

LATTER RAIN
ZECHARIAH 10:1,2
(Outline # 25)

Meditation:

INTRODUCTION: This is one of the most controverted studies among SDA's. It is widely believed that the Latter Rain is the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit in power like on the day of Pentecost. However, we will see in our study that Rain has a dual usage by Inspiration - Power and Truth, and that the Latter Rain is a special message for the church prior to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in power to prepare every church member for the coming harvest - the slaughter of Eze.9

Read: **Zechariah 10:1-2**

- Review:**
- a. The Lord ASKS us to ask for RAIN because the idols speak lies. If the idols can speak then they must be people, so the idols must be leaders of the church Therefore, the Leaders are trying to comfort by preaching falsehood. If the Leaders were speaking the Truth and not vanity, then the Lord would not have said to us, "ask ye rain". References: Isaiah 56:10-11, 5T 211, TM 86.
 - b. "Ye" -would represent the Church Members.
 - c. The Lord wants us to ask for Rain in order to counteract the lies or vanities that the idols or leaders have spoken.
 - d. The Lord entreats us to ask Him not anybody else. So He shall make bright clouds and give them showers of Rain. Bright Clouds produces gentle rain and not a heavy damaging one.

1. **The Meaning Of Rain**

- a. Rain symbolizes truth. It cannot be literal rain for we have that always. So it must be symbolic of something we urgently need to counteract the false teachings.
- b. Rain is usually said to be the power of the Holy Spirit. Read: GC 611; TM 508; 6T 130; COL 121; DA 827; AA 55. However, the Holy Spirit works in two phases: TRUTH first, then the POWER.
- c. The Rain here in Zechariah 10:1-2 counteracts the false teachings of the idols - leaders. Therefore, it must be TRUTH or DOCTRINE. References: Deuteronomy 32:1-2, Isaiah 55:9-10.
- d. Rain is used in the Scriptures as Doctrine - Word of God - the Truth. The Lord therefore, ask us to ask for Rain in the time of the Latter Rain. Plainly saying, then, God is asking us to ask for truth in the time of the revelation of the Latter Truth

2. **What Is Meant By Bright Clouds?**

Literally speaking, Bright clouds denote a light easily assimilated rain. Dark Clouds would suggest a very heavy and damaging

rain that frightens and washes away the soil Therefore, spiritually speaking, the Bright Clouds would represent a source of small, easily, comprehended truth- laden publications packed with present truth, thus, to prepare us for the Master's Service.

3.

The Two Rains:

- a. In the physical realm
 - i. **EARLY RAIN: December - February** —the early rain caused the seed to germinate and plants to grow.
 - ii. **LATTER RAIN: March - April** —caused the grains to become mature, ripe and ready for HARVEST. Without the Latter Rain, there was NO HARVEST.
- b. In the spiritual realm
 - i. **EARLY RAIN: EARLY TRUTH** —Messages from the time of Christ and the Apostles up to Sis. White's Writings - the Testimonies or the Spirit of Prophecy. (Thoroughly explain in the section of the Former and Latter Truths fall together.)
 - ii. **LATTER RAIN: LATTER TRUTH** —A truth or message that will prepare us for the HARVEST TIME. Therefore, we are to expect a Latter Rain or Latter truth - a special message to PREPARE and RIPEN the church for the Harvest - which is Ezekiel 9 - the separation of the wheat and tares (*Testimonies to the Ministers*, p. 46,47). There is no other message than that of the **Shepherd Rod**.

4.

On Whom Does The Message Fall?

- a. Read: Matthew 13:39
- b. Read: Hebrews 9: 24-26 - Paul describes of Christ's entering the Most Holy Place which took place in 1844, as the "end of the world."
- c. Read: 1 Cor. 10-11 - Paul uses the phrase, "ends of the world" is a term for the last days.
- d. Thus the phrase "end of the world" simply means the last days / latter days / our time.
Example: December is the end of the year.
- e. The Harvest will not take place in one day. It is a process that needs time.

5.

On Whom Does The Message Fall?

To "**every one grass**" in the field - **Isaiah 40:6-7**. Every Church member (good or bad -wheat or tare) will have the opportunity to hear the message. The leaders do not give us ALL the Truth but the Lord wants us ALL to know and receive the message. 1 *TG* 12:26

6. **The Former And Latter Truths Fall Together**

Read: Joel 2:23, 28-29

- a. He hath given the former rain. (PAST)
- b. He will give you (FUTURE) - coming together just before the Harvest the Former Truth and the Latter Truth.
- c. Zechariah mentions only the Latter Rain while Joel mentions both the former and the latter rains together.
- d. We know that rain in the Bible is Truth RAIN in verse 23 represents A TEACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (See margin in the Bible Joel 2:23). Therefore, verse 23 speaks about Two Teachers of Righteousness - a Former and a Latter.
- e. The Former Rain is the Truth up to the 3rd Angel's Message and the latter rain must then be the Shepherd Rod. **TM 507, TM 337**
- f. The Shepherd Rod therefore comes to give us more Truth while enhancing our knowledge of the old.

7. **What Is The Significance Of The First Month?**

Because he will cause to come down the RAIN, the former rain and the latter rain in the first month. First Month signifies the Church - anciently the 1st month was the time of the first reaping. Judgment will begin at the House of God. 1 Pet. 4:17, 2 SR 256, 5T 211

8. **Is The Former And Latter Rain In Joel 2:23, The Outpouring Of The Holy Spirit In Power?**

Answer: NO!

For in verses 28-29 says: "afterward" - after the former and the latter rains then the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in POWER. (We know that there are 2 manifestations of the Holy Spirit - first the TRUTH and then the POWER.) So verse 23, cannot be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit because of the word "afterward".

9. **Harvest Is At The End Of The World**

Read: Matt. 13:39

Conclusion: The time is surely coming when the faithful and the unfaithful ones in the church must undergo separation. Then the Lord can garner in His sheaves into His barn (the purified Church). We may or may not be there, that is really our choice. The Lord is giving us warning after warning on what to do, so that we might be spared, and be counted as part of the wheat in His barn.

Further Study: 2 SR 156; 1 TG 17; 1 Ans. 81-92

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