

The Jubilee Year שנת היבל

Observed in Israel and only when all the tribes are here.

The first shemittah year was 21 years after the Israelites entered the land and the first Yovel (Jubilee year) was 33 years later.

The Yovel was not observed during the second temple period.

Question – does the 7 year cycle of Shemitta years start from the 49th or the 50th year ?

This was disputed. The majority view is that during the first temple period (when the Jubilee was observed) the 49th year was a Shemittah year and the 50th was a Yovel, and then the count started again.

During the second temple period, when the Yovel was nominal and not observed, it fell on the 49th or 7th Shemittah year.

There was no Yovel after the exile.

Today, Shemittah is considered as Rabbinic only, since (from the Torah) it depends on the Yovel, and as we said, there can't be a Yovel until all the tribes have returned to Israel.