

1. **The Sabbath Year for the Land** (Vs 1-7)

- **The Command:** For 6 years, Israelites could sow & harvest their fields. The 7th year required a complete Sabbath rest for the land, meaning no plowing, planting or pruning.
- **The Provision:** Whatever grew naturally could be eaten by anyone—servants, travelers, livestock & wild animals.
- **The Blessing:** God promised to provide a massive harvest in the 6th year that would sustain the people for 3 years while the land recovered.

2. **The Year of Jubilee** (Vs 8-22)

- **The Timing:** Occurring every 50 years—after 7 cycles of 7 years; the Year of Jubilee began on the Day of Atonement with the blowing of the ram's horn.
- **The Purpose:** It was a year of universal redemption. Families reclaimed ancestral property that had been sold & all Israelites in bondage to debt, were set free.

3. **Laws of Redemption & Property** (Vs 23-34)

- **God's Ownership:** The land fundamentally belonged to God; Israelites were merely tenants. Therefore, land could not be permanently sold.
- **Family Redemption:** If a family fell into poverty and had to sell their property, a close relative (goel-kinsman-redeemer) had the right & responsibility to buy it back for them.

4. **Care for the Poor & Slaves** (Vs 35-55)

- **Zero Interest:** Israelites were forbidden to charge interest or make a profit off loans to impoverished fellow citizens.
- **Treatment of Servants:** If an Israelite was forced to sell themselves into servitude due to poverty, they were to be treated as hired workers, not slaves & unconditionally freed at the Year of Jubilee. Foreign slaves could be held permanently.