

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. 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. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants.  
(Lev 25:8-10 NKJV)

# Sabbatical & Jubilee Analysis

## Part 1

### How To Count The Cycle

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## Table of Contents

|                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Sabbatical and Jubilee Analysis Part 1 - How to count the cycle.....                        | 2  |
| Background .....                                                                            | 2  |
| Scope .....                                                                                 | 2  |
| Analysis .....                                                                              | 2  |
| Examine the scriptures.....                                                                 | 2  |
| Instructions Given – administrative rules for the Land Sabbath and Jubilee.....             | 4  |
| Produce for 3 Years .....                                                                   | 8  |
| How is the Jubilee reconciled - in a 49 or 50 year repeating cycle? .....                   | 9  |
| Method 1 – Jubilee is concurrent with year 49 of current cycle .....                        | 9  |
| Method 2 – Jubilee is concurrent with year 1 of next cycle .....                            | 10 |
| Method 3 – Jubilee is split .....                                                           | 11 |
| Method 4 – Jubilee is 50 <sup>th</sup> year – Intercalated Count.....                       | 12 |
| Is the Jubilee an intercalation with the 49 year land Sabbath cycle? External Sources ..... | 12 |
| Bible References.....                                                                       | 14 |
| Conclusion.....                                                                             | 16 |
| <br>                                                                                        |    |
| Figure 1 - Biblical Calendar .....                                                          | 5  |
| Figure 2 - Produce for 3 years.....                                                         | 8  |
| Figure 3 - Jubilee Concurrent with 49th Year .....                                          | 9  |
| Figure 4 - Jubilee Stacked in Year 1 of New Cycle.....                                      | 10 |
| Figure 5 - Jubilee Split on Year 7 and Year 1 .....                                         | 11 |
| Figure 6 - Jubilee Intercalated .....                                                       | 12 |
| Figure 7 - Sabbatical & Jubilee Cycle .....                                                 | 16 |

# Sabbatical and Jubilee Analysis

## Part 1 - How to count the cycle

### Background

The Bible provides agricultural and property directives for observing the Sabbatical Land Sabbath and Jubilee along with the timetable for their observance. The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew Yovel or Yobale (H3106) and means blast of the horn. Also see the root H2986 which means to flow or bring forth. After researching this topic, it is apparent there are wide variations regarding the implementation of these practices. It is assumed in this research paper that the directive to keep the Sabbatical (Land Sabbath) and Jubilee remains in affect. It is also assumed that the term "Land Sabbath" is used interchangeably with "Sabbatical" or "Sabbatical Year". Today, there are practical limitations and obstacles in the society regarding the forgiving of debt or the return of property to an original family owner. This paper is not intended to focus on the societal implications, mechanics of implementation, best farming practices or the do's and don'ts of the Biblical instructions.

This document limits the scope of analysis to determine precisely how the Sabbatical and Jubilee cycle is counted. The primary question this paper will answer is how does the timetable of the Jubilee year reconcile with the timetable of the Sabbatical cycle?

- Is the Jubilee year included in the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the current Sabbatical cycle?
- Is the Jubilee year included in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the next 7 year Sabbatical count?
- Is the Jubilee year a separate 50<sup>th</sup> year?

From the conclusion of this Part 1 analysis, you will be prepared to study Part 2 that focuses on the historical record and correct calendar dates to observe the Sabbatical (Land Sabbath) and Jubilee. Let's get started.

### Scope

1. Examine the scriptures that provide instructions for the Sabbatical and Jubilee.
2. Determine if the instructions specify a 49 or 50 year repeating cycle and how is the Jubilee reconciled within the schedule.
3. Determine if the Jubilee is an intercalation with the 49 year Land Sabbath cycle.

### Analysis

#### Examine the scriptures

We will start with the complete instruction to observe the Land Sabbath and Jubilee.

Lev 25:1-23 (NKJV) *And YHWH 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 YHWH.*

(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 YHWH. 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.*
- (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.*
- (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.*
- (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.*
- (12) *For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.*
- (13) *In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession.*
- (14) *And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress one another.*
- (15) *According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you.*
- (16) *According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the crops.*
- (17) *Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your Elohim; for I am YHWH your Elohim.*
- (18) *'So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety.*
- (19) *Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety.*
- (20) *And if you say, What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?*
- (21) *Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years.*
- (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.*

(23) *The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.*

(25) And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

## Instructions Given – administrative rules for the Land Sabbath and Jubilee

1. Keep a Land Sabbath - **Lev 25:2 (NKJV)** - *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 YHWH.*
2. Sow, prune and reap for 6 years (6 full year agriculture cycles) - **Lev 25:3** - *Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit;*

The word "years or year" is H8141 = *shaw-neh'* = a year, as a revolution of time. Every occurrence of "years or year" in Lev 25 references H8141. The reference means a full calendar year.

Notice the cycle starts with sow and ends with reap (prune or gather). Each of the six years of harvest follows this cycle. The sowing cycle in OT Israel always started in October-November timeframe (Babylonian names - Keshvan and Kislev on the Biblical calendar – see Figure 1). This is describing an agricultural cycle that starts in the fall months of the Biblical calendar and finishes 6-10 months later in the spring and summer months of the following Gregorian year. Said another way, using the Biblical calendar, sowing takes place in months 8 -10 and harvesting takes place in months 1 - 6 the following spring-summer.

- Beginning of the Year  
Ez 40:1 references "*the beginning of the year on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month*". This would be the Day of Atonement, or the 10<sup>th</sup> of Ethanim. The word "beginning" is the Hebrew word "roshe" (H7218). The word "year" is the Hebrew word "shawneh" and combined as in Rosh Hashanah, commonly known as the Feast of Trumpets. This sets the head or beginning of the year as Ethanim day 1. There is no other scriptural reference for the beginning of the year.

Both **Ex 23:16 and Ex 34:22 (KJV)** reference the Feast of Tabernacles (Ethanim 15-22) as being "in the end of the year" and "at years end" respectively. The Hebrew Roots Bible better translates these two verses as "the going out of the year" and "after the turn of the year". In Ex 23:16, the Hebrew word for "end" is "yawtsaw" (H3318) and means to go out, go forth, come forth or appear. The word "end" in Ex 34:22 is from the Hebrew "tequphah" (H8622) and means a complete cycle or revolution of the sun. The Hebrew Roots Bible translates these verses as "at the going out of the year" and "after the turn of the year". This is referring to the cycle of the old year going out and the new year coming in. The Feast of Tabernacles is the festival at which the harvest is celebrated. The preparation and planting of next year's harvest would commence immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles.

- Beginning of months  
*This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year.* (Ex 12:2 HCSB)  
The word "beginning" is the same Hebrew word "roshe" used in Ez 40:1. It means the head of months (new moons) or "roshe khodesh".

The Biblical calendar numbers the months starting in the middle of the year (agriculture cycle). The 1<sup>st</sup> month (Abib) comes in the middle of the year.

Notice the Hebrew Roots Bible translation:

*And you shall observe a Feast of Weeks for yourself, the first-fruits of the harvest of wheat; also the Feast of Ingathering after the turn of the year. (Ex 34:22 HRB)*

There is zero scriptural evidence for 2 separate calendars; one for a civil year (starting in Ethanin) and one for a sacred year (starting in Abib). This is a manmade distinction not supported by scripture. There is no scripture that states the new year starts with Abib. More specifically, Abib is referred to as the beginning of months (not the new year as we think of January on the Gregorian calendar). In other words, month number one is Abib, not the new year. The Gregorian calendar has conditioned us to correlate the new year with the first month (January). This custom has been carried over to YHWY's calendar but simply has no basis.

The biblical agricultural/farming calendar cycle offsets the numbering of the months by 7 months. The new year starts in Ethanin with the time of sowing after the FOT. As we will see below, the agricultural/farming/Jubilee cycle is marked by The Blowing of a Trumpet at Atonement. See item 7, Lev 25:9.

| Biblical Calendar     |             |                 |                |                                                                    |                                  |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number of month       | Hebrew Name | Babylonian Name | Gregorian Name |                                                                    |                                  |
| 7<br>Roshe<br>Shawneh | Ethanin     | Tishri          | Sep-Oct        | <b>Beginning of Year</b><br>Sabbatical and<br>Jubilee cycle starts | Ex 23:16<br>Ex 34:22<br>Lev 25:9 |
| 8                     | Bul         | Kheshvan        | Oct-Nov        |                                                                    | Start<br>Sowing                  |
| 9                     | 9th         | Kislev          | Nov-Dec        |                                                                    | Sowing                           |
| 10                    | 10th        | Tevet           | Dec-Jan        |                                                                    | Sowing                           |
| 11                    | 11th        | Shevat          | Jan-Feb        |                                                                    | Sowing                           |
| 12                    | 12th        | Adar            | Feb-Mar        |                                                                    |                                  |
| 13 *                  | 13th        | Adar II         | Mar-Apr        | *** as necessary                                                   |                                  |
| 1<br>Roshe<br>Khodesh | Abib        | Nisan           | Mar-Apr        | <b>Beginning of months</b>                                         | Ex 12:2<br>Start<br>Reaping      |
| 2                     | Ziv         | Iyyar           | Apr-May        |                                                                    | Reaping                          |
| 3                     | 3rd         | Sivan           | May-Jun        |                                                                    | Reaping                          |
| 4                     | 4th         | Tammuz          | Jun-Jul        |                                                                    | Reaping                          |
| 5                     | 5th         | Av              | Jul-Aug        |                                                                    | Reaping                          |
| 6                     | 6th         | Elul            | Aug-Sep        |                                                                    | Reaping                          |

Figure 1 - Biblical Calendar

- Do not sow or prune in the 7<sup>th</sup> year, rest - **Lev 25:4 (NKJV)** - *but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to YHWH. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.*
- Cannot harvest or sell volunteers (for profit or income) - **Lev 25:5** - *What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine (unpruned), for it is a year of rest for the land.*  
Reading this verse as a standalone statement seems to indicate that volunteers are not to be harvested for personal consumption. This is in contrast to Lev 25:6 below that states "*the sabbath produce from the land shall be food for you*".

This apparent contradiction is reconciled by examining **Lev 25:20 (KJV)** - *And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase.*

The key to understanding the context of Lev 25:5 is found in Lev 25:20 above. The word "increase" means income = H8393 = tebooaw = income, produce, fruit, gain, increase or revenue.

We are not to harvest and sell volunteers as income. Keep in mind this was an agrarian based economy and the annual harvest was the primary industry in the society. It is clear that Lev 25:6 below condones the private use of a volunteer crop.

5. Spontaneous yield is eatable - **Lev 25:6 (NKJV)** - *And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food (meat in KJV) for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you.*

Food (meat) = H402 = consume, devour, eat, food, meat

6. Count 7 cycles of 7 Land Sabbaths, or 49 years - **Lev 25:8 (NKJV)** - *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.*
7. The Jubilee is counted starting from the Day of Atonement. Logically, the 7<sup>th</sup> Land Sabbath cycle of 7 years completes and the Jubilee begins on this day. The Jubilee marks the beginning of the 50<sup>th</sup> (agricultural) year. **Lev 25:9** - *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.*

The word Jubilee is **H3104** = *yo-bale* = the blast of a horn from its continuous sound, the signal of the silver trumpets, hence the instrument itself and the festival thus introduced, ram's horn, trumpet.

8. Consecrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year. **Lev 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.*

The word consecrate is **H6942** = *kaw-dash* = pronounce, observe, clean (ceremonially or morally), appoint, dedicate, hallow, keep holy, proclaim, purify, sanctify.

The 50<sup>th</sup> agricultural year is to be proclaimed as holy and set apart as distinctive.

9. Do not sow or reap (harvest) volunteers on the 50<sup>th</sup> agricultural year. **Lev 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.*

This instruction specifies 3 requisites:

- No sowing
- No reaping (for harvest) of volunteers
- No harvest of your untended (unpruned) vine

The word "years or year" is **H8141** = *shaw-neh* = a year, as a revolution of time. Every occurrence of "years or year" in Lev 25 references is H8141. The reference means a full calendar year.

10. The Jubilee is holy, you can eat the volunteer produce directly from the field.  
**Lev 25:12** - *For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.*

The word "holy" is **H6944** = *ko'-desh* = From H6942 above, a *sacred* place or thing, consecrated, dedicated, hallowed.

This provides additional emphasis regarding the sanctity of the 50<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee. YHWH says the Jubilee is holy to you (us). He makes it holy, we do not.

11. Follow (do) my statutes. **Lev 25:18-19** - *So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. (19) Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety.*

The word "judgments" is **H4941** = *mish-pawt* = verdict, divine law, individual or collectively. As an extra benefit notice YHWH's promise of security and safety in the land.

12. There is no food harvest (for revenue) in agricultural year 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, or 49 (nor during the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee) – See Lev 25:4 and Lev 25:11.

Lev 25:20-22 NKJV - *And if you say, "What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?" (21) Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years. (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.*

- Year 1 of 3 – the 7<sup>th</sup> year (Sabbatical - Land Sabbath)
- Year 2 of 3 – the 8<sup>th</sup> year
- Year 3 of 3 – the 9<sup>th</sup> year (until the 8<sup>th</sup> year harvest is complete, immediately after Feast of Tabernacles)

Some commentaries presumed these verses apply to the 50<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee cycle, since the scriptures promises a 6<sup>th</sup> year harvest that will last for 3 years. A careful reading of this scripture states that you can sow in the 8<sup>th</sup> year. If the 8<sup>th</sup> year is in fact the Jubilee, no sowing would be permitted (see Lev 25:11). As a result, the instructions given in Lev 25:20-22 are specifically referring to the 7<sup>th</sup> year Sabbatical (land Sabbath). This would include Land Sabbath years 7, 14, 21, 28, 35 and 42.

Please notice the context of the verses prior to Lev 25:20 are focused on the property release of the Jubilee, not food production. Lev 25:20 starts a new topic and the question being asked is "what shall we eat in the 7<sup>th</sup> year"? Not the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, not the 8<sup>th</sup>, just the 7<sup>th</sup> year. This verse is providing guidance how to prepare for the 7<sup>th</sup> year Land Sabbath.

This scripture is providing the instructions how to prepare for the 7<sup>th</sup> year Land Sabbath by storing up the harvest in year 6. Notice in Lev 25:21, in the 6<sup>th</sup> year, YHWH promises sufficient produce to last 3 years.

From this verse, it is stated "you shall sow in the 8<sup>th</sup> year". It should also be noted that you do not sow or reap during the 7<sup>th</sup> year Land Sabbath (Sabbatical). But you would sow immediately after the 7<sup>th</sup> year Land Sabbath, which is complete after the Feast of Tabernacles. After the Feast of Tabernacles, the agricultural 8<sup>th</sup> year starts and you would sow your crops. The crops would mature during the 8<sup>th</sup> year and you would continue to eat the old harvest from year 6 as specified. When the 9<sup>th</sup> year



starts, you will finish harvesting/storing the 8<sup>th</sup> year crops and there will be no more need to rely on the 6<sup>th</sup> year crop.

The main reason the sowing schedule in Lev 25:21-22 does not apply to the Jubilee is found in the instruction to "sow in the 8<sup>th</sup> year". The 8<sup>th</sup> year is a reference to the year after a 7<sup>th</sup> year Land Sabbath and is applicable for the first 6 Land Sabbath cycles (years 7, 14, 21, 28, 35 and 42). When the 7<sup>th</sup> Land Sabbath cycle is followed by the Jubilee (effectively year 8), sowing and reaping are prohibited during the Sabbatical (Land Sabbath) and the Jubilee years (years 7 and 8). We are clearly instructed not to sow or reap during the Jubilee year per Lev 25:11. With this interpretation, the 8<sup>th</sup> year referenced in Lev 25:21-22 could not be the Jubilee year since Lev 25:11 specifically forbids sowing and reaping during the Jubilee year.

Lev 25:11 - *The fiftieth year will be your Jubilee; you are not to sow, reap what grows by itself, or harvest its untended vines.*

## Produce for 3 Years

The following timeline shows the application of Lev 25:20-22.

| <b>Produce for 3 Years<br/>Land Sabbath Only</b> |                                   |                  |                                              |         |                                                            |      |                                                                  |      |                                    |      |             |      |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|-------------|------|--|
|                                                  | Tishri<br>↓                       |                  | Tishri<br>↓                                  |         | Tishri<br>↓                                                |      | Tishri<br>↓                                                      |      | Tishri<br>↓                        |      | Tishri<br>↓ |      |  |
| <b>50 Yr Cycle Count</b>                         | Year 6<br>(or 13, 20, 27, 34, 41) |                  | Year 7<br>(or 14, 21, 28, 35, 42)            |         | Year 8<br>(or 15, 22, 29, 36, 43)                          |      | Year 9<br>(or 16, 23, 30, 37, 44)                                |      | Year 10                            |      | Year 11     |      |  |
| <b>7 Yr Cycle Count</b>                          | 6 <sup>th</sup> year              |                  | 7 <sup>th</sup> year<br><b>Land Sabbath</b>  |         | 8 <sup>th</sup> year<br>1 <sup>st</sup> year<br>Next cycle |      | 9 <sup>th</sup> year<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> year<br>Next cycle       |      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year<br>Next cycle |      |             |      |  |
| <b>Sow and Reap Schedule</b>                     | Sow<br>Oct-Nov                    | Reap<br>Apr-Sept | No Sow                                       | No Reap | Sow                                                        | Reap | Sow                                                              | Reap | Sow                                | Reap | Sow         | Reap |  |
| <b>Lev 25: 21-22</b>                             | Reap for 3 years                  |                  | <b>1 of 3&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b><br>old harvest |         | <b>2 of 3&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b><br>old harvest               |      | <b>3 of 3&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b><br>Old harvest until crop comes in |      |                                    |      |             |      |  |
| <b>Produce for 3 yrs</b>                         | 6 <sup>th</sup> year              |                  | 7 <sup>th</sup> year                         |         | Sow 8 <sup>th</sup> year<br>8 <sup>th</sup> year           |      | <<<9 <sup>th</sup> yr.                                           |      |                                    |      |             |      |  |
|                                                  | ^                                 |                  | ^                                            |         | ^                                                          |      | ^                                                                |      | ^                                  |      | ^           |      |  |
|                                                  | Atonement                         |                  | Atonement                                    |         | Atonement                                                  |      | Atonement                                                        |      | Atonement                          |      | Atonement   |      |  |

Figure 2 - Produce for 3 years

LS = Land Sabbath

Sow = Planting after FOT (Oct-Nov timeframe, Kheshvan and Kislev on Hebrew calendar)

Reap = Harvest starting in Abib (Apr-Sept)

## How is the Jubilee reconciled - in a 49 or 50 year repeating cycle?

A thorough research on this topic reveals 4 potential alternative methods of reconciling the Jubilee with the 49 year Land Sabbath cycle. Other methods of reconciliation were discovered, however their basis were all non-biblically based calculations and not considered in this paper.

### Method 1 – Jubilee is concurrent with year 49 of current cycle

Jubilee is stacked with the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the current 49 year cycle. There is no separate 50<sup>th</sup> year.

|                       |      |                       |      |                                                                                          |         |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
|                       |      | Tishri<br>↓           |      | Tishri<br>↓                                                                              |         | Tishri<br>↓       |      | Tishri<br>↓       |      | Tishri<br>↓       |      |
| Year 5 of 7           |      | Year 6 of 7           |      | Year 7 of 7<br><b>Land Sabbath</b>                                                       |         | Year 1 of 7       |      | Year 2 of 7       |      | Year 3 of 7       |      |
| Sow                   | Reap | Sow                   | Reap | No Sow                                                                                   | No Reap | Sow               | Reap | Sow               | Reap | Sow               | Reap |
|                       |      |                       |      | <b>Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> year) stacked with 49<sup>th</sup> year of current cycle</b> |         |                   |      |                   |      |                   |      |
| Year 47 Current Cycle |      | Year 48 Current Cycle |      | Year 49 Current Cycle                                                                    |         | Year 1 Next Cycle |      | Year 2 Next Cycle |      | Year 3 Next Cycle |      |

Figure 3 - Jubilee Concurrent with 49th Year

#### Problem

1. Year 49 and 50 are counted as the same year.
2. The instructions call for 7 Sabbaths of years, seven times 7 years. The time should equal 49 years. Lev 25:8
3. Then you shall sound the Trumpet on the Day of Atonement and sanctify or make holy the 50<sup>th</sup> year. The 50<sup>th</sup> year shall be a Jubilee. Lev 25:9-11
4. There is no scriptural evidence to support the concurrent counting of the Land Sabbath (Sabbatical) and Jubilee. The instructions tell us to count the 49 years, then sanctify the 50<sup>th</sup> year.
5. In this reckoning, the 49<sup>th</sup> year would be virtually sanctified by the 50<sup>th</sup> year overlap. The scriptural instructions do not support this method of reconciliation.

## Method 2 – Jubilee is concurrent with year 1 of next cycle

Jubilee is stacked with the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the next 49 year cycle. There is no separate 50<sup>th</sup> year.

|                             |      |                             |      |                                    |         |                                                                                      |         |                         |      |                         |      |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
|                             |      | Tishri<br>↓                 |      | Tishri<br>↓                        |         | Tishri<br>↓                                                                          |         | Tishri<br>↓             |      | Tishri<br>↓             |      |
| Year 5 of 7                 |      | Year 6 of 7                 |      | Year 7 of 7<br><b>Land Sabbath</b> |         | Year 1 of 7                                                                          |         | Year 2 of 7             |      | Year 3 of 7             |      |
| Sow                         | Reap | Sow                         | Reap | No Sow                             | No Reap | No Sow                                                                               | No Reap | Sow                     | Reap | Sow                     | Reap |
|                             |      |                             |      |                                    |         | <b>Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> year) stacked with 1<sup>st</sup> year of next cycle</b> |         |                         |      |                         |      |
| Year 47<br>Current<br>Cycle |      | Year 48<br>Current<br>Cycle |      | Year 49<br>Current<br>Cycle        |         | Year 1<br>Next<br>Cycle                                                              |         | Year 2<br>Next<br>Cycle |      | Year 3<br>Next<br>Cycle |      |

Figure 4 - Jubilee Stacked in Year 1 of New Cycle

### Problem

1. Year 1 and 50 are counted as the same year.
2. The instructions call for 7 Sabbaths of years, seven times 7 years. The time should equal 49 years. Lev 25:8
3. Then you shall sound the Trumpet on the Day of Atonement and sanctify or make holy the 50<sup>th</sup> year. The 50<sup>th</sup> year shall be a Jubilee. Lev 25:9-11
4. There is no scriptural evidence to support the concurrent counting of the Land Sabbath (Sabbatical) and Jubilee. The instructions tell us to count the 49 years, then sanctify the 50<sup>th</sup> year. There is no instruction to include the 50<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee with the 1<sup>st</sup> year count of the next cycle.
5. The instructions in Lev 25:3-4 call for 6 years of sowing and 6 years of planting, and then during the 7<sup>th</sup> year you have a Land Sabbath. The instructions in Lev 25:11 also call for no sowing or reaping during the Jubilee year. In Method 2, the Jubilee falls on year 1 of 7 of the next Land Sabbath (Sabbatical) cycle. As a result, there would be no sowing and no reaping on this Jubilee year. Therefore, sowing and reaping would be limited to 5 years of this cycle, not 6 as Lev 25:3 commands.
6. In this reckoning, the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the next land Sabbath cycle would be virtually sanctified by the 50<sup>th</sup> year overlap. The scriptural instructions do not support this method of reconciliation

### Method 3 – Jubilee is split

Jubilee splits the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the current cycle with the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the next cycle and is counted as year 50. Half of year 49 and half of year 1 are combined and called year 50. There is no separate 50<sup>th</sup> year.

- Abib to Abib calendar is used to determine the Jubilee
- Tishri to Tishri calendar is used to determine the Land Sabbath (Sabbatical)

|                             |      |                             |      |                                                                                                                          |         |                         |      |                         |      |                         |      |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Tishri                      |      | Tishri                      |      | Tishri                                                                                                                   |         | Tishri                  |      | Tishri                  |      |                         |      |
| ↓                           |      | ↓                           |      | ↓                                                                                                                        |         | ↓                       |      | ↓                       |      |                         |      |
|                             |      |                             |      | Abib                                                                                                                     |         | Abib                    |      |                         |      |                         |      |
|                             |      |                             |      | ↓                                                                                                                        |         | ↓                       |      |                         |      |                         |      |
| Year 5 of 7                 |      | Year 6 of 7                 |      | Year 7 of 7<br><b>Land Sabbath</b>                                                                                       |         | Year 1 of 7             |      | Year 2 of 7             |      | Year 3 of 7             |      |
| Sow                         | Reap | Sow                         | Reap | No Sow                                                                                                                   | No Reap | No Sow                  | Reap | Sow                     | Reap | Sow                     | Reap |
|                             |      |                             |      | <b>Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> year) Splits 7<sup>th</sup> year of current cycle with 1<sup>st</sup> year of next cycle</b> |         |                         |      |                         |      |                         |      |
| Year 47<br>Current<br>Cycle |      | Year 48<br>Current<br>Cycle |      | Year 49<br>Current<br>Cycle                                                                                              |         | Year 1<br>Next<br>Cycle |      | Year 2<br>Next<br>Cycle |      | Year 3<br>Next<br>Cycle |      |

Figure 5 - Jubilee Split on Year 7 and Year 1

#### Problem

1. The instructions call for 7 Sabbaths of years, seven times 7 years. The time should equal 49 years. Lev 25:8
2. Then you shall sound the Trumpet on the Day of Atonement and sanctify or make holy the 50<sup>th</sup> year. The 50<sup>th</sup> year shall be a Jubilee. Lev 25:9-11
3. In Method 3, the Jubilee is marked, and the trumpet blown during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the month of Abib. The instructions in Lev 25:9 tell us to blow the trumpet specifically on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month on the Day of Atonement.
4. There is no scriptural evidence to support the split accounting of the Land Sabbath (Sabbatical) and Jubilee. The instructions tell us to count the 49 years, then sanctify the 50<sup>th</sup> year.
5. The instructions in Lev 25:3-4 call for 6 years of sowing and 6 years of planting, and then during the 7<sup>th</sup> year you have a Land Sabbath. The instructions in Lev 25:11 also call for no sowing or reaping during the Jubilee year. In Method 3, the Jubilee falls on the sowing half of year 1 of 7, of the next cycle Land Sabbath (Sabbatical) cycle. Therefore, sowing and reaping would be limited to 5 years of this cycle, not 6 as Lev 25:3 commands.

## Method 4 – Jubilee is 50<sup>th</sup> year – Intercalated Count

The Jubilee is the 50<sup>th</sup> year and follows the 49<sup>th</sup> year Land Sabbath. The Year following the Jubilee is year 1 of the next 7 year Land Sabbath cycle (51<sup>st</sup> year counting from the Jubilee).

| Tishri ↓                    |      | Tishri ↓                    |      | Tishri ↓                           |         | Tishri ↓                                           |         | Tishri ↓                |      |                         |      |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Year 5 of 7                 |      | Year 6 of 7                 |      | Year 7 of 7<br><b>Land Sabbath</b> |         |                                                    |         | Year 1 of 7             |      | Year 2 of 7             |      |
| Sow                         | Reap | Sow                         | Reap | No Sow                             | No Reap | No Sow                                             | No Reap | Sow                     | Reap | Sow                     | Reap |
|                             |      |                             |      |                                    |         | <b>Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> year) Intercalated</b> |         |                         |      |                         |      |
| Year 47<br>Current<br>Cycle |      | Year 48<br>Current<br>Cycle |      | Year 49<br>Current<br>Cycle        |         | Year 50<br>Current<br>Cycle                        |         | Year 1<br>Next<br>Cycle |      | Year 2<br>Next<br>Cycle |      |

Figure 6 - Jubilee Intercalated

Problem

1. None. The scriptures support this method of reconciliation.

## Is the Jubilee an intercalation with the 49 year land Sabbath cycle?

### External Sources

1. The Sedar Olam Rabbah, the ancient 2nd century Jewish chronology, the oldest work on the subject, states plainly that the Jubilee cycles were a full 50 years. (Sedar Olam Rabbah, ch. 11, translated by Ken Johnson, PhD., p. 61)
2. "Let us inquire, further, why there are one hundred and fifty psalms. That the number fifty is sacred, is manifest from the days of the celebrated festival of Pentecost, which indicates release from labors, and (the possession of) joy. For which reason neither fasting nor bending the knee is decreed for those days. For this is a symbol of the great assembly that is reserved for future times. Of which times there was a shadow in the land of Israel in the year called among the Hebrews "Jobel" (Jubilee) which is the fiftieth year in number, and brings with it liberty for the slave, and release from debt, and the like. ... Thus, then, it was also meet that the hymns to God on account of the destruction of enemies, and in thanksgiving for the goodness of God, should contain not simply one set of fifty, but three such, for the name of Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit. The number fifty, moreover, contains seven sevens, or a Sabbath of Sabbaths; and also over and above these full Sabbaths, a new beginning, in the eight, of a really new rest that remains above the Sabbaths." - Hippolytus, Commentary on Psalms
3. Fifty and Forty-nine-Year Cycles - There is a difference of opinion in the Talmud as to whether the Jubilee year was included in or excluded from the forty-nine years of the seven cycles. The majority of rabbis hold that the Jubilee year was an intercalation, and followed the seventh Sabbatical year, making two fallow years in succession. After both had passed, the next cycle began. They adduce this theory from the plain words of the

Law to "hallow the fiftieth year," and also from the assurance of YHWH's promise of a yield in the sixth year sufficient for maintenance during the following three years, "until the ninth year, until her fruits come in" (Lev. xxv. 22), which, they say, refers to the Jubilee year. Judah ha-Nasi, however, contends that the Jubilee year was identical with the seventh Sabbatical year (R. H. 9a; Giṭ. 36a; comp. Rashi ad loc.). The opinion of the Geonim and of later authorities generally prevails, that the Jubilee, when in force during the period of the First Temple, was intercalated, but that in the time of the Second Temple, when the Jubilee was observed only "nominally," it coincided with the seventh Sabbatical year. Jewish Encyclopedia – unedited full text 1906

4. From the cited late Second-Temple sources, the chronology of the once observed cycle of 7 years is rather easy to reconstruct. It is clear that a continuous run of 7-year cycles was counted between about 135 BCE and 139 CE. This period of history straddles some 273 years (or contains 39 cycles of 7 years). During this lengthy stretch of history, Sabbatical years were observed in the years 135 BCE, 44 BCE, 37 BCE, 55 CE, 69 CE, and 139 CE.

Based upon the indicated unbroken chronology of 7 years after about the 177th Seleucid year (as cited), it is quite clear that Judeans did not officially celebrate a jubilee year (or a 50th year). Clearly, Sabbatical years were celebrated in an unbroken cycle throughout the late Second-Temple Era. It is of special interest that if the cycle of 7 years was extended from the first century into this twenty-first century then a 7th year would have occurred in correspondence with the year 2001-2002 CE (from autumn-to-autumn). Essentially, the year 2001-2002 CE corresponded to the occurrence of a Sabbatical year--as an extension of the same cycle of 7 years as was once celebrated in the late Second-Temple Era.

Courtesy [www.creation-answers.com/chronoj.htm](http://www.creation-answers.com/chronoj.htm) by James D. Dwyer

5. "The Calculation of the Jubilee. Both in the tannaitic literature and in the Apocrypha two different systems for the calculation of the Jubilee and the Sabbatical year are found. A baraita declares that the Jubilee year is the 50th year, after the completion of the seven sabbatical cycles, the following year being the first of the ensuing shemittah. Judah, however, holds that the Jubilee year enters into the calculation of the heptad,' i.e., the Jubilee year is the 50th year after the previous Jubilee and thus also the first of the ensuing shemittah and Jubilee (Ned.61a). According to Judah's view there was a widespread tannaitic tradition that with the exile of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, the laws of the Jubilee fell into desuetude. According to the geonim not only were the laws of the Jubilee not in force from the time of the exile of these tribes, but after the destruction of the First Temple the Jubilee Years were not even calculated; only those of the shemittot. Whether in accordance with the views of Judah or with the tradition that the Jubilee was not calculated in the period of the Second Temple, the fact is that only Sabbatical Years were counted from the Second Temple period onward"

Encyclopedia Judaica – Concerning the Sabbatical Year and Jubilee cycle, vol.14, page 579

6. "They reckoned the historical order and the end of time by Sabbatical years and Jubilees: 'Israel counted 17 Jubilees from the time they entered the land to the time they left it' (Ar.12b). Elijah told Judah, the brother of Sala Hasida, 'The world will endure not less than 85 Jubilees, and on the last Jubilee the Son of David will come' (Sanh.97b). The precept of the Jubilee is often regarded as one of the basic precepts of the Torah. 'And its seven lamps thereon' (Zech.4:2) is interpreted as referring to the seven precepts – offerings, tithes, shemittot, Jubilees, circumcision, honoring of father and mother, and study of the Torah which excels them all' (PR 8.4). The continued dwelling in the land was dependent upon the observance of the shemittah and the Jubilee (Shab. 33a)" (ibid., 581).

Encyclopedia Judaica – Concerning the Sabbatical Year and Jubilee cycle, vol.14

## Bible References

- Ex 23:10-12 NKJV - *Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, (11) but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove. (12) Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.*
- Ex 23:16 NKJV - *and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field*
- Lev 27:16-18 NKJV - *If a man dedicates to YHWH part of a field of his possession, then your valuation shall be according to the seed for it. A homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver. (17) If he dedicates his field from the Year of Jubilee, according to your valuation it shall stand. (18) But if he dedicates his field after the Jubilee, then the priest shall reckon to him the money due according to the years that remain till the Year of Jubilee, and it shall be deducted from your valuation.*
- Num 36:4-5 NKJV - *And when the Jubilee of the children of Israel comes, then their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry; so their inheritance will be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers." (5) Then Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of YHWH, saying: "What the tribe of the sons of Joseph speaks is right.*
- Deut 15:1-2 NKJV - *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 YHWH's release.*
- Deut 31:10-11 NKJV - *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 YHWH your Elohim in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.*
- 2Kg 19:28-30 NKJV - *Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came. (29) 'This shall be a sign to you: You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And in the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. (30) And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.*
- 2Ch 36:20-21 NKJV - *And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, (21) to fulfill the word of YHWH by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*
- Neh 10:30-32 NKJV - *We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons; (31) if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt. (32) Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly*

*one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our Elohim:*

- *Isa 37:30 NKJV - This shall be a sign to you: You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.*
- *Isa 61:1-3 NKJV - The Spirit of YHWH ELOHIM is upon Me, Because YHWH has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; (2) To proclaim the acceptable year of YHWH, And the day of vengeance of our Elohim; To comfort all who mourn, (3) To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of YHWH, that He may be glorified.*
- *Jer 34:13-15 NKJV - Thus says YHWH, the Elohim of Israel: I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying, (14) At the end of seven years let every man set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him; and when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you." But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear. (15) Then you recently turned and did what was right in My sight--every man proclaiming liberty to his neighbor; and you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name.*
- *Eze 46:17-18 NKJV - But if he gives a gift of some of his inheritance to one of his servants, it shall be his until the year of liberty, after which it shall return to the prince. But his inheritance shall belong to his sons; it shall become theirs. (18) Moreover the prince shall not take any of the people's inheritance by evicting them from their property; he shall provide an inheritance for his sons from his own property, so that none of My people may be scattered from his property.*
- *Luke 4:17-21 NKJV - And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: (18) "the spirit of YHWH is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; (19) to proclaim the acceptable year of YHWH." (20) Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. (21) And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*



## Conclusion

With the evidence presented, the Sabbatical (Land Sabbath) and Jubilee are intercalated in a 50 year cycle. The cycle is counted from year 1 through 50 and starts over again with year 51 through 100, 101 through 150 etc. This places Jubilees on 50, 100, 150 and 200 year boundaries. This places the Sabbaticals (Land Sabbaths) on year 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, and 49 boundaries with the Jubilee following on year 50. The count starts over again with year 1 through 50. Correspondingly, there are 2 Jubilee's in 100 years, 4 Jubilee's in 200 years, 6 Jubilee's in 300 years, etc. If you know the date of any Jubilee, the others, past and future can be determined simply by adding 50 years to the known Jubilee date.

| <b>Jubilee Year Intercalation</b>          |                         |                      |                                                             |            |                           |            |                                          |                      |                         |      |                         |      |  |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|--|
|                                            | Tishri<br>↑↓            |                      | Tishri<br>↓                                                 |            | Tishri<br>↓               |            | Tishri<br>↓                              |                      | Tishri<br>↓             |      | Tishri<br>↓             |      |  |
| <b>50 Yr Cycle Count</b>                   | Year 48                 |                      | Year 49                                                     |            | Year 50<br><b>Jubilee</b> |            | Year 51                                  |                      | Year 52                 |      | Year 53                 |      |  |
| <b>7 Yr Cycle Count</b>                    | 6 <sup>th</sup> year    |                      | 7 <sup>th</sup> year                                        |            |                           |            | 1 <sup>st</sup> year of next cycle       |                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> year    |      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year    |      |  |
| <b>Jubilee between 2 seven year cycles</b> | LS Cycle 7<br>Yr 6 of 7 |                      | LS Cycle 7<br>Yr 7 of 7<br><b>Sabbatical</b><br>*Final 7x7* |            |                           |            | LS StartCycle1<br>Yr 1 of 7<br>*New 7x7* |                      | LS Cycle 1<br>Yr 2 of 7 |      | LS Cycle 1<br>Yr 3 of 7 |      |  |
| <b>Planting &amp; Harvesting Schedule</b>  | Sow<br>Oct-<br>Nov      | Reap<br>Apr-<br>Sept | No<br>Sow                                                   | No<br>Reap | No<br>Sow                 | No<br>Reap | Sow<br>Oct-<br>Nov                       | Reap<br>Apr-<br>Sept | Sow<br>Oct-<br>Nov      | Reap | Sow                     | Reap |  |
|                                            | ^                       |                      | ^                                                           |            | ^                         |            | ^                                        |                      | ^                       |      | ^                       |      |  |
|                                            | Atonement               |                      | Atonement                                                   |            | Atonement                 |            | Atonement                                |                      | Atonement               |      | Atonement               |      |  |

**Figure 7 - Sabbatical & Jubilee Cycle**

LS = Land Sabbath

Sow = Planting after FOT (Oct-Nov timeframe, Kheshvan and Kislev on Hebrew calendar)

Reap = Harvest starting in Abib – Ethanin (April – Sept)

Intercalating = inserting, to insert a day (or year) into a calendar