

Sabbatical And Jubilee Years

Sunday PM 07/18/21

Introduction:

The Sabbatical and Jubilee years are mentioned in the Old Testament as part of the Law of Moses. If ever there was a time, we could relate to this section it would be after 2020 where a lot of things changed.

I) The Sabbath and Jubilee Years.

A) Sabbath year.

1. Sabbath day was to be a day of rest, **Exodus 20.8-10**
 - a. Sabbath – Hebrew *Shabbat* to rest from day of labor, or day of rest.
 - b. Occurs on the 7th day of the week, in relation to God finishing His word of creation.

Genesis 2:2 *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*

2. Sabbath year – Hebrew *Shemittah* – a whole year of rest for the land.

B) Year of Jubilee

1. Occurred on the 50th year.
2. A Sabbath year and Jubilee year would occur back-to-back.

II) The Law on the Sabbath Year.

Year of the Sabbath

Leviticus 25:1 *And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. 3 'Six*

years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; 4 'but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. 5 'What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. 6 'And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, 7 'for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land-all its produce shall be for food.

A) Agricultural

1. Keep in mind, the economy of Israel was based on the land, unlike some countries which may have been largely trade, or fishing.
2. Six years to sow and gather, to plant and prune, to harvest.
3. Seventh year to land was not to be tilled, or sowed, or pruned, and the produce not harvested as normal harvesting went.
4. The “poor” could go out and pick the fields.

B) Financial

Deuteronomy 15:1 *"At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. 2 "And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD'S release. 3 "Of a foreigner you may require it; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother, 4 "except when there may be no poor among you; for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance- 5 "only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today. 6 "For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you. 7 "If*

there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, 8 "but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

1. Debts to fellow citizens were forgiven, **v. 3**
2. Did not apply to foreigners
3. Until there is no poor in the land, **v. 4** but **verse 11** says there will always be poor in the land.

9 "Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you. **10** "You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. **11** "For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'

4. This created a problem as the "rich" did not have much of an incentive to lend money to the poor due to this debt forgiveness.

C) Slaves

1. Slavery in Israel was not the same as slavery in our country, slaves were more like indentured servants.

Deuteronomy 15:12 "If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.

2. Fellow Hebrews be released.

3. Not go our empty handed.

Deuteronomy 15:13 "And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; **14** "you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD has blessed you with, you shall give to him.

4. Keeping this statue would bring blessings to you.

Deuteronomy 15:18 "It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

III) Law on the Year of Jubilee

Leviticus 25:8- '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. **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 25:10 '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.

A) Agricultural

1. Return of land to original families. **v. 10**
2. Not sow or reap; no gather grapes of untended vines.

Leviticus 25:11 '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.

3. Blessings from God. (General)

Leviticus 25:18 *'So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety.*

4. Blessings (Specifically)
 - a. God would bless them in the sixth year so they would have enough.
 - b. Then sow in the eight year and harvest in the 9th year.

Leviticus 25:22 *'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.*

B) Property

Leviticus 25:23 *'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.*

1. Law of land redemption.

Leviticus 25:25 *'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.*

2. In the year of Jubilee, land goes back to the original owner. (Land purchases were more like lease agreements.)

Leviticus 25:28 *'But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.*

3. House

- a. Walled in city, **v. 29-30**

Leviticus 25:29 *'If a man sells a house in a walled city, then he*

may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year he may redeem it. 30 'But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations. It shall not be released in the Jubilee.

- b. A city without walls.

Leviticus 25:31 *'However the houses of villages which have no wall around them shall be counted as the fields of the country. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the Jubilee.*

- c. Levites could redeem their house in cities of refuge anytime, **32-33.**

IV) Application

A) Economic Impact

1. Imagine the economic impact of a Sabbath and Jubilee year together.
 - a. Last year, 2020, our economy shrunk by 3.5%.
 - b. Essential workers were priest, craftsmen, carpenters, fishermen.
 - c. I wonder if they had a toilet paper shortage?
2. Preparation was necessary but God would bless them.
3. Last year we learned there were things we could do without. 24 hour sports, fancy vacations, the newest toys, etc.

Philippians 4:11 *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

B) Social impact

1. Having too not work and slow down.
2. Last year a lot of people learned they could and needed to slowdown.
Andy Griffin Show "Man in a Hurry"
3. Don't be in a hurry to get somewhere else.
4. Helping the poor may have been neglected.

Luke 6:35 *"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."*

C) Religious impact

1. Reading of the law.

Deuteronomy 31:10 *And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, 11 "when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 "Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law, 13 "and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."*

2. Some people thought more of God in 2020 and some less, which were you?

Conclusion:

I don't read much about the actual observance of the Sabbath or Jubilee year. Perhaps that is why God speaks of the rich oppressing the poor.