

Exodus 23:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof:

Analysis

And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof:

The Sabbath principle extends to land—work six, rest one. 'Sow thy land' (תִּזְרַע אֶת־הָאָרֶץ, *tizra et-artzekha*) and 'gather fruits' (וְאָסַפְתָּ אֶת־תְּבוּאָתָהּ, *ve'asafta et-tevu'atah*)—normal agricultural cycle. But verse 11 commands seventh-year rest. This is the Sabbath Year (שְׁמִטָּה, *shemittah*), detailed in Leviticus 25. The land itself needs rest—God's creation care predates modern environmentalism. The seventh-year rest also provided for the poor (v. 11)—what grew wild was public domain. This challenged economic greed: will you trust God for the seventh year without planting? Observing shemittah demonstrated faith.

Historical Context

The Sabbath Year (every seventh year) let land lie fallow—agriculturally sound practice preventing soil depletion. Leviticus 25 describes the year of release in detail, including debt forgiveness and property rights reversion.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does extending Sabbath principles to land teach about creation care and environmental stewardship?
2. How does the Sabbath Year requirement test faith in God's provision?

Interlinear Text

וְשֵׁשׁ	שָׁנֵי יָמִים	תִּזְרַע	אֶת	אֶרֶץ הָאָרֶץ	וְאָסַפְתָּ	אֶת
And six	years	thou shalt sow	H853	thy land	and shalt gather	H853
H8337	H8141	H2232		H776	H622	

תְּבוֹאֲתָהּ:
in the fruits
H8393

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