

The Seventh Year Land Sabbath I

Fred R. Coulter—September 20,2014

Today we are going to talk about the meaning of the land sabbath, which is very important. In a book by Jonathan Cahn called *The Mystery of the Shemitah*. Shemitah means *the land rest*.

To begin with, let's understand a great Biblical principle. This is the very thing that helps us understand our relationship with God, because human beings always have the inclination that they know more than God, or don't want God, or will pick and choose which commandments of God they will keep. That puts them into a position that they are actually telling God what to do. That doesn't work out very well.

The Church at Corinth had many, many different heresies. One of them was that they were lifted up in vanity. They were having competition between which minister was the greatest. They had many sins for which Paul had to correct them grievously. On top of that, they were acting as if they had already arrived. So, this was a super Laodicean attitude, indeed. They were judging Paul. Just like with the false ministers coming in accusing Paul of various things that he should and should not do.

1-Corinthians 4:1: "So then, let *every* man regard us as ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." Stewards are those who are given charge over other people's property for the benefit of the owner. It isn't theirs, doesn't belong to them.

Verse 2: "Beyond that, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful. But to me it is an insignificant matter that I am judged by you, or by man's standard; and neither do I judge myself" (vs 2-3). If we judge ourselves, our little deceitful nature is going to come along and say, 'BING! That's not so bad.' So, we let God's Spirit and His Word judge us.

Verse 4: "Now, I am not conscious of anything against myself, yet, I am not justified by this: for the one Who is judging me is *the* Lord." Remember judgment is on the house of God always and we are judged continually.

Verse 5: "Therefore, do not judge anything before *the* time..." They were acting as if the Kingdom's coming and 'we're already judges and kings.'

"...wait until the Lord comes, Who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the motives of *all* hearts..." (v 5). When we get down to what God is doing, it has to

do with the inner conversion within: what our motives are, what our thoughts are. This is why men and women with human nature cannot tell *God* what to do, *Who is perfect*. We are imperfect and sinners and God is perfect and absolutely Holy.

"...and then shall each one receive praise from God. Now these things, brethren, I have applied to Apollos and myself for your sakes; that in us you may learn not to think *of men* beyond what is written, so that no one among you is puffed up on behalf of one *of us* against another. For what makes you superior to *others*? And **what do you have that you did not receive?**..." (vs 5-7). Everything we have we have received, and it has come from the hand of God through His creation: our very life and our very existence. So he told them:

"...But if you also received *it*, why are you boasting as if you did not receive *it*?" (v 7). That's the great sin of human beings. It applies to everything. God made the earth and gave it to man. He said, 'Let him have dominion over the earth and over the sea, all of the animals and all of the creeping things.' The whole earth belongs to the Lord.

Let's look at another thing in Acts 17, because this tells us something very important: why we are here, where we are going and what happens when God lets the people go their own way. This is very interesting because Mars Hill was like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. That's where all the smart people go, where they have all their theories and all the things that they do and everything that they can think of. Here the great philosophers were right there at the temple of Zeus.

So, when Paul came there, they were talking about the different philosophies and arguing back and forth as to what is right and what is wrong. They had long ago rejected God. They got so wrapped up in their own gods and their own philosophies and their own stories of how things came about that they were going to be super, super righteous. Of all of their statues, devotions and plaques, they had one that Paul read.

They asked Paul to come in and tell about the Gospel, to tell concerning Jesus Christ, because this was something strange and new that they hadn't heard. 'After all, we're the most important fools on earth; we know everything.' (sarcasm)

Acts 17:22: "Then Paul stood in *the* center of Mars Hill... [right there in the most important philosophical place in the world] ...and said, 'Men, Athenians, I perceive *that* in all things you are very

reverent to deities.” They would take that as a compliment, but he was being very sarcastic in it.

Verse 23: “‘For *as* I was passing through and observing the objects of your veneration, I also found an altar on which was inscribed, “To an unknown God.”....’” That’s their escape hatch. They worship all these other gods and now ‘just in case we forgot one, we better have one to the “...unknown God...” That was super great of them to do that. Wasn’t that generous?

Here is the real jab, “...‘So then, He Whom you worship in ignorance... [to tell them that they were ignorant is the height of the insult of the age] ...*is* the one *that* I proclaim to you. He *is* the God Who made the world and all things that *are* in it.... [everything and all human beings] ...Being *the* Lord of heaven and earth...” (vs 23-24).

All the gods of the Greeks were divided down into various categories of jurisdiction: life, death, earth, heaven, stars, planets, war, peace, sex, non-sex, etc.

“...He does not dwell in temples made by hands” (v 24). There he’s standing right in front of Zeus’ temple with all the carvings of all the gods.

Verse 25: “Nor is He served by the hands of men, as *though* He needs anything, *for* He gives to all... [everyone; he’s looking at all these philosophers right in the eye] ...life and breath and all things.”

We’re going to see, because of that—and God has given dominion of the earth to man—all men everywhere have obligations to God. All of these obligations, whether known or unknown, are going to be enacted. A lot of people don’t think of it that way because we have free moral agency. If we have free moral agency, you think if I want to do this I’m going to do it. If it’s something that’s good, then that’s okay. However, when you are cut off from God and you just look at the raw humanity, then what happens—note Rom 1—every civilization and empire goes down the same exact road because of two factors:

1. human nature
2. Satan the devil is god of this world

Verse 26: “And He made of all one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth... [all common] ...having determined beforehand *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling.” We’ll see what God says about that.

Here’s the whole purpose of it. Let’s do a little addition with this next verse about seeking God. Israel was to take the way of God to the world. They did not do that. The Church is to preach the

Truth of God and those who repent then become, through repentance and baptism, the sons and daughters of God and enter into the understanding of God’s plan on earth.

The whole world is blinded at this point. They can see some points of Truth. They can see that this is good; they can see that that is evil. However, there is always pressure coming down to do more and more and more evil.

Just to give you a little heads up on something that is going to happen. When you have freedom of religion according to your own conscience, that sounds perfect for human will, human choice. Can you deny the religion of Satan to be taught in the schools? Separation of church and state applies only to Christianity. So, in Florida they are doing that. The degradation of human nature, when they reject God and go their own way, God eventually judges.

Israel failed in that. God did not intend the Church to convert the whole world, but nevertheless, He still had promises coming to Israel and Judah, especially the ten tribes of Israel and Ephraim and Manasseh, as we have in our new book, *America and Britain: Their Biblical Origin and Prophetic Destiny In* because of the promises He made to Abraham.

Certain things of God’s way that God has given to Israel follow right through because God has given His Word to Israel. So, *the blessings are available and the curses are there—both!* That has not changed. Moses wrote that these blessings and curses would be upon Israel forever.

Before God gave the latter fulfillment of power to Ephraim and Manasseh and the other tribes of Israel of northwestern Europe, He caused His word to be made known so we would have it. But we have done too much like all the religions of the world and men get all into themselves and they come and tell God what to do.

Just like this one preacher. He said, ‘It’s evident that nine of the commandments are moral, except the Sabbath.’ So, they went to God and said they were going to keep Sunday. Let’s take that further as we’re going to get into the seven-year land sabbaths, and so forth. ‘The land is mine; I will do with it as I see fit.’ Is that not the same attitude toward God Who created it? *Yes, indeed!* We will see what happens.

Here’s why we are where we are, v 27: “In order that they might seek the Lord, if perhaps... [it’s conditional; you have to choose] ...they might feel after Him and might find Him; though truly, He is not far from each one of us, for in Him [God]...” (vs 27-28). We’re not independent as we think we are. We have independent free moral agency, but our

whole lives and everything about us depends on everything that comes from God.

Verse 28: “For in Him we live and move and have our being...” Then he quotes one of the poets, because he understood Greek and Greek philosophy, and all of that sort of thing. When he was in Tarsus, which was one of the centers of Greek philosophy he learned that as well as the way of Judaism and the Scriptures of God, etc. That’s exactly why God called the Apostle Paul. None of the other apostles had very much acquaintance with all of the paganism of the pagans.

“...as some of the poets among you also have said, ‘For we are His offspring’” (v 28). This is just like Winston Churchill said: ***‘Men come along and they stumble over the Truth and fall down and then get up from there and dust themselves off and go on their way and ignore it.’*** I don’t know whether he meant that to be prophetic of WWII with America and Britain. God used us to get rid of the evil and then we picked up everything and brought it lock, stock and barrel here. And what are we doing now as a nation? He came close.

Verse 29: “Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we should not think that the Godhead *is* like that which *is made* of gold, or silver, or stone—a graven thing of art *devised by the* imagination of man. For although God has indeed overlooked the times of this ignorance, He now commands all men everywhere to repent” (vs 29-30). Which is what has to go out to the world today.

When you read the book *The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah*, and read the book of Revelation, you are going to see that this world is in for so many absolute stark things to happen to this earth on such a massive scale that God is going to make Himself known.

Gen. 10 is all the genealogies in the Old Testament, even though they are very difficult to read. In reading the whole Bible we read all the genealogies. There are a lot of names there you can hardly pronounce. However, this shows the physical lineage coming from Adam and Eve right on down to Jesus Christ and going back the other way.

Genesis 10:32: “These *are* the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations; and from these were the nations divided on the earth after the Flood.”

Gen. 11 then shows not all of those who went to their possessions was it a real blessing. We have the story of Nimrod, what he did, and we have the Tower of Babel what they all did. Those most involved in that and their idolatry and going against God and following Nimrod, the very worst of them were given the very worse possessions in the world.

That’s God’s judgment upon them. The descendants still, in many cases, are living there.

However, for Israel it was quite a different story. Israel was to be the nation of God. We’ve gone through many things in the Old Testament covering what Israel was to do. We know how God called them. We know God took Israel out of Egypt and that was based on the promise that God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He used His Holy Days for accomplishing those things.

Here they were; Moses is reiterating the giving of the Ten Commandments in Deut. 5, and the last part of this chapter is very interesting.

Deuteronomy 5:28: “And the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well *said* all that they have spoken.’” In other words, they were well-intentioned. ‘O God, it’s so much. I can’t stand to hear Your voice. Moses, you go speak.’

The unconverted heart cannot obey God. The unconverted heart can never cleanse the conscience. No exterior thing that you do, even keeping the commandments in the letter of the Law and giving the animal sacrifices for justification to the temple, that never changes the conscience. That has to be the Spirit of God through the process of conversion. God never offered the Holy Spirit to the children of Israel. He wanted them to learn His commandments by heart, but that never converted them.

It is absolutely true, you can never change your spirit, the spirit of man in the mind, without the Spirit of God to do the things that are pleasing to God. This is why He said, even though they were well intentioned, even the good intentions....

Sidebar: Let’s talk a little about good intentions. There are a lot of people out there on the Sabbath working on their lawns, tending to their house, doing good things, not knowing that they are breaking the Sabbath. All the good things that they do, while ignoring God and doing *their own way*, even though it’s good, cannot be good that is accepted of God because you’re sinning while you are doing it.

Same way with going out to all these football games that the colleges have on Friday night and Saturday. Same way with all the night-clubbing. Same with everything that people do. Same way with all of the good deeds of getting money to help the poor, etc. etc. *Man is sinful by nature!*

God says even of Israel that He chose, and He asked them that if they would keep His commandments and love Him in the letter of the

law, He would bless them physically in the land that He gave them. But they had to remember:

- *God* created the earth
- *God* gave them the land
- *God* would drive out the enemy
- *God* would provide every physical thing for them

—and they had to be His priests to go to the world. They didn't do it.

Verse 29: “Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep **all** My commandments always so that it might be well with them and with their children forever! Go say to them, ‘Go into your tents again. But as for you, you stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may do *them* in the land which I am giving them, to possess it’” (vs 29-31).

Remember, since everything belongs to God, and there is nothing that doesn't belong to God, all of that is on loan to us. Because we are made in the image of God, we must worship God and acknowledge Him and keep His commandments, like He said.

Spiritually speaking, this is far more applicable to us because we've had the circumcision of the heart to receive the Holy Spirit so that God will dwell in our mind and He will write His commandments *within* us to qualify us for eternal life.

Verse 32: “And you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you so that you may live and that *it may be* well with you...” (vs 32-33). God wants to bless you. Remember, obedience equals blessings. Disobedience means judgment or curse.

“...and you may prolong *your* days in the land which you shall possess” (v 33). Moses is teaching them.

Deuteronomy 6:1: “Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it. That you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey” (vs 1-3).

The best land in the world. Don't they say that about America? ‘Greatest land there has ever been. We feed the world. We're such industrious people, we do thus-and-such, and we do this and we do that, we do the other.’

Sidebar: I couldn't help but thinking of this, because it's talking about the heartland. Right in the middle of the heartland is Iowa. They are the hog capital of the world. If you watch anything on the History Channel about barbeque, they barbeque the whole pig, everything of it, nothing is wasted. And ‘we are good people; we have morals.’

Think on this: They now know that the Ebola virus can be spread through hogs. It originally comes from the jungle diet of eating monkeys. Just like the MERS virus comes from eating camel flesh and drinking its milk. That's why the Arab that came to the United States that had MERS was because he was eating camel meat and drinking its milk.

Let's extend the sidebar out just a little bit so we'll get the point. What if—and they are thinking it could happen—the Ebola virus gets loose in America? What if it gets to the heartland of Iowa and infects the hogs? Now, what are you going to do?

Dolores has been telling me, yes, they want to get it here, because reading the articles and different things, that's true. If you think this is exaggerated, you can blame Dolores, but it's possible. Where does the flu come from? What's the flu that always comes up every year? *Swine flu!* Why did God say don't eat it?

Verse 4: “Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD.... [that is the correct translation of it] ...And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart. And you shall diligently teach them to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the posts of your house and on your gates. And it shall be when the LORD your God has brought you into the land which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, to give you great and goodly cities which you did not build, and houses full of every good thing which you did not fill... [doesn't that sound like our generation today] ...and wells which are dug, which you did not dig; vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you shall eat and be full” (vs 4-11).

Always happens! Happens in the Church; it's called Laodiceanism in the Church. Because you

have so much you think you're safe. You have all the blessings of God. It's so good! So therefore, 'I'm so busy taking care of these blessings and things, that I don't have any time for God.' You can read about the Laodiceans.

Verse 12: "*Then* beware lest you forget the LORD Who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage. You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall swear by His name. You shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people who are all around you. For the LORD your God *is* a jealous God among you, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you and destroy you from off the face of the earth" (vs 12-15).

Did that happen? *Yes, indeed!* Quite a thing! I will let you read Deut. 7. Let's come over to Deut. 8 and this becomes a real important thing. God told them why He humbled them, why they wandered for 38-1/2 extra years and why everyone over 20-years-old died. The answer is: ***you can never mock God!*** The truth was they rebelled ten times up to that point. God was ready to take them into the 'promised land' 18 months after they came out of Egypt. But when the spies came back from spying out the land, they gave an evil report, except Joshua and Caleb. They said they wouldn't go up, cried all night, complained to God.

So, God said, 'That's it; judgment has come upon you. For every day that the spies were in the land, 40 days, you are going to spend an extra year in this wilderness until everyone over 20 is dead, except Joshua and Caleb.' So, they cried all the more. The next morning they got up and said, 'Oh, we've had a change of heart. Everybody get all their weapons and come.'

Moses said, 'Don't go; God is not with you.' We're going to go; we're going to go. We're going to do the will of God. *The will of God was changed by God!* So they went up and they were defeated. So here they are now at the end of the 40 years. Remember, they had manna every day but the Sabbath for 40 years, and yet, that did not instill in them the habit of keeping the Sabbath.

He said, 'This is the lesson you are going to learn.' Deuteronomy 8:1: "All the commandments which I command you this day shall you be diligent to observe *and to* do that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers. And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God led you these forty years in the wilderness in order to humble you, to prove you, to know what is in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not" (vs 1-2).

Didn't we read back there in 1-Cor.4 that God is going to judge the motives of the heart? People can be so good on the outside, but what is in the mind is what God is going to judge.

Verse 3: "And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger, and then He fed you with manna which you did not know, neither did your fathers know *it*, so that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone; but by every *word* that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live. Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. And you shall consider in your heart that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you. And you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him, for the LORD your God brings you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land in which you shall eat bread without scarceness...." (vs 3-9).

Think of it today. How many refrigerators do you have? We have two refrigerators and two freezers and they are full of food. That's fine as long as the electricity keeps coming. What happens today? You open up the refrigerator and say, 'What do I want to eat? I don't want that, I don't want that.' We are there, "...without scarceness...." You want more? *Go to the store and get it!* You don't want to cook it? *Go buy it cooked!* How many have just killed a beef so you could have beef? A goat? Chicken? Duck? Goose?

Verse 9: "...You shall not lack any *thing* in it...." When statistics come out and compare the poor in America with the poor in other nations, the poor have clothes, a place to live, food, refrigerator, phone, cell phone, television. They are middle class in India. Maybe getting up toward the beginning of the upper-middle class.

There's the lower middle class, you're just coming out of poverty, there's the middle-middle class, then there's the upper middle class. Then there's the lower upper class, and everybody's trying to get into the upper-upper class, but we can't all make it there.

God says this is what it is. How much food is spoiled that you had to throw away? Sometimes Dolores does that; she cleans out the refrigerator, gets rid of this, gets of that, gets rid of the other thing. We open it up and as Stephen said the other day, 'I can see the back of the refrigerator.' Without scarceness.

"...*It is* a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you may dig copper" (v 9). We have coal and oil and all of those things, all forms of wealth. Notice what He says here because this

becomes very important and will fit into what Jonathan Cahn calls *the Shemitah*.

Verse 10: “When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God...”—because everything comes from Him; everything is because of His creation. We may redo it, we may make metal out of it, we may make clothes out of it, we may make leather out of it, we may cut the stones and build houses or make bricks; or cut down the trees and make lumber. But all of that came from God and *He* made it.

Verse 11: “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments... [‘Because I’m in debt I’ve got to work on the Sabbath.’] ...and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today. Lest when you have eaten and are full and have built goodly houses and lived in *them*” (vs 11-12).

You drive through any city today, thousands and thousands of homes, all stacked, all nice neatly. They just finished off a little subdivision over here in Hollister. Whoever the builder was when the depression came in 2008 he couldn’t finish it. So, now they just finished it. So there are all those new houses. People have bought them. They have nice green lawns. They have their cars out there; average of 4 cars per house. Isn’t that wonderful! They take care of the lawn; they keep it green. They mow it and all that sort of thing.

As I drive through there when I come back from the store, and I include myself in this, what are we going to do when you can’t run to the store to get your food? Do any of these homes have yards big enough for a garden in the back? If they do, do they have a garden? We’ve got a big backyard. We’ve got a lot of trees, but there’s not enough there to produce to continually live till the next harvest. And you’ve got to have water, too.

We’re in a drought. Can’t flush your toilet but once a day. When you do it goes into the sewer and then here comes a truck. It has to roto-root the sewer because there’s not enough water to get it down to the processing plant. Think what’s going to happen in New York City with the high rises, because it’s going to come. You cannot get away from God and you cannot reject God in any way and get away with it.

(go to the next track)

Let’s talk about the seventh-year *land sabbath*. Let’s understand something very, very important concerning the commandments of God; *concerning the blessings and the cursings*. If you obey, you will receive blessings. If you disobey, you will receive judgment, which is called curses. Either way God is involved.

It’s like one woman asked me. ‘I have a friend who says that casual sex is just fine for today.’ She was trying to explain to her that the Bible says don’t commit adultery. *Oh, well, that’s for way back then*. She didn’t know how to answer it. I said to do this. Take your car keys and ask her if the law of gravity has been done away. *No! Neither has any of the laws of God been abolished!*

There is a penalty for not knowing who we are as a people; that is, we cut ourselves off from God. Let’s read about the land sabbath here in Lev. 25. It’s amazing! Jonathan Cahn, who is of the priestly line—Cohen or Cahn—says that America styled itself after Israel but no Jew can bring himself to say that the rest of the ten tribes of Israel are still here, let alone receive blessings from God.

Likewise, he brings out everything concerning the judgment, concerning the Shemitah—the seven-year land rest, and also the jubilee—and he makes some very good points with it. So, before I read anything from his book, let’s come to:

Leviticus 25:1: “And the LORD spoke to Moses in Mount Sinai, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, “When you come into the land, which I give you... [comes from God] ...then shall the land keep a Sabbath to the LORD””’ (vs 1-2).

Dolores and I were talking about this last time we went over to Santa Cruz to go shopping. We go to Santa Cruz to go shopping because all of the ‘organic priesthood’ live over there, because it’s their religion. One of the reasons they are so involved in organic is because their generation got onto drugs and ruined their health and so they now know they can recover their health if they get back and get the organic.

We take the back road going over to Santa Cruz and we drive through about 15 miles of fields. We go through and we spot the crop. As we drove by we said this is celery and this is peppers and this is tomatoes, and so forth as we’re going along. Or this is cauliflower, cabbage, or lettuce—the multiple salad you get when you go to a restaurant and you get the purple, green, yellow, etc.

So, as soon as they get one crop done, they come in and plow it right up, as soon as they harvest it. Work the soil again, throw on some fertilizer, plant another crop. They get three crops a year. That is okay if they did it correctly. But just like anything else, you either acknowledge God and worship Him and obey Him or He acknowledges your sins and you will pay. There’s no way around it. Otherwise, you can mock God. What does God say about mocking Him? Isa. 29 is what we are doing with the land, and especially when you consider what all the

scientists are doing with the GMOs (genetically modified organisms). It's causing a great deal of sickness among the people today.

Here's part of what is a great sin in America and in Britain and other nations as well, but especially America and Britain, because we bear the name Israel:

Isaiah 29:13: "And the LORD said, 'Because this people draw near *Me* with their mouth, and with their lips honor Me, but their worship of Me is made up of the traditions of men learned by rote, and their fear toward Me is *taught* by the commandments of men.'"

All the mess that is going on in America today, and in the world, ***lies right at the doorstep of the Christian ministers in the world and those who profess that the laws of God have been done away; those who profess that the Old Testament has been abolished!*** The Catholics do, the Protestants do. The other religions of the world they are under judgment for fewer stripes than us, because we are the people of God, *physically* as a nation and *spiritually* as a church.

Verse 14: "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do again a marvelous work among this people, *even* a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise ones shall perish... [they won't know what to do] ...and the wisdom of their intelligent ones shall vanish.' Woe to those who go deep to hide *their* purpose from the LORD!.... [God knows everything of everyone, everywhere at all times if He desires to know] ...And their works are in the dark, and they say, 'Who sees us? And who knows us?' Surely, you have turned things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the potter's clay..." (vs 14-16). Atheist churches rejecting God, but it starts with those who profess to know God.

"...for shall the work say of him who made it, 'He did not make me?'..." (v 16). It just came together. Oh, there was a big bang and it all evolved. Try that the next time your car breaks down. Buy another broken-down car and have that evolve.

"...Or shall the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'He has no understanding?'" (v 16). There is no God. That's why God calls them *fools*.

This is what they have said of the land sabbath and of the commandments of God. It is going to be the land sabbath, which Cahn calls the Shemitah, which is going to come hard upon us.

- Did it come on Israel of old? *Yes!*
- Did it come on Judah of old? *Yes!*

We'll read that and why it came.

Leviticus 25:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses in Mount Sinai, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, "When you come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath to the LORD"' (vs 1-2). That was the comment we made a couple weeks ago, driving out to Santa Cruz. Here are all these fields, plowed over and over again. We said, 'Boy, they never give the land any rest, do they?'

Verse 3: "You shall sow your field six years, and you shall prune your vineyard six years, and gather in the fruit of it. But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest to the land, a Sabbath for the LORD.... [it is God's Sabbath; it is God's law] ...You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard. You shall not reap that which grows of its own accord for your harvest... [reap it to sell it as a product] ...neither gather the grapes of your undressed vine *as a harvest*. It is a year of rest to the land. Rather, the Sabbath yield of the land shall be food for you, for you and for your servant, and for your slave woman and for your hired servant, and for your stranger who stays with you, and for your livestock, and for the beast that *is* in your land, shall all the increase of it be for food" (vs 3-7).

There was something else that they were to do. This was also included in the same command; it has to do with money, with debt and with credit.

Deuteronomy 15:1: "At the end of *every* seven years you shall make a release. And this *is* the manner of the release: Every man who has a loan to his neighbor shall release it. He shall not exact *it* from his neighbor or from his brother because it is called the LORD'S release. You may exact *it* from a foreigner, but your hand shall release that which is yours with your brother, Except when there shall be no poor among you. For the LORD shall greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you *for* an inheritance to possess it. Only if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God to be careful to observe all these commandments which I command you today" (vs 1-5). God will bless you.

Here is what they were to do. Everything was within a six-year and seven-year cycle. That means there would be no loans longer than six years and minus one day at the end of the year. If it were longer than that, you forgive it, was to be released. You can't come back and pick it up as the next year begins.

Everything goes into the six/seven year cycle. What does that do a 30-year mortgage on a house? All those poor bankers can't make very much money. Next time we'll have something to say about bankers.

That's what they were to do. God says that He will bless. There were some Jews in the area of the so-called Holy Land. It's anything but Holy today. They observed the land sabbath and in the sixth year they got a hundred-fold increase and it carried on over with no problem. This is all calculated on the Feast of Trumpets. That's the beginning of the civil year. On the 29th of Elul, which is the month before, because there are only 29 days in that month, all debts had to be forgiven, wiped away. What would that do to the banking industry today?

There was another one. It's called *the jubilee*, which takes even greater faith; Leviticus 25:8: "And you shall number seven Sabbaths of years to you, seven times seven years. And the time of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be forty-nine years to you. Then you shall cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month; in the Day of Atonement, the trumpet shall sound throughout all your land" (vs 8-9).

Every seven years you were to let the Hebrew slaves go. Now here you are to let the slaves, all land goes back to those to whom it belonged except within the cities. It is a jubilee! Jesus started His ministry with the temptation of Satan the devil on the Day of Atonement in the jubilee of 26_{A.D.} So, think on that!

Verse 11: "That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee to you. You shall not sow, neither reap that which grows of itself in it, nor gather the grapes of your undressed vine in it." In the 50th year you had two years in a row: 49 and 50. Fifty was the first year of the next seven-year cycle.

Verse 12: "For it is the jubilee. It shall be Holy to you. You shall eat the increase of it out of the field. In the year of this jubilee you shall return each man to his possession" (vs 12-13). Then it says what you do in buying and selling, letting someone purchase the right to use the land, and you figure it according to the jubilee.

Verse 17: "'And you shall not oppress one another. But you shall fear your God, for I *am* the LORD your God. And you shall do My statutes, and keep My judgments and do them. And you shall dwell in the land in safety. And the land shall yield its fruits, and you shall eat your fill and dwell in it in safety. And if you shall say, 'What shall we eat the seventh year?... [or we can say the 8th year as well] ...Behold, we shall not sow nor gather in our increase!' Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years" (vs 17-21).

Remember it starts on Trumpets. So then you have the fall. Come the next year, year one if it's not the jubilee, then you could start planting

right after Trumpets. You could put in the wheat and the barley for the next year and in the spring you could harvest it.

Notice what He promises, v 22: "And you shall sow the eighth year, and eat of old fruit in storage until the ninth year... [that's the jubilee] ..until its fruits come in, you shall eat the old fruit. The land shall not be sold forever, for the land *is* Mine... [It's like God says of the Sabbath. God says, 'The Sabbath is Mine.'] ...for you are strangers and pilgrims with Me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant a redemption for the land" (vs 22-24).

Then there are some other things that go along with it. Jim will remember that many times I've said, when we talk about the finances, that it seems as though every seven years the stock market crashes. Jonathan Cahn brings that out in his book, *The Mystery of the Shemitah*, and he ties it directly in showing charts how it happens. It's in the seventh year and the eighth year.

Jonathan Cahn is the one who wrote about the harbingers and 9/11—*The Harbinger*—so, he gives a little review of that.

The Mystery of the Shemitah

pg 38—The Covenant Sign:

The Shemitah... [the seven-year land sabbath] ...was a sign of the nation's covenant with God. Everything they had, the land and all its blessings, was dependent on that covenant and their relationship with God.

That's even more so with us for eternal life.

It was all entrusted to them, but it belonged to God. If they turned away from God, then their blessings would be removed, or rather, they would be removed from their blessings.

So for the people of Israel to keep the Sabbath year was to acknowledge God's sovereignty over their land and lives. It was also an act of faith. It required their total trust in God's faithfulness to provide for their needs while they ceased from farming.

If they did it right, they could store up. They could have extra, plus what came in the 6th year. So commerce and activity could still go on. If they had it stored in year one, two, three, four, five and six, then they could sell that to the people living in the cities or they could barter with it, one way or the other. But they were not to plant a crop nor were they to take any of the fruit from the trees except what they would eat.

In the same way, to cancel all the debts owed them was to sacrifice monetary gain and, again, to rely on God's providence.

If this were enacted and carried through, then there would be great prosperity in six years. The prosperity would carry through with God's extra blessing in the 6th year, so that everyone would have plenty. It guaranteed something very, very important. There would be no inflation.

Next time we're going to talk about inflation. Have you gone shopping lately? *Yes, indeed!* It's because this has not been followed.

pg 39—The Shemitah and the Fall of a Nation

If God is not sovereign over the land and its people, then the land and its people become cut off from the Creator. A God-centered worldview is replaced...

That's what's happening right now. This Feast of Trumpets starts another seven-year Shemitah, between Trumpets 2014 and Trumpets 2015.

...by a man-centered and self-centered worldview.

'Every man does that which is right in his own eyes.' Isn't that what is happening today? *Yes, indeed!*

So the people of Israel drove God out of their lives to become their own gods... [we have done it] ...masters of the land, their world, and their destiny. They could now rewrite the law and redefine what was right and wrong, moral and immoral.

That's exactly what we have done.

Without God nothing would be holy or, for that matter, unholy. Nothing had any purpose except the purpose they now assigned it. And with no true purpose, they could do whatever they wanted—not only with their land but also with their lives, with each other, and with their children. Thus they lifted up their children as sacrifices on the altars of foreign gods.

It was for this last transgression that the judgment finally fell. It began with the breaking of the Shemitah and ended in the offering of their sons and daughters in the fires of Baal and Molech, the sin that would bring about the nation's destruction.

Let's see what God says with that. The Shemitah with Israel is always enforced, whether for blessing or whether for judgment.

Jehoiachin *was* eight years old when he began to reign, 2-Chronicles 36:9: "...and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. And he did *what was* evil in the sight of the LORD. And when the year had ended, King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable vessels of the house of the LORD... [He came and took out all the gold, silver, bronze, everything.] ...And he made his brother Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem. Zedekiah *was* twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did *what was* evil in the sight of the LORD his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet *who spoke* from the mouth of the LORD" (vs 9-12).

Remember the sermon I gave on the difference one man can make? When Zedekiah asked for Jeremiah to come and tell him what he should do, he said that if he would humble himself God would not destroy the city, God would not destroy the temple. But he refused to do it. He refused to go surrender to Nebuchadnezzar and become a vassal king.

Just like today, there's one man sitting in the White House who is bringing curse after curse after curse upon this land and upon the world because this nation and the nations of the world are involved in killing the most innocent human beings. Abortion is worse than the sacrifice of burning your children, because at the least the children were born and perhaps you could have changed your mind. We are approaching, just in the United States of America, 60-million abortions since 1973!

Remember what God said of the blood of Abel? He said, 'The blood of your brother cries out to Me.' What do you think about the blood of the unborn that have been murdered? *No defense, no one to stand up for them!* Mothers who are so selfish and so self-centered and so interested in their own pleasures that they freely run to the abortion clinic. This is an excellent example. ***There can never be a sin in isolation!*** Sin, if you do it or if I do it, will sooner or later affect someone else and that will affect someone else.

Stop and think for a minute what happened to the Church of God. When they got lifted up in their vanity and all of their wealth and all of the things that they did and began abandoning God, even changing the Gospel from the visible return of Jesus Christ to an 'Unseen Hand,' God took it away just like He took away Israel and Judah.

Verse 13: "And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God.

But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart from turning to the LORD God of Israel. Moreover, all the chief of the priests and the people transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen. And they polluted the house of the LORD which He had made Holy in Jerusalem.... [by His own presence] ...And the LORD God of their fathers sent word to them by His messengers, again and again, for He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God and despised His words, and ill-treated His prophets until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people until *there was no remedy*" (vs 13-16). How close are we as a nation to that point?

Verse 17: "And He caused the king of the Chaldeans to go up against them...." Isn't it interesting, ISIS is where? And they promised to raise the flag on what? *The White House, and to meet the prosecutor in New York City and behead him!*

"...And he killed their choice ones by the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no pity on the young man and the virgin, nor on the old man and the very aged; He gave all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his rulers, he brought all *these* to Babylon. And they burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all the palaces of it with fire, and destroyed all its beautiful vessels. And the ones who had escaped from the sword, he carried away to Babylon where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the Word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths... [the sabbath for the land must be paid for] ...All the days of the desolation it kept the sabbath to the full measure of seventy years" (vs 17-21).

What do you think God is going to do to this nation? Remember, ***financial catastrophe can happen in the blink of a computer!***

It...[the Shemitah] ...would come back on them, not in the form of blessing, but of judgment.

In his book, Cahn shows many judgments. I'll just flip through and read some of the years in which the depressions occurred.

They had driven the Shemitah from the land. Now the Shemitah had returned, and they themselves were driven out. They had removed God from their lives. Now their blessings would likewise be removed from their lives, and their lives from their blessings.

The Shemitah's Desolations

During the Shemitah there was to be no sowing or reaping of the land. The nation had rejected the ordinance and had worked the land continuously, exploiting it for gain. But when the Shemitah returned to the land in the form of judgment, all sowing and reaping ceased, all tending of vineyards and groves came to an end, and no one worked the land. Through judgment and calamity the ordinance was now fulfilled.

And he explains all of that.

pg 41—...In 586 BC the Shemitah wiped away the kingdom itself. That which had been built up, the nation's palaces and towers, were all wiped away. The kingdom itself had been nullified.

So it teaches: do not go against God because God always fulfills His Word. Just like in a publication called *The Christian Jew*, the Messianic rabbi warned the Jews and said, 'My brothers, remember half of the Word of God is warnings. Just like you expect the blessings, if you do not love God, He's going to judge you and it will come to pass.'

pgs 90-95:

First Turning Point: 1973

Second Turning Point: 1980

Third Turning Point: 1987

With this he has all charts of what happened to the stock market and how much wealth they lost and everything.

Fourth Turning Point: 2000

Remember September 11, 2000? *Right at the beginning of the Shemitah year!* What happened? You know.

Fifth Turning Point: 2007

pg 96—The Mystery of Cycles

And it goes all the way through, lists every one of them. Then he goes back clear to 1870 and carries it forward. He brings out a lot of things. What he does not bring out is this, which he should have: That if properly managed, when debts are canceled, there would be no canceling of debts because they would all be terminated before the time to terminate the debt. They would all be paid. That is a blessing.

Just likewise with the produce, and so forth. Business and trade could still go on, because there would be plenty of stored food, plenty of store of everything. All the ranchers and farmers could do

the things that all ranchers and farmers need to do. Take a year's rest, working on building the fences, work on fixing up the things on the farm and in the vineyard. The poor could come in and get free food, a blessing for everyone.

I'll just add one little caveat with this. I mentioned this one time before, but it comes to mind. When we were up in Boise and I was pastoring the Boise Church, we had some members who owned a big dairy ranch. They invited us to come up and visit them and stay overnight with them. One thing they didn't tell us. There is the main east-west track which went right in front of their place about 500 yards from the house. So, here at 2 o'clock in the morning we woke up.

His question to me was this, because of the way they produce cattle today: 'What about artificial insemination; what do you think of it?' I told him I thought the proper insemination with a bull, live, would be better. He said, 'Okay, I'll do that.' He had a year-old bull he had been keeping for that purpose. So he did.

The next year when the calves were born, he had eight sets of twins. Was that a blessing from God or not? Did that not double his income on those? *Yes, indeed!* He kept doing that, but the bull would grow bigger and bigger. I think it was the third or fourth year when we went up to visit him again.

He said to come out; he wanted to show us the bull. He took me out into the barn and he showed me the bull. He opened up the door and here's this bull. He was huge. He said, 'I'm going to make hamburger out of him because he's too big and getting too nasty.'

He had that blessing running for doing the things God's way. How did he keep the Sabbath, because you've got to milk cows every day. I told him in the summer time milk late on Friday. Then once on the Sabbath and then wait until after the Sabbath is over and milk them. You cannot have it where you don't milk the cows. So, that worked.

We are going to see that *the mystery of the Shemitah* is going to happen again. In the final analysis **God will not be mocked!** The Shemitah will come, whether you keep it or not. If it comes in judgment, **remember what happened to Judah in 586_{B.C.} and the land had rest for 70 years!** *That is the Shemitah!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1-Corinthians 4:1-7
- 2) Acts 17:22-30
- 3) Genesis 10:32

- 4) Deuteronomy 5:28-33
- 5) Deuteronomy 6:1-15
- 6) Deuteronomy 8:1-12
- 7) Leviticus 25:1-2
- 8) Isaiah 29:13-16
- 9) Leviticus 25:1-7
- 10) Deuteronomy 15:1-5
- 11) Leviticus 25:8-13, 17-24
- 12) 2-Chronicles 36:9-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 1
- Genesis 11
- Deuteronomy 7

Also referenced:

Books:

- *The Mystery of the Shemitah* by Jonathan Cahn
- *America and Britain: Their Biblical Origin and Prophetic Destiny* by Philip Neal
- *The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn

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