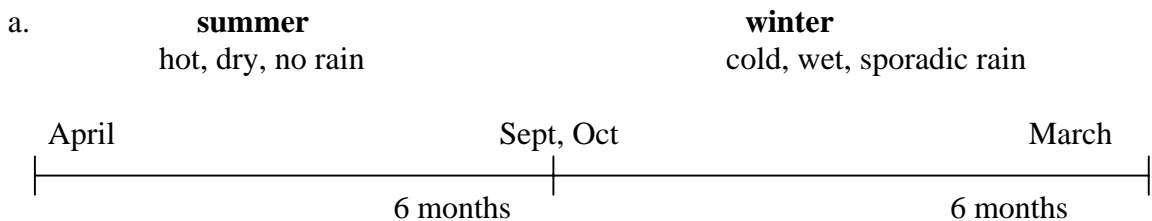
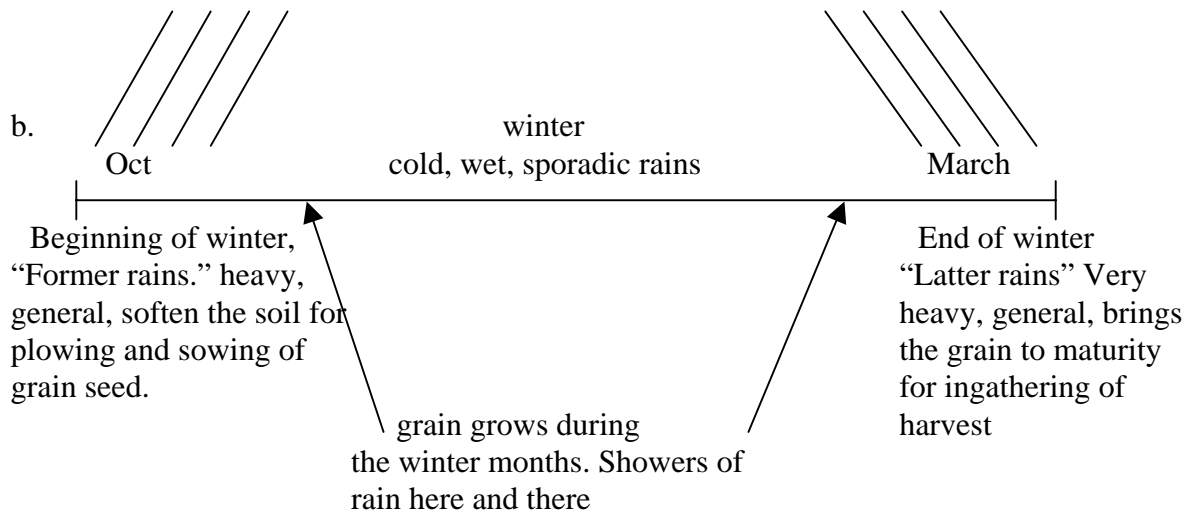


PRAY FOR THE LATTER RAIN AND THE HARVEST.

Reading: *Zech 10:1.*

1. With God there are times and seasons and *Zech 10:1* tells us that there is **“the time of the Latter Rain”**. God expects us to know the “time of the Latter Rain” and during that time to **ask God** for the rain. The Lord promises that He will answer with clouds flashing, with lightning and thunder and showers of rain to give green grass for all, *Zech 10:1*
2. ***Deut 11:10-14.* The time of the Latter Rain is the time of Harvest and it brings the Harvest of the grains, barley and wheat, to maturity. (In the spring months of April to May)**
During the times of Egyptian slavery, the ground was watered by the treadmill of man’s efforts, lifting water from the Nile into irrigation channels, *v10*. In the land of inheritance, the promised land, the rain is given by God to those who obey Him, *v11-14*, the Former and the Latter Rains.
3. ***Jer 5:24.* The Lord gives the Former and the Latter Rain in its season and He appoints for us the weeks of harvest. The Rain is given for the harvest, and God sets down the period of the harvest.** The time of harvest is short, critical, and in the day of harvest every hand is required to gather in the precious crop. Do not sleep in harvest. *Pro 10:5.*
4. ***Joel 2:23,28,29,* (*Ac 2:17,18*).**
The times of rain are the times when God pours out His Spirit on all flesh. He says, *v23*, “Be glad then you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God;for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you, the Former Rain, and the Latter Rain in the first month.” (See *Ex 12:2*, the first month.) “The threshing floors shall be full of wheat and the vats shall overflow.....” *Joel 2:24.*
5. In the New Testament, *Jam 5:7* says, “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 he receives the early and the latter rain.”
6. The land of Israel has two seasons, the hot, dry summer and the wet cold winter. The autumn and spring are fairly brief..





7. This is a type or picture of the **Church Age**. The **"Former Rain"** was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church Age, *Ac 1-28*, and stretched from 30 AD to about 300 AD. The grain or seed of God's Word was sown all over the then "known" world.

Now, at this time, we are experiencing the outpouring of the **"Latter Rain"** at the end of the Church Age. Since 1900 AD there has been a general worldwide outpouring of the Spirit. More people are coming to the Lord today than in any previous period of church history and God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. "Pentecostal and charismatic" believers are now second in number only to the Roman Catholics. The Christians in the mainline "pentecostal" denominations (A.O.God, Elim, Apostolic etc) number more than all Anglicans, Baptists and Presbyterians added together. The top ten churches of the world, numerically, are all "pentecostal". [Factual details from the A.O.God "Evangel" Magazine, Sept 1990]

In every century of the church age there has been, somewhere, an outpouring of God's Spirit. There have been "sporadic rains" between the "Former and the Latter" rains of the Spirit. It is very important that we realise that the outpouring of God's Spirit is given so we **can gather in the harvest of souls for the Lord**. It is not to bless us as believers and stop there. **We must ask for the rain, *Zech 10:1*, so we can go out and gather in the harvest that is all around us.**

Jesus said "the harvest is the end of the age," *Mat 13:39, Mk 13:24-27, Mat 24:29-31, Rev 14:14-16* is a word picture of Jesus reaping His end-time harvest, and **the blade of His sickle is made up of obedient believers witnessing to the unsaved**. Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest, *Mat 9:38*. **Pray that God will thrust out His labourers into His Harvest**. Lift up your eyes and look at the harvest all around, *Jn 4:35*. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be His witnesses everywhere you go, *Ac 1:8*.

The events at the end of the Church Age are:

1. The Latter Rain outpouring of God's Spirit.
2. The ingathering of the harvest of God's Word in the lives of men, women, boys and girls.
3. The second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The Judgment seat of Christ, *Mat 25:31-46*.