**Jubilee and Jubilee 2000**

Jubilee is derived from the Hebrew Sabbath laws and marks the seventh Sabbath year. While the Sabbath year was a year of rest for the land, the jubilee year aims to reverse the effect of debt slavery and debt-related land loss through a slave redemption and land restoration every 50th year (Leviticus 25). These practices stress divine ownership of the land, on which Israel is tenant, but which it does not own. There is, however, no extant historical evidence of such a national jubilee and Jewish sources reveal considerable complexity on this issue.

The Catholic Church established a Jubilee recurring year beginning in 1300. The year 2000 was one such year. ‘Jubilee 2000’ was a campaign of heightened calls for international debt relief supported by Catholic and many mainline Protestant churches. The movement became world-wide, ecumenical beyond the boundaries of established churches. Most of its local and grassroots leaders were women. After the year 2000, there are continued efforts for debt relief through follow up campaigns. The rhetoric of ‘Jubilee 2000’ and related initiatives foreground the welfare of human beings, but recognizes the existence of humans as densely interwoven with the land and the destructive side effects of large international debts on the environment. Some contemporary Jewish voices are careful about recent Christian interpretations of Jubilee. Other voices have raised questions about the viability of complete debt relief. While there remain questions about the application and interpretation of the jubilee concept, its concerns touch at the core of human and environmental exploitation.

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Further Reading
