

A BIBLICAL TRANSFER WINDOW JUBILEE

At least two of this summer's big transfer stories have been about players wanting to 'go home' (Fabregas to Barca and Tevez to wherever). That got me thinking; in the Bible, there's this idea of the 'year of jubilee':

What would football look like if this summer's transfer window had included a jubilee-style return of players to their 'home' clubs?

**for these purposes, I'm taking that to be the first club listed in their senior career on Wikipedia. I've stuck to teams' first elevens (by most starts last season, in all competitions), replacing leavers with players coming back from other clubs ('cos that's more interesting than just promoting reserves).*

...it is a time of freedom and of celebration when everyone will receive back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families...During this year, all property must go back to its original owner [Leviticus 25:10-13 \(CEV\)](#)

KEY

- Player staying (current club is the same as their first club)
- Player leaving (goes back to their first club)
- Player arriving (returns to first club from current club)

Arsenal

- Szczesny
- Sagna
- Koscielny
- Djourou
- Clichy
- Hayte
- K. Touré
- Cole
- Song
- Wilshere
- Nasri
- Fabregas
- Arshavin
- Larsson
- Bentley
- Chamakh
- Stokes

Aston Villa

- Friedel
- Rachel
- L. Young
- Dunne
- Collins
- Warnock
- Ridgewell
- Cahill
- Edwards
- Barry
- Reo-Coker
- Petrov
- Albrighton
- Young
- Downing
- Gardner
- Whittingham
- Agbonlahor

Blackburn Rovers

- Robinson
- Fielding
- Salgado
- Samba
- Nelsen
- Givet
- Taylor
- Brookes
- Taylor
- McEveley
- Olsson
- Emerton
- P. Jones
- Pedersen
- Danne
- M. Diouf
- Holleit
- Gallagher

Bolton Wanderers

- Jääskeläinen
- Kazimierczak
- Taylor
- Cahill
- Knight
- Robinson
- Hunt
- Augustyn
- Fojut
- O'Brien
- Lee
- Muamba
- Holden
- Petrov
- Ward
- Nolan
- Basham
- Nooy
- Elmänder
- K. Davies
- Yaz Te
- Buval
- Mooy

Chelsea

- Cech
- Pidgeley
- Ivanović
- Alex Santos
- Terry
- Cole
- Mancienne
- Huth
- Di Cesare
- Essien
- Mikel
- Lampard
- Filipe Oliveira
- Smith
- Stoch
- Anelka
- Drogba
- Malouda
- Ben Sahar
- Cole
- Borini

Everton

- Howard
- Jones
- Neville
- Jagiella
- Distin
- Baines
- Gerrard
- Gerrard
- Dunne
- Ball
- Heitinga
- Fellaini
- McCann
- Southern
- Osman
- Arteta
- Coleman
- Rooney
- Fox
- Saha
- Vaughan

Fulham

- Schwarzer
- Flitney
- Pantsil
- Hughes
- Hangeland
- Salcido
- Fontaine
- Knight
- Hudson
- Leacock
- Davies
- Murphy
- Baird
- Duff
- Pratley
- Davis
- Duff
- Mielsen
- Dempsey
- Willcock
- Dembélé
- Hammond

Liverpool

- Reina
- Warner
- Kelly
- Skrtel
- Carragher
- Johnson
- Whitbread
- Lucas
- Gerrard
- Guthrie
- Kuyt
- Meireles
- Maxi Rodriguez
- Hammill
- Le Tallec
- Sinama-Pongolle
- Torres
- Owen

Manchester City

- Hart
- Schmeichel
- Zabaleta
- Lescott
- Kompany
- Kolarov
- Mears
- Edgill
- Logan
- Jordan
- de Jong
- Barry
- Milner
- Y. Touré
- Silva
- Croft
- Ireland
- Sturridge
- Tevez
- Miller

Manchester United

- van der Sar
- Heaton
- O'Shea
- Ferdinand
- Vidic
- Evra
- Brown
- Pique
- Neville
- Fletcher
- Carrick
- Giggs
- Nani
- Beckham
- Rooney
- Berbatov
- Evans
- Blackburn
- Wolves
- Villareal

Newcastle United

- Krul
- Simpson
- Colocini
- Williamson
- Enrique
- Ramage
- Hughes
- G. Caldwell
- S. Caldwell
- Barton
- Tioté
- Gutiérrez
- Nolan
- Lövenkrands
- Carroll
- N'Zogbia
- Chopra
- Edgar
- N'Zogbia
- Ameobi

Norwich City

- Ruddy
- R. Martin
- Ward
- Barnett
- Drury
- Eagle
- Shackell
- Spillane
- Rossi Jarvis
- Crofts
- Fox
- Russell
- Lappin
- Henderson
- Hoolahan
- Ryan Jarvis
- Holt
- C. Martin

HAPPY HAMMERS

One team that would certainly do alright out of this arrangement is West Ham, who have six players on this list alone: **Frank Lampard, Glen Johnson, Rio Ferdinand, Michael Carrick, Anton Ferdinand and Elliott Ward**. Had they not had so many injuries last season, **Jermain Defoe** and **Joe Cole** could be added to that group as well.

Queens Park Rangers

- Kenny
- Bull
- Orr
- Gorkás
- Hill
- Connolly
- Shimmin
- Cochrane
- Kanyuka
- Murphy
- Smith
- Derry
- Faurin
- Langley
- McFlynn
- Donnelly
- Tarrabt
- Helguson
- Mackie

Stoke City

- Begovic
- Duggan
- Wilson
- Huth
- Shawcross
- Wilkinson
- Wilson
- Keogh
- Wedderburn
- Pennant
- Delap
- Whitehead
- Etherington
- Neal
- Henry
- O'Connor
- Commons
- Jones
- Walters
- Rooney
- Paterson

Sunderland

- Mignolet
- Elmohamady
- Onuoha
- Ferdinand
- Bardsley
- Clark
- Rossiter
- Hartley
- Byrne
- Henderson
- Malbranque
- Cattermole
- Richardson
- Leadbitter
- Thirlwell
- Butler
- Welbeck
- Bent
- Wagborn
- Kyle

RETURN TO SENDER

Two players on this list have already made their own way back to their first clubs, having played for a few others along the way: **Peter Crouch** at Tottenham and **Shaun Wright-Phillips** at Man City. Google the pair of them, that's always a fun photo: <http://goo.gl/AXfKd>

Swansea City

- de Vries
- Letheran
- Rangel
- Williams
- Monk
- Tate
- Duffy
- Jones
- Jenkins
- O'Leary
- Gower
- Allen
- Pratley
- Dyer
- Sinclair
- Taylor

Tottenham Hotspur

- Gomes
- Hutton
- Dawson
- Gallas
- Assou-Ekotto
- Kelly
- Carr
- Campbell
- Young
- Lennon
- Modric
- van der Vaart
- Bale
- Yeates
- Jackson
- Marney
- O'Hara
- Crouch
- Pavlyuchenko
- Barnard

West Bromwich Albion

- Carson
- Alison
- Jara
- Tamas
- Olsson
- Shorey
- Chambers
- Gabidon
- Mkandawire
- Hodgkiss
- Scharner
- Mulumbu
- Morrison
- Dyer
- Davies
- Smikle
- Brunt
- Odemwingle
- Richards

RICH GET RICHER?

On this 'evidence', it looks like the richer/higher-finishing clubs are actually more likely to bring through home-grown (or at least 'scouted and signed at a young age') talent: Arsenal would keep four first teamers, Man Utd and Liverpool three each. By contrast, Bolton, Fulham, QPR, West Brom and Wigan would have no first-teamers left... oh, and neither would Man City (exception that proves the rule?)

Wigan Athletic

- Al Habsi
- Tynan
- Gohouri
- Boyce
- Alcaraz
- Figueroa
- Charnock
- Fitzhenry
- Lea
- Baines
- Diamé
- Thomas
- McCarthy
- Watson
- N'Zogbia

Wolverhampton Wanderers

- Hennessey
- Elokobi
- Stearman
- Berra
- Ward
- Little
- Low
- Lescott
- Naylor
- Foley
- Henry
- Milijas
- Jarvis
- Clingan
- Davies
- Andrews
- Gobern
- Doyle
- Fletcher
- Clarke

BUY-BACK

There have been quite a few high profile deals to take players back to their first clubs over the years:

Player	Sold to	Bought from
Peter Crouch, Tottenham	QPR for £60k	Portsmouth for ~£10m
Shaun Wright-Phillips	Chelsea for ~£21m	Chelsea for ~£8.5m
Robbie Fowler, Liverpool	Leeds for ~£12m	Manchester City on a free
Mark Hughes, Man Utd	Barcelona for £2m	Barcelona for £1.8m
Edgar Davids, Ajax	Milan on a free	Tottenham on a free
Nicolas Anelka, PSG	Arsenal for £500k	Real Madrid for £20m

MY FAQs

It's quite tough to track down youth team products who are still playing, and I'm sure there are some glaring omissions. Who did I miss from your club?

What impact do you think this principle of 'jubilee' would have on football? Would it do anything to improve the transfer market or state of the game? (Read more about jubilee at <http://goo.gl/oBYVn>)

Who would win the league if this setup were brought in tomorrow?

Answers on a postcard, please, to bitemy bible@gmail.com

BITE MY BIBLE

Tasty, nibbly little Bible starters

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