

Christ in the Special Years of Rest and Release

Leviticus 25



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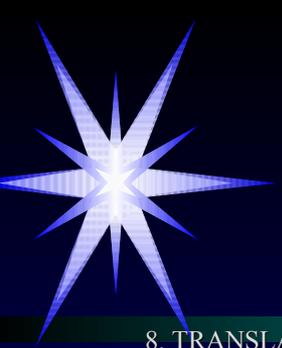
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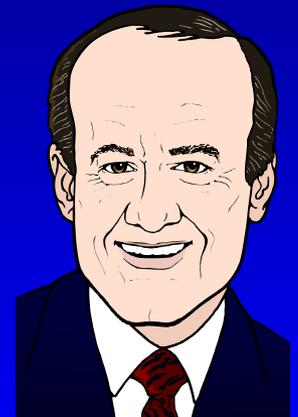
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Rescue from Drudgery

I'm tired of working long hours to get ahead. Where will I be at the end anyway?

The Bible shows where our work should be heading.





Outline of Leviticus

- I. The sacrifices (1-7)
- II. Consecrating the priests (8-10)
- III. Uncleanness and its remedy (11-16)
- IV. ~~Maintaining holiness (17-27)~~**



Areas for Maintaining Holiness

Abstain from blood, 17

Sexual abominations of the nations, 18

Holiness in life, 19

Punishments for abominations, 20

Priests' life, 21-22

The great feasts, 23

Holy supplies and holy name, 24

The sabbath and jubilee years, 25

Blessings and curses, 26

Exchanging vowed items, 27



God's Pattern for Years

Leviticus 25:

The year of rest (sabbath) 25:1-7

The year of jubilee 25:8-55

Counting the years 25:8-12

Principle: return property 25:13

Sell based on jubilee 25:14-24

Right of redeeming land 25:25-34

Kindness to the poor 25:35-38

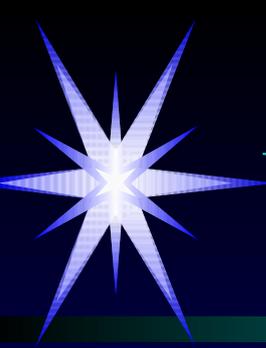
No enslavement of Israel 25:39-55



A. Why a “Sabbath” Year?

I thought
a “sabbath”
was always
the seventh day.





What Is “Sabbath”?

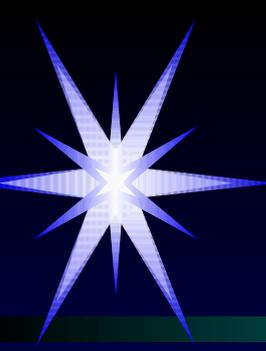
Hebrew has a verb “shabat” meaning “cease,” especially used to describe resting from labor:

Hebrew:
shabat

“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he **rested** from all the work of ~~creating~~ that he had done” (Gen. 2:3).

A pattern!





Sabbath Is Rest from Labor

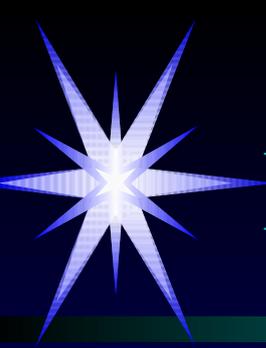
Shabat = “to rest”



“Sabbath” = time of rest

So that's
the meaning!





Implications of “Sabbath”

“Sabbath” is a time of resting from labor.

It imitates God’s rest.

It occurs in a pattern of 1 in 7.

The sabbath is holy, dedicated to God’s glory.

The “sabbath” times can occur in a number of forms.



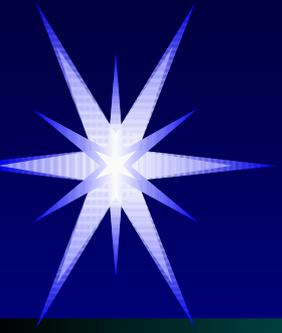
Forms of “Sabbath”

Weekly sabbath (Exod. 20:8-11)

The day of atonement (Lev. 16:31)

The seventh month as month
celebrating rest (Lev. 23:23)

The “sabbath” year: a year of resting
from labor



B. Meaning of Sabbath Years

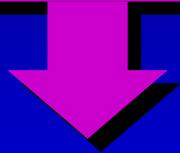


Regulations for Sabbath Year

**Land rests
(Lev. 25:4-5)**

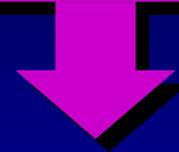


**Farmers' relief
from toil**

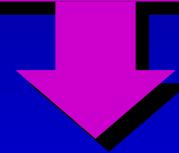


**Relief from
burdensome labor**

**Debts canceled
(Deut. 15:1-11)**



**Relief
from debt**



**Relief from poverty:
unsuccessful labor**



Promises for Sabbath Years

Relief from toil

**Promise of
abundant crop
(Lev. 25:21)**

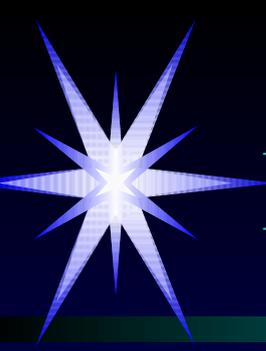
Relief from poverty

**Promise of
riches
(Deut. 15:4-6)**

God's blessings for obedience

Not by
chance.





Blessings Overcome Curses

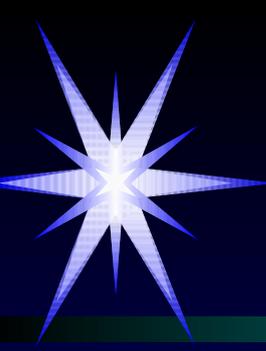
**Promise of
abundant crop
(Lev. 25:21)**

**Promise of
riches
(Deut. 15:4-6)**

Overcomes

**Curse
on ground
Gen. 3:17**

**Burden
on work
Gen. 3:17,19**



Sabbath Years Look Forward

|1|2|3|4|5|6|7|

7th year is a climax

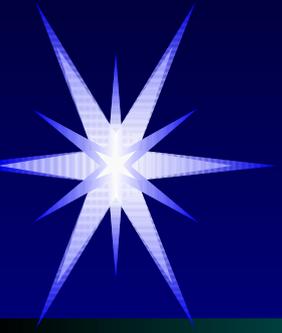
every year's
blessing

special
blessing
of 7th year

maximal
blessing
in the future

So how does
it fit us?





C. Meaning of Jubilee



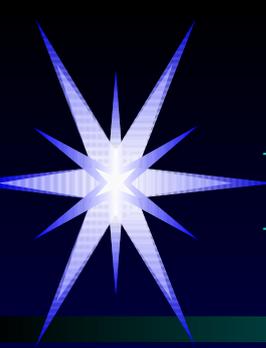
When Is the Jubilee?

Count 7 X 7 or 49 years (25:8)

“the fiftieth year” is for liberty (25:10)

50th year includes rest for land (25:11)

But the 49th year would be a sabbath year.
So do we have two sabbaths in a row?



How Do Israelites Count?

“On the third day he will be raised to life!”
(Matt. 20:19)

Friday
crucifixion

1

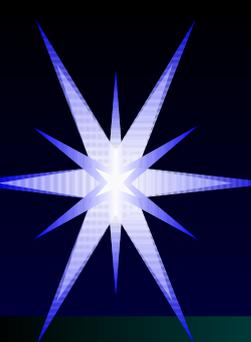
Saturday
grave

2

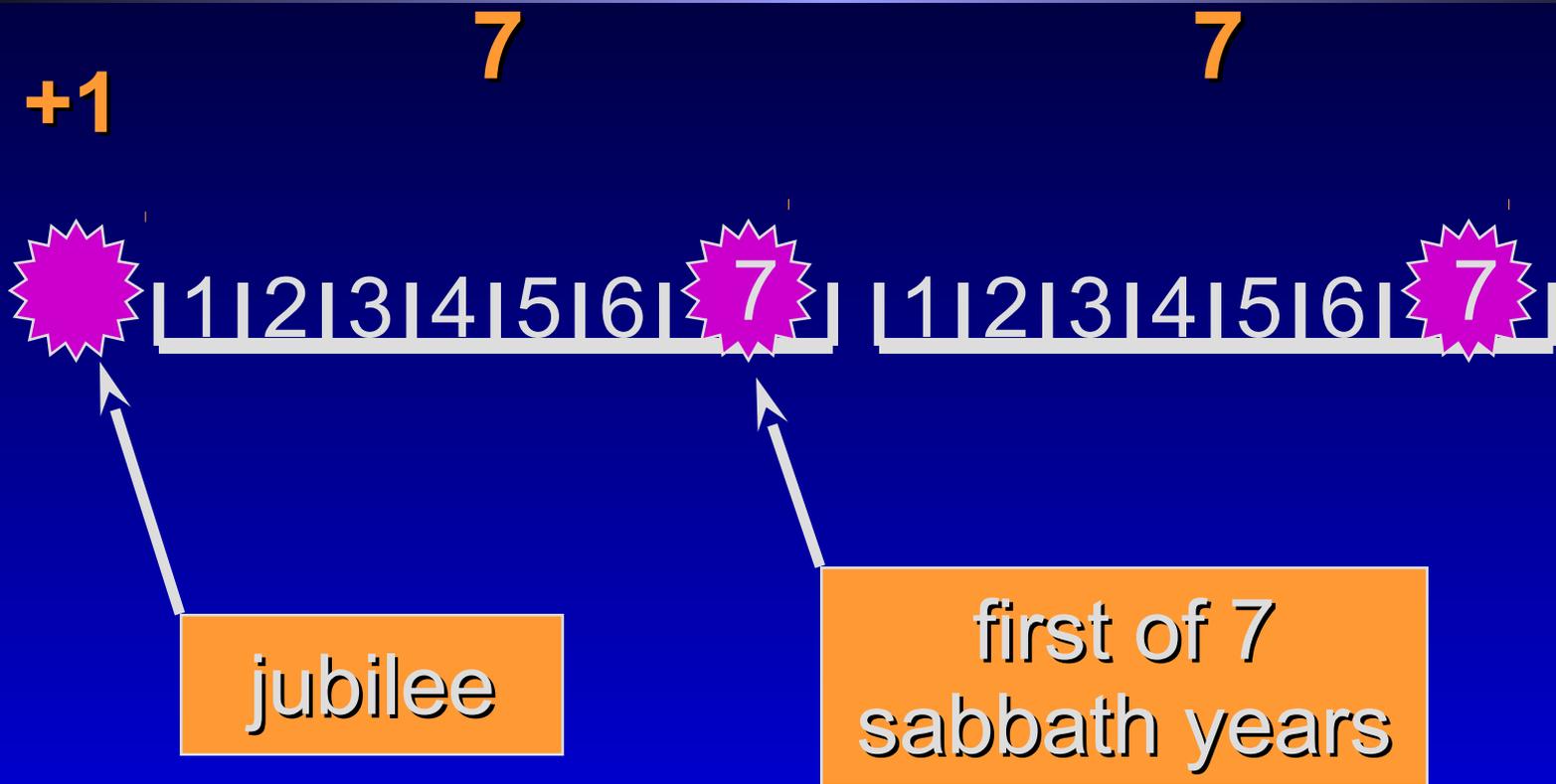
Sunday
resurrection

3

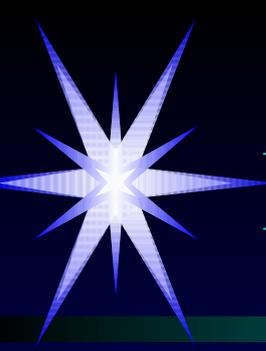
Begin your count on the patterned day
(not on the next day after it).



50th Is Sabbath of Sabbaths

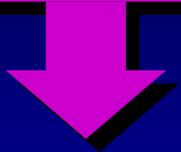


Next jubilee is 50th year, counting from jubilee = 1



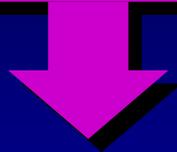
Regulations for Jubilee (Lev. 25)

**Land rests
(25:11)**



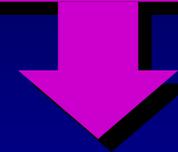
**Relief
from toil**

**Land returns
(25:14-24)**



**Restoration
of power**

**Release slaves
(25:39-43)**



Freedom



Meaning of Jubilee

The Year of Jubilee is a “giant-sized” sabbath year. It includes

rest from toil

major relief from debt, loss

major relief from slavery and bondage

It imitates the Exodus, Lev. 25:42

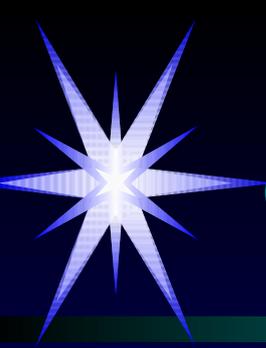
It is based on God’s blessing, Lev. 25:43

Lev. 25:55



God's Reasons

“Even if he is not redeemed in any of these ways, he and his children are to be released in the Year of Jubilee, for the Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 25:54-55).



God's Final Plans

Deliverance
from Egypt

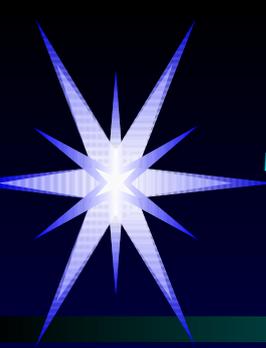


Final Deliverance
from sin and death
in Christ
(1 Cor. 15)

Sabbath
rest



Final Rest
in God's
completed work
in Christ (Heb. 4)



Times of Rest (Lev. 25)



7th day is climax



7th month is climax



7th year is climax



50th year is climax



10 jubilees lead to consummation (Dan. 9)



Final Jubilee in Daniel 9:24-27

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy” (Daniel 9:24).

10 jubilees lead
to consummation