

## *Newsletter for Shevat 5785 by Sherry Lush*

Greetings and Shalom to All!

Here we are in the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the year called Shevat! This month is famous for the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat, also called Tu Be'Shevat. This is the New Year for Trees. This is important for counting the tithes of produce, and the law of "orlah" which tells us not to consume the fruits of a tree for the first three years. In the fourth year, the fruits are sanctified and are to be eaten in Jerusalem or "redeemed" with money. In the fifth year the fruits are eaten without restriction.

It is in Shevat that the sap begins to rise in the trees. The soil has been soaked with the winter rains and absorbed by the roots of the tree, and the life-giving sap begins to flow that will produce the fruit of summer. It is during the darkest days that the fruit is beginning to form, in the winter when no one even notices.



In the Bible, men are often compared to trees. Just as we can't see all that is going on within the tree in winter, the spiritual growth of a man is often hidden until the fruit is revealed, and the fruit of our lives often begins to form in some dark and very difficult times.

The way we produce fruit is to be attached to Yeshua, and let His attributes become ours. As **\*John 15:4-5** says, He (Yeshua) said, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches." And as He suffered, we too will suffer. **\*Hebrews 5:8** Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered.

And **\*Galatians 5:22-23a** encourages us, saying: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

In our darkest, most difficult times, the Lord is developing these fruits in our lives.

May we allow His Spirit to develop us when no one can see. Wouldn't we all love to be known for these fruits?



**Blessings and Shalom!!**  
**Alpha and Omega Ministries**