

much obsolete.

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SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE JUBILEE YEARS TODAY?

We read in Leviticus 25: that the sabbatical years and the Jubilee years were originally counted after the entrance into the land of Canaan. The nation was first to cultivate the soil six years and rest it the seventh. Then after seven sabbatical years the Fiftieth year was observed as the Jubilee.

That this series of sabbatical years was not reckoned from creation is proved by this fact: Creation took place in 4008 B.C.--but Israel entered the land in 1456 B.C. Notice, however, that the sabbatical years were counted from the time that they began to cultivate the soil. This did not begin immediately upon entrance into the land of Canaan.

Notice when Israel received the inheritance--typified by Calab's possession, Calab was 40 years old in 1493--the year when Israel searched the land. Calab was 85 years old when the inheritance was allotted. (Josh. 14:6-15). Forty-five years must have passed since the year the land was searched for 40 days. It is now the seventh year in Canaan--1448 B.C. This is the year the inheritance was obtained--the year the land began to be cultivated by Israel--the first year from which the sabbatical and Jubilee years were counted. As 1448 B.C. was the first year, 1442 B. was the seventh or sabbatical year. Therefore, in every century the sabbath year became '42, '35, '26, '21, '14, '07, and '00. Also, '92, '85, '78, '71, '64, '57, '50. The years are counted from the day of Atonement to the day of atonement (Lev. 25:9). The Jubilee years were '99 and '49.

The following chart lists the sabbatical and Jubilee years--The Jubilees are underlined. (Remember that the actual sabbatical years commence the previous autumn on the day of Atonement.)

1442	1435	1428	1421	1414	1407	1400	1399	1392
1385	1378	1471	1364	1357	1350	1349	<u>1342</u>	1335
1328	1321	1314	1307	1300	1299	<u>1292</u>	1285	1278
1271	1264	1257	1250	1249	<u>1242</u>	1235	1228	1221
1214	1207	1200	1199	<u>1192</u>	1185	1178	1171	1164
1157	1150	1149	<u>1142</u>	1135	1128	1121	1114	1107
1100	1099	<u>1092</u>	1085	1078	1071	1064	1057	1050
1049	<u>1042</u>	1035	1028	1021	1014	1007	1000	999
<u>992</u>	985	978	971	964	957	950	949	<u>942</u>
935	928	921	914	907	900	899	<u>892</u>	883
878	871	864	857	850	849	<u>842</u>	835	828
821	814	807	800	799	<u>792</u>	785	778	771
764	757	750	749	<u>742</u>	735	728	<u>721</u>	714
707	700	<u>699</u>	<u>692</u>	685	678	671	664	657
650	649	642	635	628	621	614	607	600
<u>599</u>	<u>592</u>	585.						

This ends the captivity of Judah. Notice Jeremiah 34:1, 8-16. The year 686, beginning in October, and extending to October of 586 was a Sabbatical year.

After the return from captivity, the Jews were not obedient to the laws of God and did not receive His blessings until the reprimand of Haggai 2:11-20. This second year of Darius, mentioned by Haggai, is reckoned from spring to spring

according to the Persian mode of reckoning kingly rules. Thus 521-520 (from April to April, approximately) was the first year of Darius. And 520-519 was the second year. The time for the commencement of Judah's obedience to the law began with the Autumn of 520 (the second year) and continued to the autumn of 519 B.C. The year 519 therefore is the first year of reckoning sabbatical years. The seventh year was therefore 513. The sabbatical years for this period were as follows:

513	506	499	492	485	478	471	464	457	450	443
438	429	422	415	408	401	394	387	380	373	366
359	352	345	338	331	324	317	310	303	296	289
282	275	268	261	254	247	240	233	226	219	212
205	196	191	184	177	170	163	156	149	142	135
128	121	114	107	100	93	86	79	72	65	58
51	44	37	30	23	16	9	2	6	13	20
27	34	41	48	55	62	69				

You will notice that the Jubilee years were not observed after the return from captivity. The land needed its seventh year of rest--but, as there was no divinely appointed inheritance there was no Jubilee. The Jews were living on land belonging to the other tribes of Israel. Therefore the Jubilee could not be observed as in Jubilee years the land return to its real inheritors.

<sup>2</sup> The two dates underlined in the last group--163 B.C. and 37 B.C., you may read are recorded in history as sabbatical years. Regarding 163 B.C., you may read of this date in the War of the Jews, by Josephus, Book I, Chapter 11, Section 4; Antiquities of the Jews, by Josephus, Book XIII, Chapter VIII, Section 1; and in I Maccabees 6:20, 49-53.

<sup>2</sup> Regarding 37 B.C., you may read of it in Antiquities of the Jews, Book XIV, Chapter XV, Section 14, and Chapter XVI, Section 2.

If the Jubilee cycle were continued from the entrance into Canaan, 164 B.C. and 35 B.C. would have been sabbatical years. Also 30 A.D., the third year in the ministry of Christ would have been. But history disproves these suppositions.

Some have misunderstood Luke 4:19. Jesus meant that He would proclaim the Jubilee in the future--when He would restore the inheritance! The Jews admit that the Jubilee was not kept after the captivity. Consult the Encyclopaedia Biblica, article "Jubilee."

Today we cannot keep the Jubilee as we have no divinely appointed inheritance. But farmers can keep sabbatical years, depending on the time we come to possess land and understand the law of God. There can be no cycle for the whole church today, however, because we individually come to know the truth and commence tilling the land in different years. The sabbath rest of the land's is measured from the time one purchases land to cultivate it. Unlike Israel of old when all received the inheritance after 6 years of war, we come to own land individually. The cycle of Jubilee years will begin anew when Jesus restores Israel's inheritance.