

## These Perilous Times

Vol 6. No. 22 Nov. 21, 2015

### We Need Rain for Spiritual Discernment!

Adequate rain is paramount for all living things to exist and thrive. The “**latter rain**,” when it falls in the Middle East is one of God’s special blessings, and acts of goodness which is essential to bring the farmer’s seeds to their maturity; ready for harvesting. <sup>1</sup> However without the “**early rain**” that softens the soil, {and spiritually softens our hearts} and germinates the seed the “**latter rain**” would be of no significance!

### Counsel from God’s inspired messenger

“The **latter rain** ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that *prepares the church for the coming of the son of man*. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done

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<sup>1</sup> Deut. 11:10-14; Joel 2:23; Hosea 6:3 \*; Hosea 10:12; Zech 10:1

their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection," {emphasis provided}<sup>2</sup>

Note. Both, the literal rain and the outpouring of God's Spirit, {spiritual rain} according to Scripture are contingent upon obeying the voice of the Lord!<sup>3</sup>

When rightly dividing God's Word we must have the Holy Spirit's Divine guidance to show us what is truth!

"... when He, the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth..." John 16.13

### Counsel from God's inspired messenger

"I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of 'present truth' know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are people now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no

<sup>2</sup> E. G. OWhite. Testimonies to Ministers, p. 506.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 59:1, 2; Acts 2:38; Acts 5:32

satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance," {emphasis provided}.<sup>4</sup>

My good friends, we can over come every human deficiency of Christian intellect by a prayerful, humble, Spirit-filled study of God's Word!

**"Let my cry come unto You, O Lord give me unstanding according to Your Word." Ps. 119,169**

### Counsel from God's inspired messenger

"The burden now is to convince souls of the truth. This can be done by personal efforts, by bringing the truth into their houses, praying with them, and opening to them the scriptures... They should be constantly learning. They should have conscientious zeal to obtain the highest qualifications, to become able in the scriptures... They should cultivate habits of careful study and mental acvtivity, giving themselves to prayer and to a diligent study of the Scriptures. Many are guilty of shortcommings on this point," {emphasis provided}.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> E. G. White. Testimonies for the Church, pp. 707, 708.

<sup>5</sup> White. To Be Like Jesus, p. 113.

"God intends even in this life, truth shall be ever unfolding to His people. There is only one way in which this knowledge can be obtained. We can obtain to an understanding of God's Word only through the illumination of the Spirit by which the Word was given. "The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God"; "for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God." And the Saviors promises to His followers was, "When He the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth... For He shall receive of Mine, and shew it unto you," {emphasis provided. <sup>6</sup>

Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of of active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it..." <sup>7</sup>

"Wherefore He saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

<sup>6</sup> White. Testimonies for the Church. pp. 104, 104.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., pp. 507, 508.

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **redeeming the time, because the days are evil** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but unstanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit,** speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns and **spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus."**

Ephesians 5:14-20

