

“Jubilee”

Church have you heard of “the Jubilee” in the Bible? Well, if you have, what does this word mean? **I’m glad you asked.**

Jubilee - the word “jubilee” in the Old Testament is from the Hebrew word “yobel” or yovel” meaning “a ram’s horn, trumpet” or “coronet.” If someone announced the Jubilee, they would be blowing a trumpet and all of the congregation of Israel would be able to hear it. You see, the Year of Jubilee was special to Israel as we shall read about it in Leviticus and see if there is any significance or symbolism for Christians today.

“The Year of the Jubilee”

Leviticus 25:8-12 “**You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement, you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.**”

Day of Atonement – also known as **Yom Kippur**, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with an approximate 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

Jubilee year in the New Testament

In the **New Testament** age, we are in the age of **jubilee**, the age of returning to our rightful possession (God Himself) with joy and jubilation! The Lord Jesus came to proclaim the **year** of **jubilee**, the acceptable **year** of the Lord (Luke 4:16-19), and whoever repents and believes into the Lord is saved and is restored to the enjoyment of God.

Luke 4:16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: **18** "The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, **19** to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor."

In the Old Testament the birthright belonged to the firstborn son of a family. According to **Exodus. 4:22**, Israel is God's firstborn son, and for many centuries the people of Israel enjoyed the birthright.

But when the Lord Jesus came, Israel lost the birthright due to their unbelief, and the birthright was shifted from Israel to the church. Now publicans, sinners, and Gentiles who believe into the Lord Jesus receive the birthright. This is a very important matter to realize and see in the New Testament.

God promised that Messiah would come and save His people Israel, but when the Lord Jesus came as Messiah, they didn't believe in Him but rather they rejected Him.

But the sinners who believe into the Lord Jesus are the second son (see **Luke 15**) who repent and return to the Father, and these saved sinners enjoy the fattened calf (the all-inclusive Christ as the good land) and are restored in the Father's house full of enjoyment.

Now we as the genuine believers in Christ are together the church of the firstborn (**Hebrews 12:23**), and we enjoy the birthright today.

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In the Old Testament the year of jubilee was only once every 50 years, but in the New Testament the jubilee lasts the entire church age! Today God doesn't condemn us for our poverty, bondage, or sins, but He saves us, restores us, and brings us back to Himself as our enjoyment when we repent and believe into Him!

Hallelujah, today is the acceptable year of the Lord! Today we are in the age of jubilee, the age in which we are being continually released from any bondage, we are being brought to the freedom of the glory of the children of God, and we are being restored to God as our rightful possession! Praise the Lord!

My brothers and sisters, the Jubilee then came every **fifty years**. You see, when the trumpet sounded on the fiftieth year, and specifically on the Day of Atonement, liberty (freedom) would be proclaimed “throughout the land to all its inhabitants” and then all of the property that had been taken by others for unpaid debts would have to be returned to the original families. On that year there would be no reaping or planting or gathering of the crops for it was to be “holy to” the nation Israel and everyone could “eat the produce of the field.”

Amen!

My friends what a celebration that must have been. You see, everyone that had been indebted was then released from that debt and able to start over again by having their land returned to them.

Ain't that “Good News”.

Church it should be noted that the official beginning of the Jubilee Year started on the Day of Atonement, which is symbolic of the atoning of sin for the nation of Israel, fulfilled in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Calvary. This too represented a release from a debt...the debt that we owed from our sins that we could never pay, even if we had a million lifetimes. My friends, in the Jubilee Year all the slaves (indentured services) and prisoners were set free and all of the land that had been taken by others due to unpayable debts was released back to the **original owners**.

Once again Saints, symbolically we were slaves of sin and held captive by them due to our inability to pay for them, so in a similar fashion, God commanded that “In this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his property” (**Leviticus 25:13**) and the prisoners and slaves could be **set free**.

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

A Trumpet Blast of Liberty

The **Septuagint** translation of the Bible, translates the word Jubilee in Hebrew “yobel” or yovel” as “a trumpet blast of liberty” but today the Day of Atonement is no longer observed in Israel and is presently called Yom Kipper or “Day of “ (yom) “Atonement” (“kippur” or release).

Septuagint - a Greek version of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament), including the Apocrypha, made for Greek-speaking Jews in Egypt in the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C. and adopted by the early Christian Churches.

My brothers and sisters, contrary to what many believe, the **Day of Atonement** was the most solemn day of the year which included a **25-hour period of intense prayer and fasting** (or affliction = hardship, suffering, weakness). You see, most of the day was spent in the temple or sanctuary in worship, reading the Torah, and in prayer.

Torah - ['tôrə, tô'rä, 'tōrə] - (in Judaism) the law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures (the Pentateuch).

Church, the Hebrew word “kippur” and “kapporet”, which was the name of the **mercy-seat** that covered the **Ark of the Covenant**, was sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice, Christ on Calvary. It was said to be the “**propitiation**” which means “the satisfaction”; or “to appease, to satisfy”. Yes, Christ’s Blood was dribbled on the mercy-seat and mercy (compassion, forgiveness, kindness, sympathy, grace, blessing) was shown to us, because of Jesus’ blood being poured out to satisfy the **Wrath of God**, for our sins.

The Jubilee as the Emancipation

My brothers and sisters, what this year means is that all those who had to sell themselves into slavery, (indentured servitude) because of their debts or had lost their property to someone so that they could survive and not starve to death was redeemed (exchanged, released, freed, emancipated, saved) by God as no Israelite was to remain a slave permanently.

Saints, it would also be a way to restore financial and or property equality among the nation’s inhabitants so that the disparity between the rich and the poor would be gone. You see, this equality allowed those in extreme poverty who had lost everything and even their own freedom to be gained back in the only way that they could have possibly received it. This way, all of the property of the nation became, in a sense, the property of all and no one family or person could gain an unfair advantage over their fellow citizens. There was also the command to give the land a rest from its labor of producing for the people. This rest, once again, may perhaps reflect the rest we have from our works and that salvation is fully a work of the Lord. Nevertheless, agricultural research shows that farmland can produce a much larger yield if it lays fallow (or unplanted and unworked) for a full year.

As I conclude this message, I want you to know, that the Jubilee year contains many of the pictures or is the essence of our **salvation**. You see, just as the land, the people, and all the property was released, so we too have been released from a debt that we could not pay (**our sins**). We were once slaves to sin but now we've been released, once held captive but now set free. Church Christ's blood has atoned (waged, fought, paid) for our sins and satisfied the "Wrath of God" that was due us in,

Peace and Hope

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (NIV)

Church just as the land was given rest, we too have entered into His rest from all of our works for we could never save ourselves by our own works because salvation is absolutely and without a doubt, a work of God. If you are not saved, then maybe you have asked, what some had asked Jesus in John 6:28.

John 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"
.... Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

“Jubilee Seed Offering”

\$50.00 weekly x 50 people = \$2500.00 (weekly)

4 weeks x 12months = 48 weeks x \$2500.00 = \$120000.00 Yearly

\$50.00 weekly x 50 people = \$2500.00 weekly x 52months = \$130000.00 Yearly