

Song of Solomon 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

Analysis

The beloved explains his invitation: **For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.** The Hebrew 'ki-hinneh hastav avar' (כִּי-הִנֵּה הָסֵטֶן עָבָר) behold, the winter has passed) and 'hageshem chalaf halakh lo' (הָגֵשֶׁם חָלָף הָלַךְ לוּ) the rain has passed, it has gone away) celebrate seasonal transition from harsh confinement to liberating spring. **Winter is past** (stav, סָטֶן) refers to the cold, rainy season forcing indoor confinement. **The rain is over and gone** (geshem chalaf, גָּשֶׁם חָלָף) signals the end of winter's storms and the arrival of pleasant weather.

This verse celebrates transition from difficulty to blessing, confinement to freedom, harshness to beauty. Winter—necessary but difficult—has served its purpose and departed. Now comes spring's renewal and invitation to enjoy life together. Spiritually, this represents leaving behind spiritual winter (sin's bondage, guilt's burden, law's condemnation) for gospel spring (forgiveness, freedom, grace). Christ's invitation to 'come away' summons believers from winter's deadness to resurrection life. The old has passed; behold, all things become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Historical Context

Palestinian climate features distinct seasons—winter's cold rains (November-March) and dry summer. Winter rains, while necessary for crops, made travel difficult and confined people indoors. Spring (March-May) brought warmth, flowers, and outdoor possibilities. Ancient agricultural society lived by seasonal rhythms. The beloved's invitation capitalizes on seasonal change—now is the time

for courtship walks, shared enjoyment of creation, and celebration. Early church fathers heard prophetic symbolism: Israel's long night of waiting for Messiah has ended; the 'winter' of old covenant gives way to new covenant spring. The Reformers saw transition from law to grace—winter's storm of judgment past, grace's springtime arrived. The Puritans emphasized seasons in spiritual life—times of difficulty ('winter') followed by renewal ('spring'). Modern readers recognize both natural seasons and spiritual transitions (conversion, revival, answered prayer) when long winters end and God brings spring.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'winter' has Christ led you through, and how are you now experiencing the 'spring' of His grace, freedom, and new life?
2. How does understanding spiritual seasons help you endure current 'winter' with hope that spring is coming?

Interlinear Text

לְ	כִּ	לְ	הַ	הַ	כִּ	פָּ	תִּ	עָ	רָ	מָ	פָּ	שָׁ	מָ	כִּ	לְ	כִּ	לְ	וְ	לְ	
H3588	H2009					H5638		H5674			H1653		H2498		H1980			H0		
For	lo	the	winter			is	past			the	rain		is	over		and	gone			

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 3:11: He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

