

Transcript – Bearing Fruit and the Growing Pattern

Alrighty, Shabbat Shalom and Shabbat Shalom to everybody with us today! I hope you're having a blessed Passover and blessed Shabbat. I have a message called, *Bearing Fruit and the Growing Pattern*.

So it's Aviv and the renewing of the circular pattern. I've said this for many, many years. Yahweh works in patterns and if you understand His pattern then He doesn't change. It's the same pattern over and over. And the calendar is so simple. I mean, you have to have a starting point and then you have to have where it comes back, that circular pattern. The equinox is that point.

So here we are. We're back in Aviv. It's the sun has passed the equator, the equinox where it's done its full circular rotation and it's a new year again and the pattern of Yahweh's calendar. But that circular pattern is not only with the calendar, it's with everything. So today I want to go over this with bearing fruit and the growing pattern, of kind of taking the four seasons as in Yahweh's circular pattern of that into our spiritual growth and also maybe our physical challenges that we have and overcoming.

So like I said, Yahweh works in a circular and there's no greater example of this than the seasons and the growing patterns, both in plants and in life. So this is what we're going to kind of do. We're going to use it as an analogy in our life. For the growing season for a year as a believer and over life year by year. So that's what we're going to be looking at today.

So we know that the agricultural calendar starts in the fall, right? The civil calendar starts in Aviv where we are now. But the agricultural growing season from Israel in that area in the Middle East starts in the fall. So the fall is the beginning, right? That's where after Sukkot, you come and you have to start preparing your ground for the next year and planting and all the things that come from that time. So fall is the beginning of the agricultural calendar and the beginning of the cycle of planting and sowing seeds.

So I want to start in Jeremiah 4 in verse 3. Jeremiah 4 in verse 3 and it says,

Jeremiah 4:3 *For so says YAHWEH to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, **Break up your fallow ground**, and do not sow to the thorns.*

So we know whether it's spiritual fruit you're planting or physical fruit that you're planting, you can't plant in bad ground. You have to, like it says here, *break up your fallow ground*. You've got to go outside and you have to dig and you have to prepare and you've got to put sometimes manure or nice new dirt into it. Add good dirt into your ground. So before planting and sowing the seeds, we must break up the ground and prepare ourselves for bearing fruit, right?

At the school we do this by breaking old patterns that stagnate us. So many people, they don't realize this. They've never heard the term, 'neuro associations' and all that means is it's the way that Yahweh made us, He made us creatures of habit so that in a good way when we build good habits, we would just do them over and over and over again.

But yet, when we come from Satan's society in the world, we build these bad habits and bad emotions and bad things that happen in our life. And from these bad neuro associations, many people they follow them their

whole life and they just, they don't know how to break that pattern and get rid of it. It's a big thing that we do at the school of getting started.

So this is part before planting, like I said, physical planting or spiritual planting and sowing seeds, we have to break up our ground. **You have to make the environment proper** so that you're going to have fruit; you're going to bear fruit that comes from there.

Ecclesiastes chapter 11, I'm going to read verse 4 and verse 6. Ecclesiastes chapter 11 verse 4 and verse 6 says,

Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6 *He who watches the wind shall not sow. And he who looks at the clouds shall not reap ... Sow your seed in the morning, ... verse 6 ... and do not rest your hand until evening; for you do not know what shall be blessed, this or that; or whether they both shall be good as one.*

So this is where **the most important time is when you're first planting your seeds**. It's like anything else. When you set a goal, it could be a goal for losing weight. It could be a goal for exercising. It could be a goal for whatever, whatever you're doing.

The beginning of the goal is always the most important part because if you don't get off to a strong start in any goal, it could be building a house, right? If you don't get off to a good start on the foundation, what's going to happen? You're going to lose energy, you're going to lose enthusiasm, and you're going to wind up petering off to it. So it's the same with the growing pattern. The fall is the most important time because that's the time of planting, that's the time of sowing, that's the time where if you don't do that right, nothing else is going to come up.

Because if you plant bad seeds or not enough seeds or seeds that were old and aren't going to work, you could do everything else right. But if there are not good seeds in the ground, what's going to happen? Nothing ... nothing, absolutely! So this is the most important part. **The beginning of the cycle is the most important part.**

Like it says here, *He who watches the wind shall not sow*. This isn't the time to be sitting around, looking around. This is the time to be going out and putting seeds in the ground. And you want to do that as best as possible as much as you can, right? **We must work hard and plant good seed**. Work on beginning of the cycle is the most important for bearing fruit later, right? That's the point of it.

Psalms 126:5 and 6, this is why this Psalm, Psalm 126:5 and 6 says,

Psalm 126:5-6 *Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. Surely he who walks and weeps, bearing a trail of seed, shall come again with joyful shouting, bearing his sheaves.*

Why is he sowing in tears and walking and weeping? Because of all the hard work you're doing at the time. You know, we do it. We put it in a garden every year. Praise Yahweh, I've been doing it for many, many, many years. And it is in the beginning you're doing all this hard work and you don't see any result of it.

As a matter of fact, when you're planting from seed, sometimes we'll buy these little plants that have already started. They're just really, really tiny, but it saves you probably three weeks of planting the seed. But when you're literally just planting seed in the ground, you see nothing. So it's like every day you go out there, you see nothing. And then when you finally see this tiny little piece of grass that's starting to come up, boy, if you don't

get rain, if you get wind, if you get a storm, anything can destroy it. So that's why it's saying here, *he who sows in tears will reap with joyful shouting*. You're sowing in tears because you have no idea, just like farmers in the 1800s that you put all that work in and then after a couple of months, you get a real bad storm and it destroys your whole crop and wow, it really is discouraging when that happens.

So **we need faith to sow**. So whether it's a physical garden you're putting in or spiritual garden you put in your life, you have to have faith, you have to believe. And if you don't believe, if you don't have the faith, what's going to happen? You're not going to do it. So that's why they're sowing in tears. But we have to ... we have to sow in joy because we have to have the faith **believing** because you never know if the hard work is going to pay off or how it's going to pay off, right?

You don't even know if you're going to be alive for months down the line when these things are coming. So we have to sow in faith and **it's a long process** ... it is a long process. It doesn't come overnight. And you have to have patience as we're going to see to be able to do it.

Luke chapter 8 and verse 11 ... Luke chapter 8 and verse 11, and when we're talking here, like I said, we're using growing and the growing pattern as a parable. But what does Luke eight and verse 11 say?

Luke 8:11 *And this is the parable: The seed is the Word of YAHWEH.*

So that's the point of it, we're talking about seed and we can use ... and like I said, I can do it a lot for myself because I am a planter and I do make gardens and I really can relate to it every year when I'm out there putting that, me and Moriyah, putting the garden together and we're seeing the digging and the working and all the hard work we're doing.

And in the beginning, like I said, you never know. And you know what usually happens, because in the beginning of the year, the rain really hasn't started yet? Almost every time, at least 20 to 30% of the stuff we plant, we have to replant in a month. So that's just life that not everything is going to come up good. You're going to have to replant part of it.

But **the seed is the Word of Yahweh**. And what does that mean? It means you have to put in a lot of seeds, right? You have to go out and put seeds in. And I think one of the reasons why brethren, two reasons, why brethren are not bearing more fruit. Number one, they don't know their spiritual gifts. That's a big part of the school too, to learn their spiritual gifts. Like I said, probably people coming for the first time probably close to half don't know what their spiritual gifts are. Not one person is left there without knowing what their spiritual gift is. So knowing your spiritual gifts is a big part of bearing fruit.

But the other thing is just not going out and putting enough seeds in, right? Like not knowing how to do it and not planning enough. So that's another thing, right? And this is what I realized. If I plant a little garden and I put in 15 plants, whatever they are, tomato, broccoli, whatever, it doesn't matter what the plants are. But if I put in 15 plants and I put 115 plants in, do you know it really is hardly that much more work for the 115 to the 15?

It's a little more work, but it's not much more. But when the harvest comes, boy is it a lot more harvest! Because whether I put in 15 plants or 115 plants, I still have to go out there. I still have to dig around. I still

have to turn the soil. I still have to bring good soil. I still have to fertilize. I still have to do all the things that are there.

And if I'm doing it with a very small area or something that's two or three times that area, once you're out there doing it, it doesn't make ... it's not really that much harder to do more. But the key is **the more seeds you put in, the more you're going to get. You're going to reap what you sow.** In the beginning you have to put in a lot of seeds.

And I remember when we first left the church organization and we were learning that everybody is accountable and you've got to go out and bear fruit. And it's not about just, 'pay and pray'. It's not the way that it isn't a New Testament, but Yahweh gives each of us, it doesn't matter whether you're ordained or not, **every single New Testament believer has spiritual gifts. And you are accountable for those gifts.** Read the Parable of the Talents, **Matthew 25.**

And we went out and basically ... we were living in PA, Pennsylvania at the time. And we went out there and did basically everything. We did radio, homeless ministry, soup kitchens. You name it. I was going to the YMCA, every Saturday night or a couple of times a month, maybe it wasn't every Saturday night, but a few times a month and teaching over there.

It was like throwing everything against the wall, seeing what sticks. And putting out and putting flyers out, putting flyers out in diners. And **the key was putting all the seeds down and seeing what grew.** And the things that grew, you're going to nurture and you're going to work at more. The things that aren't growing, you put to the side and you do something else.

So that's the key to it. The key to it is putting out the seeds. So that's why I said the fall is the most important time of the growing season, spiritually and physically. And you have to put out. The more you put, the more that's going to come out, the less you put, the less it's going to come out. 2nd Corinthians 9:6 and 7.

2nd Corinthians 9:6-7 *But remember this: the one sowing sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one sowing generously will also reap generously. Each one as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for YAHWEH loves a cheerful giver.*

The one sowing sparingly will also reap sparingly that's gravity. Every time I throw this pen up, it's going to come down. Never once will I throw it up and it's going to float up in the air. If it does, then we have another problem on our hands here. But that's gravity. That's the way it works.

So you've got to put seeds out. You have to put seeds out. Now there's two ways of doing it. You could put many seeds, you could have two acres of land and you could put many seeds of all different things. Or you can plant one thing and plant a lot of it.

So **the key is you don't want to stretch yourself too thin** and just do a lot of things where you're not doing anything good. But you want to **see what works first.** And then **the things that are working, you want to expand on.** So that's one of the keys to it.

And next is Hosea 10 in verse 12. Hosea 10 says,

Hosea 10:12 *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap as kindness. Break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek YAHWEH, until He comes and rains righteousness on you ... the latter rains.*

This is a really neat verse because it really is showing like, although they're using again the physical thing of planting because that's what people understood, it really is talking about spiritual. *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap as kindness. You reap what you sow.*

So that's another thing in life. If you're wondering why you don't have a lot of friends - 'he who has many friends must show himself friendly.' Maybe you need to be showing more kindness to people. Maybe you need to be giving more of yourself to people. *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap as kindness.*

And it's a law of nature. So **whatever it is you're lacking in your life that means you're not putting enough of something out to receive that**, right? *Break up your fallow ground* like we said in the beginning, you can't just plant. You can't just go outside here and throw seed on the ground. That's not the way it works.

You have to, and you want to know something? That is the hardest part ... the hardest part. And this is after doing it year of the year, we're using the same garden, but going out and turning it all over, getting out all those rocks that somehow got in there and all those weeds that grew over the year. And then raking it out, putting in the new soil. That's the hardest part, but you have to *break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek YAHWEH, until He comes and rains righteousness on you.*

So this is the time you wasted too much time already. And I know I am talking to you. You're saying, "Hey, it sounds like you're talking to me." I am. I'm talking to you. So don't think I'm not. I'm thinking about you and I'm talking to you right now. You're wasting too much time. It's enough. The time is now.

You have to put this together and you have to be breaking up your fallow ground and you have to make sure that you're out there. So what type of seed are you planting? Because you're going to reap what you sow. You want to make sure you reap what you're sowing. You reap what you sow. So it's a law nature, like I said.

So now that's the planting part. That's the fall. That's the beginning. That's the hardest part. But if you do that, right? Wow, after that's all done it's such a nice feeling now because in the fall and the beginning, like I said, you don't know. You might get rain. You might not get rain. Some falls you get no rain. So you have to go out and you have to water. But that's the hardest part those first few weeks because when you plant a plant with seed, it's one thing. But if you plant a plant, even though you see something up there, that plant is just lying there. Until you water it for at least 10 to 14 days, it hasn't rooted in the ground. So you have to make sure that in the beginning, you're doing it.

But now, now when the fall is over and the winter's coming, you could relax a little bit because at least what you did now, it's going to kind of take a life of its own. The winter rains come so you don't have to go out and water anymore. It's going to water on itself. You are going to have to go out and weed and you're going to have to watch it. You're going to have to make sure if it's falling over to fix it some. But if you did break up your fallow ground and you did a good job in the fall and you sowed a lot of good seeds, the rest is much easier.

So that's why I say that's the biggest part, but now winter comes. In winter is a waiting period. And now kind of turning this into not just bearing fruit, but trials and struggles, winters can be long. So that's another thing that

happens in our life. Sometimes we hit these winters where we're hitting these struggles in our life and they're not easy. And there are winters that sometimes seem like they're never going to go away. But we have to be patient through these challenges, right? So that's where you got to have maturity in your life. You have to have faith because like I said, the winters can be long and the winters can hold challenges.

Mark 4 and verse 26 through verse 29, it says,

Mark 4:26-27 *And He said, So is the kingdom of YAHWEH, as if a man should cast seed on the ground, ... Like we're talking to, right? So He's comparing again, growing seed to the kingdom ... and should sleep, and rise night and day; ... Like I said, it takes time in the beginning, but once it starts to go, then it kind of takes a life of its own ... and the seed should sprout and lengthen of itself, as he does not know it.*

Comment: So even if you got sick, if you went away, if you did whatever, once it's in there, it's going to grow one way or the other. If it's not nurtured, it's not going to grow as much, but it is going to grow and lengthen of itself.

Mark 4:28a *For of itself the earth bears fruit: ... So now listen to this, because this is really a really good analogy to our spiritual life ... first greenery, ...*

Comment: That's what happens. First the seed comes up and it's greenery. That's like our baptism, even the expression, "Ah, he's green." Meaning he's new, not that he's literally his body's green. It means that he's new at something. He doesn't have a lot of experience in something. So that's our baptism. At baptism, we're green, we're new.

Mark 4:28b *... then an ear, ...*

Comment: So that's as we're growing in the Spirit. That greenery turns into an ear. It turns into a full-fledged ... like the grain, right? When you look at the grain, it's milky inside, but then it hardens because we're growing in the Spirit. And then full grain and the ear. That's Aviv. That's when it's ready. That's the latter rain. And here we are. Aviv is come. So this is the time now where we should be really at the fruition of our ... we shouldn't be ... it shouldn't be at the beginning, but if you didn't really do it, you have to really push now, but we should be really putting on the latter rain.

Mark 4:29 *And when the fruit is ripe, immediately he "sends forth the sickle, for the harvest has come."*

So that verse 28, it's really our spiritual life. And it's the growing pattern and it's the way it works. So **challenges grow patience** ... challenges grow patience.

Luke 8 and verse 15 ... Luke 8 and verse 15 says,

Luke 8:15 *And that seed which fell on good ground, they are those who with an honest and good heart hear the Word and retain it and bear fruit with patience.*

Right? I'll read it again. *And that seed which fell on good ground, they are those who with an honest and good heart hear the Word and retain it and bear fruit with patience.* So that's what it's about.

The winters are the time of really learning patience. It's like I said, the winters can be long. They can be cold. Sometimes the weather could be so bad. It can threaten your crop. And we want to make sure we're growing in patience and discipline.

Romans 5 ... Romans 5, and this is a big part of our spiritual life and a big part why sometimes people aren't bearing fruit because they quit too early. They get discouraged and they quit not realizing the things they're going through are actually there to make them stronger. It's like the expression I say, probably everybody's heard it, but it really is true; *whatever doesn't kill me makes me stronger* and it really does.

And in life some things, wow, are pretty close to killing you. Like the old expression, Yahweh says He doesn't give us more than we can handle. But wow, at times it really seems like it's pushing that line. But this is why we have to just have more patience and we have to understand.

But Romans 5, he says,

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore being justified by faith, ... So faith is the cornerstone to everything ... we have peace with Elohim through our Master Yahshua Messiah, through whom also we have had access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we glory on the hope of the glory of Elohim.*

Romans 5:3-4 *And not only so, but we glory also in afflictions, knowing ... challenges afflictions, trials ... that affliction works out patience, ... and that's what it's all about. We have to patiently endure ... and patience works out proven character; and proven character, hope.*

Comments: There are people in the world sometimes that say, "Why does Elohim ..." they don't use the right name "Why does Elohim allow trials? If He's really there, why does He allow this to happen, not to happen?" Because if not, we would never grow in patience. And if we never had patience, we'd never have proven character. And without proven character, we couldn't be like Him.

Like I said, He created us in His image. We have to grow into us likeness. And that only comes from character. So this is such a great scripture. And not only so, but *we glory also in afflictions and challenges trials, knowing that challenges and trials works out patience and patience works out proven character and proven character hope.* Hope is faith, right? Not hope like, "Oh, I wish it happens." No, it's hope, *sephartha*. It's assurance. It's a hope. Meaning, it's full assurance. It's a hope meaning more like faith than the English word hope.

Romans 5:5 *And the hope does not put us to shame, because the love of Elohim has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us;*

So wow, what a great scripture it really shows us, right? **Challenges grow patience, patience grows character and character brings hope or faith.**

So that's why YAHWEH has it. Like I said, that's why maybe the winters are a little longer because they don't happen overnight. You need time for this, like I said, the neuro associations. Sometimes it took years and years and years to build those better associations. And sometimes it's going to take time, weeks or months even to change those associations.

So we need to see, drop down to Romans 8, chapters over verse 22, Romans 8 and verse 22. He says,

Romans 8:22-23 *For we know that all the creation groans together and labors in pain together until now. And not only so, but also we ourselves having the first-fruit of the Spirit, also we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly expecting that sonship, the deliverance from our body;*

Romans 8:24-25 *for we were saved by hope, but hope being seen is not hope; for what anyone sees, why does he also hope? But if we hope for what we do not see, **through patience we wait eagerly.***

So that's the point of it, once it's there, there's no more hope anymore. It's just a reality in front of you. You don't need to hope or the faith. But we do like it says here, *but we hope for what we do not see through patience, we wait eagerly.* And that's why we have to build patience.

And that's another reason for winter and the struggles and the trials, they're not to tear us down there to build us up. They're to give us more patience and they're to give us more discipline. We have to learn discipline in our life. So **patience builds faith for things not seen**, right?

What is faith? The evidence of things not seen that's where the patience comes from. But believe it. So they're not seen, but they're believed in. You don't want to lose your discipline during winter, right? Weeding a garden; working on your goals regularly.

So like I said, the winter is a little hard sometimes because they're long, they're cold, they're stormy. And sometimes they're filled with trials, which kind of bring us down some. If the weather's really bad, you maybe can't exercise as much as you normally do.

But this is the point you've got to discipline yourself during the winter that you can't just leave your garden growing all wild because it's going to affect, right? There are only so many nutrients that are in your garden. And if your weeds are growing up to two feet high, that's taking away from your fruit. You're not going to have the same fruit.

So that's why you have to weed the garden because there's only so many nutrients that are there, right? So if the nutrients are going to go to the weeds or it's going to go to the seeds, it's one or the other and that's up to you. So you want to make sure in the winter time, even though it's going to be harder to get out there and colder and you're not as motivated because it is going to grow on itself one way or the other, but how is it going to grow?

And it's amazing, in the last few years, through different techniques, we found out, man, we've had cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage that's gigantic. And one of the reasons was by being diligent, by going out there and weeding every ... whatever, 10 days, two weeks whenever you need it, and making sure we're being diligent with it. So that's where you don't want to lose your discipline during the winter season, and you want to make sure you keep your focus, and you want to make sure you're building patience through your trials.

And then what comes next? Spring, Aviv, where we are now, the early harvest, right? So the early harvest comes. The first harvest, and why is it filled with joy? Because it's the early rain, it's the first fruits you're seeing. So before that, everything was in hope, everything was in faith, but now, now you're actually seeing harvest. So the spring is the early harvest, the early rain. And the one good thing is winter always ends.

So we got to realize that in our life. Like I said, when you're looking through life struggles and life challenges, it could be a death of a spouse, it could be a loss of a job, it could be financial problems, always remember **winter will end**. They may seem long winter, and it may seem like, wow, this winter's been going on for a long time. Wow, this winter in my life seems like it's been going on for two years. But even if it has been going on for two years, sooner or later, winter will end.

So that's where faith comes in. **We have to believe spring will always come**, and that's the always circular pattern and if you understand and believe in that circular pattern. You want to know something? Like the sermon, if you never heard the sermon I did on *The Other Side*, listen to that sermon. Because once you get to the other side, once winter has ended and once spring has come and you got to the other side, whatever trials or challenges you went through and you overcame, you'll never go back.

You'll be stronger for everything no matter what you went through in life. Like I said, as horrible, some that are really, really bad, when you're talking about sickness and suffering or death or like I said, loss of a job or financial problems, whatever you went through, whatever didn't kill me, made me stronger and it will. It will make you stronger not only for yourself, but for others, right?

We're going into this mentoring period now. And as far as bearing fruit to Yahweh, big part is mentoring others because when you're mentoring others, you're bearing fruit then from what they're doing also. So spring is the early harvest, the first harvest, there's joy because the early rain is there and the winter always ends. Like I said, it may seem long, but it always ends.

Deuteronomy 16. And let's see this because now what does spring mean? Spring means first fruits. We are first fruits. That's why spring is so important to us because we're part of that early rain. We're part of that early growing season, that early reaping. We are the first fruits to Yahweh. Deuteronomy 16 in verse 1,

Deuteronomy 16:1 *Observe the month Aviv, ... here we are ... and perform the Passover to YAHWEH your Elohim ... I hope everybody has done that ... For in the month of Aviv, YAHWEH your Elohim brought you out of Egypt by night.*

So spring came, winter ended and wow, as hard as that winter was, they went through the 10 plagues including the death of the firstborn, spring always comes. Yahweh's circular pattern, it does come. And you know what?

I think sometimes the reason why winter stays is our mentality to stay in winter. Because a lot of times when you're going through trials, sometimes it's people keeping themselves in that trial by not learning the lesson, by not overcoming, by not pushing towards spring, by not doing the things they need to do because what happens when the harvest comes, the first harvest, you've got to go out and you've got to reap it. So you've got to reap what's there or else there's no benefit to it. You won't recognize it. So winter seems long but the spring always comes.

Go down to verse 8 of Deuteronomy 16.

Deuteronomy 16:8-9a *You shall eat unleavened things six days, and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to YAHWEH your Elohim. You shall do no work. You shall number to yourself seven weeks ...*

Comment: Seven being Yahweh's number of completion. So we start that count tomorrow actually, the Feast of First Fruit and we go seven-sevenths - the full completeness of Yahweh's plan, right? We are the beginning of that. And now, as we're going to see, as the fall comes the summer, that's the end of it, the two reaping periods.

Deuteronomy 16:9b ... *When the sickle begins to reap in the standing grain, you shall begin to number seven weeks.*

We're in the beginning of a harvest when Aviv comes, not the end of the harvest. It's only the beginning of the harvest. And the harvest goes all the way to Shavuot.

Deuteronomy 16:10 *And you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to YAHWEH your Elohim according to the measure of the freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give according as YAHWEH your Elohim blesses you.*

Deuteronomy 16:11 *And you shall rejoice before YAHWEH your Elohim, you and your son, and your daughter, and your male slave, and your slave-girl, and the Levite that is inside your gates, and the alien, and the fatherless, and the widow that are among you, in the place which YAHWEH your Elohim shall choose to cause His name to dwell there.*

Comment: So everybody will be rejoicing, because everybody is reaping what they sowed and everybody's sowed good seed.

Deuteronomy 16:12 *And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt; ... our old life of sin ... and you shall take heed to do these statutes.*

So wow, how great, right? The Feast of First Fruit tomorrow. What a great day my favorite day of the year, right? Because the resurrection and if there's a resurrection that means I'm never going to die. So whatever happens in this life is temporary, in one way or another. Winter's always going to end. So spring's going to come. Aviv is there. And even if it seems long, the spring will always come the newness – Aviv. The word means *newness*, right?

So it's about newness. Newness not only of what you're reaping of what you sowed but newness of putting new things in the ground - newness of new projects, new bearing fruit, new things you're doing. It's a new year. It's the beginning of a new year. So whatever struggles and trials you may have had in that winter. They're over now. It's time to begin over. It's time to start over.

Passover is about redemption, right? It's not about dragging your old trials and challenges from last year into this year and that's why I think some people do it because they're not realizing that, they're not letting Aviv come in their life. Aviv's newness; it's letting the old go and letting Yahweh bring the new. Passover is redemption in the beginning of the seven week count to Shavuot and the early rain, right? So that's what it's about. It's preparing for that and are we doing that?

Exodus 23 ... Exodus 23 because we are first fruits and remember first fruits are set apart to Yahweh. Exodus 23 verse 14 and 15 and the beginning verse 19. He says,

Exodus 23:14-15 *Three times in the year you shall make a feast to Me. You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened ... Bread is put in there, but it's all unleavened things ... Seven days you shall eat unleavened things, as I have commanded you, at the set time of the month of Aviv. For in it you came out from Egypt, ... Aviv is about newness. It's about leaving the old behind ... and they shall not appear before Me empty.*

And I say this to people. Yes, do we have to bring an offering at feast time? Of course, we do according to what Yahweh has blessed us, but it's not only money. Money is one way of giving an offering but it's what has He blessed you with?

It's giving of yourself - mentoring. Mentoring is a big offering that we give to Yahweh when we mentor other people. So we don't appear before Him empty though, right? We're always ... we don't pay back. We pay forward. We're always giving back to Yahweh and then verse 19, He says:

Exodus 23:19a *The first, the first-fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of YAHWEH your Elohim.*

So what were your plants last year? What are you reaping now? What are your spiritual goals? Everybody's come to the school. They all have had a spiritual plan. So did they ... are they accomplishing it? And what they're accomplishing, are they giving back? Are they giving back in some way?

Because we have to we have to give back to Yahweh, part of it, because the first fruit belongs to Him and we are first fruits. And everything that we do we have to give back, **you don't pay back, you pay forward**. So are we doing that? Are we doing it in our life? Are we paying forward? So the first fruit is set apart to Yahweh.

Revelation 14, we read this yesterday. We'll read just the first four verses today. We are first fruits. It's extremely important you've got to embrace this in your life. You've got to really internalize it what it means to be a first fruit because first fruits are very rare, they're one out of ten, only ten percent.

Revelation 14:1-2 *And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion! And with Him were a hundred and forty four thousands, with the name of His Father having been written in their foreheads. And I heard a sound out of Heaven, as a sound of many waters, and as a sound of great thunder. Also I heard a sound of harpers harping on their harps.*

Comment: So they're praising Yahweh. And here it is the first fruits are the ones that have the name of Yahweh. They're children of His. I've said this before and some people were shocked. They didn't realize this but at the White Throne Judgment when you look at everyone that's ever born; it never says they're children of Yahweh. Never even says they're going to be spirit beings. They could be just like Adam when he was created. So all of those 50, 60, 70 billion people that ever lived might just be human beings for eternity and never die.

But the first fruits aren't different. The first fruits definitely our family members. The first fruits definitely are spiritual beings ... the first fruits. That's why it's a better resurrection, it says. If everyone was the same, why would it be the better resurrection like it talks about in **Revelation 20**?

Revelation 14:3 *And they sing as a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one was able to learn the song except the hundred and forty four thousands, those having been*

redeemed from the earth ... taken out of commercial Babylon. Those are the ones that are not part of the system of that.

Revelation 14:4 *These are the ones who had not become defiled, ... defiled by commercial Babylon ... for they are pure. These are the ones following the Lamb wherever He may go. These were redeemed from among men being the first-fruits to YAHWEH and the Lamb.*

So that's what Passover is about - first fruits. And I said this in the message yesterday if you're not a first fruit Passover really has very little to do with you. So it's the same here, winter is over. Spring is here, embrace it ... embrace it. Embrace the spring in being a first fruit. We are first fruits.

Leviticus 23 verse 15 ... Leviticus 23 and verse 15:

Leviticus 23:15 *And you shall number to you from the next day after the Sabbath, ... This is tomorrow, the Feast of First Fruit ... from the day you bring in the omer of the wave offering; they shall be seven complete Sabbaths; ... 49 days.*

Leviticus 23:16-17 *to the next day after the seventh Sabbath, you shall number fifty days; and you shall bring near a new food offering to YAHWEH; you shall bring in bread out of your dwellings for a wave offering, two loaves; they shall be of two tenth ephah of flour; they shall be baked with leaven; first-fruits to YAHWEH.*

So what we see here is we have to have fruit to bring Yahweh after the seven weeks process of reaping. So isn't that kind of interesting, that on Shavuot, it's not just that you come but you have to *use* from the grain that was grown you have to bring an offering. The offering is from that. So that's the point of it.

Yahweh has given us all spiritual gifts. All of us should have personal ministries that we're doing beside the unified ministry we're all doing together. And what fruit are you bearing from that? And the fruit you're bearing you have to bring a gift to Yahweh. That gift could be serving someone, helping someone it could be whatever it is it would ever part of your ministry.

Like I said sometimes it is financial but not always. But we need to do that because on Yahweh's holy days it always says you don't appear before Him empty. You have to give an offering. So what is that offering that you are giving? We must have first fruit to bring Yahweh after the seven week process of reaping. And that's why I say you reap what you sow.

And that's why going back to the fall it's the most important time because if you don't sow enough seeds, you're not going to be able to reap. So whether that means one thing you're doing big time or a lot of small things you're doing together, you have to make sure whatever you're doing you have enough seeds that you're going to be able to sow from it.

And the last one here for spring is John 15:5-8, that we always want to remember – **no fruit, no reward**. John chapter 15 and verse 5:

John 15:5 *I am the Vine and you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, this man will produce plentiful fruit because without me you are not able to do anything.*

Comment: And that's so true. We always have to remember that there is no ... *He who separates himself seeks his own desire* **Proverbs 18:1** and we are a body. We're a body, we're unified and we have to be together. We have to help each other and Yahshua is the head of that body. So in verse 8 ...

John 15:8 *In this My Father is glorified, that you should bear much fruit; and you will be disciples to Me.*

So again - no fruit, no reward! The fruit, your reward, is based on the fruit that you are bearing. And that's why spring is the beginning of that. Spring is where you're getting that first harvest you should start seeing. And then if you see that you're producing, you're seeing fruit being born by the seeds you planted, you want to do more of it, right? You want to bear more of it.

So that's the early rain that comes in the spring. And then the summer, the summer is the last part of the growing season, the hardest part. Because now the rains have ended; the early rain has ended and the latter rain has ended that comes right at Shavuot. If it comes the early rain comes in December/January and here it is the summer, it's stopped because of the weather and we compare this to our baptism of fire. So the summer is like that last part getting ready for the big harvest that you're going to have in your life. You're maturing more like we said in that other scripture in **Mark 4**.

It starts out as greenery because you're brand new and then you mature as it changes. So now the summer comes where you're going to go through the baptism of fire; which means it's going to be more challenges. There's going to be more struggles. You're going to have to work harder because there's going to be more fruit to be born and you're more mature. You're able to handle it. So praise Yahweh for that. So this is the summer harvest, like I said, could be tough with the weather. We compare it to the baptism of fire and the latter rain that's coming from it.

Exodus 23 ... Exodus 23, go back there. And this is kind of compared to getting ready for Sukkot, that's the later harvest. Exodus 23 verse 14:

Exodus 23:14 *Three times in the year you shall make a feast to Me ... then verse 16*

Exodus 23:16a *Also the Feast of Harvest, ...*

Comments: So, it's kind of interesting when it's talking about the fruit that's born. It's not called Feast of Sukkot anymore, because it's not focusing on to staying in tents or tabernacles because that's what the children of Israel did. It's talking about bearing fruit.

So it's talking when it's talking about the harvest. It's the feast of harvest, the first fruits of your labor of what you sow in the ground and the Feast of Ingathering. It's called the Feast of Ingathering - Sukkot, when you're talking about the fruits that come with it; the dates, the figs, the olives, the pomegranates, and even the wheat. The later wheat that comes from Shavuot time and then they're preparing it after that and bringing it to Sukkot.

After the going out of the year, what does it mean to going out of the year? The tekufa - the fall equinox. So you can't have Sukkot before the fall equinox, which is September 21 roughly; which means really the year. It's not just the feast but the year really can't start ... the year can I guess. Sukkot has to be after that point. And yet, this year like I said, there's people that are going to be keeping Sukkot beginning in the beginning of

August. Two months early and I've said this year of the year of the year. We lived in Israel or in the Middle East close to 25 years, more than that maybe even now. And I've said you have to understand the Bible growing pattern, not from Iowa, or Montreal Canada, wherever else. You have to understand it from the Land of Israel because that's our Promised Land. And that's the Land the Yahweh gives and He says:

Exodus 23:16b ... *the Feast of Ingathering, after the going out of the year, ... after the tekufa, after the equinox ... at your gathering your work from the field.*

So Sukkot cannot start before that time. Leviticus 23 in verse 39 ... Leviticus 23 in verse 39. And again it's talking about Sukkot.

Leviticus 23:39a *And, in the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Tishri), you shall gather the increase of the land, you shall keep the feast of YAHWEH seven days; ... just like we had here.*

It's kind of interesting in the spring you have Passover which is a separate day first and then you have seven days of Unleavened Bread. In the fall, you have seven days of Sukkot and then the Last Great Day. So that circular pattern you see again - two eight day feasts; one, where the one day starts and then seven days. The second part where the seven days and then the one day. So it all goes around the circular pattern.

Leviticus 23:39b-41 ... *you shall keep the feast of YAHWEH seven days; on the first day a Holy Day Sabbath, and on the eighth day a Holy Day Sabbath. And you shall take to yourselves on the first day the fruit of majestic trees, palm branches, and boughs of oak trees, and willows of the valley, and shall rejoice before YAHWEH your Elohim seven days ... we did it for 20 years in Israel keeping Sukkot there and building our sukkahs with this ... And you shall celebrate it a feast to YAHWEH, seven days in a year, a never ending statute throughout your generations; in the seventh month you shall keep it.*

So again, no matter whether you're in Israel or not, it's a never-ending statute. If you're in Israel you need to go to Jerusalem. If you're not in Israel wherever you are you have to keep it and it's a never-ending statute. So this is what He's talking about. We keep the feast for the patience and diligence of waiting on Yahweh for the latter rain, blessing after the harvest fruit.

So that's the point, now if you were faithful and Yahweh blessed you're getting the bigger harvest that's coming for Sukkot, you're getting to take that week and go there and just enjoy it and eat and have a good time, whatever your heart desires before Yahweh, like it says in Scripture because why you're having such a good time?

Two reasons, number one because you were faithful you have a lot of good things there with you that you took up to Sukkot and you're enjoying yourself, Yahweh blessed you. And number two, when you go back it starts all over again, the circular pattern. The fall is going to be there and it's going to start all over again. You're going to have to break up the fallow ground. You're going to have to do it all over again.

But if you were successful and if you bore a lot of fruit and you had a great Sukkot, you're looking forward to it. Now, you're not dreading that time like you talked about in **Psalms 126**. You're not sowing in tears. You're sowing in joy because you're knowing when you sow those seeds, the end result is being at Sukkot with all Yahweh's people and enjoying yourself and having a great time together with Yahweh's blessing on top of it.

So that's the point. The summer harvest can be rough but if we did everything right it can be it's the greater of the harvest of the latter rain blessing.

Luke 3:16 and 17 ... Luke 3:16 and 17:

Luke 3:16-17 *John answered all, saying, I indeed baptize you with water; but He stronger than I comes, of whom I am not fit to loosen the thong of His sandals. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, ... Like I said, the summer is kind of like the baptism of fire you can compare to ... He who holds a winnowing fan in His hand and has cleansed His threshing floor, He will gather the wheat into His granaries, but the chaff He will burn in the fire that cannot be put out.*

So now this is the one ... this is the serious part about the summer though because the summer is going to ... you reap what you sow. It's going to basically be evident whether you worked for Yahweh or not. And you know what we're coming toward this time now. We're coming toward the end where the cherubs are going to come and the reapers and Yahshua's going to come to this earth and He's going to bless us.

And His reward is with Him to give what? As we're going to see, according to what we did, according to our work! So now you can't fake it. During the year, you could have said what you want. You could say this. But now it's the time either you come to Sukkot with that fruit of the blessing or you come empty handed. It's one of the other and what is it in your life now? Do you have blessings from the fruit that you're bearing? And then then like I said, the cycle works great or is it empty handed? And Yahweh doesn't take excuses.

We have a class I do at the school on victimhood. And it's the most awful thing in the world because by definition a victim is not going to be happy. What victim is happy? What victim comes into the belief, "Hey guess what? I just got mugged. They beat me up. They took all my money. Isn't that great?" Of course not! Victims by definition are unhappy people because victims mean they lost something. They were victimized. And we're not victims. We're victors. And that's the key you have to change that mentality. You have to see yourself not as a victim, but as a victor. And what part of being a victor is the fruit we're bearing.

So if you're not bearing fruit, summer is already here, you better get going and you better figure out because wow, you've lost a lot of that growing pattern. You better figure out how to do it and there's one encouraging scripture. I'm going to read here in a minute that'll show, "Well, you know what?" Maybe even if you didn't do a lot of planning you can at least do some reaping. You don't always have to reap what you sowed. You can reap sometimes what somebody else sowed and work together.

So Galatians 6 and verse 7 through 9 ... Galatians 6 verse 7 through 9:

Galatians 6:7-9 *Do not be deceived, Elohim is not mocked. For whatever a man may sow, that he also will reap. For the one sowing to his flesh will reap corruption of the flesh. But the one sowing to the Spirit will reap everlasting life from the Spirit. And let us not be weary now that we are working for good, for in the season of reaping we will not faint.*

And I'll tell you something, I believe probably two reasons why many brethren don't want to move to community because like I said, we have tens and tens of thousands of people in the Congregation of Yahweh Jerusalem from all over the world, how many are living in community? Maybe 10 percent of those people!

And the two main reasons why people don't want to go to community number one; they don't want to give up personal things they have, they're selfish. And number two; they don't want to share. They don't want to, not that they don't want to share but that's the part of the first reason of not wanting to give up. They don't want to share who they really are. So they're putting on their Sabbath face every week and maybe coming to the feast and being able to even do it for a week if they're good at it, but they don't want to show every day *who* they are.

And that's the thing, when you live in community, you can't hide it anymore. People are going to see who you really are and either you are going to be somebody that is, like I said, making these changes breaking our fallow ground and changing those bad patterns and growing, which everyone does in community most people anyway, maybe not everyone but most people, and you're going to grow much more than the people that are just on their own and not growing. So it's up to you though, is it that you're afraid of being exposed? Is that the reason why you're not in community? That's something that you have to answer.

But says, *And let us not be weary ... verse 9 again ... now that we are working for good, for **in the season of reaping we will not faint***. That means you sowed good seeds and if you're not showing a lot of fruit that means you haven't put seeds in the ground. You haven't put seeds in the ground. You can't look outside saying, "You know that'd be a great spot for a garden" and then a year later be looking and figuring why, "Why aren't tomatoes and why aren't cabbage growing there?" Because you didn't plant any seeds! If you want to reap you've got to sow.

Hebrew 6 and verse 7 ... Hebrews chapter 6 and verse 7. It says,

Hebrew 6:7 *For the earth that drinks in the rain which comes often upon it, and produces herbs that are useful to those for whom it is cultivated, ... so true ... receives blessing from Elohim. "But, if it should bear thorns and thistles," it is rejected and near a curse, ... That's why you have to weed your garden. You don't want thorns and thistles ... it is rejected and near a curse, and in the end will be burned up.*

Comment: And then what might happen is - your plants may all die. The weeds literally can suffocate your plants so much that they kill them and then the whole thing has to be burned.

Hebrew 6:9-10 *But, in regard to you, my brethren, we are persuaded better things, and things pertaining to life, even though we speak in this manner. For Elohim is not unjust, to forget your work and the labor of love which you showed to His name, ministering to the saints, and now are ministering.*

Comment: So if you're putting in good seeds, this isn't going to happen. And if you're weeding your garden out getting rid of those spots and wrinkles in your life.

Hebrew 6:11-12 *But we desire each of you to show the same eagerness, to the full assurance of the hope to the end; that you not become slothful, but imitators of those who through faith and long-suffering are inheriting the promises ... how they inherited the promises, not being soft slothful.*

So they're out there, they're doing the weeding in their gardens getting rid of the things in their life they have to *but imitators of those who through **faith and long-suffering*** – faith and patience - *are inheriting the promises*. They got through the winter. They had it and now during the summer the same thing. They're not

being born down by the lack of rain, the heavy heat, but they're out there and they're doing their due diligence. They're caring for their garden. There's physical garden and the spiritual garden and their life as a garden and we are rewarded for how much fruit we produce, how patient we are to endure.

So, and like I said, at the end of the summer, that's where it becomes evident because either you have fruit or you don't. But like I said, if maybe you're watching this now, you're sweating a little bit and you're thinking, "Oh boy. It's coming toward harvest time. I haven't put in a lot of a lot of plants." Let me give you an encouraging scripture in Jeremiah 5 verse 23 ... Jeremiah 5 and verse 23. It says:

Jeremiah 5:23-25 *But to this people there is a revolting and a rebellious heart; they have turned and are gone. And they do not say in their heart, Let us now fear YAHWEH our Elohim who gives both the former and the latter rain in its season; He keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good from you.*

So this is the people basically that haven't done anything and a lot of it is rebellion sometimes because they don't want to go out there and they don't want to do the things that Yahweh is saying to do. And they are not following the things that Yahweh says and they're basically reaping what they're sowing.

So like he's saying here is Yahweh is saying *who gives both the former and the latter rain and He keeps the appointed weeks of the season. But He says your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good from you.*

So we want to make sure that we're not being one of these people that are doing this. And if you don't have a harvest right now, if you don't have a harvest in your life, you better look at the scripture really hard and you better realize what have you caused in your life not to have harvest? Like I said, don't play the victim. Don't be blaming somebody else. It's your fault if there's not a harvest. But here's the change, this is the scripture that I want to leave you with that is really encouraging and it's actually John 4. It's John and verse 35, Yahshua says,

John 4:35 *Do you not say that after four months comes the harvest? Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and see the fields that are white and have ripened for the harvest already.*

So, part of the reason why some people don't have any fruit in their life because they're always saying there's four months to the harvest. They're always saying it's not the end yet. They're always saying I'll do it down the line. They're always saying later, next year, next year this, next year that.

And it's kind of like the scripture where there were two sons; the first son, the father said, "Go out to the field." He said, "I don't want to go" and then later he regretted and he went. And the second one said, "Okay, I'll go" and he never went. So which one are you?

There's people that will say all the time, "Wow, what a great sermon ... what a great sermon" and then they never change. And there are other people that at times will be challenged by the sermon and maybe not be happy with it, but later they're going to apply it in their life. So, the point of it is if you're always saying there's four months of the harvest and you're never seeing the importance of the times and going out and bearing the fruit, if it's always I'm going to do it next year, then you're fulfilling that scripture in Jeremiah 5. You're rebelliously not following Yahweh because time is going to run out.

Whether that means the kingdom will be here in three or five or seven years; or maybe the kingdom ... maybe we all have it wrong and Yahshua's kingdom isn't going to come for a thousand years, right? But you're still going to be dead in maybe three or five or seven years or ten years or twenty years, whatever. I can guarantee you're not going to be around a thousand years unless the kingdom is here already.

So that's the point. You have to realize ... and that's why I say, you have to sow in faith. You have to believe that that's the reward. And not the small things you're getting in commercial Babylon. And you have to make that decision. And if you don't make that decision and get a game plan ... not saying to immediately hear the sermon and just quit life, but get a game plan. That's part of bearing fruit. It's having a game plan. Fruit doesn't come all at once. It's making a game plan over time and going into this.

So but look what he says here,

John 4:36 *And he that reaps receives a wage and gathers fruit unto life that is eternal. And **the sower and the reaper together will rejoice.***

Comment: So now you don't necessarily have to reap what you sowed but you could help reap with somebody else sowed.

John 4:37-38 *For in this the word is true, that another is the one sowing, and another the one reaping. I sent you to reap what you have not labored over. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.*

So wow, that's great. That means for some of you out there that really haven't done anything yet and haven't you could be involved in reaping with ... and actually, all of us do this to a degree, none of us started this. This congregation started with Yahshua and the apostles 2000 years ago. So we're reaping with the foundation they laid 2000 years ago and then the Paulicians and the Waldenses and the Anabaptists, and even Church of God to a degree.

And we're all reaping what other people laid down. So don't even use that as an excuse. "Oh, it's too late" this and that. It's never too late. You could be reaping what somebody else sowed. We're all part of the same team. We're all part of the one unity, the one body, one congregation. But the bottom line is there's no more time to wait either. Go out now get a plan of action. Start doing it or you are going to reap what you sow.

The last scripture is Revelation 22 and verse 12. This is Yahshua speaking:

Revelation 22:12 *And behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each according to his work.*

Yes, **works are required**, not for salvation, salvation is a free gift. Because what you have done your work up until the time you're converted has only brought you death. So yes, you need Yahweh's grace. It's completely free. There's nothing you can do to earn it. But once you get that grace, once you are a member in His family, yes, then you have to produce something.

Yahweh requires that. **He gives us gifts to produce.** And that's what the growing season is all about. And how great by knowing this, by knowing Yahweh works in the circular, by knowing Yahweh's pattern. How great it is because you want to know something?

The world is always in winter and like I was reading **Jeremiah 5**, *But to this people there is a revolting and a rebellious spirit. This isn't really the people of Yahweh, maybe a few of you, but not really. It's mostly to the world ... they have turned and are gone. And they do not say in their heart, Let us now fear YAHWEH our Elohim who gives both the former and the latter rain in its season; He keeps for us the appointed season. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good from you.*

The world stays in winter most of the year and some sadly in the time we're living in most of their life. Most people are in winter. Their life is in winter. They never leave winter to go into spring. They never have a fall where they're planting those good seeds and building up their fallow ground.

So the world is mostly always in winter waiting and having hard times with little hope. But for Yahweh's people it's harvest time ... it's harvest time. It's time to go out and to reap what's been being sown. We need to bring this hope to a hopeless world and part of those people out there that have been in winter most of their life. We need to go out and tell them we need to share this with them.

Share this with maybe an unconverted friend or family member. Share this sermon and show them there is an alternative. There's something there that Yahweh has that's better for them share with them the great human potential that Yahweh has given them. And get their mind off of commercial Babylon that just wants them to fail.

Like we said in John, we all can be involved now what is being reaped. Some don't see the harvest because they never planted seeds, but we can still reap in their reward. What a blessing of Yahweh's circular pattern of the growing season and the calendar in our life.

So every time, like I said, we get in those hard times in those long winters, always remember spring always comes knowing whatever challenge we're going through that winter will always end. Spring will always come. And showing us as a believer that now it is harvest time. Let's bear the most fruit for our love for our Creator.

So I hope you're blessed by this listen to it more than once because there's a lot of meat in there or let's say a lot of fruit in there that you can get from. But I pray that you're blessed by this.

Yahweh bless. Chag Semeach. Shabbat shalom.