

Laws of *Shemittah*

Leviticus

25:1

God spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, telling him to...

25:2

speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you come to the land that I am giving you, the land must be given a rest period, a Sabbath to God.

25:3

For six years you may plant your fields, prune your vineyards, and harvest your crops,

25:4

but the seventh year is a Sabbath of Sabbaths for the land. It is God's Sabbath during which you may not plant your fields, nor prune your vineyards.

25:5

Do not harvest crops that grow on their own and do not gather the grapes on your unpruned vines, since it is a year of rest for the land.

25:6

[What grows while] the land is resting may be eaten by you, by your male and female slaves, and by the employees and resident hands who live with you.

25:7

All the crops shall [also] be eaten by the domestic and wild animals that are in your land.

Exodus

23:10

You may plant your land for six years and gather its crops.

23:11

But during the seventh year, you must leave it alone and withdraw from it. The needy among you will then be able to eat [from your fields] just as you do, and whatever is left over can be eaten by wild animals. This also applies to your vineyard and your olive grove.

23:12

You may do whatever you must during the six week days, but you must stop on Saturday. Your donkey and ox must then be able to rest, and your maid's son and the foreigner must be able to relax.

