

Beshalach, Tu B` Shevat and the Mystery of Trees

Almighty God, our heavenly Father we come before your presence in joyful praise to give you thanks and to worship together with you in Spirit and truth. Thank you for giving us the understanding of your purpose and plan of salvation and your appointed times of the weekly Sabbath and annual holy days and how to walk with you. We pray that you will uplift our spirits with energy, strength, courage and boldness for the tests and trials we face in these last days. We desire to be filled with the fullness of your Spirit of power, love and a sound mind. Thank you Father, for hearing us. We commit our study and our lives into your hands in the name of our Savior and soon-coming king and redeemer, Jesus Christ—*Yeshua*, the Messiah. Amen.

The fixed Jewish calendar is a day ahead of the observed new moon sighting. We are to go by God's time table and his Hebrew calendar that he ordained, not the one made up by men where men decided to compromise and set the calendar in advance according to astronomical mathematical calculation principles rather than visually seeing the new moon each month as the Bible actually says to do. Just by the definition of the word *chodesh* in Hebrew which means new moon or new month, the new month equals the new moon which is the first faint crescent of the new moon seen from Israel. So we go by that. God says you shall see the new moon and then declare the new month. As we study God's word, principles, we all are to grow in grace, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 25:1-2**--It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.

The new calendar book, *The Mystery of God's Calendar* is about 250 pages and now available. Today the world goes by the Roman calendar which is pagan in origin. Even the Jewish calendar is compromised because in 358 AD it was changed by the rabbis since they no longer were allowed to have their Sanhedrin which was the legislative body responsible for sighting and declaring the new moons/months to their nation. Since they could no longer have the Sanhedrin to notify everyone, they decided to have a mathematically fixed calendar. It has served its purpose for 1,600 years. Now, we are at the end-of-times, there is no longer a Roman Empire and the Jewish state of Israel now exists and they have the freedom and the ability to get back to God's true calendar. But they are fearful and afraid. The Jews do not want to antagonize the Muslim population of the world and so they are not yet willing at this point to rebuild God's temple on the temple mount in Jerusalem and get back to the faith once delivered to the saints. They have the spirit of compromise. But we do know that in the last days there is going to be a temple rebuilt, and worship will once again be done in the temple on the mount, and we are living in the last days.

In fact, we are watching one of the signs of the times. One of those signs is the mega storm descending upon the U.S. Predicted heavy bands of snow propelled by tropical-storm-force

winds are forecast this weekend to reach portions of the mid-Atlantic producing snowfall rates of 1 to 3 inches per hour. The storm's widespread effects paralyzed travel across the Eastern United States producing more than 20 in (51 cm) of snow across a large area along the Appalachian Mountains with coastal flooding and beach erosion along the mid-Atlantic coast. This coming blizzard has been given the name Jonas. Hebrew is Jonah which means gift of God. Why would a storm be given a name meaning *gift* of God? There is more to a name than people realize or understand. This storm is a gift of God. It is not necessarily a punishment revealing God's wrath upon the world, but rather a gift given in love and warning people that it is time to repent and get right with God and return to the faith of our forefathers and quit fooling around.

WND — (1.22.16) “Is D.C. Mega-storm Jonas a Gift of God’? In Washington, D.C., the nations’ capital, it’s being called Snow-pocalypse. Many see mega-storm Jonas as a kind of signal from God, part of a long-standing pattern of corrections from the Creator of the Universe. What do all these signs mean? William Koenig author of *Eye to Eye* sees an extremely strained relationship between Israel and Barack Obama’s administration as relevant to the timing and magnitude of the storm.” In researching for his book Koenig found that “when the U.S. or another nation applies pressure on Israel to divide its covenant land, given by God to Abraham and his descendants, there are enormous record-setting storms and/or events that correspond.” Koenig says, “Obama heralded the Iran deal Saturday, Jan. 16, from the White House as a major foreign policy achievement, which now releases billions of dollars to the number one state sponsor of terror in the world and Israel’s greatest threat. Later, Secretary of State John Kerry acknowledged that Iran will use at least some of the \$100 billion in aid sent by the U.S. this week to support terrorism. Meanwhile, as the Iran deal was about to be finalized, Tehran announced the successful firing of short-range missiles, which is a direct violation of the U.N. Security Council resolution.”

The references to the name *Jonas* in the King James Bible are also interesting in this context.

- **Matthew 12:39:** “But he answered and said unto them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and there shall be no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.’”
- **Matthew 16:4:** “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas’. And he left them, and departed.”
- **Luke 11:29-30:** “And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, ‘This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet; For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall the Son of man be to this generation.’”

Christ is a sign for our generation today, because in our generation he is going to return to this earth and bring the kingdom of God with Him.

This Monday is Tu B’Shevat. On the biblical calendar, that is the 15th day of the month called Shevat. This coming Monday is that day. It is the beginning of the New Year for trees. In **Leviticus 19:23**, the Torah states, “When you enter the land [of Israel] and plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden for you, not to be

eaten.” The fruit of the fourth year was for the priest and from the fifth year on the farmer could eat. This has always been considered the start date when a farmer would begin to eat the fruit of their actions or reap what they have sowed to themselves. Tu B’ Shevat is the time when most trees begin to bud in Israel letting them know one season has ended and a new one is beginning. In **Jeremiah 1:9-12**, God asks Jeremiah what he sees, and he states he sees an almond tree, which is one of the first to bud and yet the last to bear any fruit. Then the Lord says, “You have seen well; for I watch over My Word to perform it.” There is a Bible truth buried in that sentence. The Hebrew word for almond, *shaked*, is also translated ‘to watch’.

Mark Biltz says, “By seeing the almond branch, God assures Jeremiah that He is watching over His word to bring it to pass. In context, God had just given Israel a warning as this was concerning the destruction coming by Nebuchadnezzar. God’s message to us all is that sin has consequences and there will come a time of reckoning – namely the destruction of a nation. The lesson of the almond tree, therefore, is that God in heaven watches a sinful nation walking away from Him and declares it will have consequences. When nations demonize Israel and seek to divide her land, we can be sure: God is watching! The Torah says in Deuteronomy that, ‘Man is a tree of the field.’ As the fruit identifies a tree by what it produces; God is watching over nations to see the fruit they produce. This weekend’s snowstorm over our nation’s capital, now the leading financier of terror through giving billions of dollars to Iran, God is letting our nation know this very weekend we are definitely entering a new season. He is watching and He will not be silent!”

Proverbs 25:2 — “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.” The future is revealed in the word of God. God watches over His word to bring it to pass. God wants his people to bear good fruit. **Deuteronomy 20:19** — “When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou may eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege.” Man is a tree of the field. As the fruit identifies a tree by what it produces: God is watching over nations to see the fruit they produce.

John 15:1-9 — “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman Every branch in me that bears not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abides in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. If a man abides not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue you in my love.”

John 15:11--“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” The evidence of a true Christian tree is to bear good fruit of which the primary fruit is love—mercy, kindness, out-going concern and compassion for other people.

John 15:16 – “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should

go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” Paul says in **1 Corinthians 3:6-10** --“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that plants and he that waters are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon.”

God wants us to be productive, successful. **1 Corinthians 3:15** – “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”

Are you producing good fruit? Are you being pruned? “If anyone’s work which he has built endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” **Verses 16-19** —“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” Let no one deceive himself. If anyone seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; and again, “The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” Therefore, let no one boast in men. **Verses 18-20** — “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’ and again, ‘The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are **futile. Therefore, let no one boast in men.**”

Daniel 11:32-34 — “Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits, and those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue.” Do you want to be one of those who produce good fruit, full of faith with miracle working power and carry out great exploits with God filling you with His Holy Spirit energizing you to bear witness like the apostles of Christ did? **Verse 35** — “And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, **until the time of the end**; because it is still for the appointed time.

Colossians 2:6— “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” To be rooted, you have to have roots like a tree or vine. How are we to be rooted?

- Rooted in Christ the son of God, and built up in Him.
- Established in faith and His word as the Bible teaches

- Abounding in this faith WITH THANKSGIVING—Praising God continually

BEWARE of being cheated through philosophy and empty deceit (such as evolution, NWO)

- Basic traditions of men, according to the basic traditions of the world which are not according to Christ

Colossians 2:9—“For in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Colossians 2:18 — “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.”

Psalms 1:1-6 – “Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, but his delight is in the law of Lord, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful and in His law he meditates day and night.

“He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

“The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” So, we are compared to trees.

Washington apples are known around the nation and around the world. There are many apple varieties grown in Washington State, but there are just nine common varieties that account for the majority of the crop—Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Gala, Fuji, Granny Smith, Braeburn, Honeycrisp, Cripps Pink, and Cameo. We have several varieties. When cultivated, the size, shape and branch density are determined by rootstock selection and trimming method. Crowding can cause trees to compete for valuable water, proper nutrients and sunlight. Adequate drainage is important so the apple tree will absorb water, but not receive more than it needs or its roots will rot. Pruning is done each year in the dormant stage (usually February) and trains the branches to keep its shape and maintain good health. Early recognition and elimination of pests and disease is necessary. Many apple tree varieties tend to set more apples than the trees can handle. Several weeks after the trees bloom, the young apples are thinned to about 6 to 8 inches apart on the branches. These things keep the trees healthy and productive so the following years will be rewarded with better fruit color, healthy good-sized fruit and optimum growth rates.

Some years ago a speech I gave in Spokesman’s Club was about the beauty, strength and life of trees. How often have you heard the song of the gentle rustling of leaves in the wind, or watched a small seedling in the ground over the years grow into the mighty oak, picked ripe fruit from the tree as a refreshing draught to quench your thirst, enjoyed the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun, or been given warmth from your fireplace hearth on cold winter nights?

The General Sherman tree in Sequoia tree growing in Sequoia Park California is the largest (by volume) tree in the world. Sequoias need fire to open their cones and release the seeds, and to leave cleared beds of ash where they sprout and grow best. Methuselah in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the White Mountains on the other side of California in Inyo County National Forest is the oldest known living tree and non-clonal organism in the world—4,842 years old as of 2011.

Matthew 7: 4 --“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house and it fell. And great was its fall.” The rock here is a symbol of Christ, the Rock of our salvation. **1 Corinthian 10:4** — “and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”

Psalms 41:1-3 says, “Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord and meditates in it day and night.” **Jeremiah 17:5** – “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes.” **Jeremiah 17:7-8** — “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river and will not fear when heat comes. But its leaf will be green, and it will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:9 --“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? **Verse 10--**

**“I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give every man according to his ways,
According to the fruit of his doings.”**

What kind of fruit are you bringing forth in your life? Are you preparing, developing and growing? **Verse 11--**

**“As a partridge that broods but does not hatch
So is he who gets riches, but not by right;
It will leave him in the midst of his days,
And at his end he will be a fool.”**

Joshua 1:5-9 — “I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. *Be strong and of good courage*, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This **Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth**, but you shall

- *meditate in it day and night*, that you may
- **observe to do according to all that is written in it (the law)**.

“For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

King Solomon is a classic example, who learned the word of God taught by David and his mother. Solomon was anointed king of Israel and God heard his prayer and granted his request. **2 Chronicles 2:7-11**--“Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?” “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king — wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.”

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, but when he was old he began to neglect God’s law. **1 Kings 11:6** --“But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. Solomon had seven hundred wives, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.” Solomon began to allow freedom of religion in Ancient Israel. “For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.” This angered God.

When Solomon died, because of his sins, God gave ten tribes of Israel to Jeroboam and left only two tribes with King Rehoboam, Solomon’s son. God hates idolatry. God says, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve” — **Matthew 4:10**.

Do we have that faith, knowledge and assurance that God is with us wherever we go, that he will take care of us? Just like he took care of Daniel when he was cast into the den of lions?

Daniel 3- King Nebuchadnezzar ordered all peoples, nations, and languages to fall down and worship the gold image he had set up at the time they heard the sound of the music. Anyone refusing to fall down and worship the image would be thrown into the midst of a fiery furnace. He heard that Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, refused to obey. In rage and fury, Nebuchadnezzar had them brought before him and asked, "Is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?" They replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

He commanded them to be bound and thrown into the midst of the burning fiery furnace which had been heated seven times hotter than normal. The exceedingly hot flames killed the valiant soldiers who took the three men up. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap."

Chabad.org (1-23-16) — "The Torah portion for this week is **Exodus 13:17 – 17:1**— 'Bacharach is Hebrew for "when [he] let go." Pharaoh finally let Israel depart from Egypt before Egypt was utterly destroyed. "Shortly thereafter he changed his mind and pursues them to force them to return and Israel was trapped between Pharaoh's armies and the sea. God tells Moses to raise his staff over the water; the sea splits to allow the Israelites to pass through, and then closes over the pursuing Egyptians. Moses and the children of Israel sing a song of praise and gratitude to God. In the desert the people suffer thirst and hunger, and repeatedly complain to Moses and Aaron. God miraculously intervenes for them and sweetens the bitter waters of Marah, and later has Moses bring water from a rock by striking it with his staff. He causes manna to rain down from the heavens before dawn each morning, and quails to appear in the Israelite camp each evening."

"The children of Israel are instructed to gather a double portion of manna on Friday, as none will descend on Shabbat, the divinely decreed day of rest. Some disobey and go to gather manna on

the seventh day, but find nothing. Aaron preserves a small quantity of manna in a jar, as a testimony for future generations.”

“In Nephilim, the people are attacked by the Amalekites, who are defeated by Moses’ prayers and an army raised by Joshua.”

Aish.com—Basic Parsha Compendium by Rabbi Kalman Packouz. — “Man is compared to a tree (Deuteronomy 20:19). "A person whose wisdom exceeds his good deeds is likened to a tree whose branches are numerous, but whose roots are few. The wind comes and uproots it and turns it upside down. But a person whose good deeds exceed his wisdom is likened to a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are numerous. Even if all the winds of the world were to come and blow against it, they could not budge it from its place (Avot 3:22).” Like a tree, our roots are the source of nourishment for our life. A Jew's nourishment is the Torah -- the knowledge and the means for us to make a spiritual connection to the Almighty. The Maharal teaches that just like the tree grows branches, flowers and fruits to fulfill its purpose, a man must work to produce moral, intellectual and spiritual accomplishments to fulfill his purpose. These are the fruits of our existence!

“Just as a tree needs soil, water, air and sunlight, so does a person need to be spiritually rooted and connected with a source of nourishment. Water to a tree, Torah wisdom for us -- as Moses said: ‘May my teaching drop like the rain’ (Deut. 32:2). Air for the tree, even as we need spiritual air -- as the Torah states ‘God breathed life into the form of Man (Genesis 2:7).’ ‘Sunlight for a tree-- the warmth of friendship and community is what we need.’”

Exodus 16:2-4 — “The entire assembly of the Children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the Wilderness ... ‘You have taken us out to this Wilderness to kill this entire congregation by famine.’ God said to Moses, ‘Behold! -- I shall rain down for you food from heaven; let the people go out and pick each day's portion on its day.’” **The manna** served as a lesson that a person would get only that which he actually needed. If he had less, God would increase his portion to meet his needs. If he took more than his needs, his greed would result in the excess portion rotting. Once the Israelites developed the trust that God would provide for their needs and that accumulating excess was futile, they could accept laws that opposed their acquisitive drives. **Philippians 4:11** — “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” **Verse 19** — “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Just as God provided for Israel in the wilderness, He provides for us today. We are to keep our eyes on Him. God is teaching us to trust in Him and live by faith. He wants us to have gratitude that we have what we need for today and we can think about and plan for the future, but we are not to *worry* about the future.

Matthew 6:25-34— “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor

gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Seek you first the kingdom of God and do not worry. We know God is working all things out together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Amen.