

# YAIY NEWS



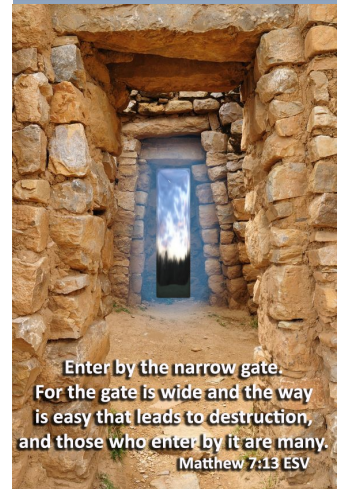
## Previous Sabbatical Years

If we know when previous Sabbaticals took place, then we can know when future ones will be. The following dates were put together in an article entitled “Chronology of Jubilees,” by *A-Quest-for-Creation-Answers*.

- The year 135-134 BCE (or the year 177 of the Seleucid Era) was noted to be a 7th year in the writings of Flavius Josephus. In ‘*Antiquities of the Jews*’ he noted: “... there came around the year in which the Jews are wont to remain inactive, for they observe this custom every seventh year, just as on the seventh day.” (Book 13:8:1).
- The same year (135-134 BCE) was also noted to be a year of ‘rest’ in ‘*Wars of the Jews*’. In this book, Josephus noted the following: “the year of rest came on, upon which the Jews rest every seventh year as they do on every seventh day”.
- The year 44-43 BCE could have been a 7th year. In ‘*Antiquities of the Jews*’, Josephus stated that the Jews had a legal agreement with the Romans concerning a reduction of taxes in 7th years. In substantiation of this, he cited a decree from one of the Roman emperors. The decree stated when Caius Caesar was consul for the fifth time he ordered in the 2nd year of the current land-use agreement that a deduction in the amount of taxes that land users paid to the Romans should be granted to the Jews (refer to *Antiquities*, Book 14:10:5-6). If the current year (44-43 BCE) did correspond to the cited 2nd year of the land-use agreement then it might be possible to interpret this passage to mean that the respective year did correspond to a 7th year (as celebrated by the Jews).
- Josephus rehearsed another Roman decree concerning a grant to Jews allowing celebration of the 7th years. This respective decree substantiates that Jews — under the late Second Temple — positively were celebrating Sabbatical years. “[Judea should pay a tribute yearly] ... excepting the seventh, which they call the Sabbatical year, because thereon they neither receive the fruits of their trees, nor do they sow their land ... [taxes are to be paid] every year, the seventh year, which they call the Sabbatic year, excepted, whereon they neither plough, nor receive the product of their trees.” (*Antiquities*, Book 14:10:6).
- The year 37-36 BCE appears to have been both a 7th year and 70th year (as noted by Josephus). This year — the year when Herod was declared king at Jerusalem — is referred to as a ‘hebdomatikon’ year as follows: “Now the Jews that were enclosed within the walls of the city fought against Herod with great alacrity and zeal (for the whole nation was gathered together); they also gave out many prophecies about the temple, and many things agreeable to the people, as if [Yahweh] would deliver them out of the dangers they were in ... this happened to be a Sabbatical year [or

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.

Leviticus 25:20–21 NASB



Enter by the narrow gate.  
For the gate is wide and the way  
is easy that leads to destruction,  
and those who enter by it are many.  
Matthew 7:13 ESV

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## Previous Sabbatical Years, ...cont.

literally, a ‘hebdomatikon’ year]” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 14:16:2).

- The year 37-36 BCE is noted to have been both a 7th year and a 70th year in a second passage of *‘Antiquities of the Jews’*. This instance is recorded in the next book as follows: “At this time Herod, now he had got Jerusalem under his power... the Sabbatic year [or literally, a ‘hebdomatidon’ year] ... was still going on, and forced the country to lie still uncultivated, since we are forbidden to sow our land in that year.” (Book 15:1:2).
- The year 55-56 CE (autumn-to-autumn) was almost surely a 7th year—based on an ancient *Deed of Loan*. This paper was recovered at Wadi Murabba near Bethlehem. This legal note is explicit in stating that a ‘year-of-release’ was underway in the 2nd year of Nero Caesar. Because Nero ascended to the throne in autumn of the year 54 CE, the cited Sabbatical year (autumn-to-autumn) would have largely corresponded to 2nd year of the reign of Nero.
- The year 69-70 CE (autumn-to-autumn) is shown to have been a 7th year by the early rabbis. *The Taanith* indicates that the Second Temple was destroyed in a post- Sabbatical year (B. Taan., 29a). The Arakin has “thus it is found that it [= the destruction of the Second Temple] happened during the last part of a septennate” (B. Arak., 12 b). A third century rabbi (Hunna) computed the Sabbatical cycle based upon the fact that the Second Temple was destroyed in a sabbath year (B. Azar., 9b). Rabbi Jose (Yose) ben Khalapha commented that the year prior to the destruction of the Second Temple was a Sabbatical year (*Seder Olam*, 30). Because the Second Temple was destroyed in autumn of the year 70 CE then it’s easy to recognize from the rabbis that a Sabbatical year occurred immediately prior to the destruction of the Temple. Essentially, the Temple is indicated to have been destroyed in autumn of the year 70 CE very close to the boundary of a 7th year (at the end of the respective 7-year cycle).
- The year 139-140 CE (autumn-to-autumn) also appears to have been a 7th year — as based upon another legal paper recovered at Wadi Murabba. This respective contract (*Mur 24E*) was written in late autumn of the year 134 CE. This sub-lease agreement describes what appears to be a 5-year lease term. The respective lease was to last until the ‘eve of the Sabbatical year.’ It is clear that 5 years from autumn in the year 134 CE ends with autumn of the year 139 CE. Then, this respective year (139 CE) would have corresponded to the very beginning of a year-of-release.

If the aforementioned dates are checked, they all run in increments of seven, forwards or backwards, and all connecting though there are many years in between some of them. We should then find other significant dates elsewhere that would match. In other words, new finds from other sources that confirm the previous dates. In fact, there are such alternative references.

Other such “witnesses” can be found in a book called, *The Star That Astonished The World* (2nd edition, 1996), by the late Dr. Earnest L. Martin. The following is a list with similar Sabbatical dates found, but with some additional ones as well:

1. We are told by *I Maccabees* 6:49 that Judas Maccabee’s defeat at Beth-Zur was in a Sabbatical Year from the Autumn of 163 to Autumn 162 B.C.
2. Josephus, the Jewish historian, shows the murder of Simon the Hasmonean as happening in the Sabbatical Year of Autumn 135 to Autumn 134 B.C.
3. Josephus shows Herod’s conquest of Jerusalem as occurring in the last part of the Sabbatical Year of 37 to 36 B.C.
4. King Agrippa the First recited the section of *Deuteronomy* which a king was required to do as associated with the Sabbatical Year (Deut. 31:10-13). He performed it at a time which historically shows that Agrippa’s Sabbatical Year was A.D. 41 to 42.
5. A papyrus document written in Aramaic has recently been found in Palestine which is dated to the second year of Nero, and it says that that year was a Sabbatical Year. Thus, A.D. 55 to 56 was Sabbatical.
6. A reference in the second century Jewish work called the *Seder Olam* can be interpreted as showing the Temple at Jerusalem being destroyed in a Sabbatical Year. That would have been A.D. 69 to 70.
7. Dated documents have been found concerning the Bar Kokhba revolt of the Jews against the Romans which show that the year A.D. 132 to 133 was also a Sabbatical Year.

## Previous Sabbatical Years, ...cont.

8. The ruins of an ancient synagogue have recently been uncovered which have a date, in a mosaic, for the Jewish year 4000, and that is was the second year of a Sabbatical cycle. This answers to A.D. 237 to 238.

9. There is a reference in the Jewish *Talmud* (Sanhedrin 97b) that the Messiah will release the world from its bondage of corruption in the year after 4291 of the Jewish calendar. Since it was believed this would occur in a Sabbatical Year, this reference becomes important (though the prophecy did not occur) because the year after 4291 was A.D. 531 to 532, and it was a Sabbatical.

Dr. Martin in his book also points out, “Though over the past few centuries historians studying the records about the Sabbatical Years have been able to arrive at their former sequence within a year or two, only within the last 50 years (and especially the last 30), has it become possible, through archeological discoveries, etc., to determine with an almost certainty what the exact Sabbatical Years’ sequence was and is. This can be known from 163 B.C. to the present.”

It brings to mind that there indeed is a restoration going on (Acts 3:21) and that Yahweh is allowing us in these end times to see clearly what we should be doing according to Yahweh’s Word, returning to *the faith which was once delivered to the saints*, Jude 3:3.

The next Sabbatical starts on Atonement of this year of 2022 and goes through to Atonement of 2023, an agricultural year.

Elder David Brett

## Keep Your Tools Sharp!

### “Nothing Of Time Is Wasted In Whetting (sharpening)”

A farmer hired a man to cut a field of oats. He showed up, retired to a shade tree and began to **Whet** (sharpened) **His Scythe** (curved blade).

By noon, he hadn’t yet made it to the field. The farmer reminded him he was being paid by the hour. His reply?

### “Nothing Of Time Is Wasted In Whetting”

With but two hours of daylight remaining, he was just now up on his feet taking a couple of practice swings, before heading out to the field.

At dusk, and done, he sought his wages. Amazed, the farmer asked the manner of his accomplishment. His answer?

### “Nothing Of Time Is Wasted In Whetting”

— *Notes from a Bean Farmer*

This parable set us to thinking: Many feel called to do Yahweh service, and run speedily here and yon but without having **certain tidings ready**.

They need to **Whet their Scythes** – to wait (yes, literally wait) on their ministering, until they are first **Taught the Principles of the Oracle and Doctrine of Yahweh** afterward, making full proof of their ministry when once their release from the tutelage of their masters has been appointed.



**“FOR NOTHING OF TIME IS WASTED IN WHETTING, BUT IF THE IRON BE BLUNT, AND HE DOES NOT WHET THE EDGE ...”**

## America the Beautiful?

America the Beautiful, or so You used to be,  
Land of the Pilgrims' Pride; I'm so glad They'll never see:  
Babies piled in dumpsters, abortion on demand;  
Oh, Sweet Land of Liberty, your house is on the sand.  
Our children wander aimlessly poisoned by cocaine  
Choosing to indulge their lusts, when G-d has said abstain;  
From Sea to Shining Sea, our Nation turns away  
From the teaching of G-d's love and a need to always pray.  
If we'd kept G-d in our temples, callous we'd not have grown  
When Earth is His Footstool, and Heaven is His Throne.  
We've voted in a government that's rotten to the core,  
And *godless* judges, who throw reason out the door;  
Too soft to place a killer in a well-deserved tomb,  
But brave enough to kill a baby before he leaves the womb!  
You think G-d's not angry that our land's a moral slum?  
How much longer will He wait before His Judgment is come?  
How are we to face this G-d from Whom we cannot hide?  
What then is left to do, but stem this evil tide ...  
But, America the Beautiful, if you don't – then you'll see,  
A sad, but Holy G-d ... His Hand withdrawn from thee!



— Roy Moore,  
Chief Justice (emeritus)  
Alabama Supreme Court

## YAIY NEWS

### Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua

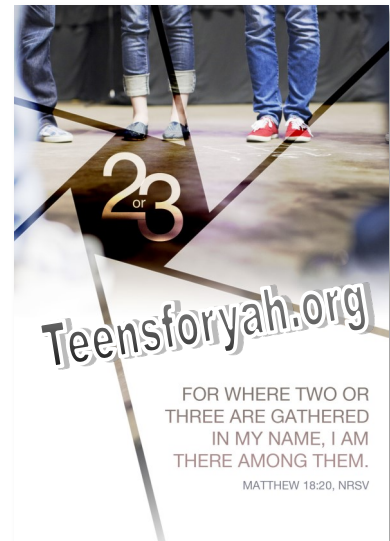
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## Prayer List

David & Barbara Creel, Robert Dorchester, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers and Family, Loretta Reyes and Family, Michael Hutchinson, Chauncey Hargrove, David & Nancy Wilson Family/Friends, Jerry Castle, Mary Giles Family, Kenneth Faulkner, Quinnten Allen, Kat Durban, Isaiah Davis, Dulcena Tessner, Marylyn Patterson Family, David Andrews, Kenya Washington, Elder Lionel Gets Family, Joseph Miller, Adam Galvan Family, Neville & Maryke Stanton, Antionette Swart, Bertha Tidwell, Annette Heyward, Tammy Boucher, Magdalena M. Torres, Angela Bradley, Luann Campbell Family, Dwayne Mariam, Randell Serfess, Sonja Morgan, Dianne E. Wright Family, Victor Kiiru Family, Maria Nelson Family, Hilda Driedger, David Nathaniel Malm, Susana Malm, Mike and Sheila Kemper, Susan Freeman, Paul Ingram, Elder Cornelius Kigen, Ruth Bamba, Charlie Pelton, Eric Perkins Family, Marcy Mallinson, Monica Kleb, James Penn Family, Elder Jerry Healan Family, Sheila Sendeyo, NyHuff/Thompson family, Ronald Tidwell, Eugene and Rockie Family, Robert Creech, Emma Moss.

Also include in your prayers individuals seeking Yahweh from within prison facilities and for their families, plus overseas brethren and especially for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa. 122:6). The world's leaders could also use our prayers (Jer. 29:7; 1 Tim. 2:2).

*And give Him no rest, till He establish, till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth, Isaiah 62:7.*

