

“The Sabbath Year and the Year of Jubilee”  
Leviticus 25:1-17

- The Sabbath Year: Leviticus 25:1-7
  - God has designed us to rest and commanded us to rest. They would rest every seventh day (Leviticus 23:3); they would rest every seventh year (Leviticus 25:3-4); they would rest every fiftieth year (Leviticus 25:8-17).
  - Why did God command this Sabbath rest?
    - So that the people would view God as their source of refreshment.
    - So that they would view God as their source of provision.
    - So that they would lay hold of faith.
    - So that they would not fully trust in their labor for tomorrow's provisions.
    - So that they would show submission to the Lord's wisdom.
    - So that they would be protected from abundance and covetousness.
    - Ultimately all of our possessions are God's, not ours.
      - Practicing these things will help us trust and rest in the Lord. Jesus and His faithfulness will become more sweet to us and we will grow in our faith.
- Other facts about the Sabbath Year....
  - The poor and the animals would eat of the fields during the Sabbath Year (Exodus 23:11). This would remind the people of the condition of the poor and remind them of the faithfulness of God to the poor, reminding them that God is faithful and good to all.
  - If the people refused to give the land its Sabbath rest, the Lord would send the people out of the land so that it would receive its rest (Leviticus 26:34-35).
  - During the Feast of the Tabernacles, during the Seventh Year, the Law was to be read to all the people by the priests (Deuteronomy 31:9-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8).
- The Year of Jubilee: Leviticus 25:8-17
  - Jubilee in Hebrew means “Ram horn”. On the Day of Atonement, in the fiftieth year, the “Ram Horn” would be blown to start the year of universal redemption.
  - The Year of Jubilee was a release from all indebtedness and bondage. All prisoners and captives were set free, all slaves were set free, all debts were forgiven, and all property was returned to its original owners. Labor was supposed to cease for one year.
  - The return of the land to its original owners every 50 years reminded the people that the land was ultimately God's and this also kept certain tribes and clans from remaining forever poor. It also reminded them that the promised land was not their eternal dwelling place.
  - During this time frame when the Law was given, the people had not yet entered the promised land. During this time period (Exodus 19 - Numbers 10) Israel was camped at Mt. Sinai.
- Christ fulfilled the Sabbath and the Year of Jubilee:
  - Christ has set free those who were slaves to sin, death, and the Devil (Romans 8:2; Galatians 5:1; Galatians 3:22; Romans 6:19; Hebrews 2:14-15).
  - The debt of sin we owe to God was paid by Christ on the cross (Colossians 2:13-14).
  - We have ceased our labor in trying to make ourselves acceptable to God by our works because of the work of Christ (Hebrews 4:9-10). We now truly have spiritual rest in Christ (Matthew 11:28-30).
  - Christ's atonement is the means to our freedom (Leviticus 25:9-10). Our reconciliation with God gives us the freedom to walk in obedience to Him (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).