

5-1-2008

Silhouette Chapel

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ISSN: 2472-2596 (print)

ISSN: 2472-260X (online)

Recommended Citation

Ketterlin, Kendall A.. 2008. Silhouette Chapel. *Obsculta* 1, (1) : 10-10. <https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/obsculta/vol1/iss1/5>.

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declaration of liberty, the jubilee can be understood today in terms of a worldwide call for freedom from the slavery of crippling debt loads: “The message of the Jubilee for today . . . is a proclamation of global unity in working to relieve economic unbalance.”³³ The jubilee year continues to respond to present-day calls for justice and dignity to play a central role in global economic decision-making:

At the very heart of the Jubilee lies the firm conviction of the equality of all people before God, equality that can never be reduced to an abstract ideal, but rather is realized in the concrete possibility that all people have their basic needs met.³⁴

The hopeful vision of the jubilee legislation broadens its message beyond the particular historical situation of Israel to assert powerful relevance for present reality; it is a call to examine what is and to ask what should be. As a necessary theological symbol, both for ancient Israel and for the world today, the jubilee year invites believers to examine their own social and business dealings, as well as to challenge the economic practices of their banks and governments in order to bring about a more just and equitable world in which all of creation is honored and allowed to live freely. †

³³ North, *The Biblical Jubilee*, 120.

³⁴ Padilla, “The Relevance of the Jubilee,” 22.

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