Joel 2:23

*Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he has given you the* ***former rain*** *moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the* ***rain****, the former rain, and the* ***latter rain*** *in the first month.*

***Former rain****:* (4175) Mowreh

* An archer; a teacher or teaching; the early rain

“**He hath given you the former rain moderately;**the Hebrew will bear it, *a teacher of*, or *unto*, or *according to, righteousness*. Either some eminent prophet, or prophets, as Isaiah, or Joel himself, but as forerunners and types of the great Prophet Christ; so the words will be a promise of the Messiah, and lead these children of Zion to the Messiah, as the fountain of all the blessings they receive of God in temporals as well as spirituals: . . . We adhere to it also: God had sent sweet, gentle, yet sufficient showers to make the earth fruitful, and these showers have made pastures and trees to spring, flourish, and be fruitful.

**“And he will cause to come down for you the rain;**as he hath already given some, so he will give more, as the earth and trees shall need.

**“The former rain;**the autumn rain, which is needful to mellow the earth, and fit it to receive the corn and fruits, and to plant and sow them, about September.

**“The latter rain;**needful to bring forward and ripen the fruits planted or sown, accounted the latter rain because these husbandmen and vine-dressers reckoned from seed time unto spring and harvest.

**“In the first month;**that is, our March; both these rains, as promised [**Deu 11:14**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/11-14.htm)[**Leviticus 26:4**](http://biblehub.com/leviticus/26-4.htm), shall be given from heaven.” (Matthew Poole’s Commentary, www.biblehub.com);l

“*He hath given you the* ***former rain*** *moderately —*The season of the former rain was about the middle of October. The Hebrew word rendered *moderately,*literally signifies, *according to righteousness:*and is equivalent with *according to judgment.*Archbishop Newcome renders it, *in just proportion: and he will cause to come the latter rain in the first month —*Which was *Nisan,*partly answering to our March. The regular season for this rain was three months before harvest, [Amos 4:7](http://biblehub.com/amos/4-7.htm); that is, before wheat-harvest, which was later than the barley-harvest in Judea” (Benson Commentary, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“"Moreh", mostly signifies "a teacher" ([2 Kings 17:28](http://biblehub.com/2_kings/17-28.htm); [Job 36:22](http://biblehub.com/job/36-22.htm); [Proverbs 5:13](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/5-13.htm); [Isaiah 9:15](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/9-15.htm); [Isaiah 30:20](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/30-20.htm), (twice); [Habakkuk 2:18](http://biblehub.com/habakkuk/2-18.htm)), which is connected with the other ordinary meanings of the root, "torah, law, etc." The older translators then agreed in rendering, "of righteousness," or, "unto righteousness", in which case the question as to "moreh," is only, whether it is to be taken literally of "a teacher," or figuratively of spiritual blessings, as we say, "the dew of His grace” (Barnes’ Notes, www.biblehub.com).

*Rain* (1653) geshem

* Rain, shower, heavy shower, showers of rain

*Latter rain (4456) malqowsh*

* Latter rain, the spring rain
* The March and April rains which mature the crops of Palestine before the harvest

“"The early and latter rain," coming respectively at the seed-time and the harvest, represent the beginning and the completion; and so, by the analogy of earthly and spiritual sowing, growth and ripeness, they represent preventing and perfecting grace; the inspiration of good purposes and the gift of final perseverance, which brings the just to glory consummated; "the principles of the doctrine of Christ" and "the going on unto perfection [Hebrews 6:1](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/6-1.htm).