

Rain in its Season, Poured from the Bottles of Heaven

Of the many things God provides for mankind and planet earth, *rain*, in its season, is a most valued blessing. Many of us who observe the holy days and appointed times of the lunar Hebrew calendar have often noted that when the seven leap years of the Metonic cycle come around, then spring and fall typically arrive later than usual.

This is of God's design. In order that His promise of "rain in its season" (Deut. 11:14) be kept during a 13-month leap year, the timing of the former and latter rains are adjusted as necessary. God's word cannot be broken. Thus, it is an ongoing requirement of the Hebrew calendar that the holy days, of both the common and leap years, coincide with the Nisan to Tishri harvest cycles, as ordained for Israel.

We have always accepted as fact these "seasonal adjustments" of the Calculated Hebrew Calendar (CHC), but few have paused to consider the logic and proof of the matter as stated in the Word of God. We will see that proof of such seasonal adjustments has been there all along, as a direct promise from Scripture.

Oceanographers and meteorologists tell us there is a synchronous harmony between the earth's ocean currents, rotation, magnetic fields, and lunar tides. From these factors stem the oscillations of what Solomon called, the "circuit winds." In modern times these winds are called jet streams. There are four of them, two in the northern hemisphere and two in the southern hemisphere; they are also referred to as the polar and subtropical winds. The lobes of these winds divide at the equator.

In Revelation 7, four winds are seen as emanating from the four corners of the world, controlled by four angels. In Scripture, the relationship of covenants, seals, and sacrifices are often depicted using the number seven—with its natural division of the number four. In that regard, it seems that even the weather becomes a covenant agreement with God.

Not only does this "seasonal adjustment" of rain and harvest occur with respect to leap years, it verifies that we have the correct pattern or sequence for the seven leap year cycles. The sages of the Hebrew calendar calculations describe this pattern of the leap years of the 19-year Metonic cycle as 3323332. Note the seven numbers in the pattern—five 3s and two 2s.

The 3s represent years when a leap year is declared after an interval of two common years. The 2s represent those times when a single 12-month common year separates two (or three) leap years. This latter pairing always occurs for years 6 to 8 and years 17 to 19 of the cycle. The 13-month years always fall on years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 19 of the cycle.

Jesus' ministry, for instance, began on year 6 of the cycle (26 AD), then came to an end at the Passover of year 9 of that Metonic, 30 AD. Therefore, His ministry of about 44 months spanned years 6 through 9 of the cycle, wherein occurred two leap years (years 6 and 8). Only one 12-month common year (the 7th) separated years 6 and 8 during the first three years of Jesus' ministry.

At other times of the 19-year time cycle, two 12-month common years separate two successive leap years. Years 11 to 14 demonstrate this, where years 12 and 13 (two common years) separate the 11th and 14th years of the cycle. The result is a "3" count, from the leap years of 11 to 14, which then becomes one of the "3s" of the 3323332 pattern. Scholars of the Hebrew calendar have long noted that there is a natural rhythm to the pattern, conspicuously akin to the long-long-short-long-long-short of the C major scale of music.

In a sense, all of these factors are stated in Genesis 8:22, which describes the seasons of seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer. By implication, this also includes *rain* in due season, a result of the "musical" rhythm of the seasons of the seven annual Sabbaths.

The polar and subtropical oscillations of the jet streams produce a controlled, rhythmic interlace of the times and cycles of the former and latter rains. If rain is to come in due season, it must fall in concert with the *leap year* pattern. We cannot arbitrarily decide to begin the first year

of the Metonic at just any random time. It is rather something of a programmed rhythm of the jet streams, assigned by God Himself. This affects the seasons of cooling and warming, thus determining the former and the latter rain cycles. This jet stream rhythm works in concert with the spring and fall equinox. The equinox times are constant, but the exit from winter and the beginning of the fall weather patterns can be modified by the position of the jet stream and its rhythm patterns.

All of this we know, not simply by observation, but by a direct promise from God—“*if*” His laws are obeyed. In Deuteronomy 11, the contrast is made between crop production in Egypt by *irrigation* and that produced in the Promised Land by *rain* from heaven (verses 9-14). The rain God promised as an automatic blessing—*if* Israel obeyed His laws. If so, then the early and late rains would come in season, at the appropriate times of the planting/harvest cycle. In the spring, rain would fall upon the barley at just the right time to produce abundant, mature heads of grain. But in the fall, whether a common or leap year, it would not rain during harvest time, which would destroy the crop. Therefore, the timing of the fall festivals, whether in a common or extended leap year, occurs in concert with the rain cycle.

When God sends His blessings on the nations of modern Israel, the rains come when needed, in due season. This requires a built-in “seasonal adjustment” to accommodate the difference between the 12- and 13-month spans. Once set, only God can alter the cadence of the harvest cycles, which greatly depend on rain in its season. Thousands of years after the words of Deuteronomy were recorded, the weather patterns of the world are still determined by the rhythm and oscillation of the jet stream.

The promises of God and the leap year cycles of the Hebrew calendar are inseparable in this regard. You cannot have one without the other. Since the occurrences of the vernal and fall equinoxes are set in the stone of time, only the influence of the jet stream patterns, ocean currents, and lunar tides can determine when the former and latter rains appear. Not only does this agree with the Word of God, it is a scientific fact. About 37 percent of the time, the spring and fall harvests occur later than usual. They coincide with the seven leap years of the 19-year cycle. This is a fact, and so stated by a promise from God Himself.

The patriarch Job lived in the arid desert regions of Mesopotamia, where crops largely depended on irrigation and not timely rains. Thus, it was fitting that God said to Job, “Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set up their dominion on the earth? Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that floods of waters may cover you?... Can you number the clouds by wisdom; or who can pour out the bottles of heaven?” (Job 38:33-34; 37).—*Dwight Blevins*