

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

In the November 1957 HGN a quotation from a book entitled *The Scattered Nation*, by Zebulon Baird Vance, appeared in Noah D. Alper's *Brief Cases*. This caused Sande Jaffray of New York to inquire, "Is there evidence that the rules regarding the alienation of real property as set forth in the Old Testament were actually in practice, or were they stated merely as ideals?"

For an authoritative statement on this epoch we turned to Rabbi David Neiman of the Academy of Higher Jewish Learning, New York, who replied as follows:

"The law concerns the return of all land to the original family. It is known as the Law of the Jubilee Year and reflects an actual historical practice. The law was probably in effect from the 10th century to the beginning of the 6th century B.C.E.

"It is unrealistic to consider any of the laws in the Old Testament, and for that matter in any Constitution, as purely theoretical. If the law is on the books, it was observed. Moreover, there is extra-Biblical evidence for the observance of the Jubilee Year. The Book of Jubilees in the Collection known as the 'Pseudepigrapha' refers to the entire history of Israel in terms of 50 year cycles of the Jubilee. I think you can consider the Jubilee Law as having been actually practiced."

Fortress America



—From Trade Talk