

The Year of Jubilee and the Sabbatical Years

By Richard Samuel

PENTECOST and PROPHECY – The Hebrew letter NUN

The bride has prepared herself, becoming pure & holy for her bridegroom. "...for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." Revelation 19:7

To understand the Year of Jubilee, one must first be familiar with the Sabbatical Year, which is observed every seventh year (Exodus 23:11; Leviticus. 25:20; Deuteronomy 15:9; Nehemiah 10:31).

The Sabbatical Year is also known as the Year of Release, because farming and debt payments were released (discontinued) for the year (Deuteronomy 15:1-2; 31:10). This was initiated at the closing of the Feast of Atonement.

NUN - 14TH LETTER OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET



The letter NUN has a numerical value of fifty (50), and is the symbol of faithfulness. There are two forms of the letter NUN: **the bent one** and **the elongated one**. The elongated NUN is only used at the end of a word.

The Hebrew word for soul “neshamah” begins with the letter *NUN*. The Hebrew word for faithful one, “ne’eman”, is signified by the letter NUN. In Aramaic NUN means '**fish**', symbolic of fertility because they multiply rapidly. The number fifty signifies the fifty days of the counting of the Omer, from the first day of Passover to the first day of Shavuot.

The number **50** in Hebrew means literally means freedom and fullness of life. The Hebrew letter **nun** has the numeric value of 50 and is the 14th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The number 14 represents deliverance or salvation.

Understanding the meaning of the letter NUN – The Name: The Messiah

God’s Presence rests upon a man to the extent that a man permits. If a man observes God's instructions only so long as they do not conflict with a particular passion – be it a desire for food, physical lust, intellectual stimulations, or religious dogma. – then to whatever extent that weakness conflicts with his/her dedication to the WILL of God, the Spirit of God will not rest upon him, diminishing equally against the man’s personal desire. This is what Jesus meant when he said: *“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able*

to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”
Matthew 21:34-36

Let's take a look as to exactly who Jesus was, his mission, or how he was used by Gods in his life. As well, to understand the truth concerning the Christian teaching as the one who covers all Christian sins through this span of time on earth prior to the final coming as the Jesus the King Messiah who the Prophets said will be the one who will rule all nations under God's banner of original Torah forever.

Rabbinic Teachings on the letter “Nun”

There are two forms of the letter Nun. The *common form* depicts the faithful *obedient servant* of God and the other *final - ending form* depicts the upright servant who has diligently searched for God and has found Him.



Hebrew, or to be more exact, Rabbinical tradition states that the common form of the letter Nun is also a depiction of the Eternal One seated on His throne (ך) and that the final form of the letter Nun is a depiction of His Malakim (Kingdom) standing before Him (ך). The letter Nun is to remind us of the throne and Kingship of God, who is the One who sits upon the throne.

The other idea expressed on this and these letterforms of Nun is first of an obedient faithful servant. The common form of this letter Nun which appears as *Head-down* and *kneeling, one* who is bent over in servitude to his Creator, an “**obedient servant**”.

ALL of the people through time who have searched diligently and found God through His original Torah (word), are the true sons of God, These people are known in Hebrew as “Yehshurun” the “**Up-Right-Ones**”.

The ending letter form of the letter “Nun”

This is a spiritual picture to be that the same obedient servant who was bound kneeling with his head down and remained humble before even this worlds powers, is that same servant or servants, who in the end, no longer have to bow before the powers of this world, but stand upright or as The Yehshurun (Up-Right-Ones) before God and King Messiah Jesus in the new beginning after the resurrection.

The Talmudic Sages mandated that one must answer “*ahmen*” at the completion of a blessing if one is blessing outside of the Temple, by comparison to saying “*barukh hashem*”, which is used within the Temple.

Barukh hashem (Blessed be His name) is an expression of praise and honor, whereas *ahmen* is an affirmation of belief. The Talmud teaches that the word *Ahmen* is an acronym for 'El melekh ne'eman which means; *God, trustworthy King*.

The etymology of the word *ahmen* itself is of Egyptian origin, as they expressed it before the sun-god's name as “Amen'Ra”, however more importantly within the Aramaic Hebrew it is rooted directly to the Hebrew word *emunah*, which means **faith**.

The Hebrew phrase *God, trustworthy King*”, contains the word “*Ne'eman*” which means **faithful**. Connected with the Hebrew word *Ne'eman* are two other Hebrew words, *Emunah* - which means faith and *Ahmen* which means “*true or trustworthy*”.

We can easily identify that the Hebrew spelling of “*ne'eman*” which means “*faithful*”, **begins** with the common letter-form of **Nun** and **ends** with the final letter-form of **Nun**.

This in itself is a picture of the obedient faithful servants that in the end will become the Up-Right-Ones.

This is the same sequence as the full spelling of the word *Nun* said within rabbinic circles to be in relation with the coming of the Messiah - *the obedient faithful servant - Jesus*, as well as those *Yehshurun* – “*upright servants*” throughout all time. That it is **HE** and **they** who humbled themselves as obedient servants against human rule and religious dogma, and remained *faithful* unto their deaths that they may live again.

It is said that it is he - The Messiah “*Mashiach*” who alone is the most *true and faithful without sin*, and thus worthy to be the final King Messiah within God's Kingdom.

*“I saw heaven opened, and beheld, a white horse. And he who sat on him was called **Faithful** and **True**.”* Revelation 19:11

When we read this prophetic text in Revelation it is difficult to ignore the fact that these two very specific words were used to describe the one on the horse, “**Ne'eman** and **Amen**”.

To understand the Hebrew depth of the Hebrew Nun spelled out – נן – Its use and meaning throughout the biblical texts translates: to increase, perpetuate, and propagate or lineage, depending on the context.

Amazingly, in the ancient Aramaic Habiru (Hebrew) as Abraham or Moses spoke it, Nun also translates to mean “**fish**”. I believe we can see the other meanings of this word within God's example of the oceans fish creatures, which propagate abundantly and perpetually. Remember in Genesis 1:20 that God created the fish on the fifth-day, being the first creatures with the soul of life breathed into them. As with all the life He created, He told them *to be fruitful and multiply* –

propagate – continue - perpetuate. That's the same command that God gave Adam and Eve, “*be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth*”.

The sea is used throughout the bible and prophetic texts to symbolize the “*nations or peoples*”, so it is the “**waters-peoples**” that His prophets said that from among the nations where he has and will continue to fish out of the waters to populate His final Kingdom. Is this why Jesus used those specific Hebrew terms towards God's obedient faithful ones, “*to be those fishing for men?*”

Just as all the prophets have said, *that at that time ALL peoples will come to know and be obedient to His Word*, a kingdom of Kings & Priests who go forth and multiply like the נון - fish constantly reproducing.

Also amazing is the fact, and in relation to the meaning “fish”; that Nun is the only Hebrew letter whose full spelling – נון - is or can be a continual repetition of itself, with a “**Vav**” in its center. (The Vav in Hebrew serves as the conjunction **and or link**), which joins the two Nuns, and can continue to be written or understood as - increase, perpetuate, propagate or lineage.

Jesus and the letter NUN

In Aramaic the language of the Talmud the word Nun means “**fish**” a symbol of activity and life. The first use of the word is in Exodus 33:11 in reference to Joshua, the “**son of Nun.**”

Joshua was the one who succeeded Moses and was able to enter the Promised Land; he was a clear picture of Jesus as the Messiah. It was Joshua who led the Israelites into the Promised Land after 40 years, after the initial Pentecost in the dessert, and likewise it will be Yeshua (Jesus) who will lead His people into the Promised Land 40 jubilees after the first Pentecost after His death.

If you notice the written form of the letter NUN above represents a bent “Vav” (suggesting a humble man) crowned with glory (which are represented by the three tagin -connected dots - on the head of the letter). From a Messianic understanding, we see that Jesus came as man (Vav), was honored by his absolute humility while upon earth (as indicated by his crown of thorns), and now is exalted as the Righteous One who wears the Golden Crown of God upon his head forever and ever (Revelation 14:14).

The symbol of the Fish and Jesus

The symbol of the fish has early roots in Christianity as an emblem of the Messiah Jesus. The word for fish in Greek is “**ixthus**”, it was derived from the Greek phrase “Yesous Christos Theou Uios Soter”, Jesus Christ the Son of God Savior. The early Christians used this symbol of the Fish as a form of identification as Christians.

Do you remember the study we did about the account of Peter fishing all night with the fish net tossed over the **Left** (away from God) side of the boat and he caught nothing, but when morning came and Jesus appeared and told him to cast the net over the **Right** (toward God) side of the

boat and he caught 153 fish? We learned that in gematria that if you add up the numeric value of the term; “beni-ha-elohim” (sons of God) we get the number 153.

One hundred and fifty three fish representing all of the sons of God – The elect – The UPRIGHT-ONES, symbolized by the final form of the letter Nun. A little side note: if you carefully read the account you will also see that there were fish that were outside the net on the shore being cooked or fried in fire. The symbolism is pretty evident; those outside the net will be consumed by fire.

The Sign of Jonah (Yonah)

We have been taught that Jonah was the first Hebrew prophet to be sent to the pagan nations. We connect the sign of Jonah with Jesus death and resurrection.

Of course we all know the story, Jonah was tossed overboard and swallowed by a “*Dag gadol*, a Great fish”.

I looked at the gematria for the words “*Dag gadol*”, and to my total amazement the numeric value of the letters added up to **50**.

Why is **50** at the very least interesting you ask; well because it also turns out that the numerical value of the Hebrew letter נון – Nun, which as we have seen is also **50**. It is also difficult for me to ignore the fact that we clearly see another very specific connection of the FISH – נון – between both Jesus and Jonah.

John 1:17 “*And God appointed a great [נון] - fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*”

It could be very well that Jonah was actually killed and lay dead within the Great fish for three days before being revived-*resurrected* after three days and nights, to be spit out on the beach near Nineveh.

The Year of Jubilee – 50

The Year of Jubilee’s duration is **50** years, similar to the timing of Feast of Weeks (Shavuot / Pentecost) is to **50** days. The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot / Pentecost) occurs on the **50th** day; the day after seven weeks, plus 1 day after Passover. The Year of Jubilee occurs every **50th** year; the year after seven Sabbatical years (49 years) according to Leviticus 25:8-11.

The Year of Jubilee begins at the end of 7 Sabbatical years of 7 years, and at the end of the Feast of Atonement / Yom Kippur per Leviticus 25:9. Jewish historian, Josephus believed that the word meant “**liberty**”.

The Feast of Weeks - The Pentecost link

Scripture lists three requirements for the Year of Jubilee:

- First, the shofar (ram’s horn) was to be blown at the end of the Feast of Atonement / Yom Kippur to announce that the Year of Jubilee had commenced, Leviticus 25:9.

- Second, all hired workers were to be set free, Leviticus 25:39-54. This was unconditional liberty. All bond-slaves were released, even if the Jubilee Year came before the completion of their six years of service.
- Third, all land was to be returned to its original owner, Leviticus 25:13, 23-28.

The primary reason for the Year of Jubilee was to prevent oppression in Israel, according to Leviticus 25:14, 17. An Israelite could hire himself into the service of another to retire a debt, but he had no right to sell himself or his family forever into slavery. The Lord alone owned the sons of Israel since He had redeemed them out of Egypt, Leviticus 25:42, 55. In similar fashion, an Israelite could lease his land for a term of years, but he had no right to permanently sell his tribal inheritance. The Lord alone owned the land of Israel, Leviticus 25:23. God, as Sovereign King of the universe, owned the people and the land.

The Year of Jubilee, initiated at the close of the Feast of Atonement, looks to the restoration of Israel by the Messiah, and to the resulting messianic Kingdom of peace.

Daniel prophesied that oppression against God's people would become unbelievably severe at the end of this age. A wicked ruler will arise and *"he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods"* Daniel 11:36. This ruler will bring terrible persecution upon Israel: *"A time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered"* Daniel 12:1.

When Jesus as the Messiah comes, He will break the chains of Israel's oppression. But this deliverance will come only when the nation has first repented of her sin. The nation must repent (Feast of Atonement / Yom Kippur) before the shofar will sound the release of her captivity (it will be the last Jubilee Year). In this day, the Messiah Jesus glorious day, Israel will return to the Lord and, subsequently, will no longer be bond slaves of the nations, but the redeemed servants of the Living God. Israel's oppression will be ended.

When Jesus as the Messiah comes, the **great shofar** will be blown (The Shofar Ha-Gadol), and the exiles of Israel will be re-gathered to their land. *"So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet /shofar will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem"* Isaiah 27:13.

In that day, Satan will be banished (Ezekiel. 28:2, 8, 13-19), and the rebellion of wicked men will be crushed, Psalm.2:9. In that day, the sons of Israel *"shall trust in the name of the LORD"* (Zephaniah3:12) and *"walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever"* Micah 4:5. And in that day Messiah shall establish the throne of David and the messianic Kingdom *"even forever"*, Isaiah 9:7.

Finally, in Messiah Jesus glorious day, there will be Jubilee rest for the land and freedom for God's people. Everyone shall sit *"under his vine and under his fig tree. For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken"* Micah 4:4.

A historical look back at the Jubilee

For more than 80 years before the Exodus, the Israelites had been slaves in the land of Egypt, without freedom and without possessions. When they reached the land of Canaan, Joshua divided the land among their tribes and their families, so that each had his own inheritance. Every adult male among them became a land owner. This land was a permanent possession that could never depart from his family. If a man became poor he could sell part or all of his land, but *only temporarily*. It would always revert to him or his descendants at the year of jubilee. If he became even poorer and was unable to pay his debts, he could sell himself into slavery, and work to pay off his debts. Again that slavery could only ever be temporary. When the great Day of Atonement in the year of jubilee came he became a free man once again and repossessed his inheritance.

The most unusual observance that God commanded the Israelites through Moses was the keeping of the year of jubilee. For most people this celebration occurred only once in their life time and for many not even that, as it occurred only once every 50 years.

At this year of jubilee all Israelites who had sold themselves into slavery were set free, and all land that had been sold reverted to its original owner. This meant that no Israelite could ever be in permanent slavery; nor could any Israelite permanently lose his inheritance.

The English word **jubilee** comes from the Hebrew word “*yobel*” meaning a trumpet or ram’s horn. These rams’ horns were blown on the Day of Atonement to announce the start of the year of jubilee. The word jubilee should not be confused with the word jubilation which comes from a Latin word meaning to rejoice. The year of jubilee was no doubt a time of great jubilation, but the similarities of the two words are (at least humanly speaking) a coincidence.

To understand the year of jubilee more clearly we must first review the concept of the Sabbath.

Sabbath observance was part of the ceremonial law that God gave Israel through Moses. Normally we think of the Sabbath as a day of the week, but its meaning in scripture is much wider.

Its teaching applies not only to the seventh day of the week, but also to the 7 festivals of Israel’s calendar and to periods of 7 years and 7 times 7 years. Such is its importance that, unlike any other part of the ceremonial law, its keeping is even one of the 10 commandments.

The words of the fourth commandment are: *‘Six days shall you labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.’*

The ancient Israelites understood the Sabbath as a literal day of the week, the seventh day which corresponds to our Saturday. On that day they strictly refrained from all work. This was a sign and covenant between them and their God, which separated them from the tribes who surrounded them.

In Exodus 31: 15 God prescribed the death penalty for anyone who broke the Sabbath. *'For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.'*

In Numbers 5, where the commandments are repeated, we find this addition to the fourth commandment: *'Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.'*

The Sabbath is the foundation of all other Hebrew festivals. God said that the Sabbath was to be a holy day. This simply means a day that is set apart or different from other days. It was set apart as a day of rest.

Pentecost or **Shavuot** was a Sabbath of Sabbaths. The Sabbath is a special day. That is what the word **holy** means - **set apart or special**.

Pentecost is the Greek name for the Hebrew Festival Shavuot or Festival of Weeks. Described in Leviticus 23: 15, 16: *'From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.'*

The 7th day of the week or Sabbath was a special day, and we also find that the 7th month of the Hebrew calendar was a special month. The first day of the 7th month was the Festival of Trumpets. This was also a Sabbath.

Likewise the 10th day of the 7th month was a Sabbath named Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement, followed 5 days later, on the 15th day of the 7th month, by the 8 day Festival of Booths or Tabernacles. The first and last days of this festival were also Sabbaths.

The 7th day was special and the 7th month was special, and so also was the 7th year. It was a sabbatical year. Leviticus 25: 1-4 reads: *'The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them:*

'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath to the LORD. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a Sabbath of rest, a Sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.'"

Like the day of Pentecost, the Year of Jubilee is a Sabbath of Sabbaths. It is a special year among special years. Its climax was the great Day of Atonement followed by Jubilee with trumpets sounded throughout the land of Israel, announcing: All Hebrews slaves were set free. All land

returned to its original owner or owner's family. The day of Pentecost was the 50th day and was the day following the 7 weeks from the Passover. Likewise, the year of jubilee occurred after 7 sabbatical years, or 49 years.

The **Sabbath day** was a time of rest for everyone, male, female, masters, servants and even animals. The seventh year was a time of rest for the land. He did this to teach and illustrate a vital spiritual lesson.

This brings us to the main subject of this writing. Verses 8 to 55 of Leviticus 25 describe the year of jubilee. The first few verses are as follows: *'Count off seven Sabbaths of years -- seven times seven years -- so that the seven Sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land.*

Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan.'

The Bride (the Up-Right-Ones) symbolized **the final form** of the Hebrew letter **NUN** which is the 14th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the Hebrew meaning of the number 14 is **Salvation**, that final form that was promised to all from the time of Pentecost when Jesus appeared in the Upper Room, 50 days after His death, in his Transform-transfigured body as the fulfillment of his promise would give His Holy Spirit to those that would be obedient in the time of test, 2,000 years (40 Jubilees), as a deposit of inheritance, to be transformed also and enter into His Kingdom as His Bride, and fulfill also the ultimate meaning of Sabbath, and will be at rest, which also fulfills the final feast, the 7th feast, the feast of Tabernacles, where we as the Bride will tabernacle (dwell) with Christ for 1,000 years which is the completion of the 7th day.