

SHEMITTAH YEAR

The land is supposed to rest every seventh year. The land sabbath (shemittah) was/is for the land of Israel in it's original land mass. It was for a specific place, not for the world in general.

Lev. 25:1-7 *The LORD then spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, saying, "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, 4 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. 'And all of you shall have the sabbath products of the land for food; yourself, and your male and female slaves, and your hired man and your foreign resident, those who live as aliens with you. 7 'Even your cattle and the animals that are in your land shall have all its crops to eat."*

The seventh year sabbatical is for the original Promised land of Israel only. Not only one day in seven, but one whole year in seven. It seems the seventh year sabbatical for land has been lost by the Jewish people. Few seem to agree on the date anymore because of the calendar mix-ups. Many believe 2017 will be a shemittah.

During the schmita/shemittah, (seventh year of the land, sabbath), young men would join with rabbinical teachers and spend the year learning the word. This was because young men were not required to work the land. They would dedicate the year to the study of the things of Yah. That is why the disciples were available to follow Yeshua, because they did not have to work that year. Yeshua was using the normal custom of gathering up students to follow Him and teach torah to them.

Shemittah was all about resting after six years, not looking after the crops on the seventh year. No one was to plant crops or harvest anything that was not naturally grown. No pruning of fruit trees, vines, etc, because that was work. Fruits could be harvested but no normal pruning etc. was to be done to control the natural growth of these fruits and berries. Grain grown from seeds fallen on the ground of the previous years crop was harvestable (Lev. 25:3-6).

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 1/16)