

Why the Babylonian Captivity?

Why 70 Years in Captivity?

586 - 516 bc

-NOT KEEPING THE SABBATICAL YEAR- Festivals of the Seven

1. Weekly Sabbath cessation of all work and devoted to prayer and Scripture
2. The Seventh New Moon or Feast of The Trumpets
3. The Sabbatical Year – every 7th year
4. Jubilee – every 50th year

MEANINGS EXPLAINED	
SHABBAT=	REST OR CESSATION
SHABBATON=	SABBATICAL
SEPTENNIAL=	SEVEN YEARS
SHEBIY'iy SHANAH=	SEVENTH YEAR
JUBILEE=	A YEAR OF EMANCIPATION AND RESTORATION PROVIDED BY ANCIENT HEBREW LAW TO BE KEPT EVERY 50 YEARS BY THE EMANCIPATION OF HEBREW SLAVES, RESTORATION OF ALIENATED LANDS TO THEIR FORMER OWNERS, AND OMISSION OF ALL CULTIVATION OF THE LAND
SHEMITTAH=	THE SABBATICAL YEAR, OCCURS EVERY SEVENTH-YEAR. SHEMITTAH IS LIKE SHABBAT FOR THE LAND OF ISRAEL; THE LAND "RESTS" IN A FASHION, SIMILAR TO THE WAY THE JEWISH PEOPLE RESTS EVERY SEVENTH DAY. THE TORAH DESCRIBES THE VERY INTRICATE LAWS OF SHEMITTAH IN PARASHAT BEHAR, VAYIKRA (LEVITICUS), CHAPTER 25.
FEAST OF THE TRUMPETS=	THE FIRST REFERENCE TO THE FEAST OF THE TRUMPETS IS FOUND IN LEVITICUS 23:24: "IN THE SEVENTH MONTH, ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH, YOU SHALL OBSERVE A DAY OF SOLEMN REST [SHABBATON], A MEMORIAL PROCLAMATION WITH A BLAST OF TRUMPETS (ZICCARON TERUAH), A HOLY CONVOCATION." THE HEBREW PHRASE ZICCARON TERUAH, CAN BE LITERALLY TRANSLATED AS "A REMEMBRANCE BLAST."

The Sabbatical year

1. Septennial Rest for the land (*Grace Gift from God*)

No tillage or cultivation of the land for a year, during which time, they were to Trust God to supply their needs. **Ex. 23:10-11; Lev. 25:2-7; Deut. 15:1-11; 31:1-13**

2. Names for that Septennial Rest: (from which we learn a great deal about God's Plan)

2a) Rest of Entire Rest:

Lev. 25:4 "*but during the seventh year*" (shebiy'iy shanah)

That is every 7th year **the** land graciously given to them by God shall have or shall be a **sabbath** (rest),

- **Shabbat shabbaton** a sabbath to the LORD;
- **Shabbat YHWH** you shall not sow your field; nor prune your vineyard.
- **Shabbat – Shabbaton** – Time of REST – Full Rest; Entire Rest

The land was to have a complete rest from cultivation;
and this shall be to the Lord whose land it is!

2b) **Year of Rest:**

Lev. 25:5 conveys the full extent of this Shabbat

Your harvest's aftergrowth (growth of its own accord; growth from spilled kernels;) you shall not reap and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather ; the land shall have a sabbatical year.

The land shall have a Sabbatical Year.

Year of Shabbaton — Year of Rest

2c) **Release**

Deut. 15:1 At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of debts.

Duet. 15:2 Beware that there is no base thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,' and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing; then he may cry to the LORD against you, and it will be a sin in you.

Three times in these two verses is the Hebrew **Shemittah** – (Release)

- note in verse 9 a year of release because in it all debts were remitted, released.

2d) **The Seventh Year**

Deut. 15:9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

Because it was to be celebrated every seventh year.

3. The DESIGN for the spirit of the **Sabbatic Year** is that of the **Weekly Sabbath**.

This was not to be a time of recreation from laboring for men or beasts, needful and useful as this may be.

The Sabbatic Year was rather to afford true physical rest for Spiritual Growth

- "Time in The Scriptures"
- "Time in Prayer" .
- "Time of Worship" .

To teach them to rest in the Lord at ...all times, ...all year, ...every year

Thus Israel, as the people of God, was to learn two things:

First: in regard to the earth—The Earth was created by God for man;

- The Earth is a blessing from God and needs rest, this as a lesson to us, that we need to rest in the Lord.

Second: That man is to be holy to the Lord and participate also in this blessed rest;

- that the GOAL OF LIFE for the congregation of the Lord did not lie in that incessant laboring of the earth but in his relationship with the Lord.

But what are we to eat and live on this year?

Lev. 25:20-22 But if you say, “What are we going to eat on the seventh year if we do not sow or gather in our crops?” then I will so order My blessing for you in the sixth year that it will bring forth the crop for three years. When you are sowing the eighth year, you can still eat old things from the crop, eating the old until the ninth year when its crop comes in.

That the spontaneous growth of the fields or of trees was for the free use of the poor, the hireling, stranger, servants, and cattle

Exodus 23:10 You shall sow your land for six years and gather in its yield,

Exodus 23:11 But on the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.

Lev. 25:2-5 Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you come into the land which I shall give you, then the land shall have a sabbath to the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. Your harvest’s aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year.

An especially fruitful harvest was promised for sixth year (**Lev. 25:20, 21**).

THIRD: The third enactment enjoins the remission of debts,

- with the exception of foreigners (**Deut. 15:1-4**).

Fourth: Finally, at the Feast of Tabernacles in this year,

- the law was to be read to the people-men, women, children, & strangers-in solemn assembly before the sanctuary (**Deut. 31 :10-13**).

Every 7th year the people of Israel were to take a year off: They were not to plant any crops; they were to trust the Lord that He would supply all their needs. Every 7th day they were to take the Sabbath off, they were to do nothing but study the Scriptures for a whole Sabbath; & in the Sabatical year, they were to do nothing but Study about the Lord & pray & praise Him, worship together, & with family & alone. They never did it, not once.

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The **Sabbatic Year** had been neglected.

Hence Jewish tradition explains in **II Chron. 36:20-21**

that the seventy years' captivity was intended to make up for the neglect of Sabbatical years.

After the return from captivity this year was most strictly observed.

For 490 years they did not take the 7th year off.

How many Sabbatical years in 490 years? **70.**

So in **Jeremiah 29:10** the prophet prophesied that they would go into the land of their enemy for **70 years**.

Jeremiah ca 625 bc – captivity 586 – +70 years = 516 bc;

so Jeremiah prophesied some 100 years before the fulfillment of his prophesy

EXACTLY AS GOD SAID

God controls history

God supernaturally intervenes in history

Against your will, in captivity while your land will enjoy its 70 years of rest

You can either **BE FAITHFUL** to God (--or--) **NOT BE FAITHFUL** to God;

History is going to proceed according to **His Plan**

You can Trust God or live for yourself

God Controls History

Always has! Always will!

The **BOOK OF DANIEL** is in the framework of these people being disciplined for not keeping the Sabbath year among other sins of idolatry; and God returning them to the land because of the faithfulness of Daniel (Belteshazzar) and his 3 friends; Shadrach (Hananiah); Meshach (Mishael); and Abednego (Azariah)