

Why Does the Land Need to Rest?

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By Joseph F. Dumond

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News Letter 5851-053

25th day of the 12th month 5851 years after the creation of Adam

The 12th Month in the Sixth year of the Third Sabbatical Cycle

The Third Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes, Famines and Pestilence

The Year of the Tithe for the Widows, Orphans & Levites

Less than 1 week to get ready for the Sabbatical year that begins at Aviv 2016

March 5, 2016

Shabbat Shalom to The Royal Family of Yehovah,

Here we are on the very cusp of the Sabbatical year. Are you as excited as I am regarding what is about to happen?

We are waiting on word from Israel as to whether or not the barley is aviv.

We are watching for the new crescent moon to be sighted from Israel to begin the year. It is expected to be seen Thursday March 10 the 30th day of the 12th month. Wednesday March 9 it will be next to impossible to sight the moon as it sets very quickly after the sun sets and will not be visible due to the brightness of the sun.

So, Thursday evening and Friday day will be the first day of the either the 13th month if the barley is not going to be ready in time for the wave offering on the 1st day during the week of Unleavened Bread, or Thursday evening and Friday day will be the first of Aviv and the start of the 3rd Sabbatical year of rest in this the 120th Jubilee cycle.

Once again here are two reasons why “No man can know the day or the hour”. We do not know if the barley is aviv and we do not know if the moon is to be seen on the 29th or the 30th day. This month it is going to be the 30th day, but other years we do not know.

Yes, I am excited to see what Yehovah is going to have us do.

If indeed the year begins this coming week, then we will have a dark moon at Passover and another dark moon at Sukkot giving us 6 lunar eclipses in a row. Extremely rare. Again I urge you all to watch again and to tell others to do the same, to watch our video on [the Blood Moons](#) and the warnings they show us. A dark moon is a warning of famine coming.

Once we know when the year begins then we can all count to each and every Holy Day and also to the 7th month to plan on when those fall Holy Days will come so we can book off of work. Yehovah keeps us on our toes.

What are we to do for the Sabbatical year?

Here are the commandments for the Sabbatical year that we are to keep no matter where we are on this earth.

Lev 25:1 And Jehovah spoke to Moses in Mount Sinai, saying,

This commandment comes from Yehovah.

Lev 25:2 Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath to Jehovah.

The year they entered the land was the first Jubilee year of only two mentioned in the entire bible. The year they entered the land was a Jubilee year and was the year 2500 after creation or the year 1337 B.C. It was also the end of the 50th Jubilee cycle. It was 70 Jubilee cycle before the one we are now in.

Lev 25:3 You shall sow your field six years, and you shall prune your vineyard six years, and gather in the fruit of it.

In the same way we work for six days each week and then keep the weekly Sabbath, so is the Sabbatical years every 7 years without missing a beat.

Lev 25:4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest to the land, a sabbath for Jehovah. You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard.

That Sabbatical year begins with Aviv. We are not to plant in the Sabbatical year nor prune our vines.

Lev 25:5 You shall not reap that which grows of its own accord of your harvest, neither gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It is a year of rest to the land.

We are not to reap which means we are not to harvest all your crops. You are not to harvest what grows of itself. Nor are you to harvest the grapes from any undressed vines.

Lev 25:6 And the sabbath 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, 7 and for your cattle, and for the beast that *is* in your land, shall all the increase of it be for food.

You are not to harvest but what grows of its own you can eat. So can any one else and any of the wild animals can also eat of it.

Exo 23:11 But the seventh *year* you shall let it rest and let it alone, so that the poor of your people may eat. And what they leave, the animals of the field shall eat. In the same way you shall deal with your vineyard *and* with your oliveyard.

You are not to plant and you are not to harvest. What grows on its own everyone can eat.

Lev 25:20 And if you shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? Behold, we shall not sow nor gather in our increase! 21 Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. 22 And you shall sow the eighth year, and eat of old fruit until the ninth year; until its fruits come in, you shall eat the old fruit.

We are commanded in this verse to gather the food we will need for the Sabbatical year in the 6th year and gather enough to last us until the new growth comes in after the Sabbath year ends. What is being spoken of here about sowing in the eighth year and harvesting in the 9th is the barley. We are to stock up on our food and be ready.

Deu 15:1 At the end of *every* seven years you shall make a release. 2 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 Jehovah's release. 3 You may exact *it* from a foreigner, but your hand shall release that which is yours with your brother, 4 except when there shall be no poor among you. For Jehovah shall greatly bless you in the land which Jehovah your God gives you *for* an inheritance to possess it, 5 only if you carefully listen to the voice of Jehovah your God to be careful to do all these commandments which I command you today.

At the end of the seventh year we are to forgive the debts of those who owe us. This is where we get the word Shemittah from. The year of release.

Deu 15:12 If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. 13 And when you send him out free from you, you shall not let him go away empty. 14 You shall richly bestow on him from your flock, and from your grain floor, and from your wine press; with what Jehovah your God has blessed you, you shall give to him. 15 And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Jehovah your God redeemed you. Therefore I command you this thing today.

You are to release any Hebrew you have as a slave in the Sabbatical year and you are to send him out richly blessing him from the increase you have enjoyed. This time of release is at Sukkot as we are shown.

Deu 31:10 And Moses commanded them, saying: At the end of seven years, at the set time of the year of release, in the Feast of Tabernacles,

And we are to read the entire law out loud for all to hear, young and old alike. We are to do this on the first day of the Feast of Sukkot.

Deut 31:9 And Moses wrote this Law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of Jehovah, and to all the elders of Israel. 10 And Moses commanded them, saying: At the end of seven years, at the set time of the year of release, in the Feast of Tabernacles, 11 when all Israel has come to appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He shall choose, you shall read this Law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Gather the people, men and women and the little ones, and your stranger who *is* within your gates, so that they may hear and that they may learn and fear Jehovah your God, and be careful to do all the words of this Law, 13 and *that* their sons who have not known may hear and learn to fear Jehovah your God, as long as you live in the land where you go over Jordan to possess it.

1 Do not plant

2 Do not harvest

3 Stock up on food in the 6th year

4 Forgive the debts of those who owe you money

5 Freeing Hebrew Slaves in the Sabbatical year and send them out richly blessing them.

6 Read the Torah out loud at Sukkot in the Sabbatical year.

Why Does the Land Need a Rest?

The Sabbatical Land Rest from an Agronomic perspective.

By James R. Fincham, Certified Professional Soil Scientist

The 2016 Sabbatical year of Leviticus 25

Why does the Land need a rest?

Lev 25:1And Jehovah spoke to Moses in Mount Sinai, saying, **Lev 25:2**Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath to Jehovah. **3**You shall sow your field six years, and you shall prune your vineyard six years, and gather in the fruit of it. **4**But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest to the land, a sabbath for Jehovah. You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard. **5**You shall not reap that which grows of its own accord of your harvest, neither gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It is a year of rest to the land. **Lev 25:5** ‘Do not reap what grows of its own of your harvest, and do not gather the grapes of your unpruned vine, for it is a year of rest for the land.

What is it about the Land that will need a rest anyway? Is there something about the land that expends energy that a rest will in some way mend or heal it? Or is it just another “Law” we are commanded to obey, that Yeshua hung on the cross beside Him, so we don’t have to obey it anymore?

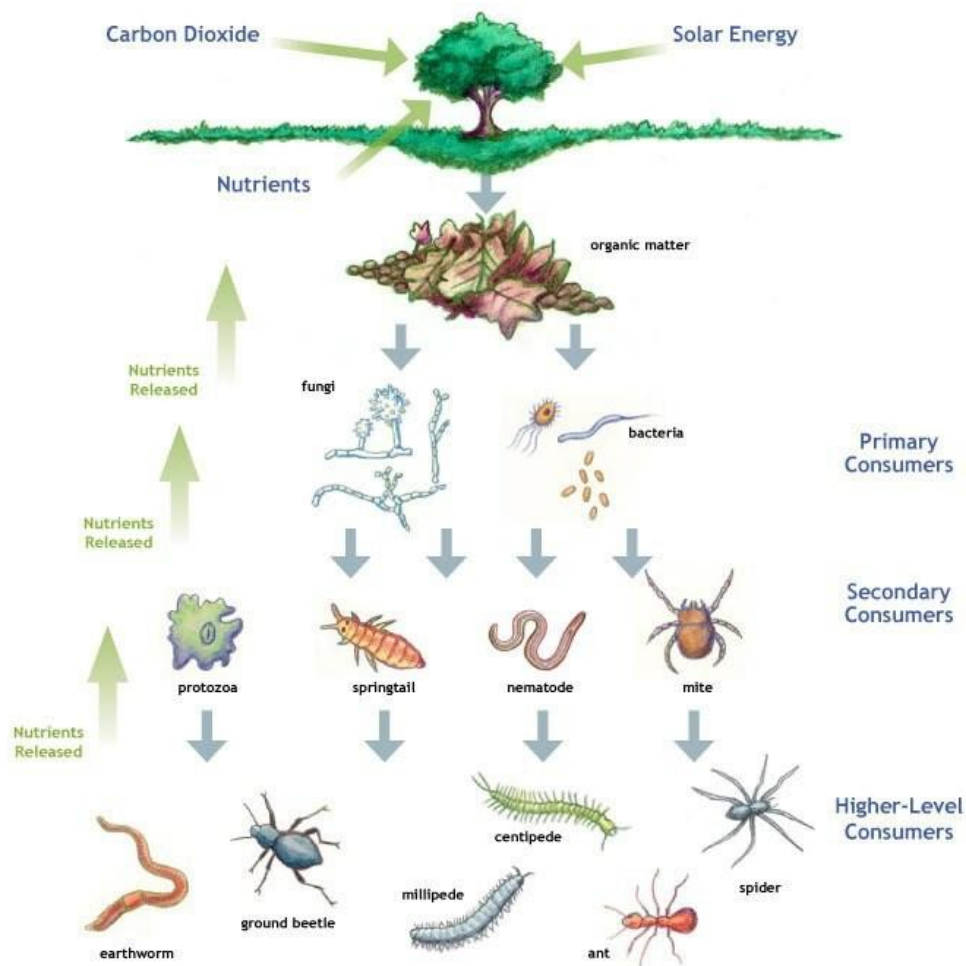
When we talk about the Land, from an agronomic, producing food, perspective we are essentially talking about the surface 8 to 10 inches of the earth’s crust. There are about 2 million pounds of soil in this layer. Approximately 95% of this volume is some form of silica: gravel, sand, silt or clay. These materials are mostly inert, that is, non reactive relative to giving plants anything but physical support, a medium in which to grow. The oceans are similar in that they are a medium in which plants (and animals) find support, it holds them up. Even more specifically, both are a medium in which plant roots can come in contact with a relatively large volume of material in which nutrients are dispersed. In soils, these nutrients, to most of us, are the inorganic nutrients or animal waste (including human) we see being spread across the surface of the land and then being incorporated into the soil. These nutrients can contain harmful elements. These harmful elements are destroyed by the soil “Guardians”.

Yah’s soil Guardians you ask?

Our environment has been designed perfectly. In the Garden of Eden, everything was created in perfect balance. Every plant had exactly what it needed to grow and produce the most nutritious food possible. As we unruly and rebellious children of Yah multiplied and spread over the land (I say rebellious because we stopped obeying Yah’s instructions), we began to overpopulate small areas and intensely farmed the soil, putting pressure on the nutrient supplies in the soil. We demanded more of the soil than could be replenished through what I call the Guardians of Life that Yah had created.

So how or what do these Guardians of Life consist of? Bacteria. A plethora of different bacteria to include species of fungi, algae etc. These guardians are present in healthy soil by the hundreds of millions in just a handful of soil. They are microscopic, living organisms that are the true basis of life on this planet. Without them soils could not and would not produce food. Their function is to take whatever source of nutrient is available and decompose it or make it

“organic”. Bacterial populations generally have a short life cycle, usually about 2 weeks. In this two weeks, they attack any form of organic or even inorganic material available, consume it and use it to form their bodies, they reproduce and die. It is this manner in which even toxic materials are reduced to “organic” forms which plant roots can take up as their supply of “food”. With minor exceptions, plants can not take up the inorganic “fertilizers”. The inorganic materials are generally mined from large deposits found in the earth. They are there because the Creator place them there knowing that eventually His children would need to replenish the soil in order for it to continue producing food. Bacteria are able to break these inorganic materials down, making them into what we call “organic” materials. Organic materials are simply materials that have once been part of a living organism. Chemically they don’t have molecules of chlorine, fluorine, carbonates, iron or other chemicals that make them indigestible for plants and animals to use as food. The bacteria can separate these elements out and allow them to leach out in soil water or volatilize into the air, or to just lie in the soil as part of what we call the “soil solution”.



The amazing thing about soil is that it is so fully regenerative. Given time, water and a new source of elements, bacteria can break down and incorporate into their bodies. A healthy soil has to have enough bacterial activity to maintain, in my opinion, at least 3 to 5 percent by volume of Organic Matter . This is either living or dead bacteria that is referred to as Organic Matter, otherwise known as Humus. It is a fairly lightweight material that is extremely porous.

This allows plant roots to penetrate the entire volume as it searches for food. This is necessary for the roots to absorb sufficient nutrients for optimal growth to proceed. With less than 3 percent humus, the soils become more dense and are more easily compacted. Compaction is the compressing of the soil by heavy machines pulling implements that destroy the structure or cavities that allow air and water to move through the soil. Compacted soil is very hard, dense soil that can stop plant roots from penetrating the soil where their food source is located.

Healthy soils produce healthy foods.

When I talk about “healthy” soils, I am referring to the soil having a balance of nutrients and having as little mechanically induced compaction as possible. This balance is relative to what plants need for optimal growth. For instance, calcium is the primary nutrient required by plants and coincidentally, humans. Thus calcium has to be the primary nutrient available. If calcium is not the primary nutrient, all kinds of things happen that restrict plant growth. Ph goes down from the optimal that is somewhere between 6.4 to 6.8. As Ph goes down, essential nutrients become unavailable. Other elements take calcium’s place, mostly hydrogen, which is not a “nutrient”. In humans hydrogen is primary in producing an environment where cancer cells predominate. You want to die young, eat sweets and drink pop and you will shortly exhaust your supply of calcium. There is no calcium in these foods and beverages, only hydrogen in many forms. In humans as well as in soils, a ph of 4.0 is the definition of “dead”. Life cannot exist in such an environment. It is important to understand that we are not just talking about Calcium but an array of other life supporting nutrients that are exemplified by Calcium. These include, magnesium, potassium, zinc, boron, nitrogen on and on with many other micronutrients, all of these are optimally available in the same environment as Calcium.

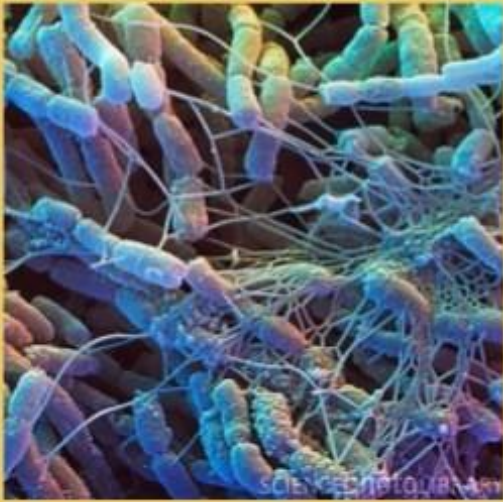
Today, almost worldwide, soils are becoming more and more unhealthy. We are essentially failing in our Yah assigned “husbandry” of the soils. We use chemicals to poison the weeds, insects and other forms of life we consider harmful, rather than using mechanical methods or controlling pests. It is only incidentally that these chemicals also kill many of the bacteria we depend on to maintain our nutrient supply in the soil. These bacteria are a resilient community, but only within limits that we are regularly exceeding.

So, back to our premise above. What purpose does a “Land Rest” serve for the soil? The Land?

As was stated above, soils can be highly regenerative. This, however takes time. This is what the “Land Rest” is meant to provide. Time to regenerate, to replace nutrients essential to life.

3.4.1 Living Organisms

•Bacteria -



"A teaspoon of productive soil generally contains between 100 million and 1 billion bacteria. That is as much as two cows per acre."

- Elaine R. Ingham, NRCS

1. Decomposers
2. Mutualists - nitrogen-fixers
3. Pathogens
4. Chemoautotrophs (or lithotrophs)

I will assert here that today there is an even more important reason to give the soil its "rest". That involves the poisoning of the bacteria with herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides as well as heavy doses of inorganic salt fertilizers, especially nitrogen, to try to increase yields that have fallen off due to imbalances as above. Nitrogen, while being an important nutrient, is not as important as "modern" agriculture seems to try and make it. When organic matter is in decline, that means not as many nutrients are available. Applying nitrogen spurs bacterial activity, causing the existing organic matter to be attacked and degraded more rapidly. As the Organic matter/humus is digested, more and more nutrient is released with more and more rapid reduction humus. High amounts of organic matter means an abundance of favorable nutrients. Inversely, lack of organic matter means low available nutrients and a degenerating balance of those nutrients that sustain life. The presence of the poisonous chemicals only further retards the replacement of the humus. Essentially we are robbing our future generations of the soil health they will need to grow healthy foods by trying to live today with tomorrow's necessities. Obviously this is true only if we do not become responsible for our soils and allow the land to rest as The Creator has instructed.

A land rest says you don't plant, you do not harvest, you do not prune. Several things are happening here. You do not plant, so you do not have to plow or manipulate the soil structure. When not disturbed, soil structure becomes more defined, allowing water and air to move more quickly and more uniformly through the profile. This also allows the bacterial community to remain undisturbed, making a more stable environment which in turn promotes bacterial reproduction. Many forms of organic matter are very slow to degrade, or are harder to digest even for the bacteria, so more time is available to degrade/digest these forms of organic matter. This in turn creates a greater presence of the humus, that is dead bacteria, from which nutrient is available in the organic form.

You do not Harvest. Harvesting removes the most nutrient dense portion of the plant, the grain. Leaving this on or in the soil means a much greater amount of nutrient is available for the bacterial community. This fact alone greatly increases the productivity of the soils, yielding greater volumes of produce and more nutrient dense foods in the year after the Land Rest and there after.

Even more importantly in the "modern age" is the fact that the application of Poisons to control weeds, insects, and unfavorable fungi and bacteria is extremely detrimental to the "good" bacterial community, or the Guardians of Life. Just one growing season without additional chemicals being added allows the Guardians to reduce the amount of these chemicals, as well as increase the numbers of bacteria present that can break these chemicals down. I think the reader will appreciate that this is an absolute win win for Yah's creation and our potential health.

In my years as a practicing Soil Scientist working with farmers and their soil nutrient balances, I repeatedly saw a correlation between well balanced soils and the retarding of all the "pests" we use chemicals to control today. The pests flourish in imbalanced conditions for two reasons: first, they have nutrient requirements that the imbalance produces and second, there is less competition from the plant species we require for our healthy diets. In other words, a healthy soil for plants is actually an "unhealthy" environment for weeds, especially those considered "noxious" or a serious threat to yields, thus profit. When I talk about profit here, that is a good thing. It is the driving force that makes



agriculture viable so you can eat food. So what am I saying here? I am saying that when a farmer practices good husbandry of the soil he is bringing his soil in to “balance” is such a way as to favor what was profitable for him AND is creating an environment that eliminates the NEED for herbicides, insecticide and fungicides. These “pests” cannot exist when “balance” is present. just like cancer cannot exist when our bodies are in balance. The right Ph for us is the same as for the soils, 6.4 to 6.8. Amazing how there is a relationship between the land/soil and Yah’s children’s nutritional needs. Amazing also that the Land Rest benefits the land, just as the weekly Shabbat regenerates us when we “sit” for a day each week. Similarly, giving the Land it’s Shabbat allows it to rest/regenerate.

May we Lift up the reputation, the name, the Honor of YHVH as we joyously celebrate the Sabbatical year in 2016, for He is merciful to those who love Him and keep His word.