him, and given faith in him, all God's elect, every heaven born soul, every believing sinner has received, is receiving and shall receive of his fullness...

- By the gift of God's grace,
- By the operation of God's power,
- By the hand of faith.

Read on. — “*Of his fullness have we all received, and*” (What have we received?” “grace for grace.” In Christ we have received, from his boundless fulness, grace because of grace.

- Redeeming grace because of electing grace!
- Regenerating grace because of redeeming grace!
- Sanctifying grace because of regenerating grace!
- Believing grace because of sanctifying grace!
- Persevering grace because of preserving grace!
- Grace in time because of grace in eternity!
- Experimental grace because of covenant grace!
- Pardoning grace because of promised grace!
- Imparted grace because of imputed grace!
- Everlasting grace because of everlasting grace!
- The fulness of grace because of the freeness of grace!
- Heaps of grace upon heaps of grace!

(1 Corinthians 1:30-31) “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (31) That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

(Galatians 3:13-14) “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: (14) That the blessing of Abraham might



**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

(Ephesians 2:1-10) “And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins: (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: (7) That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

“*Of his fullness have we all received, and grace for grace.*” Blessed be his name forever!

**THE SAVIOR'S SUPREMACY**

Look at verse 17, and behold the Savior's supremacy. — “*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*” The opening word of verse 17, “*for,*” connects this with what we have just seen. We have received grace for grace out of the fulness of Christ our Redeemer and Mediator for this reason. — “*The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*” Be sure you get this. — That which the law commands, grace bestows. — God's promise runs side by side with his precept. — Indeed, grace turns precepts into promises and promises into performances. **This is our Savior's great supremacy over Moses.** It was he who gave the law by Moses, and he who fulfilled the law by grace!

- The law he gave demanded righteousness. The grace he performed brought in righteousness! — Justification!
- The law he gave demanded satisfaction. The grace he performed gave satisfaction. — Redemption!

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

- The law he gave demanded our death. The grace he performed accomplished death for us! — Substitution!
- The law he gave demanded holiness. The grace he performs gives holiness. — Regeneration!

And all this grace, by which the Lord Jesus has magnified the law and made it honorable, in the everlasting salvation of his people was done in truth, without the least compromise of God's holy law and justice (Romans 3:24-26; 8:1-4).

(Romans 3:24-26) “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

(Romans 8:1-4) “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

**THE SON'S DECLARATION**

Fourth, in verse 18 the Spirit of God speaks about the Son's declaration of the Father. It is in Christ alone and by Christ alone that men and women know God.

(John 1:18) “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”

God is Spirit, without form or shape, immense, infinite and incomprehensible. No man has ever seen him or heard his voice. No man has ever been found who could know the counsel of his will, not Moses, not Elijah, not you, not me! No man was ever found worthy to take the book of

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

his decree and loose its seals, except that Man who is himself God in all his fulness, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, he who is in the bosom of the Father, because he is one with the Father.

- He stood forth before the heavenly angels in the beginning as the Lamb that had been slain in the midst of the throne and took the book as our Surety.
- He showed himself in human form throughout the prophetic age of the Old Testament.
- At last, the Word was made flesh, dwelt among us, and crucified for us.
- And now, in the crucified Christ, the very glory of God shines forth in the redemption and salvation of his people.

That is what John 1:18 is talking about. The words "*he hath declared him*" speak of something done at one time, with finality, in the past. At Calvary, in his substitutionary accomplishments on the cross, our blessed Savior declared the Father, the triune God, in all the fulness of his Being and glory to man! That is God's jubilee message. As we blow the jubilee trumpet, as we preach the gospel, God who alone commanded the light to shine out of darkness shines forth in the dark, depraved hearts of lost, condemned sinners, giving the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!

The gospel trumpet, blow! Good news from heaven sound  
Let all the nations know, to earth's remotest bound:  
The year of jubilee is come! The year of jubilee is come!  
Return, all ransomed sinners, home.

Christ Jesus, our High Priest, has full atonement made;  
Come, weary sinners, rest; you need not be afraid:  
The year of jubilee is come! The year of jubilee is come!  
Return, all ransomed sinners, home.

Extol the Lamb of God, the sin-atonement Lamb;  
Redemption through His blood through all the world proclaim:  
The year of jubilee is come! The year of jubilee is come!  
Return, all ransomed sinners, home.

Enslaved to sin and hell, Christ's liberty embrace,  
And safe forever dwell, saved by His wondrous grace:

**GOD'S JUBILEE MESSAGE**

The year of jubilee is come! The year of jubilee is come!  
Return, all ransomed sinners, home.

Though you have sold for nought your heritage above,  
Come, have it back unbought, the gift of God's free love:  
The year of jubilee is come! The year of jubilee is come!  
Return, all ransomed sinners, home.

Soon, we the trump shall hear, and Christ will come again!  
In glory He'll appear and say to us again—  
The year of jubilee is come! The year of jubilee is come!  
Return to your eternal home.

Amen!