

# Sowing Seed and Bearing Fruit

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This article was first published on Day 11 of Month 11 on the Creator's Calendar, also known as January 15, 2022 on the Roman Calendar. At this time, we are 4 months out from the Appointed Times of Month 7, when all Yisrael would rejoice during the Feast of Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Ingathering.

As we look back at Sukkot and assess the past fruit harvest, we also look forward with anticipation to the renewed grain harvests that are the focus of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Shavuot.

While we are not presently in the Land participating in these harvests, we understand that they were built into the lives of the Covenant people with purpose and meaning.

The Covenant people were supposed to be intimately connected with the Covenant Land. In fact, Isaiah likens a future restoration of the people in the Land to a marriage.

*"You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah. For YHWH delights in you, and your land shall be married."*  
Isaiah 62:4

Adam (man) was taken from "ha'adamah" (the ground), and you can clearly see the connection between the two in the Hebrew text. Man and the earth shared an intimate relationship that was disrupted after the fall.

Now we know that the life of a Hebrew flows in cycles, and we are supposed to be in synch with the harvest cycles. As we rehearse the Appointed Time we learn about the restoration between the people and the Land with each other, and with YHWH.

These “seasons” of life that we experience with crops have even deeper significance in our individual lives.

I hope that you all experienced a marvelous harvest last sukkot and bore much fruit.

As we approach the grain harvest, the question is whether you will experience an abundance in the future?

Of course, the point of it all is that these things don’t just take place by chance. It takes planning, preparation and effort.

A farmer doesn’t just wait and hope that barley appears in the spring, without ever planting any seed. He doesn’t just “believe in his heart” that YHWH will bless him with a bountiful crop.

Likewise, you should not expect to bear fruit in your life if you haven’t prepared for the harvest.

Sometimes, when I brought tour groups to Israel, I would take them to Tell Gezer. The remains of this site are interesting due to its geographical location and prominence on trade routes.

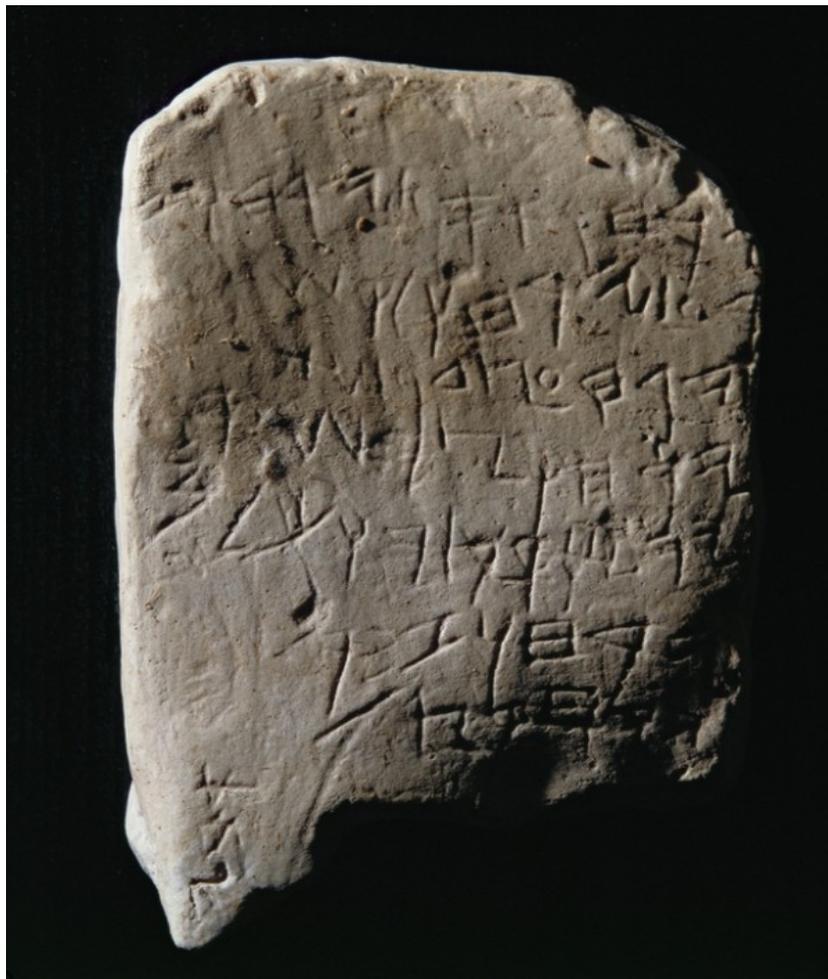
It is in the Land apportioned to Ephraim, although Ephraim never removed all of the Canaanites, according to Judges 1:29.

This is one of the cities that Solomon is credited with fortifying, and it shares the trademark triple level ‘Solomonic Gates’ with Hazor and Megiddo. (see 1 Kings 9:15-17)

The efforts of Solomon demonstrate the point of keeping a watch and maintaining a hedge, as discussed in the message from last week. In his case, the hedge involved walls and gates of stone. He fortified strategic cities that were integral to the defense of the Land. They were likened to the “migdals” that YHWH places in His vineyard.

Aside from the remnants of this fortress city, there is an interesting artifact that was found at this site known as “The Gezer Calendar”.

From this ancient limestone tablet, we can read how the people of the land viewed the harvest cycle.



Written in Paleo-Hebrew Script, the tablet reads as follows:

Two months gathering  
Two months planting  
Two months late sowing  
One month cutting flax  
One month reaping barley  
One month reaping and measuring grain  
Two months pruning  
One month summer fruit

We don't know who exactly wrote this or why, but it gives an outline of how a year would be viewed by a person whose life revolved around the harvest cycle. How different this is from someone immersed in modern society.

Flax, barley and wheat are all reaped from the fields. They need to be planted by sowing seeds every year, and then later reaped and processed. That takes a lot of work, and is a direct result of man's expulsion from the garden.

Remember that it was only when man was expelled from the garden that he was told: *"<sup>17</sup> . . . Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, 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

Prior to that time, man was placed in a Garden planted by Elohim. We know that YHWH planted trees that bore fruit. He did all of the work

that would yield food for the man and the woman. All man had to do was tend it (serve), and watch over it (guard).

We are supposed to be like those trees planted in the Garden.

*“<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the Torah of YHWH, and in His Torah he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”* Psalm 1:1-3

The man was entrusted with the Garden, but something happened. The hedge was breached. The man and the woman were tested by the nachash (serpent), and they chose to believe a lie and disobey the Commandment.

As a result of their disobedience, they were evicted from paradise and the protective hedge of the Garden. That’s when the real work began.

Since that time men have been “toiling” and “sweating” for their bread. Yisrael was shown that YHWH would give them “bread from heaven” in the form of manna. They did not have to toil for grain in the wilderness. That is an important lesson for those intent on leaving Babylon.

The barley and the wheat were sown in Months 9 and 10, so the harvest cycle never really ends. While we can briefly pause and reflect during the Feasts, the work continues.

Right now, we are in the period referred to as “late sowing” or “late planting.”

“Late planting” included supplemental crops such as garlic, cucumbers, melons, lentils, chick peas, sesame, millet, and other vegetables.

These are the “extra” crops. They are not vital for existence, but they definitely add some spice to an otherwise bland menu. Interestingly, they are the things that the Yisraelites longed for after they left Egypt.

*“We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.”* Numbers 11:5

The Yisraelites had their bread from heaven, but they wanted the extras that they were accustomed to in Egypt. There is no “late planting” in the wilderness – just manna.

The manna was sufficient for their needs, and it even tasted good, but a constant reminder that they had not reached home yet. (see Exodus 16:31)

Manna was not the permanent diet of a Covenant people. This is an important reminder for us all.

When we are in the wilderness, we subsist, but the point is not just to remain there and survive. We need to keep following the leading of YHWH until we reach the Jordan, and cross over.

There are many among us who long to remain in Egypt. Remember that although the Yisraelites were essentially slaves in Egypt, they owned homes, livestock and possessions.

They had a life in Egypt, just as we have a life in Babylon. The question is whether you will cling to that life, or let go and follow YHWH as He leads us through the wilderness to the place that He promised.

Many are comfortable, and they would rather keep it that way. They don't want to suffer any inconvenience, and they don't want to move into the wilderness. They want to make long term plans and settle down.

Did you know that the Yisraelites moved camp 42 times on their journey out of Egypt and into the Promised Land?

I often wonder if some people got tired of moving. Maybe they made their way out to the fringes of the camp, and ultimately decided to stay at a site that they found appealing. No one knows for sure.

The important thing to remember is that the wilderness is not our final destination. It is on the way to our destination. The point of the wilderness is to learn to rely completely on YHWH, and focus on Him.

The lesson of the Gezer calendar is that people had to plan ahead, but not too far. As Hebrews, we need to focus on the cycles of the harvests. Those cycles naturally lead us into the Kingdom.

Now, we live in a society where people are obsessed with planning and preparing for retirement.

It begins with an education to set them on a career path that will then dominate the rest of their lives until they eventually can make enough to retire and then finally "enjoy life."

That is a slave mentality that traps so many people into existing in a consumer driven society, rather than living in the Kingdom of Elohim.

This is regrettable, because Yahushua advised us to pray for our daily bread, and specifically told us not to worry about tomorrow. (Matthew 6:34)

Sadly, that's what most people are caught up with every day of their lives. They worry about so many details that they forget they were created to bear fruit. There are so many things that hinder us from bearing fruit – our jobs, our properties, our homes, our relationships – you name it.

Most people are so busy that they never take the time to stop and examine their lives and inspect their fruit. This is a part of the “watching” that we discussed last week as we inspect our hedges.

Ultimately, it all comes down to bearing fruit, and this is the underlying purpose of the rehearsals that YHWH gives us. He specifically keeps His Times in synch with the harvest so that we can learn from these parallels, and be reminded of our purpose.

In fact, it was no mistake that His House, the Temple in Jerusalem, was built on a threshing floor. When Yisrael would go there to present their offerings, they were really presenting themselves.

So, if you want to make the most out of the rehearsals of the Appointed Times, first determine whether you are bearing any fruit at all. When you present yourself, are you presenting an offering that is pleasing to Him?

I often quote Matthew 7:21-23, because it had such a profound impact upon my life.

The context of that passage is all about bearing fruit. Let's take a moment and examine the larger portion of Matthew 7.

*“<sup>13</sup> Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, who come to you in*

*sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them. <sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' <sup>24</sup> Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.'" Matthew 7:13-27*

Of course, the critical part of this passage is the fact that Yahushua rejects people who think they are bearing fruit. In fact, most Christians would consider casting out demons, prophesying and performing wonders as good fruit. Not so according to Yahushua. Despite their actions, they were described as ones who practice lawlessness.

In the Greek, "lawlessness" is "anomia" and it means: "without the Law" or better yet "without the Torah." Since they were without the Torah, they were not bearing good fruit.

Remember the tree planted by the water in Psalm 1? The tree was being nourished by the Torah, which provide life that resulted in good fruit.

Sadly, that flies in the face of many people's understanding, because they have been taught wrong. They have been influenced by the nachash and his false prophets who lead people away from the Tree of Life, which is the Torah.

Notice the reference to thistles and thorn bushes? These are the items that would make up the hedge of a garden. As you remove them from within and cast them to the edges, you would actually be enhancing your hedge. Kind of ironic. That is also a direct link back to the punishment rendered upon Adam in Genesis 3:18.

In the Scriptures we see Yisrael and Yahudah likened to grapes, figs and Olive Trees. Those represent good fruit and Yisrael was supposed to bear good fruit.

They were known by their fruits. When they were following YHWH, they would produce good fruit. When they were disobedient, they would produce bad fruit.

We all bear fruit of some kind, and our identity and destiny is linked to those fruits – not our birth certificates, passports or citizenship cards. He defines what is good fruit and what is bad fruit, and He will know us by our fruits.

Calling Jesus “Lord” and asking him into your heart will not get you into the Kingdom. And guess what? Casting out demons, performing miracles and prophesying are not the fruits that the Messiah is looking for, if they are expressed by “lawless” individuals – without the Torah.

Rather, the ones who get into the Kingdom are the ones doing the will of the Father. The will of the Father is expressed through His Torah – His Instructions.

*“I delight to do Your will, O my El,  
and Your Torah (Instructions) is within my heart.”*  
Psalm 40:8

Yahushua specifically stated:

*“<sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is esteemed, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”* John 15:4-8

He elaborated on the fruits that He desires to see when He proclaimed *“<sup>33</sup> . . . for a tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. <sup>36</sup> But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”* Matthew 12:33-37

The text in Hebrews provides further guidance on the fruits we should be presenting. *“<sup>15</sup> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to Elohim, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks*

*to His Name. <sup>16</sup> But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices Elohim is well pleased.” Hebrews 13:15-16*

So, what you say reveals your heart, and what we do is the outward expression of your heart. Bearing good fruit is a demonstration of your obedience, and it reveals that your heart has been circumcised.

Those who bear fruit will be pruned, so that they can bear more fruit. Bearing fruit brings esteem to the Father and demonstrates that we are disciples of Yahushua. According to Yahushua, bearing fruit boils down to love.

That is why Yahushua distilled the Torah to two “Great Commandments.” “<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 22:37-40*

So love is at the heart of the Torah, and we express our love through our obedience. Yahushua unequivocally stated: “*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*” John 14:15

Our words and our obedience are our fruit. It’s really that simple.

Bearing good fruit involves effort and planning. It cannot be left to chance.

Therefore, it is important to consider the harvest cycle, like the inhabitants of Gezer.

We are in the time of late sowing, so if you have neglected the planting you had better get going before it is too late.

If you are just getting started, consider the words of Peter. He provides the seeds that result in good fruit.

*“<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your belief uprightness, to uprightness knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance reverence, <sup>7</sup> to reverence brotherly affection, and to brotherly affection love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Master Yahushua the Messiah. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahushua Messiah.” 2 Peter 1:5-11*

So, bearing good fruit is critical to entering the Kingdom. It requires diligence.

In future messages I am going to delve further into the importance of bearing fruit relative to the marriage that we read about in Isaiah.

For now, I suggest that we all check our calendar, and make sure we are operating within the rhythm of the Appointed Times, and the harvests of the Kingdom. That is how we overcome and understand the future events described in the text of Revelation. (see Revelation 14)

Speaking of calendars, mark your calendar for next Shabbat when all who call upon the Name of YHWH throughout the world have an opportunity to plant seed and bear fruit, through praising the Name of YHWH.

There is a UnitedinYah 12 Hour Praise and Worship event scheduled for January 22, 2022, beginning at 1:00 pm EST.

I will be opening and closing with prayer, and singing along with all the musicians (on mute of course).

Make sure that you don't miss it. It's really a great opportunity to corporately praise YHWH in a unique and incredible way.

Shabbat shalom

Todd

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Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command.

*"The first of all the Commandments is: 'Hear, O Yisrael, YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.'"*

*Mark 12:29*

*"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

*Matthew 11:15*