



M.I.A



SOMEHOW



DO YOU BELIEVE?



Donkeys, Death and Royal Studs

Rom 8:36-37

36 As it is written:

"For your sake **we face death all day long**;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

1 Cor 4:9-10

9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men **condemned to die in the arena**. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

2 Cor 11:23

23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been **exposed to death again and again**.

2 Cor 4:11-12


11 For we who are alive are **always being given over to death** for Jesus' sake, **so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.**



Disconnected
from farms

Today fewer than 2 percent of Americans live on farms. As the U.S. population continues to shift away from rural areas into cities and suburbs, we are ever more removed from the agricultural practices that sustain us.

*American Farm Bureau Foundation for
Agriculture's Food and Farm Facts book (2021
edition).*



Agriculture and Israel's Pilgrim Feasts

Major religious festivals marked key events in the agricultural year. The Old Testament commanded attendance at three great pilgrim festivals, all of which originally possessed agricultural or pastoral significance (Exod. 23:14–17; Deut. 16:13–17). Passover with its companion Feast of Unleavened Bread not only commemorated the Exodus from Egypt but also marked the beginning of the barley and wheat harvest. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), celebrated seven weeks after Passover, culminated the cereal harvesttime. Later, in the fall, the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles), perhaps the most joyous of all festivals, recalled with thanksgiving the experience of God's care in the wilderness. Celebrated at the end of the year, Ingathering signaled the conclusion of harvesttime and **anticipated the beginning of a new agricultural cycle.**

Concern for grains, fields, vineyards, orchards, and flocks dominated Israelite society from earliest times throughout the Old Testament period. The new opportunities presented by the coming of Greece and Rome greatly diversified Jewish life. The Jews engaged more and more in commerce and banking, among other specialized occupations. Still, agriculture, especially in Palestine, retained a prominent place, as numerous New Testament allusions to agricultural practices attest.

The Seven Species

Seven grains and fruits that grow in Israel and are mentioned in the Bible: wheat, barley, grapes (vines and wine), figs, pomegranates, olives, and honey from dates. All of these foods have been plentiful in Israel since ancient times. Today in downtown Jerusalem, huge fig trees drop ripe fruit on the sidewalks. Pomegranates can be found in almost every local garden, and date palms loaded with hanging fruit are common all over the country. In Hebrew, the seven species are “shevat haminim” (sheh-VAHT hah-mee-NEEM).

Eisenberg, J., & Scolnic, E., Jewish Publication Society. (2001). In The JPS dictionary of Jewish words (p. 144). Jewish Publication Society.

The Seven
Species
or
Shevat
Haminim

- 1.Wheat
- 2.Barley
- 3.Grapes
- 4.Figs
- 5.Pomegranates
- 6.Olives
- 7.Date-Honey

Deuteronomy 8:18

8:18 ²⁵³² και ³⁴⁰³ μνησθήση ²⁹⁶² κυρίου ³⁵⁸⁸ του ²³¹⁶⁻¹⁴⁷³ θεού σου ³⁷⁵⁴ ότι ¹⁴⁷³ αυτός
And you shall remember *the* LORD your God, that he
¹⁴⁷³⁻¹³²⁵ σοι δίδωσιν ²⁴⁷⁹ ισχύν ³⁵⁸⁸ του ⁴¹⁶⁰ ποιήσαι ¹⁴¹¹ δύναμιν ²⁴⁴³ ίνα
gives to you strength to produce *the ability*, that
²⁴⁷⁶ στήση ³⁵⁸⁸ την ¹²⁴²⁻¹⁴⁷³ διαθήκην αυτού ³⁷³⁹ ην
he should establish his covenant which
³⁶⁶⁰ ώμοσε ³⁵⁸⁸ τοις ³⁹⁶²⁻¹⁴⁷³ πατράσι σου ⁵⁶¹³ ως ⁴⁵⁹⁴ σήμερον
he swore by an oath to your fathers as today.

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Wheat

Matthew 3:12 (NIV)

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

- Wheat is threshed and torn apart but it also becomes "his" and is gathered into the barn and is the primary source of edification for the average Israelite.

- You can know Christian, that every threshing that tears you apart identifying the chaff to be burned and the grain that is "his" is a situation where you will be gathered into the barn and become edifying to God's people.

Barley

John 6:9 (NIV)

9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

- Barley is used to feed animals and is also the bread of the poor. New Unger's Bible Dictionary says, "That which is sown on the higher levels behaves like winter wheat in cold climates, dying down under the snow, and sprouting again in the spring."

- You can know Christian, that every time you feel your spiritual poverty and are oppressed by the cold climate of your surroundings that you are about to sprout again. You will multiply and feed the group Adonai cares most for... The Poor!

Grapes “Fruit of the Vine”

Mark 14:24-25

24 "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. 25 "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

- Grapes are planted by the Master's command. They are harvested by the Master's hand. They are crushed under the Master's Will and the wine is redemption at the Master's table.

* You can know Christian, that every crushing experience is showing your connection to Messiah and is aimed at connecting others to Him at the table that is eternal. These dying moments will produce resurrection in us and in others as they join us in the cup of suffering

Figs

John 1:47–48 (NIV)

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

- Figs in Israel are usually Sycamore Fig trees. They require circumcision to produce fruit. They were considered the food of king’s and common men.

- You can know Christian, that every circumcising moment that that pierces your outer façade and reveals what the Lord has caused to grow inside is beneficial to your King and common men alike.

Pomegranates

Matthew 13:52

52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

- Jewish tradition teaches that the pomegranate is a symbol of righteousness because it is said to have 613 seeds, which corresponds with the 613 mitzvot, or commandments, of the Torah (Chabad.org). The treasures inside of this fruit are never visible without breaking it open to expose them.

- You can know Christian, that every difficult moment of exposure that you face in transparency will actually end up revealing the treasure that has motivated it.

Olives

Luke 22:39–42 (NIV)

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

- Olives have to be hard pressed in order to reveal the things of value within them. An olive often undergoes four pressings to produce something that benefits every level of society.

- You can know Christian, that when you are hard pressed because of your desire for the Will of God and your present temptation. Every level of your pressing will produce something beneficial for you, your family, and the world around you.

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Date- Honey

Matthew 3:4 (NIV)

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

- Honey in the Bible can be from bees or Date Trees but as Erdman's Dictionary points out every one of the other products mentioned is derived from plants not animals. The honey being spoken of in Deut. 8 is the drippings of well aged dates left in obscurity during a busy season. Every product mentioned needs the cycle of dry and wet, cold and heat to move into harvest.

- You can know Christian, that when you move through difficult transitions that are cyclical in the life of a believer and you feel neglected in obscurity... you are being prepared for the sweetness of an eternal harvest! After all, John waited 30 years for 6 months of ministry.