

## **“Lessons of the Harvest”**

### **Leviticus 23: 9 – 11**

As we read the verses of the scripture lesson, it is easy to see the significance of this command to the Israelites. God was to be associated with everything in their lives and these offerings were to be brought, first as a recognition of God's goodness and second, as a reminder of their dependance upon him. In some respects, much of what was taught to and by the Israelites has become obsolete in our culture today. However, we should never lose sight of the necessity of associating God with our daily life and acknowledging him as the giver of life and all it holds for us. So, let the harvest remind us of several things.

We need to remember the bountiful kindness of God in supplying for the needs of his creatures. Some examples: Israel in the wilderness, (Deuteronomy 2:7); Elijah in the time of famine, (1 Kings 17: 6, 16); The prophet's widow, (2 Kings 4:6); The multitude that followed Jesus, (Matthew 14:20).

Be mindful, year after year we are fed, clothed and warmed. Generations come and go, nations rise and fall, yet God does not forget to send seed-time and harvest, day and night and all that we need.

We also need to be mindful of the connection between divine benevolence and human effort. Yearly harvests are the result of God and man working together. It is man with God, God with man that effects the provision for human wants and needs. The scriptures point out this togetherness in (1 Corinthians 3:9), "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." and also in (2 Corinthians 6:1), "As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain." When it comes to the harvest, we are partners with God and we must be thankful for the privilege of working with him and for his goodness to us.

We must never, never forget the relation between seed-time and harvest. God has determined that life shall be lived on this principle, "A man reaps what he sows," (Galatians 6:7). From wheat-wheat, from tares- tares, from nothing-nothing. In order to reap a bountiful harvest, we must sow responsibly.

**Lessons of the harvest are timely lessons for Thanksgiving Day as well as Thanks-living each and every day.**

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