

The Book of Leviticus

The Jubilee and the Gospel Age: A Comparison

Introduction: Luke 4:16-19

1. God commanded the Jews to keep not only the Sabbath Day, but also Sabbath years.
2. Every seventh year was to be a Sabbath year (Leviticus 25:4).
3. And, after every seventh Sabbath Year (49 years) there was to be another Sabbath Year.
4. This 50th year was known as the Year of Jubilee.
5. By studying this Old Testament example, several lessons about the Gospel Age can be learned.

I. Jubilee: A Time of Atonement

(Leviticus 25:8-9)

- A. The year of Jubilee was closely linked with the Day of Atonement.
- B. The sounding of the trumpet (the shofar [or, cornet]) hearkened back to God's appearance at Mount Sinai (cf. Exodus 19:13, 16, 19; 20:18).
- C. On the Day of Atonement, several important events took place.
 1. A bullock was sacrificed for a sin offering.
 2. A ram was sacrificed for a burnt offering.
 3. A scapegoat was released into the wilderness, bearing the sins of the nation.
 4. Blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat as the High Priest interceded on behalf of the people in the Most Holy Place.
- D. After atonement was made, the High Priest came forth from the Most Holy Place and blessed the people – resulting in the sounding of the trumpets.
- E. At the year of Jubilee, this sounding of the shofar took on added significance.
- F. The Gospel Age began with the atonement of Christ.
 1. Jesus was sacrificed as both the sin offering and the scapegoat.
 2. His blood was shed and sprinkled before the true Mercy Seat, the throne of God in Heaven (cf. Hebrews 9:22-28).
 3. He arose from the grave as man's true High Priest, announcing the blessing of redemption for the world.
- G. Thus, men began to go forth and herald the Good News of salvation.

II. Jubilee: A Time of Mercy

(Leviticus 25:10, 23-43)

- A. Slaves were freed.
- B. Land was returned to its original owners.
- C. Poor hired servants were returned to their families.
- D. The Gospel Age is a period of time fixed by God for the salvation of souls (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Galatians 3:22-29).
- E. It is an age of God's mercy offered to all men (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11).
- F. Sinners are freed from the bondage of sin and man is restored to his former fellowship with God (Romans 6:16-18; Galatians 5:1; Revelation 22:14).

III. Jubilee: A Time of Blessing

(Leviticus 25:11-22)

- A. God blessed their crops and vineyards to sustain them through the Jubilee Year.
- B. There was an abundance of food and a lessening of labor.
- C. Likewise, in the Gospel Age, there is an abundance of spiritual blessings (Matthew 22:1-4; Romans 2:7-11; Hebrews 5:9; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38; 13:38; etc.).



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- IV. Jubilee: A Time of Joy (Leviticus 25)
- A. Because of great blessings, freedom and rest, there was also great joy.
 - B. The same is true in the Gospel Age (Matthew 11:28-30).