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A SHORT VORT | BY RABBI CHANOCH YERES RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

שש שנים תזרע וּשש שנים תזמר כרמך.....ובשנה השביעית שבת שבתון יהיה לארץ **שבת לה'** (כה:ג,ד)
 "Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard...But in the seventh year a sabbath of solemn rest shall be for the land, **a sabbath unto G-d.**" (25:3,4)

Why the need to emphasize that this mitzvah of shemita is a "sabbath to honor G-d"? Every mitzvah we do is to honor G-d, and here the phrase "a sabbath to honor G-d" is mentioned twice in this section?

Rashi, quoting the Sifra, simply explains the correlation between the year of shemita and the Sabbath at creation (Shemot 20:10). Both use the phrase "sabbath unto G-d", both are to honor the name of G-d.

The Meshech Chochmah (Rabbi Meir Simcha HaKohen M'Dvinsk 1843-1926) enhances this idea. Just like the Sabbath at creation was on the seventh day, so too the shemita year is established on the seventh year and not any other year. He goes on to illustrate that in the text of Creation the phrase of "Ki Tov"-"G-d saw what He had made was good" (Bereishit 1:10,12,25,31), was mentioned both on the third day and the sixth day. Likewise, the tithe for the poor is designated to be given in the third and sixth year of the shemita cycle. It is appropriate to help others in need - matching the days that G-d shared his plethora of goodness to our world.

Shabbat Shalom