



LEVITICUS 25:8-22

*Liberty,
family and property*

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SP Lawrence Chua



LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

The Year of Jubilee

8 'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years.

The background features a light beige color with decorative wavy lines in the top right and bottom left corners. A horizontal brushstroke in a reddish-orange hue is positioned behind the title text.

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

9 Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement, you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

¹⁰And you shall **consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all 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.**

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

11 That **fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you**; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine. **12** For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; **you shall eat its produce from the field.**

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

13 'In this Year of Jubilee, **each of you shall return to his possession.** **14** And if you sell anything to your neighbour or buy from your neighbour's hand, you shall not oppress one another.

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

15 According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbour, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you.

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

16 According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the crops. **17 Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God.**

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

Provisions for the Seventh Year

¹⁸ 'So you shall **observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them**; and you will dwell in the land in safety. **¹⁹ Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety.**

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

20 ‘And if you say, “What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?” **21** Then **I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years.**

LEVITICUS 25:8-22 (NKJV)

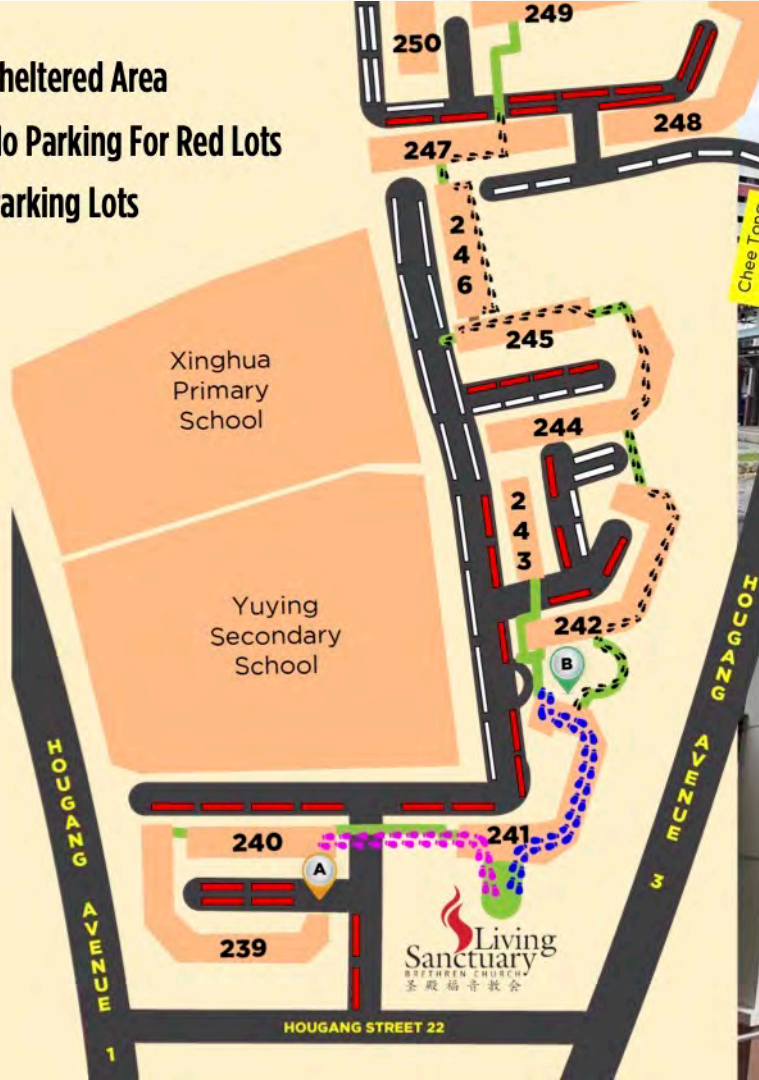
22 And you shall **sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat of the old harvest.**

Pre-message Jubilee greeting and Jubilee blessing cards



Pre-message appeal relating to use of car park

- Sheltered Area
- No Parking For Red Lots
- Parking Lots



**DROP OFF
POINT B
Shelter at
Block 241 &
242**

**DROP OFF
POINT A
Shelter at
Block 240**

A photograph of an indoor parking garage. In the center, a red car is parked. A man in a green shirt and a child in a purple shirt are walking towards the car. To the left, a silver car is partially visible. The background wall has some peeling paint and signs that say "RESERVED FOR SP". A speed limit sign of 15 km/h is on the left. On the right, there are white chevron markings on the wall and a sign for the lift lobby. A speed bump is in the foreground.

Drive in & drop off passengers



Reverse back



Drive out



Introduction

a) Fundamental values of life

- **human rights**
- **values of life**

Introduction

a) Fundamental values of life

- **1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**
- **human rights are expressed in 30 articles**

Introduction

a) Fundamental values of life

- **first value is freedom or liberty:**
 - **freedom of speech and belief**
 - **freedom from fear and want**
 - **freedom from slavery**

Introduction

a) Fundamental values of life

- **second value is the right to marriage and the formation of family**
- **third value is the right to own property**

Introduction

a) Fundamental values of life

- **biblical Jubilee covers these three values of liberty, family and property, and more**

Introduction

b) Proclamation of Jubilee

LEVITICUS 25:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ Then you shall **cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound** on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement, you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

LEVITICUS 25:9-10 (NKJV)

10 And you shall **consecrate the fiftieth year,**
and proclaim liberty throughout all 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.

Introduction

b) Proclamation of Jubilee

- **the fundamental values of liberty, family and property**

LEVITICUS 25:10 (NKJV)

10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and **proclaim liberty throughout all 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.**

Main Points

- 1. Liberty:** reaffirming our freedom;
releasing and resetting
- 2. Family:** returning to family;
restoring relationships
- 3. Property:** returning to possession;
reclaiming your rightful place



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- **defined as freedom, release and setting free**
- **depicted by a bird swift in flight**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- **what and how we are all bound to, if any, that we need to be set free from**
- **context of Leviticus 25**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- **proclamation of liberty was for those in slavery because of debts**
- **unless the debt is fully repaid, or remitted or cancelled**
- **work and debt are inter-related**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- **sell their land to the rich to raise funds for the family**
- **sell themselves as bonded slaves**
- **condemn the family to perpetual poverty for generations**
- **create social inequality in society**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Present day bondage created by unconscionable interest rates on loans**
- **evil of lending on high interest rate secured on the borrower's property is real even in today's context**

LEVITICUS 25:35-38 (NKJV)

35 'If one of **your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him**, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. **36 Take no usury or interest from him**; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you.

LEVITICUS 25:35-38 (NKJV)

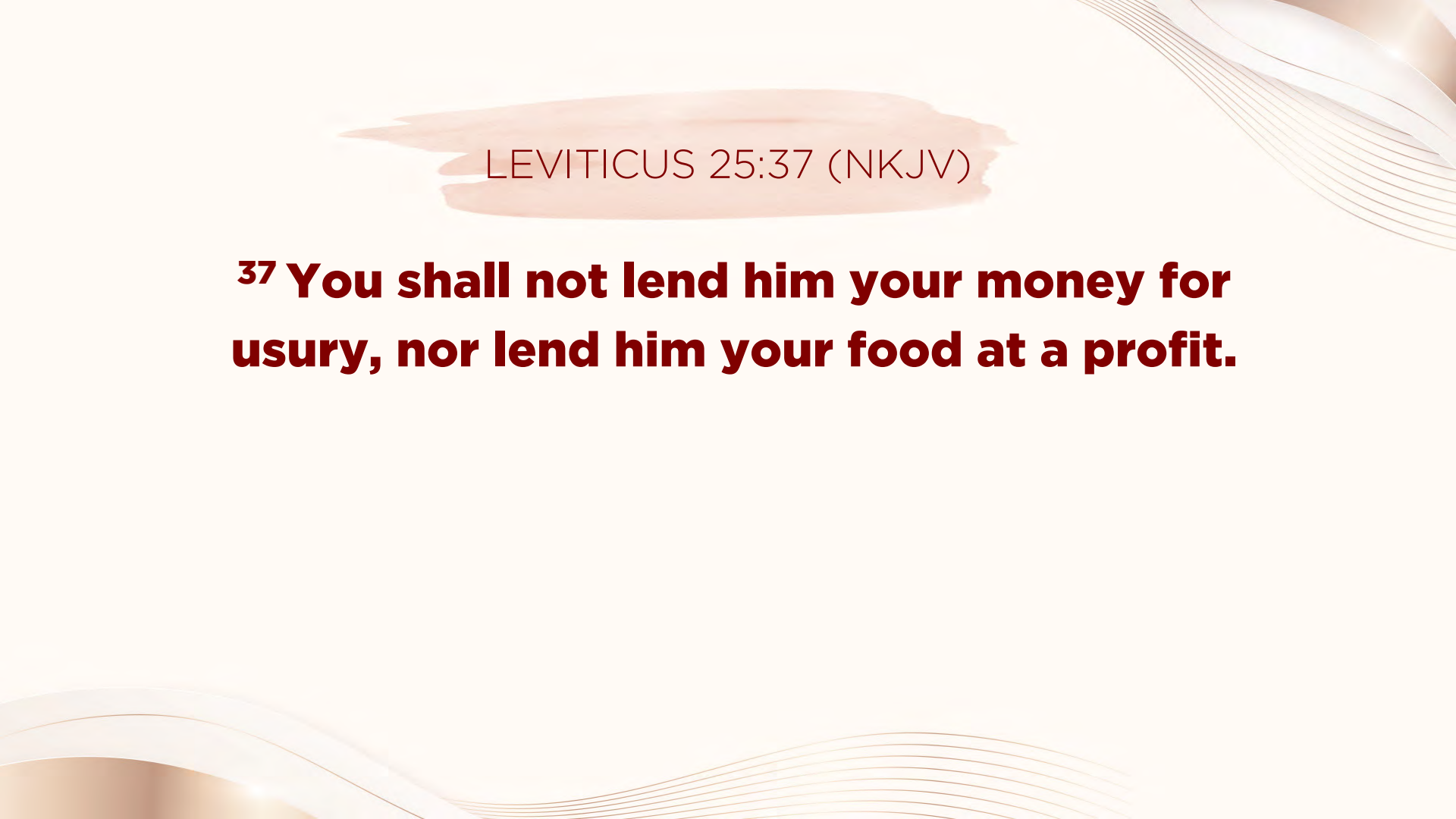
37 You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit.

38 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Present day bondage created by unconscionable interest rates on loans**
- **not charge interest for personal loan**

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LEVITICUS 25:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit.



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Present day bondage created by unconscionable interest rates on loans**
- **God cares for the poor.**
- **Concerned about social justice and the needy poor in our society.**
- **God is relevant and compassionate.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ Other forms of slavery and bondage

- **human trafficking**
- **bonded service**
- **scholarship bond**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Other forms of slavery and bondage**
 - **foreign domestic helpers contracted to serve**
 - **accord basic personal freedom to our domestic helpers and avoid oppressive controlling behaviour**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ **Other forms of slavery and bondage**

- **slavery and bondage to work that many Singaporeans experience, many by choice and some by circumstances**
- **God is concerned about slavery and bondage of such kind as well.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ **Other forms of slavery and bondage**

- **God instituted the one in seven days Sabbath, the one in seven years Sabbath, and the one in 50 years Sabbath (what we call Jubilee year) to give rest and freedom to people and their land.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ **Slavery and bondage created by debts and principle of remission**

- **context in Leviticus 25**
- **debts that created slavery and bondage**
- **Liberty is debt remission.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Slavery and bondage created by debts and principle of remission**
- **In God's economy, there should be social justice and greater equality.**
- **under obligation or burden to forgive the debt in Jubilee**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Slavery and bondage created by debts and principle of remission**
- **built-in social and economic fairness in God's system**
- **Our young people care very much about social justice.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

- ❖ **Slavery and bondage created by debts and principle of remission**
- **God who upholds social justice.**
- **fails because people are not willing to obey God.**
- **God's social economic policy was never implemented.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ Jubilee principles applied in Nehemiah's time

- **partial implementation during the rebuilding of Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah**



NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. **2** For there were those who said, “We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore, let us get grain, that we may eat and live.”



NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

3 There were also some who said, “We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine.”

4 There were also those who said,
**“We have borrowed money for the king’s
tax on our lands and vineyards.”**

NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

⁵ Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards.”

NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

6 And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. **7** After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, “Each of you is exacting usury from his brother.” So, I called a great assembly against them.

NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

8 And I said to them, “According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?” Then they were silenced and found nothing to say.

NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

9 Then I said, “What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? **10** I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain.

Please, let us stop this usury!

NEHEMIAH 5:1-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.” ¹² So they said,

“We will restore it, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say.”



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ Jubilee principles applied in King Zedekiah's time

- **King Zedekiah made a covenant with all the people who were at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to slaves and bonded servants.**



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ **Jubilee principles applied in King Zedekiah's time**

- **first acted but subsequently changed their mind**
- **difficult to practise the Levitical code and difficult to act on Jubilee principles**
- **Jeremiah 34:8-22.**

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

8 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after **King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people who were at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them: 9 that every man should set free his male and female slave—a Hebrew man or woman—that no one should keep a Jewish brother in bondage.**

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

10 Now when all the princes and all the people, who had entered into the covenant, heard that everyone should set free his male and female slaves, that no one should keep them in bondage anymore, **they obeyed and let them go.**

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

11 But afterward they changed their minds and made the male and female slaves return,

whom they had set free, and brought them into subjection as male and female slaves.

12 Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

¹³ “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying,

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “At the end of seven years let every man set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him; and when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you.” But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear.

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

15 Then you recently turned and did what was right in My sight—every man proclaiming liberty to his neighbour; and you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name.

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

16 Then you turned around and profaned My name, and every one of you brought back his male and female slaves, whom you had set at liberty, at their pleasure, and brought them back into subjection, to be your male and female slaves.'

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

17 “Therefore thus says the LORD: **‘You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, everyone to his brother and every one to his neighbour.**

Behold, I proclaim liberty to you,’ says the LORD—‘to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine! And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth.

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

18 And I will give the men who have transgressed
My covenant, who have not performed the
words of the covenant which they made before
Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed
between the parts of it—

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

19 the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf—



JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

20 I will give them into the hand of their enemies
and into the hand of those who seek their life.
Their dead bodies shall be for meat for the birds
of the heaven and the beasts of the earth.



JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

21 And I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army which has gone back from you.

JEREMIAH 34:8-22 (NKJV)

22 Behold, I will command,' says the LORD, 'and cause them to return to this city. They will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire; and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.' ”



Reaffirming our freedom; releasing and resetting

❖ God values our practice of Jubilee principles more than our religious practices

- God upholds the value of liberty and detest all forms of bondage.**
- He prefers those who worship Him to break the yoke of slavery.**

ISAIAH 58:6-12 (NKJV)

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To **loose the bonds** of wickedness, To **undo the heavy burdens**, To **let the oppressed go free**, And that you **break every yoke**? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

ISAIAH 58:6-12 (NKJV)

8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. **9** Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If **you take away the yoke from your midst**, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

ISAIAH 58:6-12 (NKJV)

10 If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. **11** The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

The background features a light cream color with decorative wavy lines in a pale gold or beige tone. A prominent, horizontal, brushstroke-like shape in a reddish-orange hue is positioned in the upper center, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

ISAIAH 58:6-12 (NKJV)

12 Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.