

The Latter Rain

What is the Latter Rain?

Ask for the Rain

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. Zechariah 10:1.

Wait for the Rain

And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain. Job 29:23

Doctrine is Rain/Test

My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass. Deuteronomy 32:2

Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. Exodus: 16:4,5.

No Rain Because of Sin

When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. 1Kings 8:35,36.

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Proverbs 1:23.

“The Lord in His great mercy **sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones.** This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. **This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world.** It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.” *1888 Materials*, 1336.

“**An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth** [that the law in Galatians is the moral law], lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis **against the Lord’s message** through Brethren Waggoner and Jones. **By exciting that opposition, Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them.** The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world.” *1888 Materials*, 1575.

Former and Later Rain

And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. Deuteronomy 11:13,14.

“The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. **As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest.** "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and **He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.**" Hosea 6:3. "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain." Joel 2:23. "In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh." "And it

shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:17, 21.

"The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. **The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus."** Acts 3:19, 20." *The Great Controversy*, 611.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16:8.

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath 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. Joel 2:23

The Germination and Harvest

"He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain." In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. (See Zechariah 10:1; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23, 28).

"As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ." *Last Day Events*, 183.

The Beginning and the End

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Isaiah 46:10.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8.

“It is true that in the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favor. **Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result.** To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the **true church.**”

“But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. **This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest "in the time of the latter rain."** In response, "the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." "He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain," Zechariah 10:1; Joel 2:23.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 54,55.

Receiving the Later Rain

“Are we ready to take part in the glorious work of the third angel? Are our vessels ready **to receive the heavenly dew?** Have we defilement and sin in the heart? If so, **let us cleanse the soul temple, and prepare for the showers of the latter rain. The refreshing from the presence of the Lord will never come to hearts filled with impurity.** May God help us to die to self, that Christ, the hope of glory, may be formed within! “Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.” *Testimonies to the Church*, volume 5, 214.

The Sprinkling and Outpouring

- John 20: 21,22

“**The act of Christ in breathing upon His disciples the Holy Ghost, and in imparting His peace to them, was as a few drops before the plentiful shower to be given on the day of Pentecost.** Jesus impressed this fact upon His disciples, that as they should proceed in the work intrusted to them, they would the more **fully comprehend the nature of that work,** and the manner in which the kingdom of Christ was to be set up on earth.” *Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 5, 1151.

The Later Rain is a Warning Message

“I heard those clothed with the armor **speak forth the truth in great power**. It had effect. I saw those who had been bound; some wives had been bound by their husbands, and some children had been bound by their parents. The honest who had been held or prevented from **hearing the truth**, now eagerly laid hold of it. All fear of their relatives was gone. **The truth alone** was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. **They had been hungering and thirsting for truth**. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered: **“It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.”** *Counsel for the Church*, 339.

“I was pointed down to the time when the **third angel's message was closing**. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. **They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.**” *Early Writings*, 279.

The Work for Today

“**The third angel's message is swelling into a loud cry**, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. . . . **Today you are to have your vessel purified, that it may be ready for the heavenly dew**, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. **It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord--fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**” *Evangelism*, 701.

The Later Rain Proclaimed by Stammering Lips in our Time

“John says, “I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” [Revelation 18:1.] **Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.** God can breathe new life into every soul that sincerely desires to serve him, and can touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar, and cause them to become

eloquent with his praise. Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the **wonderful truths of God's word. The stammering tongue will be loosed, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth. May the Lord help his people to cleanse the soul-temple from every defilement, and to maintain so close a connection with him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out.**" *Gospel Workers 1892*, 383.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. Isaiah 28:9-12.

Line upon Line

"Prophecy has been fulfilling, line upon line. The more firmly we stand under the banner of the third angel's message, the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel; for the Revelation is the supplement of Daniel." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 114.

Figurative Delineation

"Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the **prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events** leading down to the close of of this earth's history. The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth's history. The people now have a special message to give to the world, the third angel's message..." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 102.

Turningpoints

"There are periods which are **turning points** in the history of **nations** and of the **church**. In the providence of God, when these different crises arrive, the light for that time is given. If it is received, there is spiritual progress; if it is rejected, spiritual declension and shipwreck follow." *Bible Echo*, August 26, 1895.11.

A might Angel

“God has given the messages of Revelation 14 their place in the line of prophecy, and their work is not to cease till the close of this earth’s history. The first and second angel’s messages are still truth for this time, and are to run parallel with this which follows. **The third angel proclaims his warning with a loud voice. ‘After these things,’ said John, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory’. (Rev 18:1). In this illumination, the light of all the three messages is combined.**” 1888, 804.3

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, **preparing for the fulfillment of some important event.** Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. **The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry.** And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel’s message.” *Early Writings*, 277.

No Time Specified for Outpouring

“I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place—when the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; **my message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning.**” *The Review and Herald*, March 29, 1892.

New York

“On one occasion, when in **New York City**, I was in the night season called upon to behold **buildings rising story after story toward heaven.** ...

“The scene that next passed before me was an **alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: ‘They are perfectly safe’.** But these

buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.

“I am instructed that when the Lord’s time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God’s appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.

“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. **The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment.** Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.” *Testimonies to the Church*, volume 9, 12-14.

Revelation 18:1-3 fulfilled at 911

“How comes the word that I have declared that **New York** is to be swept away by a tidal wave? This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at **the great buildings going up there, story after story, ‘What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled’.** The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only that I know **that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God’s power.** From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. **One word from the Lord, one touch of his mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we can not imagine.**” (*LS*, 411.3); *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906.14.

The rain in the First Month

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath 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.** Joel 2:23.

Resistance to the Later Rain

“**There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the**

manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations, they will oppose the work. "Why," they say, "should not we know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?"—Because they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties of the messages of God, but persistently said, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." *The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.