

The Early Rain and the Latter

By Bill Pugh



To live and work in a northern farming community is first-hand experience of the many moods of nature.

To have eyes on the sky has meaning. The soil needs the early rain to penetrate below the surface, ready for the seed to germinate and, in Spring, a generous top-up combining with the sun to ripen the harvest.

When Moses gave the law from God to the people when they inherited Canaan he reminded them of the covenant between them and God.

“If you only will heed his every commandment that I am commanding

you today, loving the Lord God, and serving him with all our heart and with all your soul, then he will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil, and he will give grass in your fields, for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

“Take care, or you will be seduced into turning away, serving other gods and worshipping them, for then the anger of the Lord and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain and the land will yield no fruit: then you will perish quickly off the good land that the Lord is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 11:11-17)

Reflection:

The Bible sets out the order of things, putting God first. Following the order of the seasons as he intended. Being blessed with the due rain and sun after planting. And the crops harvested at his appointed time. From early times farmers have followed the order of nature and been blessed with the fruits of their labour. In worship at harvest festival tables laden with produce have been blessed and given to hospitals and the poor.

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