

SABBATICAL STRUCTURE OF SCRIPTURE

1) Sabbath Day

- Took place once a week on the final day of the week (Saturday).
- Cessation of all work as modeled in the creation story of Genesis 1 & 2.
- Time each week to celebrate God's rule over creation and His sustenance of His creatures.

see Genesis 1:26-31; 2:1-3; Exodus 23:12; 31:12-17; Leviticus 23:3

2) Sabbath Year

- Took place every seventh year.
- Four things occurred during the sabbath year:
 1. the land would lie fallow; no sowing or reaping (people could eat off the land freely)
 2. slaves (indentured servants) were set free
 3. debt was canceled
 4. the book of Deuteronomy was read in the presence of the people on the Feast of Tabernacles in that seventh year (Deuteronomy 31:9-13).
- The law of the sabbath year represents the people putting complete trust in the Lord that He is their provider (the people don't provide for themselves) and demonstrates complete obedience to His covenant commandments (see Hebrews 4:9,10).
- The book of Deuteronomy was spoken to Israel as they were about to enter Canaan and take the land; it represents our taking our inheritance.

see Exodus 23:10,11; 21:1-6; Leviticus 25:1-7; Deuteronomy 15:1-18; Jeremiah 34:8-22

3) Year Of Jubilee

- Took place at the end of every seventh sabbath year (every 49/50 years).
- Four things occurred during the Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-10):
 1. all land was returned to its original owners (Leviticus 25:10,13,23,24)
 2. release of Israelite slaves (Leviticus 25:39-46,55)
 3. debts were canceled (Leviticus 25:35-38)
 4. the land would lie fallow for a second consecutive year; this followed the sabbath year that had preceded the Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:11-12,18-22).
- The purpose of the Year of Jubilee is the ultimate proclamation of liberty for the people of God under the reign of their true King, Yahweh, whose desire for all His people is blessing and freedom.
- The Jubilee Year is NEVER recorded in the Old Testament as having ever been kept; this is the reason that Israel went into captivity (2 Chronicles 36:17-21).
- When Jesus begins His ministry, He proclaims that He is coming to fulfill the Year of Jubilee (that was never kept in Old Testament history) in His ministry (Luke 4:18-21); all the economic practices that Jesus institutes among His people (especially in Luke) are a fulfillment of the practices envisioned in the Jubilee Year.
- The Jubilee Year is the ultimate sabbath year and is the goal of all practices and the fulfillment of all meaning behind the sabbath day; in other words, Jesus is the Lord of and the fulfillment of the Scriptural sabbath day (Luke 6:1-5).