

The Jewish Calendar of Seasons

...portrays the Gospel Message by symbolising the history of God's household

The Jewish civil year commenced in the seventh month which is Autumn in the northern hemisphere. The seasonal farming activities from Autumn to Summer can be seen as symbolic of 3000 years of the history of God's household.

Autumn

Preaching and Holy Spirit power in the first century

Ploughing	Symbolic of the 'ground preparation' for the preaching of the word and the establishment of the first century household of faith. John the baptist prepared the way for Jesus' Ministry.
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The seed is the Word of God." Luke 8:11 • "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." 1 Cor.3:6 Autumn planting is symbolic of the spiritual "seed sowing" in the first century, firstly by Jesus and the Apostles, followed later by other members of God's household.
Former Rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you – the former rain..." Joel 3:23 The outpouring of Holy Spirit power as, "the good word of God and the powers of the age to come" (Heb.6:4-5). This "rain" was on Jewish and Gentile believers in the first century in fulfillment of the word of the prophet Joel. Only a light rain compared to the future latter rain.

Winter

A remnant preserved, the Resurrection

Slow growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood..." Joel 2:31 A long period of spiritual darkness. Very slow growth in the true household of faith due to continued persecution from power hungry religious leaders ("the moon into blood").
Winter figs	Winter figs ripen at the first hint of spring. This could represent an increase in the household of faith in the last days. This is fruit produced by "spiritual Israel". Although natural Israel returns to their land during this period, their spiritual fruit is produced after Armageddon (Zech.12:10-14).
Pulling the flax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Rev.19:8 See also v14 Otherwise called "hoeing up the flax". Flax is harvested at the end of Winter going into early Spring. It is a good symbol of the resurrection. Flax is used to make linen which is a symbol of righteousness (Rev.19:8, 14). It is also the source of linseed oil and lamp wicks for light production.

Spring

Armageddon, the nations humbled and educated

Barley harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe..." Joel 3:13 • "Thrust in your sickle and reap...for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Rev.14:15 The barley harvest is a good symbol of the Armageddon period. The Hebrew word for 'barley' comes from a root word meaning, 'afraid', 'to hurl as a storm', 'be tempestuous' or, 'to be taken in a whirlwind'. See Strong's numbers, 8184 and 8175.
Latter rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...and the latter rain in the <u>first month</u>." Joel 3:23 See also Isa.33:15; Ezek.37:14, 39:29 Represents the second heavier outpouring of the Holy Spirit on natural Israel after Armageddon. The "first month" in the verse above refers to "Abib" (new name "Nisan") which is first month of Spring. The "flashing clouds" (Zech.10:1) of the latter rain are a good symbol of the saints who will be partly responsible for administering God's latter day judgements on the nations (Dan.7:18,22,27; 1 Cor.6:2).
General harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." Rev.17:14 Jesus and His faithful followers eventually humble of all the nations including those who are not directly involved in the battle of Armageddon (1 Cor.15:25). See also Rev.19:15
Vine tending	Vine tending is practiced in late Spring to maximise the quality of the yield. This is a good symbol of the educating of the nations in God's law and ways (Isa.2:4; Mic.4:1-4).

Summer

God's Kingdom established and the final judgement

First ripe grapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." Isa.2:3 Those first to recognise Jesus as King and the importance of regularly worshipping in Jerusalem.
Summer fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." Zech.14:16 The Kingdom is now fully established with Jesus' authority as the "Sun of Righteousness" ruling over a world at peace (Zech.9:10; Mal.4:2).
Ingathering Olive harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and authority and power. For He must <u>reign</u> till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." 1 Cor.15:24-26 Olive trees were beaten so that the ripe olives fell for harvesting. This is a good symbol of the final <u>gathering</u> of God's people before death and all other rebellion is destroyed.