

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

I. Intro - BRCC Jubilee Year

- A. This is the 50th year of BRCC as a church
- B. Today we are celebrating that a bit
- C. The 50th is often called the Jubilee year - why?
- D. What is Jubilee? Why is it important?
- E. How is it related to Jesus?

II. The Year of Jubilee

- A. Jubilee is the culmination of the Sabbath cycle
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 ... Leviticus 25:8–9
 - 1. Sabbath cycle for Israel
 - a. Sabbath every 7th day for rest and worship
 - b. New moon celebrations, regular festivals
 - c. Sabbath year every 7th year
 - 2. Sabbath was God's gift to Israel, to give them rest from labor and to allow time for remembering their redemption
 - 3. Sabbath was rest for everyone and everything - Israelites, foreigners, slaves, animals, even the land
 - 4. Jubilee is the culmination of this - 7 cycles of 7 years, then Jubilee

B. This great blessing required faith

You may ask, "What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not plant or harvest our crops?" ²¹ I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years. ²² While you plant during the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop and will continue to eat from it until the harvest of the ninth year comes in. Leviticus 25:20–22

- 1. Understandable questions - how will they survive?
- 2. Jubilee required the people to exercise faith to receive the blessing. This is always God's way with us.
- 3. God promises to bless them if they trust and obey
Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. ¹⁹ Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety. Leviticus 25:18–19
 - a. God would bless them abundantly if they would but trust and obey
 - b. Sadly, Israel seems to have rarely, if ever, trusted God enough to receive the freedom of the year of Jubilee
- 4. 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.

III. The Freedom of Jubilee

- A. The basic idea in Jubilee is freedom
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. Leviticus 25:10

1. The proclamation of Jubilee was liberty/freedom
2. Jubilee is a transliteration of the Hebrew word **לְבוּי** which means “ram’s horn” (that was blown to signify the year)
3. The LXX translated it as **ἄφεσις** - freedom; remission; liberation

B. The freedom of sins forgiven

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.** **¹⁰Consecrate 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. Leviticus 25:9–10

1. The proclamation was made on the Day of Atonement - the great day of forgiveness of sin
2. The basis for the other stipulations is redemption from Egypt
I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God... ⁴² Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves... ⁵⁵ for the Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God. Lev 25:38, 42, 55
 - a. This was a reminder that God had redeemed them to be His people
 - b. He had covered their sins by the blood of the Passover Lamb and redeemed them, and Jubilee was a reminder of this.
3. The LXX called Jubilee **ἄφεσις** - freedom, most often from sin

- a. This is the word used in the NT for ‘forgiveness’ of sins
 - b. See Matthew 26:28; Mark 1:4; Luke 24:47; Col 1:14
4. The primary freedom of Jubilee is the forgiveness of our sins and our restoration to God.

C. The freedom of slaves liberated

If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. ⁴⁰ He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹ **Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers.** ⁴² Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. Lev 25:39–42

1. Israelites who had sold themselves into slavery were to be set free in Jubilee
2. The basis is that the people belong to God (v42)
3. In v43, our treatment of others is linked to our fear of God! This liberation was not a suggestion but a command!
4. As those redeemed by God, they are not to be enslaved to others but should live as free children of God.
5. Jubilee was a year for the end of enslavement and bondage, and a return to glorious freedom!

D. The freedom of inheritance restored

In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to his own property... ²³ The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Leviticus 25:13, 23

1. Land in Israel had been allotted to families and was not to permanently change hands
2. The basis is that the land belongs to God (v23)
3. This was meant to prevent generational economic poverty and excessive wealth.
4. Imagine the freedom of returning to your ancient family lands. After years of poverty, your inheritance restored! That would be a cause for celebration!

IV. Jesus Is Our Jubilee

A. Jesus is the fulfillment of Jubilee

The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:
¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
 Luke 4:17–19

1. This text is from Isaiah 61 - which is about Jubilee
 - a. Note the theme of freedom and release
 - b. The Hebrew word for ‘liberty’ in Leviticus 25 is very rare - and is always used in Jubilee contexts - including Isaiah 61
 - c. The Greek name for Jubilee in the LXX () is used 2x in this passage (freedom; release) - it is Jubilee, the year of freedom and liberation!
 - d. It is the year of the Lord’s favor!
2. Jesus proclaims that this text is now fulfilled - Jubilee has come!

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, “**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**” Luke 4:20–21

- a. Jubilee had been commanded but not fulfilled in practice
- b. The prophets had longed for the blessings of Jubilee to come
- c. Isaiah had prophesied that Messiah would be anointed with the Spirit to bring Jubilee
- d. Jesus is our Jubilee! He has set us free from sin and slavery, and restored us to our inheritance as the children of God!

3. Michael Card - Jubilee

The Lord provided for a time for the slaves to be set free
 For the debts to all be canceled so His chosen ones could see
 His deep desire was for forgiveness, He longed to see their liberty
 And His yearning was embodied in the Year of Jubilee

Chorus:

Jubilee, Jubilee Jesus is the Jubilee
 Debts forgiven, slaves set free, Jesus is our Jubilee

At the Lord's appointed time His deep desire became a man
 The heart of all true jubilation and with joy we understand
 In His voice we hear a trumpet sound that tells us we are free
 He is the incarnation of the year of Jubilee
 (Chorus)

To be so completely guilty, given over to despair
 To look into your Judge's face, and see a Savior there
 (Chorus)

V. Applying the Word

A. Receive Jubilee blessings today

1. Jesus has come and brought Jubilee! Receive Him by faith and receive full freedom!
2. As a believer, you are free! Free from sin, free from enslavement, free to inherit all God has for you!
3. Do not let the enemy rob you of your Jubilee blessing of freedom!
 - a. Do not wallow in guilt over past sin - you are forgiven and free!
 - b. Do not live as a slave to sin - you have been set free
 - c. Do not miss your inheritance!

B. Extend Jubilee blessings to others

1. We can not receive these blessings and then not pass them on to others!
2. We have been blessed to be a blessing
3. Extend forgiveness and grace to others - even when they don't deserve it
4. Labor to see others set free in body and soul
5. Proclaim the good news of Jubilee to others!
6. In Jesus you are anointed with the Spirit - so proclaim and see others set free!

C. Our Table of Jubilee

1. Jesus has come - and we are free!

2. Come celebrate your freedom at the Table of Jubilee

Jubilee

Leviticus 25:8-12

June 3, 2018

Communion

Benediction for Jubilee

Teaching keywords: blessing; freedom; forgiveness; Sabbath and rest; typology

Receive God's jubilee blessing of forgiveness, freedom, and restoration, and go forth to extend that blessing to others.

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