

RAIN

ὕετόν
(rain)

Hebrews 6:7 - *“For the earth which drinks in the **rain** that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God.”*

There are 2 types of rain in Israel:

1. The early rain—in autumn (Oct–Nov)
2. The latter rain—in spring (Mar–Apr)

God uses the land of Israel—its topography, its seasons, its rains—to teach us. So while the Bible may seem to be speaking of natural things like rains, harvests, or crops, there are hidden spiritual truths for us to learn.

“Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone.” — Zechariah 10:1

NKJV *“flashing clouds”* — In Hebrew, this means “lightnings.” ***“Then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.”*** — Deuteronomy 11:14–15 NKJV

“I will give you the rain for your land in its season” — God sends rain in seasons. If it rains all year, there won’t be a harvest. In Israel, there are 2 times a year when rain falls: In autumn, the early rain falls, and in spring, the latter rain falls. The early rain falls in the months of October and November, and it’s for cultivating the seeds when they’re first planted. Back then, after the Israeli farmers planted their seeds, they **prayed** for rain.

This is different from how they used to farm in Egypt. When they were in Egypt, the way they farmed was by hard labour, watering their seeds by foot. Water was dispersed using a system that required pedalling. When God brought them to Canaan their promised land, they no longer depended on their old system of irrigation by foot.

They depended on rain from heaven. In Egypt, they had to look down at their pedals and see their own work. In Canaan, all they had to do was look up and see God work. They depended on Him for rain. They depended on Him to care for their land.

I encourage you today to look up and depend on God for blessings. The world can look down and struggle using their own efforts, depending on their own smarts, talents, and strengths. But we will look up and depend on the Lord who cares for us.

What’s the meaning of rain for us today?

“Then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.”

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Early rain — In the Hebrew, early rain is “*yoreh*,” which means “shooting arrows.” But another word for early rain is “*moreh*,” a derivative of the word “*yoreh*.” And “*moreh*” means “teacher.” The early rain points to the latter rain and teaches us!

Latter rain — In Hebrew, latter rain is “*malqosh*.” The latter rain matures the crops and brings the harvest. It ushers in the time to “gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.”

The oil — represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit. What does this mean for us? It means the latter rain will bring:

1. The manifestation of our healing.

The early rain happened during the time of the early church when every sick person who was brought to the church was healed (see Acts 5:15–16). If that was just the early rain, then how much more the latter rain?

Zechariah 10:1 tells us to “*ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain*.” Even though we know that it is God’s will, it is our part to **ask** for it. Pray for it. When we go to the hospital to pray for someone, we don’t pray only to soothe or comfort their souls. No, we go to the hospital to pray and see a miracle from God! We expect God to intervene in that impossible situation because “the things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27). We need to pray for the manifestation that God has promised. Don’t just let it remain wishful thinking that the promise of God will manifest.

Ask God for it! Ask God on behalf of your family, on behalf of your church. That’s what prayer is. That’s what intercession is.

Besides healing, the latter rain also brings:

2. An increase of anointing.

Another part of the harvest in Deuteronomy 11:14–15 is the oil, which represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Oil makes things smooth and easy. When a door is creaking at its hinges, you apply oil. When gears are not working as smoothly as before, you apply oil. When God’s anointing is on you, things become renewed, supple, smooth-flowing, easy. Things go smoothly for you even though you don’t have the experience or smarts to make it happen.

There are 2 kinds of anointing:

a) The anointing upon you:

When the anointing was upon David, he killed Goliath with one slingshot (see 1 Sam. 17:50). When the anointing was upon Samson, he killed the lion with his bare hands (see Judg. 14:6). The anointing upon you will cause you to do things far beyond your natural ability. Beyond your experience, beyond your education level, beyond your IQ.

b) The _____ anointing within you:
The anointing within you leads you to make wise decisions. “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.” — 1 John 2:20 NKJV

The anointing within you is a prophetic anointing that leads you in your daily life and decisions. It's a knowing on the inside that leads you in what to do, what to say, whom to trust. It's a knowing not to rush into this or that contract. It's a knowing of whether to go ahead with a decision or hold back.

"Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them **showers of rain**, grass in the field for everyone." — Zechariah 10:1
NKJV "**showers of rain**" — the Hebrew word for "showers," is "*geshem*," which actually means "torrential rain." It refers to a heavy downpour. It represents POWER!

Hundreds and thousands of tons of water are released from the clouds through rain. If all the water was released at one time, it would kill people, destroy buildings, damage everything it fell on. But in His kindness and mercy, God releases water on the earth in rain. Rain that can drop on a little flower and not destroy it.

Remember... God works with faith. He works with you asking Him. Why is it important to pray and ask God for the things He's already promised? Because then you'll know that when it comes to pass, He answered you. You'll know that God is your source. God wants you to ask for rain in the time of the latter rain!

God loves it when we align ourselves with Him and pray for the blessings He wants to give us. And this happens most in church!

The church is not a building; it is the gathering of God's people. Wherever we meet, whether in a building or on a field, we are the church. "**there shall be showers of blessing**" — The phrase "showers of blessing" actually refers to torrential rain, heavy downpours, copious showers. When you are drenched in the rain, you look different. Your clothes are soaked, your hair is soaked. The rain changes your appearance. When you experience the latter rain, you will look different in a good way. People around you will see it. Your relatives will see it.

Keep coming to church. Honour the Lord by giving Him 1 day out of 7 days. When you give God the first fruits of your time, He will bless all your other days. Don't try to work on the 7th day to provide for yourself or make up what you've lost in years past. "*WHEN YOU WORK, I REST. WHEN YOU REST, I WORK.*" — GOD. As you come to church and worship the Lord corporately, He will fight your battles for you.

When the latter rain comes, God will restore all the years you have lost. Many of us have lost our years to the "locusts." Locusts leave fields completely empty, destroyed, void of every green thing. Joel 2:25 names 4 different locusts.

"**Swarming locusts**" — All over the world, farmers are terrified of swarming locusts. They come swiftly and suddenly and destroy everything in their path. If you've ever experienced something bad happen suddenly, if you've ever felt your life fall apart in one fell swoop, you were hit by the swarming locusts. This year, God will restore to you the years you've lost.
"**Chewing locusts**" — The chewing locusts represent things that have been stolen from you subtly and quietly. If you ever woke up one day and realized someone had underhandedly

stolen your business, or you realized your health was fading slowly, that's the work of the chewing locusts. This year, God is going to restore to you all that you've lost because of them.

The truth is that the people who stole from you, the people who cheated you—they're not your real enemies. The real enemies are the locusts, and they are spiritual. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**" — Ephesians 6:12 NKJV

The 4 groups of locusts in Joel 2:25 are actually the 4 ways the devil comes against us in Ephesians 6:12. Keep on coming to church and stand under the showers of blessings that will drive depression and every evil spirit away. The enemy likes dry places (see Matt. 12:43). When the rain comes, there will be no more dry places for the enemy to linger around.