

Review: “Eternity Now: The New Testament Series” (NET)

I am a member of the Bible Gateway Blogger Grid (BG²). As a #BibleGatewayPartner, I have received a copy of [“NET Eternity Now: The New Testament Series”](#) published by Thomas Nelson Publishers at no cost to me in exchange for an honest review here on the Adonai Shalom USA blog. #BG²

[“Eternity Now: The New Testament Series” \(New English Translation](#)

The [“Eternity Now: New Testament Series”](#) comes as a boxed set of five books. Each cover is appealing and each title captures the essence of the New Testament books contained within them. The titles are creative but remain theologically appropriate. I was particularly struck by the [“Now but not Yet”](#) title for John’s writings because it reminded me of one of my seminary professors who always reminded us of this aspect of John’s record. To me, this suggests **accuracy and faithfulness to the original texts** while tastefully displaying the creativity of those who compiled this series.



“Eternity Now: The New Testament Series” set of 5 books

The New English Translation (NET)

Of note, the Bible version used here is the *NET*, the *New English Translation*. This is a fairly recent translation, completed in 2019. The translators’ aim according to the series’ note to the reader was to “creat[e] an English Bible translation that could overcome old challenges and boldly open the door for new possibilities.”

I’m assuming the “challenges” may refer to moving beyond the archaic language of the *King James Version*, but I am unsure as to of what exactly consistent the “new possibilities” hoped for by the translators. It seems to me that the *New English Translation* seeks a more vernacular tone making it easier for modern readers to understand without losing accuracy.

In each book, a letter to the reader explains more about the NET translation. One thing that I found particularly interesting was this claim: “Throughout the NET’s translation process, every working draft was made publicly available on the Internet. Bible scholars, ministers, and laypersons from around the world logged millions of review sessions. No other translation is so openly accountable to the worldwide church

or has been so thoroughly vetted” ([Eternity Now, viii](#)). Additionally, the NET allows ministries to use the translation freely due to “ministry-first copyright innovations” ([Eternity Now, x](#)).

That really is very unique and an awesome use of modern technology for the sake of the Gospel!

Book Review and Description

The [“Eternity Now”](#) series is a compilation of all of the books of the New Testament/*B’rit Chadashah* arranged in a manner making it read more like a novel. This book set would be a wonderful gift idea for a young person in your life who might not otherwise read the Bible.



“Eternity Now: The New Testament Series” New English

Translation

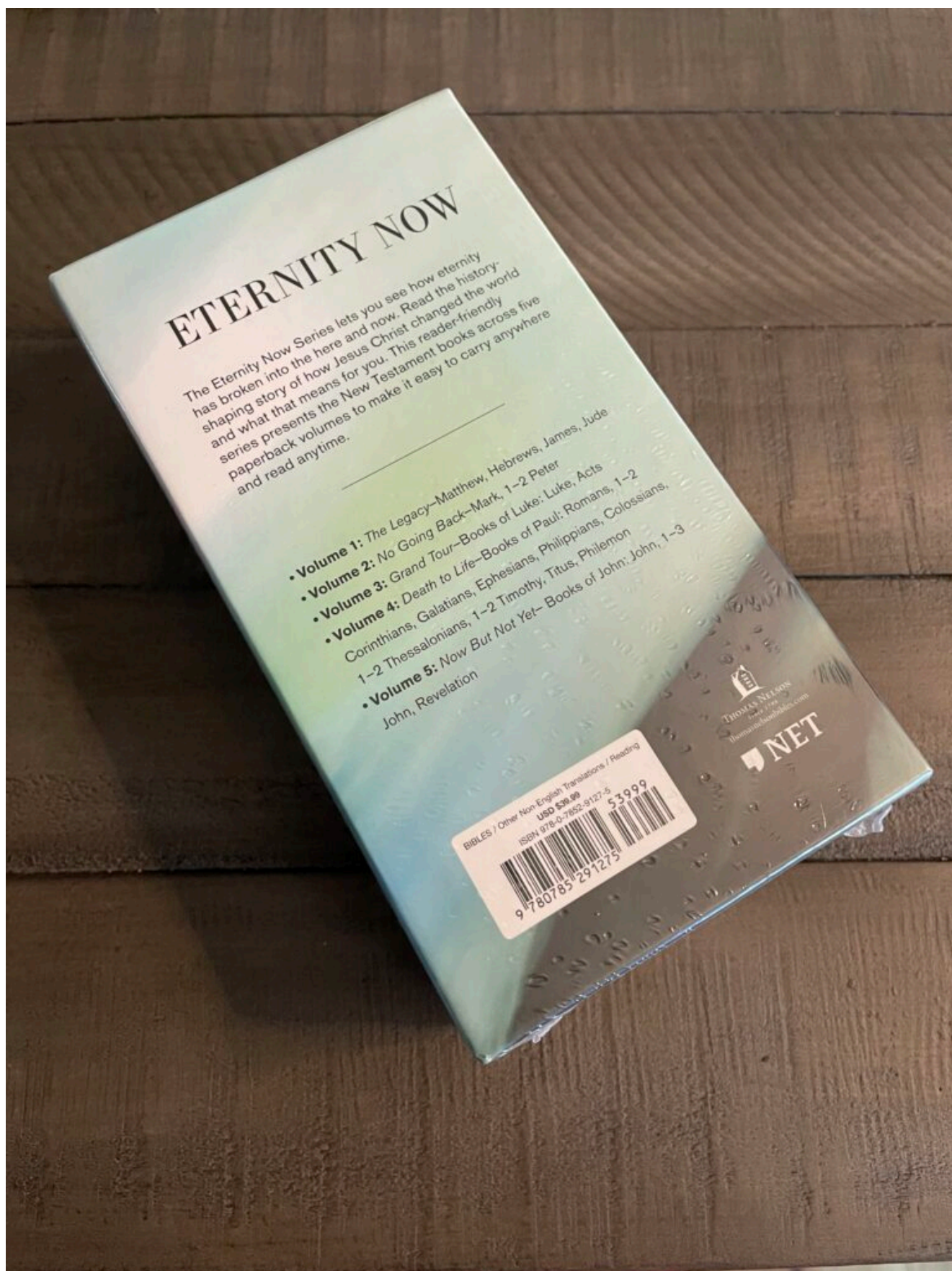
Each book contains the writings of the New Testament, still divided into chapters, but verse number superscripts are left out. Again, this makes the text read more like a novel than a traditional Bible, but the Biblical text remains the same and has not been altered. This series would perhaps not be appropriate for traditional "study" due to the lack of verse number indicators, but would work well for any type of personal devotional.



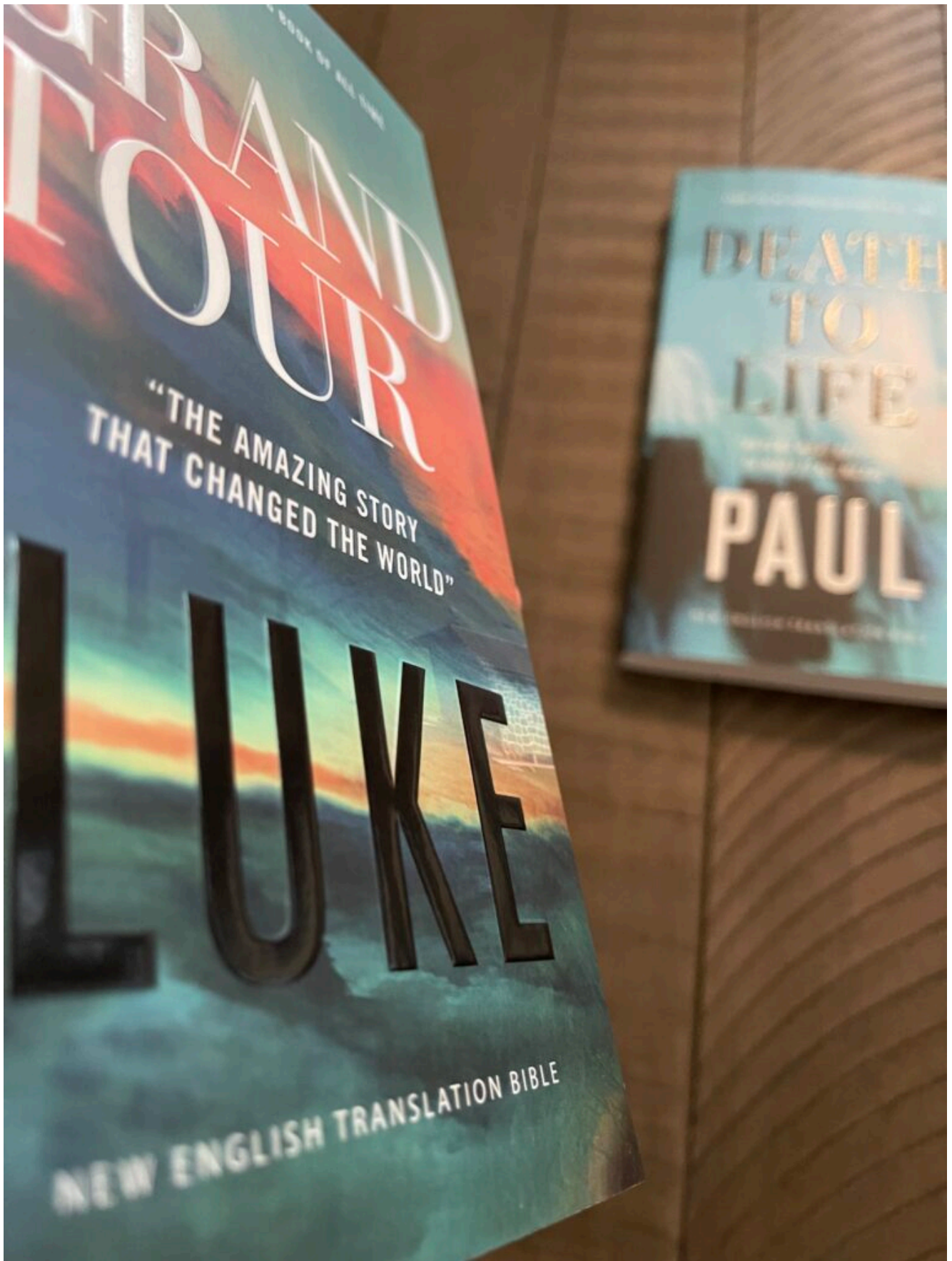
Eternity Now spine

The paperback format makes these books easy to carry. Someone sitting beside another on the metro will not immediately recognize that the person with one of these books is reading

Scripture. It is reader-friendly, eye-catching, and somewhat unconventional.



Eternity Now back cover



"Grand Tour" (Luke) and "Death to Life" (Paul) Eternity Now NET

My recommendation:

Rating: 5 out of 5.

I value anything that gets Scripture out to people, especially to people who might not otherwise read the Bible for themselves. This is a useful evangelical tool that I could see placed on coffee tables at clinics and coffeeshops with the hope that someone might pick it up to read and be surprised by the wonderful Good News it contains.

I recommend the ["Eternity Now: New Testament Series"](#) and hope that you find it to be a blessing either for yourself personally or for someone who you are praying will come to the saving knowledge of and relationship with our LORD.

Pastora Jennifer Mieliulis Fuentes, *M.Div., Duke University*



“Eternity Now: The New Testament Series (NET)” New English Translation

Book details

Title: "NET Eternity Now: The New Testament Series"

Author: Compilation

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Genre: Bibles/Other English Translations/Reading

ISBN-13: 978-0-7852-9127-5

PURCHASE LINKS: [Amazon](#) | [FaithGateway Store](#)

If you are looking for another wonderful Scripture resource, check out my review of ["Spurgeon and the Psalms: The Book of Psalms with Devotions from Charles Spurgeon"](#) also published by Thomas Nelson.

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Shmittah: The Year of Release

Parashat Re'eh ([D'varim/Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17](#)) 5782 B"H

What is a *Shmittah* year?

Shmittah is a year-long Sabbatical for the land. It is intended to allow the land to rest, but also to allow the poor or indebted to rest. It is the year of debt-cancellation. Awesome!

Just for clarification: *shmittah* can be transliterated in

several ways. Some of the more common ways you will see this word spelled include *shmitah*, *shmita*, and *shemilah*.

Shmittah became more well-known to the Christian community in recent years due to a popular book written by Rabbi Jonathan Cahn called [“The Mystery of the Shemilah.”](#) He served as a mentor to [Rabbi Jason Sobel](#) who wrote [“Mysteries of the Messiah,”](#) a book that I [reviewed](#) about this time last year. Cahn overelaborates at times and perhaps it is a fair critique that he may be (ironically) overcapitalizing on a topic that has to do with debt cancellation, but I am glad that more people have at least been exposed to the topic and that the Biblical principles of *shmittah* are becoming more widely known.

Biblical Debt Cancellation

[“At the end of every seven years you are to cancel debts.”
Deuteronomy 15:1](#)

Have you ever felt like you were drowning in a debt?

It can be hard to feel like you have any rest.

Shmittah ensures that you get a breather.

[“. . . there should be no poor among you, for ADONAI will surely bless you in the land ADONAI your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess.” Deuteronomy 15:4](#)

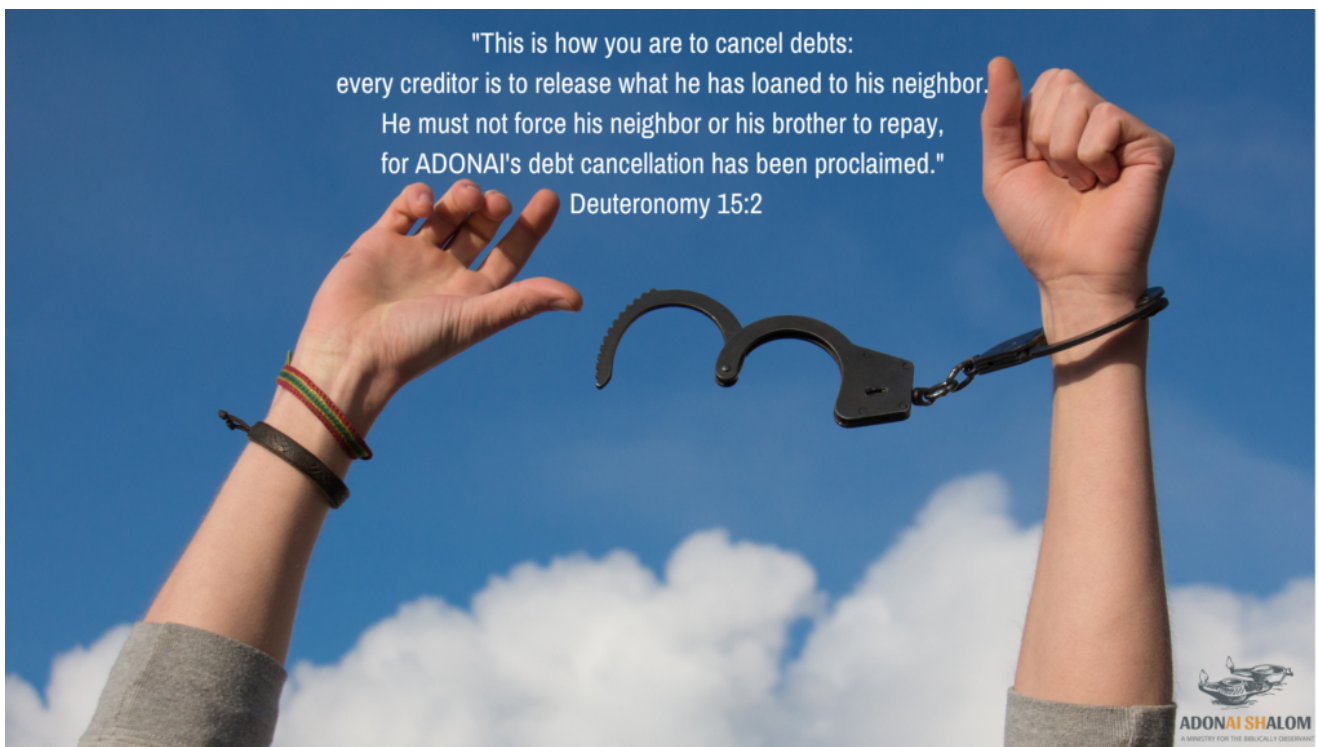
Are you worried about Inflation? Learn about *shmittah*!

I am no economist, but I have read from several sources over the years that there has been a correlation between *Shmittah*

years and cycles of recessions in our nation. Apparently, the stock market often crashes during *Shmittah*. So, if you're into investing . . . you may want to research *Shmittah* years!

Strong's Concordance defines "*shemittah*" as "letting drop" or "remission." It is a "release." Creditors are required to "drop the issue," to "forgive the debt" owed to them.

["This is how you are to cancel debts: every creditor is to release what he has loaned to his neighbor. He must not force his neighbor or his brother to repay, for ADONAI's debt cancellation has been proclaimed." Deuteronomy 15:2](#)



If we took the Bible more seriously, our credit structure in this country would look different. You can see how Biblical cycles did influence our financial system in that credit scores do not report the same way after 7 years, but the Biblical requirement is much more thorough, offering release to the indebted.

When we do not do as Scripture tells us . . . look where it gets us.

A shmittah year occurred from September 2021 and will end in

September 2022.

Is the inflation we are experiencing due to the *Shmittah* year?

Was America *spared* a worse economic crisis due to certain *repentant actions* taken during this year such as the stronger restrictions on the sin of abortion?

Will inflation subside as this *Shmittah* cycle comes to an end?

It is worth praying about.

Our nation as a whole does *not* observe the precepts of *Shmittah*, but we like to claim we are still at least loosely Christian. ["Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD . . ."](#) [Psalm 33:12](#). If we claim to seek to be a godly nation, we need to follow the instructions given by Scripture, even when they seem very difficult. Allowing the land to rest for a full year? Cancelling the debts of our brothers? It is a lot to ask! We must pray for our nation to return to the LORD.

["If only you would carefully listen to the voice of ADONAI your God, being careful to do all these *mitzvah* that I am commanding you today!"](#) [Deuteronomy 15:5](#)

***Shmittah* is a divine principle we would do well to observe!**

["For ADONAI your God will bless you as He promised you. So you will lend to many nations, but not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you."](#) [Deuteronomy 15:6](#)

***Shmittah*, the year of release, should be a time when all of God's children feel refreshed and renewed. Released from burdens and allowed to rest.**

Isn't it wonderful that God has made this provisions in His Word? Wouldn't more people be in better health if they didn't have so much stress and could rest from some of their obligations? The LORD has provided for our wholeness and

peace, for our *shalom*, in His Word.

A Worship Song you may enjoy today: Spirit of the Sovereign God: (This is the Year) by Lindell Cooley Brownsville Revival

Spirit of the Sovereign God (This is the Year) Lindell Cooley,
Brownsville Revival

Other topics found in this passage that may interest you

What to eat and what NOT to eat

This passage from [D'varim/Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17](#) also outlines what animals are considered by Scripture to be appropriate for human consumption. If you are interested in this topic, check out my teaching on [The Leviticus 11 Controversy](#) that goes into depth about the dietary laws of the Torah.

Harvest Feasts

[D'varim/Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17](#) also describes the three harvest feasts: [Passover](#), [Shavuo't](#), and [Sukkot](#). Sukkot is coming up, so check out this [free selfie scavenger hunt printable](#) for you and your family! Feel free to share it with your congregation as well.

Is there an area in your life in which you need to experience a release? Do you long for freedom from a burden? Do you need forgiveness today? The LORD is strong and mighty, full of compassion, and willing to help you. He will bring the victory into your life that you need if you will rest in Him and place

your trust in Him today!