

# Considering your offering for Sukkot

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In the previous message, I talked about inspecting fruit, because we are just over a month away from Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Ingathering. (see Exodus 23:16 and 34:22)

Anyone who claims to follow Yahushua should be extremely interested in that subject.

He stated: *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My Name He may give you."* John 15:16

So if you are chosen, then you have been appointed by Messiah Himself to bear lasting fruit. Bearing fruit should therefore be at the top of our priority list.

As we approach the fall Appointed Times, the focus on fruit becomes especially intense as we work our way through the fruit harvest.

The grape harvest is in full swing in the Covenant Land, and there will be plenty of new wine for Sukkot. Of course, that is what distinguishes Sukkot as "the season of our joy."

On that note, it is important to understand that we are looking at an entirely different process than what occurred during the grain harvest between Passover and Shavuot.

The grain harvest is a very arduous and intensive process that precedes the fruit harvest.

It repeats every year . . . from scratch.

Till the soil, plant the seed, harvest the crop, then thresh, winnow, collect and store the grain. The hope is that it will provide daily bread for the entire year.

When we pray “give us this day our daily bread” we are really praying for sufficiency to get us through to the next harvest.

Do you know how much grain you and your family would need to survive for an entire year, if there was no such thing as a grocery store? I have read numbers ranging around 30 pounds of combined grains per person, per month.

Of course, this would have been common knowledge for people who made their bread every day. Those steeped in Babylon probably have no idea the amount of grain or fruit or animals that they need to survive. They are more accustomed to purchasing their food in packages.

Babylonians eat what they want, when they want it. If you had to slaughter a steer in order to cook a hamburger, you would look at food acquisition and storage, much differently. Ho about if you wanted that burger on a bun?

Babylonians are so accustomed to going to the store for bread that most are completely detached from this very important exercise of planning, harvesting and storing.

Even if you knew how much grain you needed, would you know how much to plant? And how about your animals. How much do they need to eat?

Remember, dependency breeds slavery, and that is the goal of Babylon. Babylon wants entertained, distracted and content slaves who are completely reliant upon the system. That is how they can be controlled.

But I digress.

The reason that the grain harvest is so difficult is because it is specifically tied to the sin in the Garden, and punishment.

In fact, it is the result of a curse placed upon man.

Man was originally placed in the Garden planted by Elohim. He and the woman were instructed to “be fruitful and multiply. That was their mandate from the beginning, and Elohim provided them with fruit to eat from almost all the trees in the Garden, save one.

*“<sup>15</sup> Then YHWH Elohim took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And YHWH Elohim commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”* Genesis 2:15-17

Well, we all know what happened.

After the man and the woman sinned, we read about the punishment meted out to them both as follows:

*“<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, Because you have heeded the voice of your woman, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it: Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”*  
Genesis 3:17-19

Toil could be defined as “hardship.” It is the same word to describe the “sorrow” that a woman would experience at childbirth. (see Genesis 3:16)

They would both experience “distress” and “hardship.” The woman would experience it when multiplying children. The man would experience when multiplying grain.

Prior to the fall, man ate from the fruit of the trees, now he had to sweat for his daily bread.

Therefore, the grain harvest should remind us of our present condition. We are all still under the curse involving our food, and the fall harvest should be a time when we consider the path back into the Garden, because it is focused on fruit.

These cycles are critical for our walk, and understanding the redemptive plan of the Creator.

While Christians believe what happened in the Garden, and understand the problem, most are detached from the signs and the

Appointed Times of the Covenant that lead us back into a right relationship with the Creator.

Sadly, that is one of the symptoms of Babylonian religious influences. Babylon creates religions, distorts truth, and even lies in order to steer men away from the Covenant Path.

Those of you who see through the deception, and are “back on track,” should find the fall harvest to be a powerful motivator every year to bear fruit.

It is definitely not something that should be relegated to ancient history and forgotten. Even if you are not a farmer, this time is very important in your covenant journey.

While there is work involved in the fall harvest, it is not a “hardship.” It is much more satisfying and exciting than the grain harvest. The flavors and smells are delicious

Again, the fruit harvest is more akin to the Garden where YHWH planted fruit producing trees that were ready to eat.

The trees only had to be maintained. They didn’t need to be replanted every year. All you have to do is pick the fruit when it is ready. Most can be eaten off the tree, except for the olives, which still require time and some effort to eat. They also require labor for oil.

The grapes can be eaten, or processed for wine.

But as I mentioned last week, looks can be deceiving. Not all grapes are good grapes.

Yisrael was planted in the Covenant Land, just as Adam and the woman were placed in the Garden. They were supposed to produce fruit.

Instead of “good grapes” (anavim), the vineyard was producing “wild grapes” (b’ashim). The Hebrew word “b’ashim” refers to something that stinks.

I don’t know if you’ve ever eaten wild grapes, but they can be extremely sour. People will often add sugar and use them for jam, but sugar wasn’t readily available to the ancients.

So you would rather have delicious tasting grapes, right off the vine.

Speaking of grapes, there are certain requirements that derive from the Garden concerning the fruit that we eat.

An important ingredient of acceptable food is the seed.

*“And Elohim said, See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.” Genesis 1:29*

In other words, you only eat fruits that have seeds.

Have you ever noticed how it is hard to find grapes that have seeds? I make a point of eating grapes with seeds, because that is the way it was intended to be.

The seed contains life.

The interesting thing is that without labels, it would be very difficult to discern whether or not there were seeds in a bunch of grapes just looking from the outside.

When we eat fruit with seeds, it is a reminder of creation, and the plan of the Creator.

The seed perpetuates and multiplies the life of the fruit to the next generation. The seed is the vital component of the Commandment to be fruitful and multiply, and the seed represents Elohim's role in the process.

Multiplication is a critical aspect of creation. That is why we live in an expanding universe. The voice of YHWH spoken in the beginning never stopped. It continues to create.

Have you ever noticed how Babylon is all about birth control and population reduction? Those involved in the Great Reset view mankind as a plague upon the planet and the goal of the green movement is to diminish man's "footprint" on the planet.

The Georgia Guidestones revealed the plan, until they were conveniently blown up and immediately demolished. The last I knew, an explosion on US soil would be considered Domestic Terrorism, triggering an FBI crime scene, and investigation.

Speaking of domestic terrorism, Planned Parenthood is probably one of the most evil organizations on the planet. According to recent numbers, it is responsible for killing around 9 million American children. Let that number sink in for a moment.

Planned Parenthood claims to promote "reproductive health," but that is a deception.

Founded by a racist eugenicist, the goal was to reduce the poor black population in America. The primary goal is to sterilize young women and kill their unborn children. Over the years, they have expanded

their operations to the lucrative market of dealing in fetal organs and body parts.

That's not the agenda it promotes to the public, but as I said – looks can be deceiving.

Now consider all of the toxins and pollutants of society that are killing people, and making them sick.

The so-called pharmaceutical medicines, treatments and vaccines being touted by the healthcare system are causing death and infertility in both men and women.

In fact, many studies have shown that the Covid vaccines are wreaking havoc on women's menstrual cycles, among other things.

I just had an elderly gentleman in my office yesterday complaining that he had a stroke while driving, and lost much of the use of his left side. It occurred 9 days after his Covid booster, and the doctors told him it was directly linked to the shot.

I felt bad for him. He said was perfectly healthy and “just trying to do the right thing.” He was deceived, and now he is maimed for life. I continue to hear stories of harm, and even death, from many clients.

There are a number of forces at working, attempting to deceive people and destroy YHWH's creation.

The transgender movement that is sweeping the world is directly opposed to the natural order established at Creation.

YHWH created man and woman as a proper match, so they could reproduce. That is why anything contrary to that established order is a perversion, and an abomination.

This is not hate speech. It's simply the truth built into Creation.

It's kind of difficult to be confused about your gender when Elohim provides specific organs to identify gender. Granted, the plastic that are infecting society are resulting in xeno-estrogens that are wreaking havoc on people's hormones.

I pray that people confused about their gender will find healing and restoration. Sadly, there are deranged parents chemically castrating their children, and brainwashing them from their youth, so it is quite a battle.

Ultimately, you can either walk in YHWH's established order and reproduce, or you can ignore it and suffer the consequences.

Of course, the transgender movement is an obvious example of transgressing that order, but what about the food that we eat?

As with seedless grapes, are you eating things that defy the order of creation?

How about genetically modified foods? Many genetically modified crops include "terminator genes." Companies like Monsanto, developed seeds that specifically will not reproduce, so that people cannot use the seeds for the next crop.

Farmers must continually buy new seeds from companies, because the seeds they plant are essentially dead. They cannot be used for the next crop.

That is completely contrary to creation, and can be defined as evil.

Again. The food that we eat is a reminder of the important principle of bearing fruit. So are the Appointed Times

We are not supposed to appear before YHWH at His Feasts empty handed.

*“<sup>16</sup> Three times a year all your males shall appear before YHWH your Elohim in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot); and they shall not appear before YHWH empty-handed. <sup>17</sup> Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of YHWH your Elohim which He has given you.” Deuteronomy 16:16-17*

We are supposed to bring our best to Him. That is the focus all year. Giving YHWH the best of what we have.

It is our “weather gauge” so to speak. If we had a bountiful harvest, then we give a bountiful first-fruit offering, and it shows that we are doing something right.

If we show up with a pitiful offerings, then it is obvious that we have a problem.

Of course, if you are not giving anything to YHWH, or if you give Him your leftovers, then you will completely miss out.

Remember the words spoken through Malachi?

*“<sup>6</sup> A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says YHWH of hosts to you priests who despise My Name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your Name?’ <sup>7</sup> You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of YHWH is contemptible.’ <sup>8</sup> And when you offer the*

*blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably? Says YHWH of hosts.” Malachi 1:6-8*

This is a powerful message. We can either despise YHWH or honor Him by what we give. YHWH is not interested in lame or defective sacrifices. You can give those to your governor.

I can hear people protesting now. “There is no Temple, so we can’t give Him tithes and offerings any longer.”

Well, that’s simply a cop out.

Remember one of the final teachings of Yahushua?

*“<sup>31</sup> When the Son of Man comes in His esteem, and all the set apart messengers with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Master, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”  
Matthew 25:31-40*

Yahushua had already proclaimed judgment on Judah and Jerusalem when He cursed the fig tree, and wept over Jerusalem.

In fact, He had just previously pronounced judgment on the Temple prior to speaking these words.

He knew that the Temple would be gone, and He was showing His disciples how to carry on with their giving.

So remember, inasmuch as you do it to one of the least of these . . . you do it to Him.

It always saddens me when I see someone give a beggar a few coins from their pocket. They think they are doing something good, but that is not necessarily the case if they are simply giving scraps – money that means nothing to them.

Sometimes giving needs to hurt, if you know what I mean.

When I see a homeless person, my goal is to give them their daily bread, and a place to lie their head and sleep, because I take Yahushua at His word. I'm doing it for Him.

I plan ahead, so I am ready when I see someone in need. I make sure I have money, and written materials handy.

Yahushua fed people's bellies, and then He fed their spirit. He established a good pattern.

I ask YHWH to provide me with opportunities to give, and help others. Believe me, there is plenty of need out there, and you should be asking, preparing and looking for opportunities.

Yahushua could not have made it any clearer that this was something extremely important to Him. Remember, many of these are the people who will be invited to His House for supper. (Luke 14:16-24)

Babylon teaches us to focus on our needs, while Yahushua repeatedly teaches us to do the opposite.

In fact, He promises to take care of our needs, so that we can focus on His Kingdom.

*“<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles (Nations) seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:31-33*

If you are a Babylonian Gentile, then go ahead and focus on the material aspects of your life.

If, on the other hand, you desire to follow Yahushua on the Covenant path, then your priority is to seek first the Kingdom, and His righteousness.

His righteousness is found in His Torah. We live righteous lives when we obey His Commandments.

Remember the greatest Commandments according to Yahushua?

*“<sup>37</sup> . . . You shall love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, with all your being and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Torah and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:27-40*

If you spend your entire life focused on your career, and your own personal kingdom, you are missing the important lesson being taught through the Appointed Times.

The purpose of the three Pilgrimage Feasts is so that you can appear before YHWH, meet with Him and express your love and appreciation by giving back.

I wonder how many people are excited about giving to YHWH at Sukkot? Or are they more excited about listening to speakers and having a good time, drinking wine and eating food?

This is an important distinction, and something to consider.

I missed out on a lot of speaking opportunities throughout the decades, because my focus was on appearing in Jerusalem for the Feasts, not attending some conference in the states.

How many want to Feast, but completely ignore the requisite offering? In fact, the feasting is only supposed to take place after you have taken care of business.

Of course, the reason we give our best is not because YHWH needs our stuff.

We give our best, so we can understand the important principle of substitution.

When you offer something on His altar, or at the threshold, it represents you.

As a result, all of these exercises are intended to keep us focused on ourselves. Specifically the fruit of our lives.

That is why I reminded everyone last week to inspect their fruit.

It's easy for an experienced farmer to examine his crops and know how things are going.

I learned an important lesson last year that too much water can be just as bad as too little water for certain plants.

And you cannot always discern the moisture content of the soil by looking at the surface of the ground. Sometimes the ground looks dry and parched, but if you dig down a few inches, it is really very moist.

So if you get in the habit of watering based upon how the ground looks, you might end up drowning the plant. But if you get your hands in the dirt and look closely at the plant, you can tell that it is getting too much water.

So the key is to know where to look, and what to look for.

It's not always as easy for us to look at our own lives objectively.

We are pretty good at looking good on the outside. We can dress things up and put on makeup to hide the effects of a drought or a flood in our lives. Sometimes, we need to peel back the layers and look inside to get a good look at the soil and the roots.

Our preparation for the Appointed Times is an excellent opportunity to do an inventory and assessment.

Ask Him to reveal anything that is a stench, so that you are not inadvertently offering something offensive.

This is a process that, if you take seriously, can truly be a benefit to you in your relationship with YHWH Elohim. I'm thankful that He is patient and merciful, and He gives us time to learn these lessons.

The only question is whether we are applying them to our lives on a regular basis.

This is why the Appointed Times are so important for our walk, and it is a tragedy that Christianity has relegated them as inapplicable "Jewish Holidays."

We need these regular appointments as a spiritual "check-up" with our only doctor and healer - YHWH Elohim.

With that in mind, I encourage you to spend some time inspecting yourself this week.

How's your soil? Are you getting enough watering from the Word, or are you drowning in teaching videos?

Are you hearing His voice, or is it lost among the many voices on the internet?

Are you giving to Him, or are you just focused on yourself?

The reason for all of the tithes and offerings was to maintain the House of YHWH, and support His Kingdom headquarters here on earth.

Nothing has changed, except for the fact that His representatives are currently in exile, being punished.

The good news is that the punishment is ending and the Kingdom mandate remains the same. His people remain scattered at the moment, awaiting the ingathering.

If you expect to be gathered, you should be prepared to present your offerings.

Here is the procedure for offering our first fruit offering.

*“<sup>1</sup> And it shall be, when you come into the Land which YHWH your Elohim is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, <sup>2</sup> that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that YHWH your Elohim is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where YHWH your Elohim chooses to make His name abide. <sup>3</sup> And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, “I declare today to YHWH your Elohim that I have come to the country which YHWH swore to our fathers to give us. <sup>4</sup> Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of YHWH your God. <sup>5</sup> And you shall answer and say before the LORD your God: “My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <sup>6</sup> But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. <sup>7</sup> Then we cried out to YHWH Elohim of our fathers, and YHWH heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> So YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup> He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, “a land flowing with milk and honey”; <sup>10</sup> and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the Land which you, O YHWH, have given me. Then you shall set it before YHWH your Elohim, and worship before YHWH your Elohim. <sup>11</sup> So you shall rejoice in every good thing which YHWH your Elohim has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.” Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

The basket is supposed to contain the best of the fruits – the first-fruits. The contents were set apart to YHWH, and that basket sent a message to the priest, and to YHWH, regarding how much we really appreciate Him and His provision.

If your High Priest is Yahushua, then you want to honor Him by heeding his words and honoring the Father.

So are you filling your basket for Sukkot? If not, why not?

If so, how will it look to our High Priest and YHWH?

Is your fruit seedless and dead, or is it the best that you have to offer?

These are important matters to consider, and that is why we must first pass through Yom Teruah and Yom Kippur, before we get to Sukkot.

Shalom

Todd