

July 2007



Summer Blessings in Yeshua's Name!

## Rain

Rain is the word that the Lord has caused to resound in our spirit for the past two months. Rain. Rain. Rain. *Geshem* in Hebrew (pronounced *GEH-shem*). It was something in the natural—a serious drought here in Fort Lauderdale—that focused our attention on our desperate need of rain. Forest fires in the Everglades could not be extinguished. Plants all around us were languishing. Lawns were turning brown due to water restrictions. It seemed as if the heavens had forgotten how to send down precious water. The sky would turn gray, but nothing would happen... Then we cried out to God to once again send rain upon our dry ground. He did, and we are thankful.

In the Holy Scriptures, rain symbolizes the blessings that God sends from Heaven to revive, restore and refresh His people. This month, as we share with you about *geshem*, the prayer of our heart is a paraphrase of Moses' final song to the Israelites: *"Let my [our] teaching drop as the rain, my [our] speech distill as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb and as showers on the grass. For I [we] proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect..."* (Deuteronomy 32:2-4a).

## God: The Source of Rain

When the children of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, they were given some pertinent information concerning the specifics of this land that flowed with milk and honey: *"For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, 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"* (Deuteronomy 11:10-14).

Israel was not like Egypt. The Israelites would soon find out that conditions and farming methods were different and often problematic. In Egypt, the Nile River was the main source of water, amply supplying huge fields and groves. According to **Nature in our Biblical Heritage** by Nogah Hareuveni, "The Egyptian farmer had only to make a few ditches from the Nile to irrigate his large wheat fields whenever he desired, in the same way that a gardener, with less readily accessible water, would irrigate his vegetable patch by pouring water into the furrows from a nearby cistern." According to the author, the soil of the Nile River Delta is soft enough to permit an irrigation channel to be opened by using the heel of the foot to kick open a channel to water individual furrows from the central canal. This would not be the case in Israel. God's people would have to **DEPEND ON HIM**. Water for their crops, water to sustain life, was totally dependent upon **RAINFALL**. And rainfall came from above. The God of Israel controlled it! Immediately following the proclamation of the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob as the Rain-Giver, a dire warning is issued:

*"Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce..."* (Deuteronomy 11:16-17).

The spiritual implications are obvious. We have been delivered from Egypt (the world), and brought into the promised land (salvation). The rules are different now. The old ways don't work. God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8). Self-effort, digging in our heels, regardless of our talents or prowess, does not bring the blessing. Loving God does. Obeying Him does. Looking to Him as our source does. Then He sends the life-giving rains (blessings). Even as we write this letter rain is falling!

Ask the Lord for rain, both physical and spiritual. Look to Him and to no other for your blessings! *"Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait for you, since you have made all these."* (Jeremiah 14:22) The Book of Job has more to say concerning God as the source of rain. He made a law for the rain (Job 28:26), and He is the rain's father (Job 38:28). The Book of Psalms tells us that God prepares rain for the earth (Psalm 147:8), and sent a plentiful rain to confirm His inheritance for His congregation (Psalm 68:9). Let it rain, Lord. Open the floodgates of heaven!

### **Disobedience = No Rain**

We researched every verse in the Bible on rain and found a multitude of verses connecting disobedience on the part of God's people with a lack of rainfall. Please consider looking these up and meditating on them. Are you experiencing blessings like rain coming down from our Heavenly Father? You should be. Love. Peace. Joy. Contentment. Purpose in Life. Hearing God's voice. Provision. Answered Prayer. His Presence. If drought is your portion, ask the Lord if there is any area of disobedience in your life. Disobedience is sin, and sin must be confessed and forsaken. Then the promise of I John 1:9 plunges us into a refreshing, cleansing stream: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

The following verses testify to a lack of rain (blessings) being the fruit of disobedience (which includes serving other gods): Jeremiah 3:3, Zechariah 14:17, I Kings 8:35, I Kings 16:33, I Kings 17:1, II Chronicles 6:26-27 and Isaiah 5:5-7.

An interesting passage in Jeremiah chapter 14 shows what happens when God's people turn from their sin and return to Him. The Lord speaks to Jeremiah concerning the droughts in Israel in this passage. He says that *"Judah mourns," "her gates languish," "the city of Jerusalem has gone up," "the ground is parched," "the plowmen were ashamed," "for there was no rain in the land."* Then Israel repents: *"O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, do it for Your name's sake; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against You. O the Hope of Israel..."* (Jeremiah 14:7-8a). The translation of the title "Hope of Israel" in Hebrew is surprising. Instead of *Tikvah Yisrael*, God's people call Him *Mikvah Israel*, a name connecting Him with not only **water**, but **cleansing!**

### **Two Rains in Israel**

*"Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us. He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth."* (Hosea 6:1-3)

The land of Israel is a land of two seasons and two rains. The seasons are winter and summer. The rains are the latter and the former rain, both occurring in the winter season. According to **Plants of the Bible and How to Grow Them** by Allan A. Swenson, "winter" in Israel is the growing season. It is the time of the "former rain," in Hebrew *moREH*, "...the time of rain when plants are provided with the moisture they need to burst into bloom, to fruit and bear their harvest. It is the time when seeds sprout and rush to

produce their plants which, in turn bloom, set seeds and die as annual plants must." Rainfall in the Mediterranean Zone, where the conditions are most favorable for plant growth, ranges from twenty to forty inches per year and occurs during the winter months. The former or early rains usually begin in the month of October. (Prayer for rain is a special feature of Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles.) The latter rains, *malkosh* in Hebrew (pronounced *mahl-KOSH*), which are heavier than the former rains, occur during December and January. The latter rains continue until April.

According to multiple sources, rainfall is a rare occurrence during the summer season, from May to September. (This dry period often extends into the month of October which is why we scheduled our Mercy Mission during this month.) It has often been said that in Israel there are the "days of sun" and the "days of rain." Amazingly enough, the summer dews in Israel that collect during cool nights do provide moisture for plants. Total precipitation from these dews can be measured up to nearly 10 inches during the dry summer season. By the grace of God, the flora of Israel survives and thrives.

What did the prophet Hosea mean when he said that the Lord would come to us as the **latter** and **former** rain? Could this possibly refer to the Messiah? If we consider the Feasts of the Lord as outlined in Leviticus chapter 23, and begin with the Passover, the latter rains of December to March, even April, have supplied nourishment to the barley and wheat crops, getting them ready for harvest. [Messiah's first coming? A harvest of 3,000 souls on Shavuot.]

Next come five hot, dry months. The heat magnifies. The rain ceases. No feasts or festivals in Leviticus 23. This period of time is often called symbolically "The Church Age." No rain in Israel; God is pouring out His Spirit on the gentiles during the summer season. But, the rain returns, the early or former rain of September/October. You can count on it after Sukkot. (OK, an umbrella for the Mercy Mission is not a bad idea!) Messiah will come as the early rain and as the grapes, figs, olives and dates are gathered, there will be a huge harvest from the house of Israel. **THE RAINS ARE REALLY ALL ABOUT THE HARVEST!** Yeshua's first coming is connected with one rain—the latter; his second coming with another—the former. The last is first, and the first is last. God's ways are not our ways! (See Isaiah 55:9.)

### Rare Rain

As we were meditating on rain, we received exciting news from Israel about rain falling out of season. Believers in the Land have told us that these rare occurrences are believed to be a sign from God that He is about to "rain down" in unusual, supernatural ways on the land of Israel and its people. The first rare rain fell on May 15, 2007—Jerusalem Day. A newspaper correspondent in Jerusalem reported the incident as follows: *"Celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem were canceled Wednesday after storms caused flooding in parts of the capital. In several spots in the city, visitors taking part in tours of Jerusalem as part of Jerusalem Day were stranded by the rain and had to be evacuated by rescue services. Also, a graduation ceremony of paratroopers was canceled after Sultan's Pool, where it was to be held, became full of rainwater disabling the facility's electrical system."* Believers were amazed. There were no injuries, but there was an ABUNDANCE OF RAIN—OUT OF SEASON. God overruled the seasons. He is making a statement. Believers are preparing for an outpouring of His Spirit especially in Jerusalem since 30 milliliters fell there and 0 milliliters fell in Tel Aviv! We are hearing reports of spiritual awakening in the Land, of great anticipation of what the Lord is about to do. There are still some spaces for the October Mercy Mission. Please ask the Lord if this is His season for you to join us! (Please call Regina at 1-800-336-2876 for more information.)

Two days after hearing the report on rain from Israel, we received an e-mail documenting a prophetic word that Chuck D. Pierce had given last year during the 2006 Feast of Tabernacles celebration. Part of the word was, "Watch where the heavens open and floods (physical) reach the earth, and document these places! Those are places targeted for a Holy Spirit invasion." Pierce commented on the Jerusalem flood as follows: "We cannot miss this sign. For Jerusalem to flood, God is saying to us, 'I am opening the

heavens over you, filling the rivers, cleansing the land and letting you know that I am ready to pour Myself upon My people." We expect to witness this in October!!

Two weeks later, we received another e-mail from Scott and Coleen Baker in Israel, "Rain in undue season, what an amazing month—a physical foretaste of what God is doing in the Spirit! We have been here 15 years. We have biblical weather... we literally have rain for a season, then, we have no rain for months. You expect the sun to shine and your clothes to hang to dry on the line... Two nights ago, I was awakened by the sound of distant rumbling and opened the window above our bed to determine its origin... There at 4:00 am, we, on the sides of Mt. Carmel, witnessed the most glorious light show I have ever seen in my life!... It was as if heaven itself was passing over, I thought of Revelation 4:5, 'And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunders and voices...' and I cried in my heart, 'God! What are you doing? Please don't pass us by! Rain upon us spiritually if not physically!' Little did I know, on the top of Mt. Carmel, it was raining FLOODS! TWICE it has rained this month. The other time was May 16th—Jerusalem Day. In the 15 years we have been here in Israel, it has never rained at this time of year."

### "There Shall be Showers of Blessing"

God promises showers in their season (see Ezekiel 34:26), but obviously, He can bless whenever He wants to. He is God! "Showers of blessing" in Hebrew is *gishmey b'rakah*. Since *b'rakah*, (blessing), also means a "pool," this indicates overflowing blessings. The deluge on Mt. Carmel (Haifa) was yet another confirmation to us that God wants a SHOWER (the baby type) in HAIFA! It is time to begin the Jewish Jewels outpouring for the Love Baskets to be distributed to the new mothers in Haifa and to the poor and needy all over Israel. We also recently found out that Haifa is a sister city to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. So, as we await the door to open for God's Baby Shower in Haifa, we covet your prayers and spiritual warfare on our behalf. It is highly probable that the new mothers in Haifa will be both Jewish and Arab. God wants to pour out a blessing on both at once. A new thing. A rare rain!

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:7-8)

*Heidi & Jamie*

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## Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - July 2007

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### LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
GA	Sonoma	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Pt. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGG TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Chicago (New)	WEDE-TV 34	TUE 6:00 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC-TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

### SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL	
Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]	
GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]	
DirectTV	
World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]	
God TV - The GOD Channel	
WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)	
Australian Christian Channel (ACC)	
THU 8:00 AM (AEST)	
SKY Digital - New Zealand	
Shine TV - WED 11:30 AM & 10:30 PM [ch 99]	

**INTERNET** [www.jewishjewels.org](http://www.jewishjewels.org) [www.aactv.com.au](http://www.aactv.com.au)  
[www.shinetv.co.nz](http://www.shinetv.co.nz)

**INTERNATIONAL** Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM

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