



Jubilee

Key idea:

Jubilee was a year of freedom of sins forgiven, slaves set free, and restoration of inheritance, and it finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

Key text:

Leviticus 25:8–12

Count off seven sabbaths of years — seven times seven years — so that the seven sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. ⁹ Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. ¹⁰ Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan. ¹¹ The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

Key points:

1. Jubilee is the culmination of the Sabbath cycle.
2. To receive and walk in the blessings of the year of Jubilee required faith that God would provide while they let the land rest.
3. As the culmination of Sabbath, Jubilee requires us to curb our desires and ceaseless striving for wealth and power, and have faith that God will provide all we need.
4. The basic idea in Jubilee is freedom. This is what was proclaimed throughout the land, and it is how the word Jubilee was actually translated in the Greek Bible.
5. The freedom of the year of jubilee included the forgiveness of sins, the liberation of slaves, and the restoration of family land inheritance.
6. Jesus is the fulfillment of the year of Jubilee. He is Jubilee freedom Incarnate.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why does the text on Jubilee in Leviticus 25 begin with a discussion of Sabbath?
3. Bret said that Sabbath was God's gift to Israel, to give them rest from labor and to allow time for remembering their redemption. How does this apply to us today?
4. Why do Sabbath and Jubilee require faith? Why do we find the gifts of Sabbath and Jubilee hard and even frightening?
5. How do I practice Sabbath and Jubilee in my life? In my family life? Is Sabbath part of the rhythm of my life?
6. Why was the year of Jubilee announced on the Day of Atonement? What does this teach us about the importance of the forgiveness of sin for true freedom and jubilation?
7. Why did God require slaves to be set free? To whom do we ultimately belong? If I believe this, how will it affect how I view myself? How will it affect how I treat others?
8. Jubilee restored family lands to each clan. What inheritance do we have from God that is restored to us in Christ? Do you live as if this is your inheritance?
9. What would the practical effect of "resetting" all property rights and setting all slaves/indentured servants free have on the economic system of Israel? Do you think our current system encourages this type of effect, or does it tend to favor those who already have wealth? How should Christians think and act regarding the poor in our society?
10. Why do we say Jesus is the fulfillment of Jubilee? How is He Jubilee for us now? Is there any part of Jubilee that awaits fulfillment at His return?
11. Am I living as if I have received the blessings of Jubilee? Am I passing those blessings on to others?