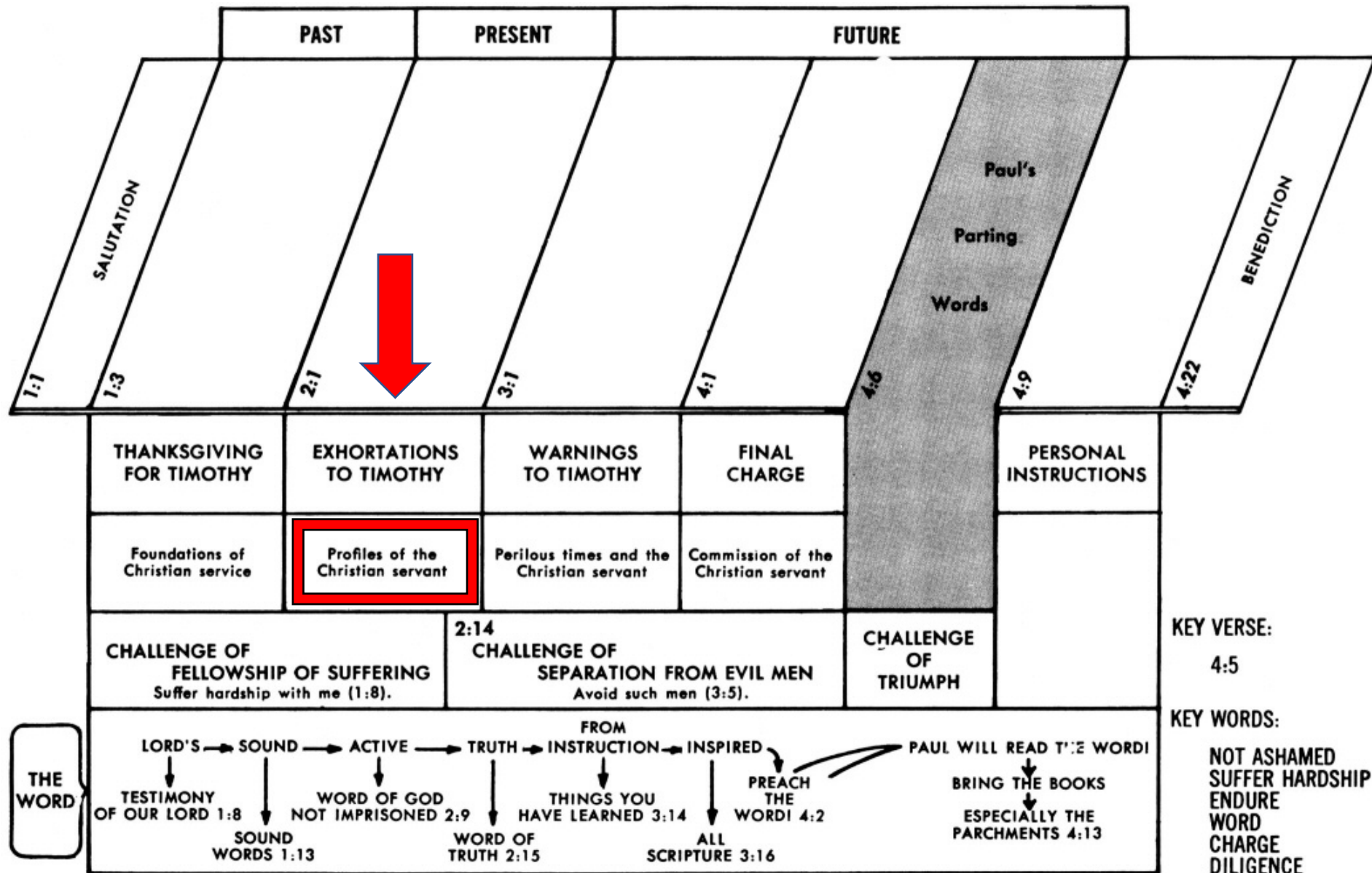




**SOLDIER ★ ATHLETE ★ FARMER**

**2 Timothy 2:1-7**



KEY VERSE:  
4:5

KEY WORDS:

NOT ASHAMED  
SUFFER HARDSHIP  
ENDURE  
WORD  
CHARGE  
DILIGENCE



“Those too lazy to plow in the right season will have no food at the harvest.”  
Proverbs 20:4

“If my life is fruitless, it doesn't matter who praises me, and if my life is fruitful, it doesn't matter who criticizes me.”

John Bunyan





1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.



3 Suffer hardship with me,  
as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.



5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

# 9 Personalities of Faith

- Timothy as a Son
- Timothy as a Teacher
- Paul's Illustrations:

- **Soldier**
- **Athlete**
- **Farmer** ←

- Paul as:
  - Prisoner
  - Workman
  - Vessel
  - Bond-Servant

# Chiasm of 2 Timothy 2:2

- The things which you have heard from me
  - in the presence of many witnesses
    - **entrust these**
    - to faithful men
  - who will be able to teach others also

# Paul's Illustrations

- Soldier – Discipline
- Athlete – Dedication
- Farmer – Diligence
- Each giving a dimension of truth
- Together giving a composite of truth



Verse 4 – Soldier

Verse 5 - Athlete

6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

# Farming in the Bible

- Old Testament

- Genesis 1:29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.
- Deuteronomy 22:9-11 “You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole yield be forfeited, the crop that you have sown and the yield of the vineyard. You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together.

# Farming in the Bible

- New Testament

- Luke 9:62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- Matthew 9:37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
- James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

“In a strange way the spiritual life isn't "useful" or "successful." But it is meant to be fruitful. And fruitfulness comes out of brokenness.” Henri Nouwen





6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

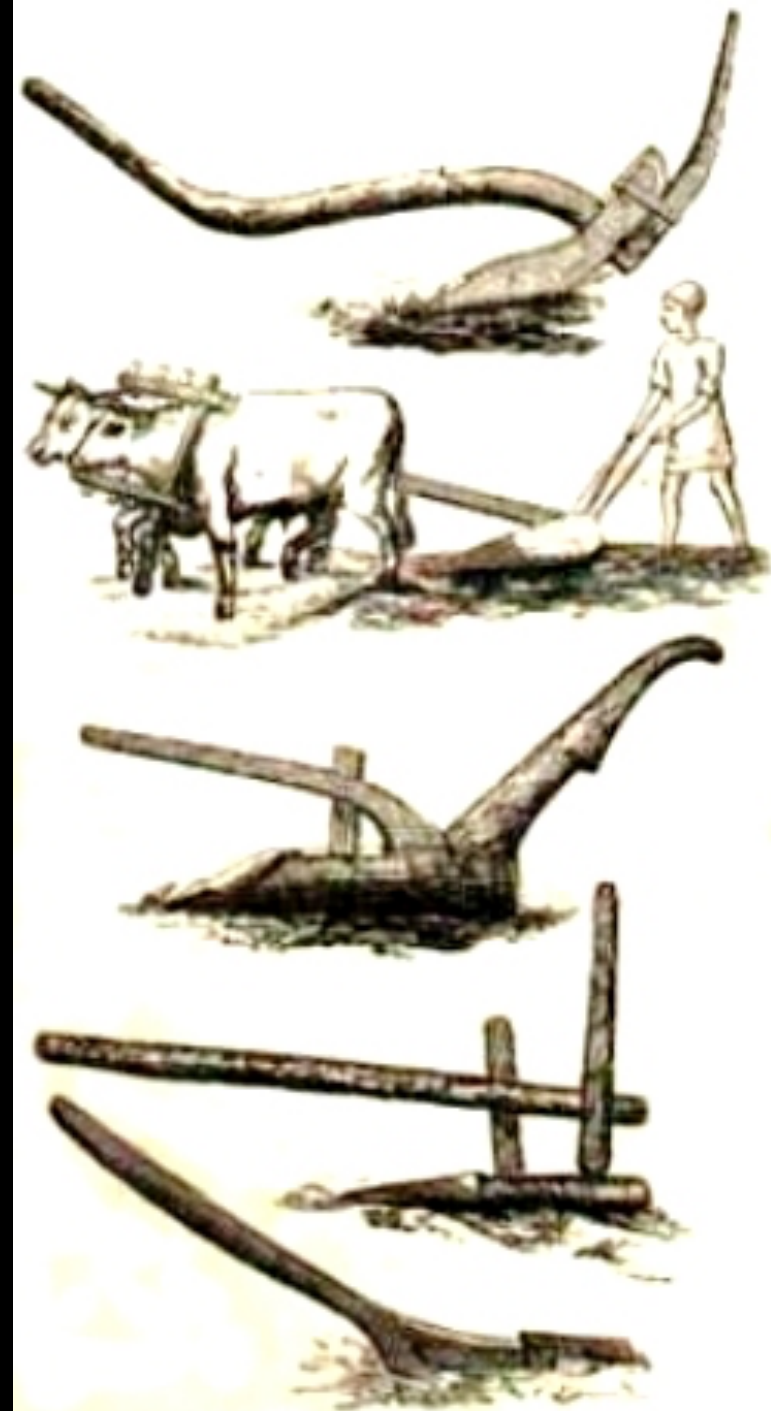
# Farmers of the Bible

- ‘hard working’
- 2:15 - Be *diligent* to present yourself approved to God as a workman
- "to grow tired with toil" – Vine’s Dictionary
- What grows without care? **WEEDS!**

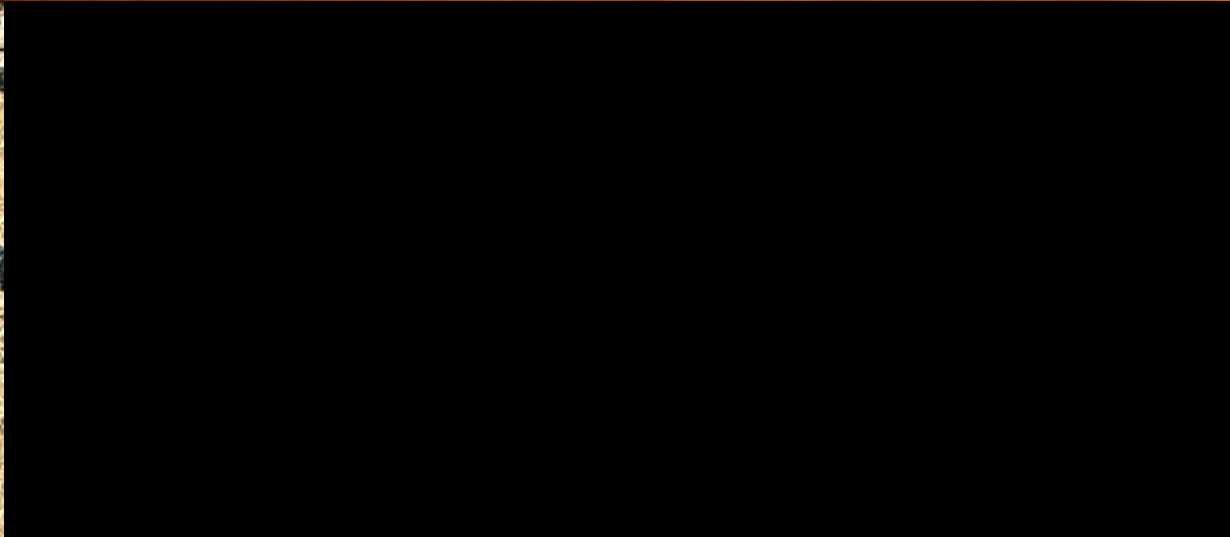
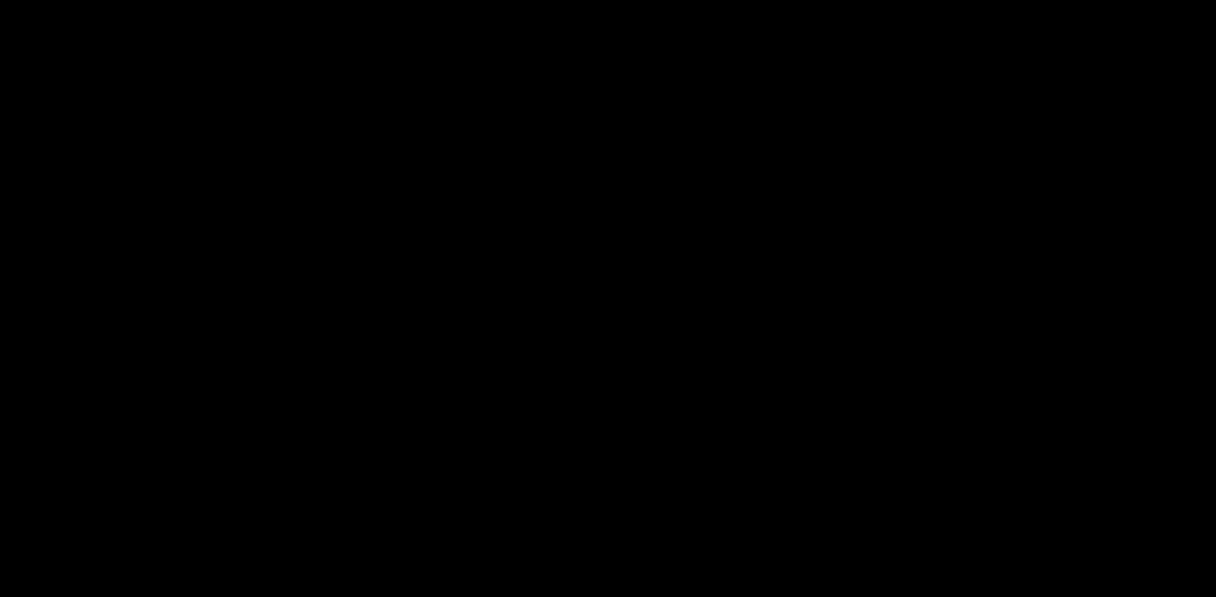














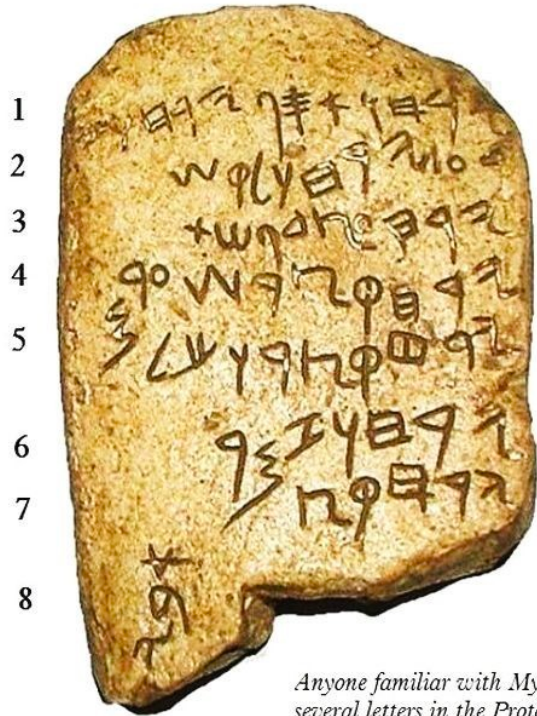




*The Gezer Agricultural Calendar (Almanac)*  
*Paleo-Hebrew (ca. 925 BCE)*

Discovered in 1908 by R.A.S. Macalister of the Palestine Exploration Fund during the excavation the ancient Canaanite city of Gezer, 32 kilometres west of Jerusalem.

*Written in the Proto-Hebrew Alphabet*



Translation:

- 1 2 months of (olive) harvest,  
2 months
- 2 2 months of planting (grain),  
2 months
- 3 1 month cutting flax,  
1 month
- 4 1 month barley harvest,  
1 month
- 5 1 month harvest & feasting,  
1 month
- 6 2 months of vine pruning,  
2 months
- 7 1 month of summer fruit,  
1 month
- 8 Abijah (scribe's signature)

*Anyone familiar with Mycenaean Linear B can instantly see that several letters in the Proto-Hebrew alphabet look strikingly like the following Mycenaean Linear B syllabograms:*

𐀀 𐀁 𐀂 𐀃 𐀄 𐀅 𐀆 𐀇 𐀈 𐀉 𐀊 𐀋 (12)  
 u ya te re po ko sa ni we ra ka ha

- 2 months gathering (Oct., Nov. — Tishrei, Cheshvan)
- 2 months planting (Dec., Jan. — Kislev, Tevet)
- 2 months late sowing (Feb., March — Shvat, Adar)
- 1 month cutting flax (April — Nisan)
- 1 reaping barley (May — Iyar)
- 1 reaping & measuring grain (June — Sivan)
- 2 months pruning (July, August — Tammuz, Av)
- 1 month summer fruit (September — Elul)

“You shall find books and sermons everywhere, in the land and in the sea, in the earth and in the skies, and you shall learn from every living beast, and bird and fish, and insect, and from every useful or useless plant that springs out of the ground.” C.H. Spurgeon



6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.



# Farmed – the harvest

- The farmer must prepare soil
- The farmer must sort the seed
- The farmer must be dedicated and patient
- The farmer must eat the harvest first!
- The farmer can then share his bounty
- The farmer must save back some for seed

“Surely those men should learn much who find a schoolmaster and a lesson-book in every acre which they cultivate.”

C.H. Spurgeon

# Diligence of the Farmer

- Some seeds are annuals
- Some seeds are perennials
- Some seeds are bushes
- Some seeds are trees!
- Understand the difference between successful living and fruitful living!

“Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.” Ecclesiastes 11:4





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**2 Timothy 2:1-7**