

Year of Jubilee

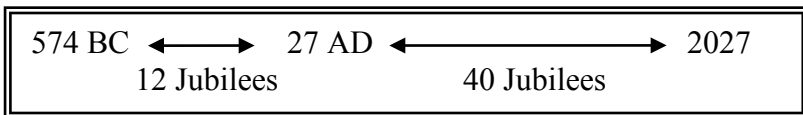


There are at least two references in Scripture that point us to Jubilee Years. The first one was found by rabbis who connected Ezekiel 40:1 with Leviticus 25:9-10. As noted by Dr. Widener: “The Talmud records their opinion that the twenty-fifth year after the first exile there was a jubilee year, because only in the Year of Jubilee does the New Year (Rosh Hashanah) begin on the tenth of Tishri...with the date of the first exile beginning on 2 Adar 597 BC, there was a Year of Jubilee that began on 10 Tishri 574 BC in the twenty-fifth year of their exile (Ezekiel 40:1).” (Widener, pp. 265-266)

The other Scripture that describes a Jubilee Year was when Jesus began His ministry and He visited a synagogue on the Sabbath where He read from the scroll of Isaiah. This was recorded for us by Luke:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners** and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the **oppressed free**, to proclaim **the year of the Lord's favor**.*
(Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus then stopped reading and said, “*Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*” What He had just read included proclaiming the Year of the Lord’s favor (which means a **Year of Jubilee**), which He said was just fulfilled. From this, we can conclude that when Jesus began His ministry in AD 27, He proclaimed that it was a Jubilee Year.



By connecting these two Jubilee Years (574 BC and 27 AD) we can extrapolate 40 Jubilees (40 x 50 = 2,000 years), which takes us to the Jubilee Year in 2027. Remember that **Jesus** spent 40 days in the wilderness after He was baptized, and the **Israelites** wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Are these foreshadowing Jesus would provide for 40 Jubilees – one Jubilee for each day that He spent in the wilderness? And, as believers, aren't we just **pilgrims** in the wilderness on the earth (for a period of 40 Jubilees) looking for our heavenly city? (Hebrews 11:13-16, 1 Peter 2:9-11) Even so, come Lord Jesus!