

Dry Seasons Between the Feasts

Understanding the season between the feasts of the first of the biblical year and the feasts in the last of the biblical year is probably the hardest part of explaining the biblical calendar. Unless you live in an area of the world that has a distinct rainy season when everything is green and then has a distinct dry season when the earth beneath you turns into a brown desert or waste land, then connecting with this process will be something to which you are not accustomed.

That is exactly what happens in Israel. During the 3 months, as an average, ahead of the first month of the biblical year, the land of Israel is an explosion of green. During the green season, there are places in Israel that the land and foliage could remind you of Switzerland. But as the biblical calendar arrives at the wheat harvest, the foliage on the land has already died by 75% and rains will not be seen again until the next rainy season. The next rainy season will arrive somewhere between the eighth and ninth month. So that means, even though by the 12th month we look like Switzerland, by the beginning of the third month, or Shavu'ot we look like a desert again.

In the Song of Moses, in Deuteronomy 32:1-3

Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: 3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. Deuteronomy 32:1-2

The doctrine of Elohim is as dew, light rain, and moderate rains on tender herbs and grass.

In actuality, the dying and drying begins with the first fruits of barley. A moment of critical thinking will reveal to you that the harvest happens towards the end of the plant's life cycle. Elohim requires barley flour; the grains need to be mature enough to make flour. Once the barley is mature there will not be another barley harvest for a year because there will be no further rain. When the barley is ready for harvest it is the beginning of the dying and drying season.

In Acts 1:10, Yeshua ascended ten days ahead of the wheat harvest, it would have been at the time when the earth was 75% dry. John 1:1-10, records Yeshua is the source of life and light.

The spiritual picture is that Yeshua who is the source of life and light, when He died from the earth it marked the beginning of the dry season. Just as the barley, Yeshua was the firstfruits from among the dead. His leaving or physical death is demonstrated by the natural elements with a visible wave of dying and drying plants.

The same pattern can be seen in Genesis. Before the fall of Adam, Elohim walked in the garden with them. After the fall, when Adam was removed from the garden, Elohim placed the Cherubim to guard the garden. In the King James translation, it reads in Genesis 3:23, “Cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.” If we read the Hebrew words, we find it says, it is ‘an enwrapping drought to turn the way from the tree of life.’

So our beautiful word picture, which is the story behind the story is the same message from Genesis. As we look around the earth in Israel, Elohim’s presence is life and without Him there is dead.

Serpents

The rainy season is modern Israel’s version of winter because the rainy months are the coldest months of the year. It is also true that the rainy months are the greenest months of the year. And the dry months are known to modern Israel as the summer months because they are the hot months.

It is in the hot months that the snakes crawl. Immediately after the harvest season of the first barley as temperatures rise, the vipers come out of hibernation. The vipers crawl in the hot, dry, and dusty season.

As mentioned before the words of Elohim are seen as rain, in the presence of rain or the words of Elohim, serpents are not seen. It is a fact in Israel wildlife the snakes do not start crawling until the rains have stopped and the dry season begins. Again, Elohim has given us a beautiful spiritual picture from the natural elements that He created.

Before the seasonal marker of the change from the wet to the dry season, it is too cold for snakes to be seen on the earth. The seasonal change from wet to dry facilitates the curse of the serpent in Eden’s Garden.

*And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and **dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:** 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:14-15*

Before Adam fell there was no wet and dry season, Genesis two writes:

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. Genesis 2:5

Only after the fall did the soil become cursed and turn from a garden to a desert, Genesis 3:17. We will look at that phase more closely in the following section. In Israel, the serpents only

crawl in the dry and dusty season.

Snakes are most active from evening until sunrise, they crawl in the darkness of nighttime. Many days the sun is too hot for even the vipers and in the cool of the evening is when they begin to hunt. This is another spiritual word picture. Darkness and sin and the children of darkness represents the children of Satan.

The serpent's sin in Genesis was leading Eve astray by assuring her Elohim did not mean that she would die if she ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The serpent convinced her she would not die for disobedience.

Eve had believed an extra rule that was not given to Adam, the extra rule was a command not to touch the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but Elohim said do not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. Genesis 3:2-3

This was what Eve believed, but in Genesis 2 is what Elohim actually said:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Genesis 2:16-17

Eve believed both rules to be true, when she took the fruit in her hand and she did not die, it must have appeared that the wisdom of the snake was correct, so she also ate the fruit. The serpent had been successful in leading Eve astray. And the wisdom of the serpent was desirable when the serpent told her she could be as Elohim. But! The scripture records man was already in the image of Elohim so the serpent's promise of being as gods was empty and vain.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3:4-5

The created humans were made in the image of THE G-d, Elohim.

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; 2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. Genesis 5:1-2

The Dead Sea Scrolls, the book of Enoch, the book of Jubilees, the book of Jasher, etc are vain and empty compared to the scriptures that display the marvelous glory of the Living Elohim.

These books do not speak to you of Yeshua of who scripture plainly says is the point, the beginning source of life and light. It is sad how many people seek this 'extra' knowledge from the many older books apart from the scripture. They have listened to the voice of the serpent spirit which tells them, 'There is more secret knowledge hidden away, what Elohim has said is not enough.'

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 records, "13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Eve was led astray by wisdom that did not come from Elohim, the same is true of many today.

In Mathew 23, Yeshua tells us the snake and vipers are the religious people who change the laws of Elohim by adding their traditions and customs. These manmade rules that the nation of Israel still follow today hide the intention of the words of Elohim. This is the same pattern we see in Genesis when the extra law of 'don't touch' was added. If you will, the extra law of 'don't touch' was a fence around the law of 'don't eat.' If Eve did not touch the fruit, she could not eat the fruit. Today, Judaism proudly proclaims their fences around the law that are set in place to keep the people from transgressing against the law. As Ecclesiastes records, there is nothing new under the sun. Their rules have served to keep them blind as they have put more emphasis on the 'extras' then they do what Elohim actually records to them to observe.

The curse given to the serpent in the garden is that the serpent would eat dust. The meaning is that dust represents humans without the spirit of Elohim.

Dust or *aphar*, in Hebrew, was used in one verse previous to the curse of the serpent.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7

אָפָר *Aphar*: H6080; dust, gray, clay, earth, mud.

Before the puff of Elohim's breath, man was only dust. After the puff of life man became alive in Elohim's image, Genesis 5:2. Elohim walked with Adam as we read about in the Genesis 3 story, verse 9. But once the fall came, Adam became as dust when Elohim withdrew His presence from them and from their flesh. Now the spirit of Elohim can live in us only when we have accepted the Messiah, Yeshua.

*If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his **spirit and his breath**; 15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.* Job 34:14-15

Elohim withdrew His Spirit from Adam and Eve, but not His breath.

It's Yeshua that elevates man to more than just dust, He came as a second Adam to redeem humanity from the fall. It's the earnest of the Spirit we receive through Him that gives us the promise of the eternal life which Adam lost in the fall. Men without the spirit of Elohim are humans that are as dust, the serpent was cursed to eat dust and crawl on his belly. The belly is a spiritual picture of an incorrect lustful appetite, in this case for control over what was believed. Elohim never gave this permission to the serpent .

In the book of the Revelation 12:9, the Serpent, the Devil, and Satan are all terms for the same spirit.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9

In the same chapter we see that the Serpent is still after the Bride and her seed, just as he was in the garden. Eve was the first allegory for the Bride.

And I will put enmity (hostility) between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15

The hostility against us who are born by the Seed of promise of Eve who is Yeshua, is as active today as it ever was.

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (which is without fences and added laws) Revelation 12:13-17

In Revelation 22:14, a promise is written, if we follow only what Elohim requires of us, if we throw out any other rules given to us by religion, customs, and traditions of man, if we aren't enticed to be led astray by man's wisdom and coffered words then we will again gain access to the Tree of Life.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Revelation 12:13

The story of the serpent is a battle as old as time.

The season after Yeshua ascended is marked by a time without the pure water of rain as a symbol of the doctrine of Elohim. This time between the feast, in the dryness of the snake season, is filled with man's religion, man's customs and tradition. It's full of words that come out of man's wisdom claiming to be the words of Elohim.

In the book of Jude 1:3 we are given an admonishment to continue in Elohim's pure faith

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 1:3

Who were the Saints in the New Testament? They were either those of faith we read about in the book of Hebrews chapter eleven that proceeded Yeshua in death or they were those in Jerusalem who came to faith. In Jude, they were those who had lived when Yeshua walked the earth when the presence of the rain of His words fell as doctrine and watered the earth. The book of Amos records

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: Amos 8:11

Yeshua's presence is the end to spiritual drought, the serpent's presence is the beginning of it.

This is the faith that we are to contend for, the same faith that the Saints knew from when Yeshua's feet were on earth. We side step and do not take for fact anything that Elohim did not intend for us. The scripture has a intention for our lives that will bring light and life. Remember what Yeshua said of the men that practiced anything other than what Moses wrote down, he called them, 'Children of Hell'.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. Matthew 23:15

Thorns and Thistles

There is an abundance of thorns and thistles that grow from the earth in the land of Israel. These plants grow out of the earth as tender small sprouts when the rains come. But it is at the timing of Shavu'ot that these plants have become large. What the scripture writes is true, these plants are in a seeming competition with the fields that grow grains.

When the rainy season has ended it is thorns and thistles that have taken a predominant position on the earth in Israel. They will be the final plant to turn brown after all of the other seasonal

plants, eventually they will also turn brown before the rain returns. Unlike these other plants thorns and thistles will suffer the harsh dry winds and still be standing as sentinels when the rains return.

Anyone unfortunate enough to try to pass through or nearby them will suffer stick and scratches from their unyielding presence. During the invasion of October 7, bodies were thrown into the thorns and thistle so that those who came to retrieve them suffered harm. The large, stiff, and dry thistles had lost their flexibility as they dried, making it punishing to enter them and remove the bodies.

The parable of the sower tells us that the soil represent the heart and what the soil grows represents the condition of the heart. The parable tells us that thorns represent the cares of life and riches.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Matthew 13:22

This verse as a standalone seems to indicate that the poor individual has simply lost focus and was using his life force in a fruitless effort. While this is true, it's not the entire picture. The book of Samuel added more information, thorns represent evil men, the contents of their heart has set them to be destroyed.

But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands: 2 Samuel 23:6

Belial, means worthless and wicked,

From H1097 and H3276; *without profit, worthlessness, destruction, wickedness*

Jeremiah writes that it is a choice to grow thorns in your heart after you have heard the living words of Elohim.

They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, but shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

Jeremiah 12:13

With our understanding from the scripture we can now go to Genesis and follow the progression of the soil, the seeds, and the thorns and thistles.

In Genesis 2, Elohim records for us that the soil was created with seeds in it. Seeds are the beginning of plants and herbs. Before they grow, they are a seed, after they grow they are a plant.

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. Genesis 2:5

It writes, that Elohim had prepared the soil with seeds from the day that He created the heaven and earth, but it was waiting to grow by the rain He would send and for the fall of Adam that He knew would happen. Genesis 2:6 also writes, there had not yet been rain, a picture of His doctrine in Deuteronomy 32 and there was not yet a man to work the soil.

In this moment instead of rain, it says a mist rose and covered the face of the earth to water it.

But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. Genesis 2:6

This is a picture of Elohim covering the face of the earth with His presence before Adam fell while creation was still in the perfect as Elohim had created it.

In Genesis 3 the ground became cursed.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Genesis 3:17

In Hebrew, “cursed is the ground for thy sake” reads like this, “Deserving to be cursed; very hateful; detestable; abominable is the soil it crossed over.” What did the soil or the heart crossover from? From being ‘tov’ or good as Elohim had created it to be.

Adam was required to open the soil and grow bread fighting against the thorns and thistles that stand ready to choke out the good seed which is wheat. Wheat makes bread. Wheat and bread are allegories of the words of Elohim.

According to the parable of the Sower, Adam’s heart choked out the words that Elohim had spoken to him and according to 2 Samuel, Adam had an evil heart problem.

In this story behind the story, the command Adam was given to grow bread requires opening the soil. The soil represents the heart. When the soil is open Adam was to plant and grow wheat. Wheat represents the word of Elohim. Then it also follows that we are to guard against the thorns and thistles that stand as sentinels on the edge of our lives waiting to push in and steal the ground of our hearts and crowd out His words.

Psalms 119 has a specific message about our hearts and sowing the words of Elohim into it as a cure for keeping us from desiring the wealth of the world:

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. 12 Blessed art thou, O

LORD: teach me thy statutes. 13 With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. 16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Psa 119:11-16

In Revelation 18, we are given a warning about the Whore and living luxuriously by her wealth in the world's system. The verse mention that those who lived by her system mourned and lamented when she was destroy, without the word of Elohim in the soil of their hearts, when the Whore is finished they have lost everything.

And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning. Revelation 18:9

In our time, luxurious wealth has become larger and more widely available as humans traveled in time further and further from the garden. Even looking back to the first century, few of us would be able to survive a week without 'modern conveniences' as they are now called. I appreciate our modern conveniences, but we must be careful that they do not own us.

Once we have the many things from the world, a lot of time and care can be spent in maintaining those things. Do we need a high end car that we've invested a significant amount of money into? Won't a modest car also help us reach our travel destination? Rarely do you see a person of wealth driving an inexpensive car. The high end car has more value and we are hard pressed to keep it in perfection as we then labor for it because of the value the world has placed on it. Don't allow the luxuries of the world to rule you; don't have so many that your time is spent caring for them.

There is another place we learn about the thorns of life, it's in John 19:2-5. Yeshua who was crucified at Golgotha, which means the place of the skull, wore a wreath of thorns that we push in against His skull.

And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. 4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. 5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! John 19:2-5

Not only do we understand that Yeshua gave Himself for the sins of humanity but we are given a very literal picture of the thorns consuming our thoughts by the imagery of the wreath pressed into Yeshua's head.

Yeshua is the second Adam that won the battle of sin and flesh. He won the battle over the thorns and thistles allowing us to have victory within if Yeshua lives in us.

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