

Deuteronomy 11;14 — That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. KJV

Then I will provide rain for your land in season, the autumn and spring rains, that you may gather your grain, new wine, and oil. BSB

Strong's 3138
yoreh: the early rain
Original Word: יוֹרָה
Part of Speech: Noun
Masculine
Transliteration: yoreh
Definition: the early rain
— autumn rain

Strong's 4456 malqosh: latter rain, spring rain Original Word: מַלְקוֹש Part of Speech: Noun Masculine Definition: latter rain, spring rain

Zechariah 10;1 Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. KJV

Jeremiah 5;24, Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. KJV

They have not said in their hearts, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rains, both autumn and spring, in season, who keeps for us the appointed weeks of harvest.' BSB

The former (Autumn) rain is about what יהוה has done in the past.

The latter or later (spring) rain is about what יהוה will do in the future.

Spring is a time for planting, and growing, we need the latter rain to grow because growth is in His hands, not ours, it is uncertain so we trust for His provision.

Joel 2;23, Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. KJV

Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. KJV

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; even the autumn rain covers it with pools. BSB

So why is this confusing?

He must receive the first rain soon after the corn is put into the ground, otherwise it will rot or be blown away with the dust, as his fields become turned into a kind of impalpable powder by the summer's sun; he must have the latter rain just before the time of harvest, otherwise the ears lacking the moisture that should fill them out, will become thin and lean, barely worth the ingathering; in fact, they will yield no flour for the food of man.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon July 11, 1869

James 5;7, Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. KJV

The former (Autumn) rain is what we thank יהוה for because it has been done and is in the past.

The latter or later (spring) rain is what we ask יהוה to continue in the future.