

Jesus Christ: Our Jubilee

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Sunday, January 4, 2025

What Is Jubilee?

Read: Isaiah 61:1–4 (NASB95)

Jubilee is rooted in the Old Testament law given by God to Israel. The word jubilee is closely tied to the trumpet (shofar), because the Year of Jubilee began with the sounding of a trumpet on the Day of Atonement. That detail is deeply significant.

Atonement, in its simplest sense, is about forgiveness and reconciliation with God—restoring what sin has broken. And it is after reconciliation that Jubilee begins.

The Sabbath Year & The Year of Jubilee

Every seventh year was to be a Sabbath Year when the land was given rest from being worked, the people were given rest from working the land, debts were to be canceled and those enslaved by debt were to be released which led to families being restored.

Jubilee went further.

After seven Sabbath cycles, the 50th year was declared the Year of Jubilee. It was much like the Sabbath year but on Steroids. Rest was given to the land and to the people, debts were forgiven, and slaves were given freedom. However, this year didn't just forgive debt—it restored what had been lost. Land was returned to its original family. What had been taken because of hardship or circumstance was returned.

Jubilee prevented loss from becoming permanent. It was a reset of life itself. No wonder it became synonymous with celebration, joy, and freedom.

Isaiah's Prophecy: Jubilee in a Person

When Isaiah spoke in Isaiah 61, his original audience understood Jubilee imagery immediately. But Isaiah was not pointing to a date on a calendar—he was pointing to a Person.

This coming Servant would be:

- Anointed by God
- Empowered by the Spirit
- Sent with good news to the afflicted
- A healer of broken hearts
- A liberator of captives
- The one who would proclaim the favorable year of the Lord

Jubilee would no longer be an event—it would be a person!

Luke 4:18–21 (NASB95) ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” ²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Jesus reads Isaiah's words aloud in the synagogue and declares: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

In other words: I am the Jubilee.

- He is the One anointed to bring good news.
- He is the One who releases captives.
- He is the One who restores sight.
- He is the One who frees the oppressed.
- He is the One who proclaims God's favor.

Why Jubilee Was Hard to Accept

You would think everyone would welcome Jubilee. But it required something difficult: trust.

During Jubilee, Israel was commanded not to sow or reap. No farming. No production. No visible means of provision. Naturally, the question arose:

Jubilee forced Israel to confront a hard truth: they were not in control—God was.

“How will we survive?” God’s answer was simple: “The land is Mine. The people are Mine. I will provide.”

And that same struggle exists today. The ability to deny our self and to trust in the Lord.

We resist Jubilee because we trust our effort, our planning, our success, and our security more than we trust God. We work harder and harder trying to manufacture peace, rest, and stability—only to find ourselves weary, anxious, and empty.

Jesus Christ: Our Jubilee Today

- We cannot bring Jubilee into our own lives – rest and restoration that comes from peace with God.
- We cannot undo our past. We cannot remove our sin.
- We cannot free ourselves from spiritual bondage.

But Jesus can. He says:

True rest is not found in achievement. True peace is not created by success. True freedom is not self-generated.

Jesus Christ is our Jubilee.

In Him, our debt of sin is canceled; our captivity is ended; our brokenness is healed; and our relationship with God is restored.

The trumpet of Jubilee can be heard in the Gospel!

Jesus Christ is our Jubilee. You must receive Him by faith. You must surrender your life to Him – fully trusting and relying upon Him!

He invites us with a promise - **“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”**