

While It Is Day

May I not keep a little back,
Instead of giving all?
And must I hear the pleas that come,
And answer every call?

Must I keep giving week by week,
From the meager store I own?
Must I sacrifice still more and more
For every nation, tongue, and zone?
“Oh, no, discouraged one,” I seem to hear
A voice from heaven say,
“Just give until your Father stops
His blessings day by day.”

N. P. NEILSEN

11. The Latter Rain and the Loud Cry

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, 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. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:1-4.

THE Holy Spirit is possessed by every believer. Should one visit certain types of churches where confusion reigns and people are supposed to talk in tongues, he would invariably be asked, “Have you the Holy Spirit?” Anyone who is converted can answer this question in the affirmative. It is the Spirit of God working in the human heart which brings about the new birth. If we have been born again, we have been born of the Spirit. But our concern here is a further development of Christian experience. In Ephesians 5:18 the apostle admonishes us to “be filled with the Spirit.” This occurs when the human instrument is completely emptied of self. If a cup has some commodity in it, then it cannot be filled with something else. If we desire a full cup of water we must remove everything else that might be in the cup. Let none entertain the idea that much loud praying, a great emotional excitement, or the exhibitions of so called “gifts” are an evidence of Spirit in filling. The whole life must be brought into conformity to God’s will. We must be completely emptied of self and must gain the victory over every besetment before we can be “filled” with the Spirit.

Because of its widespread prevalence and the fantastic claims of its possessors, we should perhaps pause to deal with the so called “baptism of the Spirit which results in the so-called gift of tongues. Let us note that those who claim this fullness of the Spirit have not met one of the outstanding conditions of Spirit in filling. In Acts 5:32 we read: “And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.” I recall on one occasion talking to a minister of a “Pentecostal” church. I pointed out to him from the word of God the necessity of obedience to God. I clearly showed him God’s requirements of us, His earth-bound subjects. I proved to him that obedience to God’s law alone could remove us from the status of being sinners. I don’t know about all that,” was the answer; I know I have the Holy Spirit. I feel it.” Could he have the Holy Spirit if he was not meeting the requirements that God Himself has laid down in His word? Let us make sure of one thing. The Holy Spirit will never tell us something now which would be in opposition to or contradict that which He Himself caused holy men to write in years gone by.

This raises the question: Does there have to be a powerful feeling or a spectacular demonstration when the divine Spirit fills a life? It is true that on some occasions there were manifestations of one type or another in the early church. A study of the setting of these occasions will show the reason for those manifestations. The teaching of the Bible does not indicate that there has of necessity to be a visible or spectacular demonstration of power. We are to pray for the Spirit, meet God’s conditions, and then believe that we receive the Spirit. Acts 2:38. How the Spirit decides to manifest Himself is another matter. He will

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decide which of His gifts He will bestow, `dividing to every man severally as He will.” 1 Corinthians 12:11. The manifestation of a gift is also not to be confused with an emotional excitement. There may or may not be an accompanying “feeling” of excitement when the Spirit comes. There should be a deep-seated joy and peace in the soul.

Does there have to be talking in “tongues” as an evidence that the Spirit has come? First of all let us make certain what the gift of tongues is. When we read the second chapter of Acts we clearly see that the true gift of tongues imparted on the day of Pentecost was the ability to speak in foreign languages or tongues. When Peter spoke, people heard and understood him in their native tongue. One reason why this particular gift was bestowed at Pentecost was that so many nationalities had assembled at Jerusalem for the feast. What a wonderful opportunity this was to spread far and- wide, in many countries, the knowledge of the risen Christ! The gift of tongues is the supernatural ability to speak in foreign languages. Paul traveled most extensively. Therefore he said, “I speak with tongues more than you all.” 1 Corinthians 14:18. He had the greatest need of the gift as he traveled from one country to another, lands whose language he had not learned. The gift of tongues enabled him to speak fluently in any language. See *The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 39, 40.

It is interesting to know that long years ago the evil one sought to bring in a counterfeit of this gift among God’s people. Speaking of the manifestations, we read in volume 1 of the Testimonies, Page 412: “Some of these persons have exercises which they call gifts and say the Lord has placed them in the church. They have an unmeaning gibberish which they call the unknown tongue, which is unknown not only by man but by the Lord and all heaven. Such gifts are manufactured by men and women, aided by the great deceiver. Fanaticism, false excitement, false talking in tongues, and noisy exercises have been considered gifts which God has placed in the church. Some have been deceived here.”

The Angel of Revelation 18

As the great controversy nears its close, the little remnant church, opposed by gigantic forces, seems unequal to her task of warning the world. But this emergency is not unforeseen in heaven. God has made full provision-for the protection of His church and the work He has committed to it. Once again using the symbol of another angel having great power, prophecy forecasts the enlightenment of the whole world by the remnant church. Revelation 18:1-2. Despite apparent failures in some lines, retarded progress in others, despite distressing circumstances in some countries and slow growth in others, the prophetic picture of the closing work of God is one of steady progress ending in a triumphant culmination. The power that comes down from heaven to assist the church is described as “great power.” It successfully lightens the whole earth, and the angel is portrayed as crying “mightily with a strong voice.”

This later terminology, describing the final unprecedented expansion of the work of God, is often referred to as “the loud cry of the third angel.” - Testimonies, Volume 8, Page 118. A correlation of various passages of Scripture and references from the spirit of prophecy leads one to the conclusion that the loud cry is the result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. 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.’” - Early Writings, page 271. Once more we read, “The message of truth that we bear must go to nations, tongues, and peoples. Soon it will go with a loud voice, and the earth will be lightened with its glory. Are we preparing for this great outpouring of the Spirit of God?” - Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 383. We need to remind ourselves continually that it is through human agents that this divine power is to be manifested and that “the Holy Spirit is to work on human hearts, taking the things of God and showing them to men.”-Ibid., Volume 9, Page 40. Furthermore, that which is accomplished by the angel of Revelation 18 is but “the loud cry of the third angel.”-Ibid., Volume 8, Page 118. This is not an independent movement or message. It is the “swelling” of the work of God already in progress.

The Message of the Angel of Revelation 18

This angel cries 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.... For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” This is a repetition of the message of the second angel of Revelation 14, to which have been added the evils which have entered the fallen churches since that message was first given in 1844.

“As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel’s message is to be proclaimed with

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great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image. This is the message given by God to be sounded forth in the loud cry of the third angel." - Testimonies, Volume 8, Page 118. This is the same message which God's people in the threefold message have been giving since the message began in 1844, "Babylon the great is fallen." The only difference is that we are now told more fully what Babylon has become. Since the message was first given, additional corruption have been entering the churches which reject the final warning. The great influence of spiritualism is brought to view in the language, Babylon 'Is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit." Modern spiritualism had its origin in Hydesville, New York, in 1848. It has not yet reached its full influence in the popular churches. But soon we may expect in fulfillment of prophecy to see great miracles of deception performed principally in the churches of apostate Protestantism. See page 155. It would seem, too, that such soul-destroying exercises as theatergoing, gambling, card playing, and other amusements have been admitted in these churches only in comparatively recent times. The separation of church and state, religion and politics, which so strongly developed in the thirteen colonies and led to the writing of the Constitution of the United States, is also now rapidly breaking down, and popular churches are tending more and more to enter the political arena. Commercialism in many forms is creeping in, The apostasy against God has grown. At the time this last warning in the Bible is proclaimed, it is said of Babylon, "All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Many papal traditions and dogmas and practices, unknown in Protestantism a century ago, now permeate all so-called Christendom. Apostasy has reached the point where God desires the sins of "Babylon" to 'be plainly understood. He is about to close human probation, and the seven last plagues are about to fall. An earnest final call to the honest in heart in Babylon follows the announcing of her sins.

"Come out of her, My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4. There are honest souls still in those churches which have rejected truth. God tenderly calls them "My people." They are honest in heart but have not fully understood the issues at stake. When, under the power of the Holy Spirit, the remnant church clearly defines the issues, those who continue to trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment receive the mark of the beast. In His justice, God will not allow anyone to suffer the seven last plagues until the truth has been brought to him and been rejected. Some have not heard to these we must take the message. Some have only a twilight perception; to these the binding obligation of the fourth commandment must be set forth in its true light. When this has been fully accomplished by the church under the power of the latter rain, then probation closes and the plagues fall. What a thrilling period that! Celestial glory with mighty witnessing for the truth will blend with persecution and satanic fury.

The Latter Rain

We now turn our attention to study this mighty power that comes into the remnant church in the short period of trouble before the close of probation. See Early Writings, page 85. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain which falls in Eastern lands, this bestowal of God's power in Pentecostal measure is portrayed by the prophet Hosea (63). In Palestine the former rain falls in the months of September and October, the beginning of the civil year. At this time the grain is sown. The latter rain falls in the Jewish month Abib, the first month of the ecclesiastical year, corresponding to our March. The crops are winter crops, and the latter rain brings them to maturity in the early spring when the harvest is gathered. In Joel 2:23 the Lord makes a gracious promise to His remnant people. The latter rain, of course, would be useless unless under the former rain the seed was planted and a fair development of the plant took place. The object of the latter rain is to mature the harvest. Since we are not ready for the harvest, having failed to avail ourselves of the blessings of the former rain, the latter rain would be of little help to us. But God here promises that when it is time for the latter rain, He will send both the former and the latter rain. Gracious provision for our failure to grow in grace! Let us not presume upon God's goodness. "Be glad then, you 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.

Regarding the time of the latter rain, 1 Chronicles 12:15 tells us that Jordan overflows all its banks in the first month, and Joshua 3:15 states that Jordan overflows "all his banks all the time of harvest." Two deductions follow from these statements. Jesus declared the harvest to be the end of the world. Consequently the latter rain comes at that time. Furthermore it is the falling of the latter rain which causes Jordan to overflow its banks, and it is when the church is imbued with power from on high that it will pass through "Jordan's swollen tide."

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Preparation to Receive the Latter Rain

One of the earnest calls God makes to His people to prepare for the latter rain is found in Hosea 10:12: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you." Shall we not follow Peter's Pentecostal advice and begin the work of breaking up the hard ground of our hearts by repentance and baptism? Acts 2:38. The apostle points out that if we meet God's conditions we shall receive the heavenly gift. This is the time to begin praying for, and to continue to pray for, the Holy Spirit. "Ask you of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain." Zechariah 10:1. God will not disappoint anyone who meets His conditions. There will be bright clouds, showers, and golden fields of rich harvests.

We ought to understand more fully than we do the extent and nature of the preparation needed to receive the latter rain. The soul must be fully surrendered to God, and we must be fully willing for the Spirit to guide and control us in everything. We do not use the divine Spirit. He takes full possession and uses us when we fully submit to Him. "The heart must be emptied of every defilement, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now." - Testimonies to Ministers, Page 507. Will we do it? We cannot complete God's work without this help. We will not be able to stand in the time of trouble without this power. Why delay? This blessing brings all other blessings in its train. Let us all prepare to receive it.

We are warned not to wait in idle expectancy for some special season of spiritual refreshing" (The Acts of the Apostles, page 54) by which our ability to enlighten others will be greatly increased. In the parable of the talents the Master indicated the course His disciples must follow if they would receive added blessings. It is only as we improve present opportunities and continue to let the light shine; only as we develop the active as well as the passive Christian virtues, that we will receive the Spirit. Let us reflect soberly on these statements from the pen of inspiration regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit and meet the divine requirements that we might receive the promised blessing:

"At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word." - Testimonies, Volume 8, Page 20.

"When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost will fall on us."-Ibid., Volume 8, Page 246.

"If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit." - The Acts of the Apostles, Page 50.

"Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, And it will come." - Testimonies, Volume 8, Page 21.

"The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day." - Christian Service, pages 252, 253.

"The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."-Ibid., Page 253.

Not by Might nor by Power

The great task that confronts the church is the finishing of the work. From the vision in Zechariah 4 a declaration is often used to indicate how it will be accomplished, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, said the Lord of hosts." Verse 6. A wonderful lesson of encouragement for the church is found in the vision. We need to study it carefully. Zerubbabel was governor of the company which returned to Judea and rebuilt the temple. The Lord uses Zerubbabel as a type of His remnant church who are to finish the building of His spiritual temple. Verses 7-10. As we carefully study this chapter we note that the golden oil was emptied through golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick and from there into the lamps. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. But the lamps represent the church. The Holy Spirit is imparted to human instruments, and thus it is that the church becomes a light bearer.

What wonderful results follow the in flowing of the golden oil into the lamps! Mountains of

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difficulties are removed, grace is imparted for all our needs, and the “house” of the Lord is finished. Verses 7-9. It is this outpouring which produces the great reformatory movement. Thank God there will be a revival and a reformation. What better picture do we have of this movement in its closing work than that found in Testimonies, volume 9, Page 126? In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God’s people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side, doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God.”

When a night meeting was called in the days before electricity, each one arrived with a candle, lighted it, and placed it on the table. By the time the whole congregation had assembled, the lighting of the individual candles lighted the whole room. When each one of God’s children lets the divine Spirit work through him, the world will soon be lighted.

Render Double Unto You

Great were the manifestations of power at Pentecost. But Joel tells us that that demonstration of power was “moderate” as compared with what will be seen under the latter rain. “The latter rain will be more abundant. What is the promise to those living in these last days? Turn you to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee.” - Ibid., Volume 8, Page 21.

ENDUE US WITH POWER

Endue us with power, Oh, endue us with power, Quickly, Lord, quickly, so late is the hour.
Darkness over all the earth falls like a pall, Multitudes, hungering, earnestly call.
Shall we be stayed by our pleasures or care From giving the warning their souls to prepare?

Endue us with power-we are cold like the dead. O fill us with fire from Your altar instead.
May we burn; may we shine; may we glow with a zeal, A passion for souls that is true, that is real.
Endue us with power-we are waiting, we wait, Quickly, Lord, quickly, the hour is late.
Margaret W. Locke

12. The Impending Conflict

“Because thou has kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou has, that no man take thy crown.” Revelation 3:10, 11.

THE Savior made it plain that the last days before His coming would be marked by wars, pestilence, famines, and unusual convulsions of nature. Paul pointed out that “talk of peace would be the prelude to “sudden destruction.” Contrary to the teachings of popular theology, the last days” will be a period of confusion, uncertainty, and trouble, instead of a golden period of prosperity, peace, and good will. As far back as November 24, 1904, writing in the Review and Herald, the servant of the Lord gave us this forecast of earth’s closing days: “Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and Hood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war.”

The Dark Ages were a period of great tribulation for the church. Historians estimate that more than one hundred million people counted not their lives too dear for the truth’s sake. In this study we are confining our attention to three periods immediately preceding the Second Coming, to which the term “time of trouble” is applied. The first is called by the spirit of prophecy, “a little time of trouble.” This is a brief period before the close of probation. The period most often referred to as the time of trouble is the year following the close of probation when the seven last plagues are poured out. For the world this will be an