

4. *Conflicting Jubilee Formulas*

Not only do I agree that the Jubilee year is an “exception,” but, as it turns out, when I examine the Jubilee cycle, I find *two* exceptions. In order to identify those exceptions, let’s take a look at the method prescribed by Torah for reckoning the Jubilee cycle. In mathematical terms, it goes like this:

$$6 + 1 = 7; 7 \times 7 = 49; 49 + 1 = 50; \text{ repeat.}$$

Again, as I review the above method (or “formula,” if you will) of determining the Jubilee year as prescribed by Torah, I see *two* exceptions. The first “exception” is year seven of the Sabbatical cycle. There are six years of reaping and sowing, but then along comes an “exception to the rule” ... the seventh year, which is a year of “land rest.” After that seventh year, the cycle begins again. In fact, it goes through seven of those cycles, and then along comes another “exception” ... the 50th year. Once the 50th year has come and gone, that 50-year cycle begins again. There is no mention of an *additional* exception requiring a “5 + 1” count to the Sabbatical year, yet this is what those of the opposing view are required to believe and accept. Moreover, please notice that the “6 + 1” rule sets the standard for the “49 + 1” rule. Just as “year 7” is not also “year 1,” in the same way, “year 50” does not coincide with “year 1” of the next Jubilee cycle.

In Glenn’s rebuttal to our original study, he took exception to the mathematical “formula” that we believe is prescribed by Yahweh for determining the Jubilee year:

COMMENT: Wait just a minute. This formula is not correct. In fact, I don’t believe that the statement of Leviticus 25 even constitutes a “formula” (in the sense of something that must be repeated exactly as given and applied to every occasion). It is simply a step by step explanation of how the children of Israel were to calculate Sabbatical and Jubilee years when they come into the land. Here is my understanding of this one time “formula” given in that text:

Year 1...enter the land on a Sabbatical year.

Year 2 through 7, grow crops on the land.

Year 8...keep another Sabbatical year.

Year 9 through 57, count off 7 Sabbatical years (for a total of 49 years).

Year 58 . . . Keep this year as a Jubilee year.

Here is my “formula” (based upon the text of Leviticus 25):

$$1 + 6 + 1 + 49 (7 \times 7) + 1$$

And as for the term “repeat”—sorry, but **that** is certainly not in the text. And if “repeat” were a part of the text, then we would have to follow this cycle exactly as given in the text to infinity. Let’s see, $1+6+1+49+1=58$. If we were to repeat these numbers we would have 58 year cycles, is that not possible given this is the tabulation found in the text? Surely, we are not going to now start adopting a 58 year Jubilee cycle, are we?

I find the above commentary to be so absurd that, at first, I decided to ignore it. However, when June read it, she took the time to write a few comments that I have decided to incorporate into our study:

No, we will not adopt a 58 year cycle. Glenn, even you understand that the Sabbatical years and Jubilee years should still be observed. So, even you know that somehow we must

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“repeat” the directions given on how to do so. Even with your calendar [reference to Glenn’s Jubilee calendar that he gave us on an Excel spreadsheet] you have tried to calculate the Jubilee years all the way back to creation, which in turn means that you believe in “repeating Jubilee cycles,” in spite of your implication that we shouldn’t understand “repeating Jubilee cycles”! If then, during the course of your formula of “1+6+1+49+1=58,” TWO Jubilee years occurred, why didn’t Yahweh explain that the 9th year of their stay in the Promised Land was a Jubilee year? Also, why didn’t He explain that the Jubilee year is also the first year of the count to the next Sabbatical year? We maintain that He did not explain these items because they aren’t true!

I personally find Glenn’s “formula” and his accompanying explanation to be very confusing, and when I slowly read it to a fellow believer over the phone, by the time I was finished reading, he had no idea what the author was trying to convey. I had to break it down into very simple terms for him, and this time he understood it, but, like us, he disagreed with it. One thing that June picked up on is the fact that, indeed, Glenn does believe that two Jubilee years occurred over the course of his proposed “58-year cycle,” and yet Glenn is comfortable believing that Yahweh didn’t expect the Israelites to observe that first Jubilee Year in the Promised Land.

For those who are simply lost in trying to follow Glenn’s attempt at presenting his formula reasoning, I will try to put $1 + 6 + 1 + 49 (7 \times 7) + 1 = 58$ in layman’s terms with the following table:

Year	1	(the Sabbatical year during which Glenn believes the Israelites entered the Promised Land)
+	6	(6 years of sowing & reaping)
+	1	(another Sabbatical year)
+	49	(7 x 7 Sabbaths of years)
+	1	(the Jubilee year, which, according to Glenn, is also “Year 1” of the next cycle)
=	58	

In June’s response to Glenn’s attempt to correct our “formula,” she called to his attention the fact that he conveniently leaves out of his calculation the important detail regarding his belief that *two* Jubilee years fell within that 58-year span of time ... one of which Glenn believes Yahweh didn’t even expect the Israelites to observe. In other words, to *better* illustrate Glenn’s formula, here’s another table:

Year	1	(the Sabbatical year during which Glenn believes the Israelites entered the Promised Land)
+	6	(6 years of sowing & reaping)
+	1	(another Sabbatical year)
+	0	(a Jubilee year that immediately followed the Sabbatical year, but not mentioned in Scripture)
+	49	(7 x 7 Sabbaths of years) <i>NOTE: Year 1 of these 49 years coincided with the Jubilee year</i>
+	1	(the Jubilee year, which is also “Year 1” of the next cycle)
=	58	

Another way to view the Jubilee year that Glenn believes fell during the ninth year of the Israelites’ stay in the Promised Land is to examine Glenn’s spreadsheet entitled “Jubilee Calendar” (see excerpt on the following page). Although Glenn records this ninth year as having been a Jubilee year, he does not believe it was observed by anyone. We will read his explanation of this belief later.

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Excerpt from Cycle 53 of Glenn Moore's "Jubilee Calendar" spreadsheet (the last column represents a Sabbatical Year)

2584		2585		2586		2587		2588		2589		2590			
35		36		37		38		39		40		Israel Enters Land on Sabbatical Year			
Fall	36	Fall	37	Fall	38	Fall	39	Fall	40	Fall	41	Fall	42		
1402		1401		1400		1399		1398		1397		1396			
2591		2592		2593		2594		2595		2596		2597			
Fall	43	Fall	44	Fall	45	Fall	46	Fall	47	Fall	48	Fall	49		
1395		1394		1393		1392		1391		1390		1389			
2598															
54th Jubilee															
1388															
												Top Numbers = Creation Date (CD)		Black Numbers = Common Era (CE)	
														Red Numbers = Before Common Era (BCE)	

Note: Glenn Moore maintains that the above Jubilee year was not observed by the Israelites, even though they had already observed two land Sabbaths. According to Glenn, this particular Jubilee year occurred during the 9th year of their stay in the Promised Land and included sowing and reaping.

Of course, June also briefly honed in on additional puzzling aspects of Glenn's proposed formula, such as the fact that Yahweh never explained to the Israelites that "year 50" coincides with "Year 1" of the next Jubilee cycle, a bizarre omission from Scripture, presuming that Glenn's premise is true. We have already addressed this perplexing mystery, but June also pointed out the irony of Glenn's seeming opposition to "repeating Jubilee cycles." His remark, again, is, "[And as for the term 'repeat'—sorry, but that is certainly not in the text. And if 'repeat' were a part of the text, then we would have to follow this cycle exactly as given in the text to infinity.](#)" Since *repeating Jubilee cycles* forms the basis of Glenn's entire premise leading up to the advent of the new millennium, it is peculiar that he would make a disparaging remark about our belief that we are to "repeat" the formula. I believe this is a case of the proverbial "pot calling the kettle black."

Suffice it to say that June and I are sticking to our original "formula." We believe the Israelites entered the Promised Land during what would have normally been designated a Jubilee year. The year of their entrance into the Land marked the year in which the Land was symbolically returned to its rightful owners, even though it took several more years for the Israelites to gain outright possession. Moreover, in accordance with Leviticus 25:2, the land "kept a Sabbath unto Yahweh." The rest of the instructions in that chapter pertain to what the Israelites were to do following that initial "land Sabbath." They were to sow and reap for six years, then keep another "land Sabbath." After counting off seven "weeks of years" of maintaining this pattern, they were to declare a year of Jubilee throughout the land and hallow the 50th year. While it is true that there is no direct command to repeat this pattern at the end of the fifty years, we believe the implication is quite clear that this is understood within the context of the instructions.