

The Year of Jubilee!

Days off...

...bit of sport watching/playing, walking, tea rooms, museums, gardening, hit the shops

Holidays...

I wonder where you went? Winter sun? UK or abroad? Sunny or rainy? Culture or beach?

A picture of Heaven - days off, holidays... they're God's provision of rest

As we look at Leviticus... we look to Jesus...

Colossians 2: 16-17

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come; the **reality**, however, is found in **Christ**.

Sabbath Year - Rest (Lev 25: 1-7)

Happens 1 in every 7 years

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Sabbath | Creation Principle - Genesis 2, 7 th Day God rested... the goal of work, is rest |
| | OT Commandment (number 4) - but no longer binding... last week, new covenant |
| | 'For Man' - not meant for rules, but for man |
| | Mark 2:27 <i>Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."</i> |

REST 4 LAND

Rest the land... leave the land fallow to allow it to recover
no fertilizers, or modern crop rotation techniques

Acknowledge: the land belongs to God
God provides for your needs

REST 4 PEOPLE

Food will be provided

Verse 6 Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you

Verse 4-5 Do not sow, reap or prune... no work

No curse... Gen 3: 19 *'By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your food...'*
Sabbath – by the grace of God you will eat!

Jesus offers people rest

Matthew 11:28 *"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest"*

Rest from the curse... the toil of work, the burden of sin – he takes your sin and gives you rest!

How do you use your day off?

- Don't do the work you do during the week
- Spend time with God and his people
- Do things that help you to 'rest'
- Plan your day off!

Jubilee - Redemption (Lev 25: 8-55)

Happens 1 in every 50 years - like a Sabbath year, but even more!

Day of Atonement - Trumpet sounds - Jubilee
Cross - Gospel - Changed Lives

LAND

Land is rested - for two years! Sabbath, Jubilee... then sow.... No reaping for 3 years!

Land is returned - goes back to original owner

Final Redemption for the Land

Romans 8:20-21

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

PEOPLE

People rest, like a Sabbath

Property is given (can be bought back before) - Boaz and Ruth

Servants are released (can be bought back before)

Jesus preaches Jubilee!

Luke 4: 18-19

"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 favour."

Jubilee = Equality, Freedom, Restoration, Redemption

Grace - Response?

The Land belongs to the Lord

How do you act as a steward?

"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants." **Verse 23**

How hard do you work to clean your house? To fix the broken shelves... when you want your deposit back?!

How much more so should we respect the planet, God's creation... because it belongs to him?!

Work hard!

Work to redeem and renew this planet

Work for equality and freedom - Jubilee 2000 – Drop the Debt - Bono

God is gracious in redemption

Do you abuse his grace?

"Do not take advantage of each other..." **Verse 14**

In view of God's grace, we could use it as an excuse to sin...

...that's what the Israelites did... cheated each other on property deals, knowing the Jubilee was coming!

...and that's what we do too... we take God's grace (God's Saved me), and then we live however we want...

...we're at church on Sunday, but our work colleagues don't even know we're Christians, we drink too much on a Saturday night, we're gambling our money away, we're sleeping with our girlfriend/boyfriend, we don't even love our friends enough to pray for them...

...that's what the Christians in Rome were doing...

shall we go on sinning that grace might increase? By no means! We died to sin! **Rom 6:1**

God promises to provide

Where is your trust?

"I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years." **Verse 21**

As far as we know... the Israelites never observed a Sabbath Year, or Jubilee Year???

490 years in the Land, disobeying God's commands... 70 years of exile... rest for the land

Trust God's promises... he bought you out of Egypt, he's saved us!

My grace is sufficient for you - believe him!

"It is finished!" - believe him, the cross is sufficient to save!

Do not worry (Matt 10) - God will provide, look at the sparrows, I know the hairs on your head!

A word in conclusion...

Leviticus is pointing to a better land, and a better rest...

We ourselves must remember that no matter how rich God's blessings are to us now, this is not all there is. There is something greater that remains. - Ligon Duncan

Hebrews 4:9 *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God*

Eternal, no curse, perfect rest, perfect relationship with God and each other... when we think day off, holiday, Sabbath, Jubilee... let's think about the New Heavens and the New earth, God's perfect Sabbath rest!