

**Acts 2:16: But this is that
which was spoken by the
prophet Joel;**

**The Early Rain -spoken
by the Prophet Joel**

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.

The former rain was to prepare the crops for the latter rain which then prepares them for the grand harvest. This implies that if the former rain does not accomplish its purpose, the latter rain will not be of any use or significance because the crops would long be dead or alive without fruits.

- REVELATION 18:1, HABAKKUK 2:1
- (Rev 14:9-12; Habakkuk 2:14; see EGW on Acts 2:1-4) ‘The Angel of Revelation 18”
- The prophecies in the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel's message, "another angel" is to "come down from heaven, having great power," and the earth is to be "lightened with his glory." The Spirit of the Lord will so graciously bless consecrated human instrumentalities that men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with His unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea. {7BC 983.9}
- Those who have held the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end will be wide awake during the time that the third angel's message is proclaimed with great power (RH Oct. 13, 1904). {7BC 984.1}

- (2 Timothy 2:14-16; see EGW on Ch. 16:14-17.) Message Prepares for Translation.--Amid the confusing cries, "Lo, here is Christ! Lo, there is Christ!" will be borne a special testimony, a special message of truth appropriate for this time, which message is to be received, believed, and acted upon. It is the truth, not fanciful ideas, that is efficacious. The eternal truth of the Word will stand forth free from all seductive errors and spiritualistic interpretations, free from all fancifully drawn, alluring pictures. Falsehoods will be urged upon the attention of God's people, but the truth is to stand clothed in its beautiful, pure garments. The Word, precious in its holy, uplifting influence, is not to be degraded to a level with common, ordinary matters. It is always to remain uncontaminated by the fallacies by which Satan seeks to deceive, if possible, the very elect. {7BC 984.2}
- The proclamation of the gospel is the only means in which God can employ human beings as His instrumentalities for the salvation of souls. As men, women, and children proclaim the gospel, the Lord will open the eyes of the blind to see His statutes, and will write upon the hearts of the truly penitent His Law. The ANIMATING SPIRIT OF GOD, working through human agencies, leads the believers to be of one mind, one soul, unitedly loving God and keeping His commandments--preparing here below for translation (RH Oct. 13, 1904). {7BC 984.3}

- REV 18
- This angel publishes the fall of Babylon, as a thing already come to pass; and this he does with a mighty strong voice, that all might hear the cry, and might see how well this angel was pleased to be the messenger of such tidings. COME OUT OF HER IS NOT SOMETHING NEW HERE NOTICE: Isaiah 52:11, Zec 2:6-7. That even in the Romish Church God has a people: but they are in great danger; their only safety is in coming out of her at once is something that should not be taken lightly, CONSIDER JOHN 10:16 “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”.

- So also in every apostate or world-conforming church there are some of God's invisible and true Church, who, if they would be safe, must come out. Especially at the eve of God's judgment on apostate Christendom: as Lot was warned to come out of Sodom just before its destruction, and Israel to come from about the tents of Dathan and Abiram. "The harlot is not Rome alone (though she is pre-eminently so), but every Church that has not Christ's mind and spirit. False Christendom, divided into very many sects, is truly Babylon, that is, confusion. However, in all Christendom the true Jesus-congregation, the woman clothed with the sun, lives and is hidden. Corrupt, lifeless Christendom is the harlot, whose great aim is the pleasure of the flesh, and which is governed by the spirit of nature and the world." THE FIRST JUSTIFICATION OF THE WOMAN IS IN HER BEING CALLED OUT OF BABYLON THE HARLOT, AS THE CULMINATING STAGE OF THE LATTER'S SIN, WHEN JUDGMENT IS ABOUT TO FALL: FOR APOSTATE CHRISTENDOM, BABYLON, IS NOT TO BE CONVERTED, BUT TO BE DESTROYED. Secondly, she has to pass through an ordeal of persecution from the beast, which purifies and prepares her for the transfiguration glory at Christ's coming (Lu 21:28). YE WHO DESIRE TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE, DEPART; FOR, ALTHOUGH ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL IN BABYLON, YET TO BE GODLY IS UNLAWFUL.

- (Jeremiah 30:7; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1; Ephesians 4:13, 15); refreshing of the Latter Rain.--As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, "the time of Jacob's trouble," they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel (RH May 27, 1862) {7BC 984.4}
- (Isaiah 61:11.) Not to Wait for Latter Rain.--We must not wait for the latter rain. It is coming upon all who will recognize and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us. When we gather up the fragments of light, when we appreciate the sure mercies of God, who loves to have us trust Him, then every promise will be fulfilled. [Isaiah 61:11 quoted.] The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God (Letter 151, 1897) {7BC 984.5}

- Revelation of the Righteousness of Christ.--The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth (RH Nov. 22, 1892) {7BC 984.6} When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the temple. So in the last work for the warning of the world, two distinct calls are made to the churches. The second angel's message is, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." And in the loud cry of the third angel's message a voice is heard from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (RH Dec. 6, 1892). {7BC 985.5}

- Isaiah 60:1-2
- That, the members of it being all righteous, the glory and joy of it shall be everlasting Isa 60:19-22. Now this may have some reference to the peaceable and prosperous condition which the Jews were sometimes in after their return out of captivity into their own land; but it certainly is further, and its fulfillment can only but be realized in the time of the end when the Loud Cry (Rev 18:1) goes forth to all the four corners of the earth powered by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the earth is filled with God's glory.

- **What this light is, and whence it springs:**

The Lord shall arise upon thee (Isa 60:2), the glory of the Lord (Isa 60:1) shall be seen upon thee. God is the Father and fountain of lights, and it is in his light that we shall see light. As far as we have the knowledge of God in us, and the favour of God towards us, our light has come. When God appears to us, and we have the comfort of His favour, then the glory of the Lord rises upon us as the morning light; when He appears for us, and we have the credit of His favour, when He shows us some token for good and proclaims His favour to us, then His glory is seen upon us, as it was upon Israel in the pillar of cloud and fire. When Christ arose as the sun of righteousness, and in Him the day-spring from on high visited us, then the glory of the Lord was seen upon us, the glory as of the first-begotten of the Father so shall be it when people are consecrated to do the last phase of the proclamation of the Eternal Kingdom by preaching the Loud Cry Message.

- What a foil there shall be to this light: Darkness shall cover the earth; but, though it be gross darkness, darkness that might be felt, like that of Egypt, that shall overspread the people, yet the church, like Goshen, shall have light at the same time. When the case of the nations that have not the gospel shall be very melancholy, those dark corners of the earth being full of the habitations of cruelty to poor souls, the state of the church shall be very pleasant AND MIGHTY WORK SHALL BE WROUGHT BY SIMPLE VESSELS WHICH MANY SHALL BE SURPRISED OF AS EVEN IT WERE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND AFTER.

- What is the duty which the rising of this light calls for:
- "Arise, shine; not only receive this light, and" (as the margin reads it) "be enlightened by it, but reflect this light; arise and shine with rays borrowed from it." The children of light ought to shine as lights in the world. If God's glory be seen upon us to our honour, we ought not only with our lips, but in our lives, to return the praise of it, to His honour, Mt 5:16; Phil 2:15. When the Jews were settled again in their own land, after their captivity, many of the people of the land joined themselves to them; but it does not appear that there ever was any such numerous accession to them as would answer the fullness of this prophecy; and therefore we must conclude that this looks further, to the bringing of the OTHER FLOCK into the gospel church.

- What shall invite such multitudes to the church:
- "They shall come to thy light and to the brightness of thy rising, Isa 60:3. They shall be allured to join themselves to thee," "By the light that shines upon thee," the light of the glorious gospel, which the churches hold forth, in consequence of which they are called golden candlesticks. This light which discovers so much of God and his good will to man, by which life and immortality are brought to light, this shall invite all the serious well-affected part of mankind to come and join themselves to the church, that they may have the benefit of this light to inform them concerning truth and duty.

- "By the light with which thou shinest."
- The purity and love of the primitive Christians, their heavenly-mindedness, contempt of the world, and patient sufferings, were the brightness of the church's rising, which drew many into it. The beauty of holiness was the powerful attractive by which Christ had a willing people brought to Him in the day of His power, Ps 110:3. SO SHALL IT BE WHEN THE LATTER CHURCH TURNS TO PRIMITIVE GODLINESS AND PREACH WHAT THEY PRACTICE. Multitudes shall come to the church. Great numbers shall come, nations of those that are saved, as it is expressed with allusion to this, Re 21:24. Nations shall be disciplined (Mt 28:19), and even kings, men of figure, power, and influence, shall be added to the church. They come from all parts (Isa 60:4): Lift up thy eyes round about, and see them coming, devout men out of every nation under heaven, Ac 2:5. See how white the fields are already to the harvest, John 4:35. See them coming in a body, as one man, and with one consent: They gather themselves together, that they may strengthen one another's hands, and encourage one another. Come, and let us go, Isa 2:3.

- "They come from the remotest parts: They come to thee from far, having heard the report of thee, as the queen of Sheba, or seen thy star in the east, as the wise men, and they will not be discouraged by the length of the journey from coming to thee. There shall come some of both sexes. Sons and daughters shall come in the most dutiful manner, as thy sons and thy daughters, resolved to be of thy family, to submit to the laws of thy family and put themselves under the tuition of it. They shall come to be nursed at thy side, to have their education with thee from their cradle." THE CHURCH'S CLOSING SCENES SHALL BE GLORIOUS THAN THE DISTRESS OF ALL AGES COMBINED. The church's children must be nursed at her side, not sent out to be nursed among strangers; there, where alone the unadulterated milk of the word is to be had, must the church's newborn babes be nursed, that they may grow thereby, 1Pe 2:1-2. Those that would enjoy the dignities and privileges of Christ's family must submit to the discipline of it.

- The forces of the Gentiles had often been against the church, but now they shall be for it; for as God, when He pleases, can, and, when we please Him, will, make even our enemies to be at peace with us (Pr 16:7), so, when Christ overcomes the strong man armed, He divides his spoils, and makes that to serve his interests which had been used against them, Lu 11:22. The subject of this chapter is the great increase and flourishing state of the Church of God by the conversion and accession of the heathen nations to it, which is set forth in such ample and exalted terms, as plainly show that the full completion of this prophecy is reserved for future times. This subject is displayed in the most splendid colours under a great variety of images highly poetical, designed to give a general idea of the glories of that perfect state of the Church of God which we are taught to expect in the latter times; when the fullness of the Gentiles shall come in, and the many shall be converted and gathered from their dispersions, and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

- Of the use in prophecy of general or common poetical images, in setting forth the greatness and importance of a future event universally, without descending to particulars, or too minutely explaining circumstances, I have already pretty dealt with the Latter Rain / Loud Cry, sealing drawing parallels both in the Old Testament that's Literal Israel and New Testament vis Ancient Israel: A TOTAL TURN OF HEART TO GOD THROUGH HIS OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. There is a glorious message before the church of God who have already received the FORMER RAIN so as to attended the LATTER RAIN. The splendour, glory, and excellence of the Church of Christ are here pointed out in language which the Spirit of God alone is capable of using. But when shall this state of blessedness take place? IT IS HERE WITH US FOLKS: ARE WE READY TO BE USED AS VESSELS OF HONOUR IN THIS LAST HOUR?

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. {AA 54.2}

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. {AA 55.1}

But unless the members of God's church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping. Unless they keep their lamps trimmed and burning, they will fail of receiving added grace in times of special need. {AA 55.2}

God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Christ declares to His followers: "Ye are the light of the world." To every soul that accepts Jesus the cross of Calvary speaks: "Behold the worth of the soul: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'" Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work. It is the all-important work for time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity. The love that Jesus manifested for the souls of men in the sacrifice which He made for their redemption, will actuate all His followers. {5T 455.2}

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. {EW 277.1}

Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." This message **SEEMED TO BE** an addition to the third message, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom. {EW 277.2}

- Joe 2:23 "Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in Yahweh, your God; for he gives you the former rain in just measure, and he causes the rain to come down for you, the former rain and the latter rain, as before. Margin Leviticus 26:4; Deuteronomy 11:14; 28:12; Zechariah 10:7; James 5:7
- Former or the autumnal "from the middle of October to the middle of December, is put first, as Joel prophesies in summer when the locusts' invasion took place, and therefore looks to the time of early sowing in autumn, when the autumnal rain was indispensably required. Next, "the rain," generically, literally, "the showering" or "heavy rain." Next, the two species of the latter, "the former and the latter rain" (in March and April). The repetition of the "former rain" implies that He will give it not merely for the exigency of that particular season when Joel spake, but also for the future in the regular course of nature, the autumn and the spring rain; the former being put first, in the order of nature, as being required for the sowing in autumn, as the latter is required in spring for maturing the young crop. Joel begins with the inferior and temporal blessings, and not until Joel 2:28 proceeds to the higher and spiritual ones, of which the former are the pledge.

- Moderately rather, "in due measure," as much as the land requires; literally, "accordingly right"; neither too much nor too little, either of which extremes would hurt the crop (compare De 11:14; Pr 16:15. The phrase, "in due measure," in this clause is parallel to "in the first month," in the last clause (that is, "in the month when first it is needed," each rain in its proper season). Heretofore the just or right order of nature has been interrupted through your sin; now God will restore it.
- Joel 23. See EGW on Revelation 18:1. SDA Bible Commentary Vol 4 {4BC 1175.1}. Joel 28, 29 (Acts 2:17, 18).
- A More Evident Fulfillment.--If this prophecy of Joel met a partial fulfillment in the days of the apostles, we are living in a time when it is to be even more evidently manifest to the people of God. He will so bestow His Spirit upon His people that they will become a light amid the moral darkness; and great light will be reflected in all parts of the world. O that our faith might be increased, that the Lord might work mightily with His people. {4BC 1175.2}

- We get it so clearly that there is no way the latter rain can help when the former rain failed its work.
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- Joel 2:28: The promises of corn, and wine, and oil, in the foregoing verses, would be very acceptable to a wasted country; but here we are taught that we must not rest in those things. God has reserved some better things for us, and these verses have reference to those better things, both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory, with the happiness of true believers in both. We are here told, the extent of this blessing, in respect of the persons on whom it shall be bestowed. The Spirit shall be poured out upon all flesh, not upon Jews only, but upon Gentiles also; for in Christ there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, Ro 10:11-12. Hitherto divine revelation was confined to the seed of Abraham, none but those of the land of Israel had the Spirit of prophecy; but, in the last days, all flesh shall see the glory of God (Isa 40:5) and shall come to worship before Him, Isa 66:23. The Jews understand it of all flesh in the land of Israel, and Peter himself did not fully understand it as speaking of the Gentiles till he saw it accomplished in the descent of the Holy Ghost upon Cornelius and his friends, who were Gentiles (Ac 10:44-45), which was but a continuation of the same gift which was bestowed on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit shall be poured out upon all flesh, that is, upon all those whose hearts are made hearts of flesh, soft and tender, and so prepared to receive the impressions and influences of the Holy Ghost. Upon all flesh, that is, upon some of all sorts of men; the gifts of the Spirit shall not be so sparing, or so much confined, as they have been, but shall be more general and diffusive of themselves. **BUT NOTE ONE IMPORTANT THING THAT "ON THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE MADE HEARTS OF FLESH, SOFT AND TENDER, SO PREPARED.**

- Dreams, visions (Ac 9:10; 16:9). The "dreams" are attributed to the "old men," as more in accordance with their years; "visions" to the "young men," as adapted to their more lively minds. The three modes whereby God revealed His will under the Old Testament (Nu 12:6), "prophecy, dreams, and visions," are here made the symbol of the full manifestation of Himself to all His people, not only in miraculous gifts to some, but by His indwelling Spirit to all in the New Testament (John 14:21,23; 15:15). In Ac 16:9; 18:9, the term used is "vision," though in the night, not a dream. No other dream is mentioned in the New Testament save those given to Joseph in the very beginning of the New Testament, before the full Gospel had come; and to the wife of Pilate, a Gentile (Mt 1:20; 2:13; 27:19). "Propheying" in the New Testament is applied to all speaking under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and not merely to foretelling events. All true Christians are "priests" and "ministers" of our God (Isa 61:6), and have the Spirit (Eze 36:26, 27). Besides this, probably, THE PROMISE IS OF THE INFUSION WHICH WILL BRING THE MIND TO A TOTAL CHANGE AND VIEW OF EVENTS AND WHOLLY BE SANCTIFIED TO BE ABLE TO DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF A HOLY GOD, A VICTORY OVER SIN PERIOD THAT WILL CULMINATE IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE SAINTS.

- Zechariah 12:10: Spirit of Grace - supplications--"spirit" is here not the spirit produced, but THE HOLY SPIRIT producing a "gracious" disposition, and inclination for "supplications "spirit of grace" as the grace of God itself (whereby He "pours" out His bowels of mercy), "conjoined with the sense of it in man's heart." The "spirit of supplications" is the mercury whose rise or fall is an unerring test of the state of the Church. In Hebrew, "grace" and "supplications" are kindred terms; translate, therefore, "gracious supplications." The plural implies suppliant prayers "without ceasing." HEREIN NOT MERELY EXTERNAL (IMPUTED) HELP AGAINST THE FOE, AS BEFORE, BUT INTERNAL (IMPARTED) GRACE IS PROMISED SUBSEQUENTLY FOR A PEOPLE WHO HAVE RENOUNCED AND SIGHING AGAINST SIN AND ARE HOLDING ON ONTO CHRIST'S GARMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, TO WALK IN HIS STATUTES AND PRECEPTS. IT IS AN EFFUSION THAT DOES NOT COME BY MERE OBSERVATION AND ANY HUMAN INTELLIGENCE AND A SUPERFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BUT A CONNECTION TO THE TRUE VINE WHICH SUPPLIES EVEN TO THE BRANCHES IN DUE SEASON FOR THE FRUIT TO COME FORTH (JOHN 15). NOTICE THE FOLLOWING PARABLE THAT THE TREE HAD LEAVES AS IN THE TIME OF THE FRUITS TO COME FORTH BUT IT HAD NONE. THIS WILL NOT BE SO IN THE TIME OF THE RAIN (LOUD CRY – REV 18:1) BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A SEPARATION THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN AND THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH THIS SPIRIT SHALL BRING FORTH FRUIT.

Mark 11:13-22.

And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

For further satisfaction on this point, let us suppose:-

- 1. That this tree was intended to point out the state of the Jewish people.**
- 2. They made a profession of the true religion.**
- 3. They considered themselves the peculiar people of God, and despised and reprobated all others.**
- 4. They were only hypocrites, having nothing of religion but the profession-leaves, and no fruit.**

1. It was a proper time for them to have borne fruit because they had received the former rain through the prophets and John the Baptist: Jesus had been preaching the doctrine of repentance and salvation among them for more than three years; the choicest influences of Heaven had descended upon them; and every thing was done in this vineyard that ought to have been done (ISAIAH 5:1-7), in order to make it fruitful JUST AS WE HAVE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US. That our Lord's conduct towards this tree is to be considered as emblematical of the treatment and final perdition which was to come upon this hypocritical and ungodly nation EVEN AMONG THE CHURCH AS IT IS HAPPENING NOW.

- 2. The time was at hand in which God would require fruit, good fruit; and, if it did not produce such, the tree should be hewn down by the Roman axe OR WE BE SIFTED AND MISS SEALING.

Therefore,

1. The tree is purely the Jewish nation thus **THE CHURCH AT ITS PRESENT STATE.**
2. Christ's curse the sentence of destruction which had now gone out against it; and,
3. It's withering away, the final and total ruin of the Jewish state by the Romans. **“THESE THINGS WERE WRITTEN AS ENSAMPLES OF WHAT SHALL BE OR WHAT SHALL BEFALL THY PEOPLE AS DANIEL 10:14 PUTS IT.** His cursing of the fig tree was not occasioned by any resentment at being disappointed at not finding fruit on it, but to point out unto his disciples the wrath which was coming upon a people who had now nearly filled up the measure of their iniquity. A fruitless soul, that has had much cultivation bestowed on it, may expect to be dealt with as God did with this unrighteous nation/church/people.

- Was He deceived? No, because He is all-knowing but it was in danger of deceiving others and that's why he had to deal with it. When our Lord saw this fig tree by the way-side, apparently flourishing, he went to it to gather some of the figs: being on the way-side I.E. TO EXAMINE IF THE LEAVES WERE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TRUTH ABOUT ITS PROFESSION. It was not private, but public property {MATHEW 5:13, 14, AND 16}; and any traveller had an equal right to its fruit. As it was not as yet the time for gathering in the fruits, and yet about the time when they were ready to be gathered, our Lord with propriety expected to find some. Besides, the fig tree puts forth its fruit first, and afterwards its leaves BUT NOTICE IT WAS THE RIGHT OPPOSITE: LEAVES THEN FRUITS: SUCH A GREAT DECEPTION. Indeed, this tree, in the climate which is proper for it (WHICH THE JEWISH CHURCH WAS IN BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST WAS AMONGST THEM), has fruit on it all the year round, meaning Christianity is all season when the right climate which is the Holy Spirit is connected to the believer.

- IN CONCLUSION OF THIS PARABLE, WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT SHALL DESCEND, IT'S UPON THOSE VESSELS WHICH CAN BRING FORTH FRUITS – “BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM”. AND SO IT'S A SOLEMN TIME WHERE SEPARATION OF THE COUNTERFEIT SPIRIT FROM THE TRUE ONE IS BROUGHT AND THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND BECAUSE A LINE OF DISTINCTION HAS BEEN DRAWN AND THE PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD ARE READY FOR THE PREDICAMENT BEFORE THEM WHILE THOSE WHO PRETEND LIKE THE FIG TREE SHALL BE SWEEPED WITH THE SCOURGE AND EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT MAKE USE OF THE FORMER RAIN TO MAKE THEM READY FOR THE LATTER RAIN FOR THE WHOLE WORK OF SANCTIFICATION AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MERITS OF CHRIST IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES, EVEN TO WALK IN THEM. THE STEPS OF CHRIST IN HIS SANCTUARY ARE SO IMPORTANT TO A HEAVEN BOUND PROFESSOR.

- John 7:38, 39: It refers primarily to the copiousness, but indirectly also to the diffusiveness, of this living water to the good of others: **WHATEVER THING WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN IS NOT JUST FOR US BUT FOR THE OTHERS THAT ARE BESIDES (PHIL 2:4)**. This spake He of the Spirit who, by His direct personal agency, opens up this spring of living waters in the human spirit (John 3:6), and by His indwelling in the renewed soul ensures their unfailing flow. They that believe, as the Holy Ghost is, in the redemption of man, entirely at the service of Christ, as His Agent, so it is only in believing connection with Christ that any one "receives" the Spirit **EVEN THE GREATER EFFUSION WHICH IS THE LATTER RAIN**. Living water, running water, which the Hebrew language calls living, because still in motion. The graces and comforts of the Spirit are compared to living (meaning running) water, because they are the active quickening principles of spiritual life, and the earnest and beginnings of eternal life **VIS Jeremiah 2:13 WHEREBY YOU CANNOT CLAIM TO BE CONNECTED TO, WHILE YOU STILL REMAIN DRY AND WITHERED**.

- Rivers of living water here denoting both plenty and constancy WHEN THE LUKEWARMNESS HAS BEEN REMOVED AND THE SINS OF ISRAEL SHALL BE SOUGHT OF AND NOT BE FOUND HENCE "THEN SHALL THE OFFERING OF JUDAH AND JERUSALEM BE PLEASANT UNTO THE LORD, AS IN THE DAYS OF OLD, AND AS IN FORMER YEARS" MALACHI 3:4. THEN THE CHURCH WHICH OUR LORD AT HIS COMING IS TO RECEIVE TO HIMSELF WILL BE A "GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING" EPHESIANS 5:27. THEN SHE WILL LOOK "FORTH AS THE MORNING, FAIR AS THE MOON, CLEAR AS THE SUN, AND TERRIBLE AS AN ARMY WITH BANNERS," SONG OF SOLOMON 6:10:" PRIOR AND AFTER CLOSE OF PROBATION DUE TO THIS OUTPOURING OF THE LATTER RAIN. The comfort flows in both plentifully and constantly as a river; strong as a stream to bear down the oppositions of doubts and fears. There is a fullness in Christ of grace for grace (GROWING FROM FAITH TO FAITH).

- These flow out of his belly, that is, out of his heart or soul, which is the subject of the Spirit's working and the seat of his government {JOHN 16:7}. There gracious principles are planted; and out of the heart, in which the Spirit dwells, flow the issues of life, PROVERBS 4:23. There, divine comforts are lodged, and the joy that a stranger doth not intermeddle with. He that believes has the witness in himself, 1Jo 5:10, Light abounds within. Observe, further, where there are springs of grace and comfort in the soul they will send forth streams: Out of his belly shall flow rivers. First, Grace and comfort will evidence themselves. Good affections will produce good actions, and a holy heart will be seen in a holy life; the tree is known by its fruits, and the fountain by its streams. Secondly, they will communicate themselves for the benefit of others WHEREBY ACTS 2 ("UPPER ROOM EXPERIENCE") HAS TO BE MANIFESTED IN EVERY ONE WHO SHALL HAVE RECEIVED THE FORMER RAIN LEADING TO THE RECEPTION OF THE LATTER RAIN WHICH IS EVEN UNITY AND BOLDNESS IN BEARING THE MESSAGE OF THE TIME; a good man is a common good. His mouth is a well of life, Proverbs 10:11.

- . It is not enough that we drink waters out of our own cistern, that we ourselves take the comfort of the grace given us, but we must let our fountains be dispersed abroad, Proverbs 5:15-16. AS THIS WAS THE MAIN FALL OF THE ANCIENT ISRAEL, THE MODERN ISRAEL HAS TO HAVE LEARNT THIS LESSON AND CORRECTING THE WRONGS OF THE PREDECESSORS RATHER THAN WALKING IN THEM. THIS IS THE PROPER WORK OF A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN BORN AGAIN AND RECEIVED THE ANOINTING OF THE LORD WHICH IS EVEN LIKENED TO THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THEM.

- It is promised to all that believe on Christ that they shall receive the Holy Ghost. Some received his miraculous gifts Mark 16:17-18; all receive his sanctifying graces. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST IS ONE OF THE GREAT BLESSINGS PROMISED IN THE NEW COVENANT AC 2:39, AND, IF PROMISED, NO DOUBT PERFORMED TO ALL THAT HAVE AN INTEREST IN THAT COVENANT. The Spirit dwelling and working in believers is as a fountain of living running water, out of which plentiful streams flow, cooling and cleansing as water, mollifying and moistening as water, making them fruitful, and others joyful; John 3:5. When the apostles spoke so fluently of the things of God, as the Spirit gave them utterance Acts 2:4, and afterwards preached and wrote the gospel of Christ with such a flood of divine eloquence, then this was fulfilled, “OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS”.

- John 4:13, 14. “Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:, But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” The contrast here is fundamental and all comprehensive. "This water" plainly means "this natural water and all satisfactions of a like earthly and perishable nature." Coming to us from without, and reaching only the superficial parts of our nature, they are soon spent, and need to be anew supplied as much as if we had never experienced them before, WHILE THE DEEPER WANTS OF OUR BEING ARE NOT REACHED BY THEM AT ALL;

- WHEREAS THE "WATER" THAT CHRIST GIVES--SPIRITUAL LIFE--IS STRUCK OUT OF THE VERY DEPTHS OF OUR BEING, MAKING THE SOUL NOT A CISTERN, FOR HOLDING WATER POURED INTO IT FROM WITHOUT, BUT A FOUNTAIN, SPRINGING, GUSHING, BUBBLING UP AND FLOWING FORTH WITHIN US, EVER FRESH, EVER LIVING. The indwelling of the Holy Ghost as the Spirit of Christ is the secret of this life with all its enduring energies and satisfactions, as is expressly said (John 7:37-39). "NEVER THIRSTING," THEN, MEANS SIMPLY THAT SUCH SOULS HAVE THE SUPPLIES AT HOME AND ARE NEVER DISCONNECTED but INTO EVERLASTING LIFE CARRYING THE THOUGHTS UP FROM THE ETERNAL FRESHNESS AND VITALITY OF THESE WATERS TO THE GREAT OCEAN IN WHICH THEY HAVE THEIR CONFLUENCE, EVEN TO THE OTHER SHEEP WHICH IS NOT OF THIS FOLD (JOHN 10:16).

- Psalms 133: THE INFLUENCE OF THE ANOINTING
- Behold, how good and how pleasant] Unity is, according to this scripture, a good thing and a pleasant; and especially among brethren - members of the SAME FAMILY, of the same Christian community, and of the same nation: and why not among the great family of mankind! BECAUSE THE FULLY SANCTIFICATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH IS THE OINTMENT IS WORKING IN THEM FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AND WALK. WHEN WE REACH THE BOOK OF ACTS 2, WE SHALL SEE THIS PRINCIPLE WORKING AND APPLYING TO THE LETTER. On the other hand, disunion is bad and hateful. THE FORMER IS FROM HEAVEN; THE LATTER, FROM HELL.

- What it is that is commended--brethren's dwelling together in unity? Not only not quarrelling, and devouring one another, but delighting in each other with mutual endearments, and promoting each other's welfare with mutual services: WHEN THE SPIRIT HAD COME UPON THEM ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, NO ONE EVER PROFESSED TO HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL POSSESSION (ACTS 4:34). Sometimes it is chosen, as the best expedient for preserving peace, that brethren should live asunder and at a distance from each other; that indeed may prevent enmity and strife (Gen 13:9), but the goodness and pleasantness are for brethren to dwell together and so to dwell in unity, to dwell even as one (so some read it), as having one heart, one soul, one interest. David had many sons by many wives; probably he penned this psalm for their instruction, to engage them to love another, and, if they had done this, much of the mischief that arose in his family would have been happily prevented.

- The tribes of Israel had long had separate interests during the government of the Judges, and it was often of bad consequence; but now that they were united under one common head; he would have them see how sensible it was likely to be for their advantage, especially since now the ark was fixed, and with it the place of their rendezvous for public worship and the centre of their unity; BUT THIS UNITY REMEMBER IT WAS NOT TO BE CENTERED UPON FALSITY BUT A TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF IT, THEY HAD TO EXAMINE WHAT MADE THEM DIFFERENT AND THEN HAVE A COMMON GROUND OF UNITY. TRUTH WAS NOT TO BE SACRIFICED FOR THE SAKE OF UNITY. IN ISRAEL, WHEN THE TRIBES WERE DIS-UNITED, IT WAS THE READING OF THE LAW THAT BROUGHT THEM BACK TOGETHER AND EVEN AS HOLY MEN OF GOD WERE INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AT THIS POINT ALSO, MEN INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT READING THE WORD, HAS TO SOUND A LOUD CRY THAT WILL AWAKEN THE OTHER FLOCK WHICH IS WANDERING IN THE DESERT TO COME BACK TO THE TRUTH. THIS CRY CAN ONLY BE EMPOWERED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Now let them live in love.

- BUT WHAT DOES THE LORD WANT US TO GET FROM PSALMS 133? Notice that the unity wrought of in this place is likened unto the precious ointment that was used in the tabernacle. The ointment or the oil itself was to keep the lamps burning continually; in a sense that when it got finished then the lamps will go off, but the priests were charged never to let it go off (Leviticus 24:2). The anointing which resembles the continual influence of the Holy Spirit is the only efficacy that can continually maintain brethren in peace. And so in the latter days, those who unite, they either unite in the true influence of the Holy Spirit or in the deceptive spirit of the Anti-Christ. Meaning, you have to learn in which way you may be a candidate of the filling of the true Spirit of God even to unite with the others who are driven by the same for the one purpose of reaching unto the other fold which is not part of this fold to be one flock and under one shepherd. Inspiration writes, "They may be one as we are ONE" John 17:21.

• ACTS CHAPTER 2 A REPLICA OF PSALMS 133

- I believe that everything that transpires in the heavenly sanctuary sends a signal with an event here on earth. “Christ’s Promise Fulfilled.--The time had now come. The Spirit had been waiting for the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ and then the number 12 of the Apostles, to be complete as even Judah had brought a gap. For ten days the disciples offered their petitions for the outpouring of the Spirit, and Christ in heaven added His intercession. This was the occasion of His ascension and inauguration, a jubilee in heaven. He had ascended on high, leading captivity captive, and He now claimed the gift of the Spirit, that He might pour it out upon His disciples (The Southern Work - SW Nov. 28, 1905). {6BC 1055.2}” One event that I would like to elaborate and dwell on is when the sacrifice of Christ was accepted in heaven. John 20:17 starts the whole story.

- At this time, Jesus had not ascended to heaven and so there was nothing that He could promise or assure His disciples at this moment. But when Jesus ascends to heaven Rev 4 and Rev 5 His atoning sacrifice is accepted, then and there do we find the statement Matthew 28:18 “All power is given to me.....” and He can now reveal it 50 days after His Death (Passover) which coincided with the day of Pentecost (feast of weeks) or in simple words that “The feast of Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the Passover”. This event on this day was witnessed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to show that another event had passed in the stages of the sanctuary. It’s only then the people who have an un-broken link to heaven that understand the mysteries of heaven. How can we maintain such un-broken link?

- They were all with one accord in one place.] With one accord; this word is very expressive: it signifies that all their minds, affections, desires, and wishes, were centered in one object, every man having the same end in view; and, having but one desire, they had but one prayer to God, and every heart uttered it. There was no person uninterested-none unconcerned-none lukewarm; all were in earnest; and the Spirit of God came down to meet their united faith and prayer. When any Assembly of God's people meet in the same spirit they may expect every blessing they need. SEE HOW PSALMS 133:1 APPLIES TO THIS PARTICULAR ACCOUNT. THERE WAS NOTHING THAT COULD HINDER THEIR COMMUNICATION WITH HEAVEN BECAUSE OF THE ONENESS THAT EXISTED, JESUS NOW THEIR HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN REPLACING THE EARTHLY PRIESTHOOD BY AARON.

- Such as the incarnation of Christ; his various miracles, preaching, death, resurrection, and ascension; are the design of God to save the world through him. From this one circumstance we may learn that all the people enumerated above were either Jews or proselytes; and that there was probably none that could be, strictly speaking, called heathens among them. THE VERY POINT TO NOTE IS THAT, ITS ONLY THOSE WHO WERE PREPARED THAT RECEIVED THIS ANOINTING ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY, THE UNBELIEVING CONTINUED IN THEIR DOUBT SOME TO EVERLASTING PERIL SAVE A FEW WHO ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. After this wonderful outpouring, we find the scripture even being more opened to the disciples more vividly and making them understand and wax bold in the work that was before them. MANY CAN SAY THAT IT WAS AFTER THEY HAD RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT THEY BECAME BOLD BECAUSE BEFORE THAT THEY WERE HIDING. BUT REMEMBER THAT THE DISCIPLES HAD BEEN IN SCHOOL FOR 3 YEARS AND THAT HAD PREPARED THEM FOR THE PRESENT DUTY THEY HAD TO DO. And so the notion that we can sit around not practicing what we intend to do in the future, is cast out from the wrestlers of the word of God: “Heaven's Reservoir of Power not Locked.--[Acts 2:1-4 quoted.] God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly. {6BC 1055.3}.” The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring His Spirit upon the early disciples. We also may receive of the fullness of His blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that He has promised. If we do not have His power, it is because of our spiritual lethargy, our indifference, our indolence. Let us come out of this formality and deadness (RH June 4, 1889). {6BC 1055.4}.”

- Another verse that we get spoken of is John 14:26: The upper room experience was a session of discussing the scriptures and committing them into the memory so that when time as such would come, you would not try to draw from an empty cistern but a mind which has been fortified with and in the word of God. I wonder of folks who say, when the time of trouble comes, then I will be serious! How can you be serious while running on empty! NOTICE: “Pure, simple, and fervent was the piety of these followers of Christ. The principles of truth they valued above houses and lands, friends, kindred, even life itself. These principles they earnestly sought to impress upon the hearts of the young. From earliest childhood the youth were instructed in the Scriptures and taught to regard sacredly the claims of the law of God. COPIES OF THE BIBLE WERE RARE; THEREFORE ITS PRECIOUS WORDS WERE COMMITTED TO MEMORY. Many were able to repeat large portions of both the Old and the New Testament. Thoughts of God were associated alike with the sublime scenery of nature and with the humble blessings of daily life. Little children learned to look with gratitude to God as the giver of every favor and every comfort {GC 67.1}”.

- JESUS AT THE AGE OF 12 WAS IN THE TEMPLE AND MANY SANHEDRIN WERE SURPRISED AT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE. IT'S BY THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT THIS VERSES ARE KEPT IN MEMORY AND DISSEMINATED IN TIME OF NEED HENCE MAINTAINING AN UNBROKEN CONNECTION WITH THE HEAVEN. That's on the day of Pentecost, you find Peter, not reading from any scroll but spoke as the Spirit could bring in remembrance what he had already learnt, enlightening and broadening the message with NEW LIGHT WHICH WAS OLD LIGHT INDEED that the Jews had forgotten about: "In the work that was accomplished on the day of Pentecost, we may see what can be done by the exercise of faith. Those who believed in Christ were sealed by the Holy Spirit. As the disciples were assembled together, "there came a sound. . . as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." And Peter stood up among them and spoke with mighty power. Among those who listened to him were devout Jews, who were sincere in their belief. But the power that accompanied the words of the speaker convinced them that Christ was indeed the Messiah. What a mighty work was accomplished! Three thousand were converted in one day {6BC 1055.7}"

• Who were the audience?

- The devout men dwelling in Jerusalem. So devout men need to be baptized again! That's incredible. There are people who think they know anything while actually what we know is nothing: 1 Corinthians 8:12 viz Rev 3:18. Baptism as its put in Romans 6 is to put off your own self and put on Christ. Are we not being called even today to renounce self and put on Christ! Even to accept that He is the source that we ought to draw from, cause of ourselves we cannot do it. When you die to self, then you are a vessel that can be used by the Holy Spirit, this is the part we are defeated but all is not lost Rev 3:20, "(Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23, 28, 29; Zechariah 10:1; Revelation 18:1.) Pentecost Repeated With Greater Power.--It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue {6BC 1055.5}."

- 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 unloosed, 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 such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out (RH July 20, 1886) {6BC 1055.6}”.

- When you reach Acts 2:42, Psalms Chapter 133 is repeated, these are people who have renounced sin and they are sailing into spiritual maturity. A true picture of genuine Christian fellowship. They ate their bread: they had no severe fasts; the Holy Spirit had done in their souls, by his refining influence, what others vainly expect from bodily austerities. It may be said also, that, if they had no severe fasts, they had no splendid feasts: all was moderation, and all was contentment. They were full of gladness, spiritual joy and happiness; and singleness of heart, every man worthy of the confidence of his neighbour; and all walking by the same rule, and minding the same thing: “After the disciples had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the priests and rulers marveled at the words which they spake, for they knew them as unlearned and ignorant men. But they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus {6BC 1055.9}. THEIR TEACHING WAS A SECOND EDITION OF THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST, the utterance of simple, grand truths that flashed light into darkened minds, and converted thousands in a day. The disciples began to understand that Christ was their Advocate in the heavenly courts, and that He was glorified. They could speak because the Holy Spirit gave them utterance {6BC 1056.1} (MS 32, 1900).” There is no jostling of who is who in the vineyard of Christ as it was in their infancy Mark 10:35-41. It’s after this experience of total conversion then and there appears Acts 2:43:

- Verse 43. And fear came upon every soul] many, were puzzled and confounded at the manner in which the apostles preached, who charged them home with the deliberate murder of Jesus Christ, and who attested, in the most positive manner, that he was risen from the dead, and that God had sent down that mighty effusion of the Spirit which they now witnessed as a proof of his resurrection and ascension, and that this very person whom they had crucified was appointed by God to be the Judge of quick and dead. They were in consequences stung with remorse, and were apprehensive of the judgments of God; and the wonders and signs continually wrought by the apostles were at once proofs of the celestial origin of their doctrine and mission, and of their own baseness, perfidy, and wickedness. ONCE THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST WILL BE UPLIFTED IN THE LIVES OF THE PROFESSED BELIEVER, THEN WILL THE WICKED AND THE WORLTLINGS DESIRE TO HAVE THE SAME CHRIST. WITHOUT THIS TRUE CONVERSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE NOISY CYMBALS, TRUMPETS SOUNDING WITHOUT RIGHT TONES AND WE SHALL BE MORE THAN BABYLON YET IT WILL BE ETERNAL LOSE FOR US. I COUNSEL US: “Isa:60:1: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.”

- After a somehow lengthy look at the Old Testament and the connection it has for the chapter at hand (Rev 18), let us now move to the self-same chapter and conclude the study of the “RAIN” even the Holy Spirit. THE STUDY OF REVELATION 18:1 IS WHAT IS KNOWN AMONG ADVENTIST AS THE LOUD CRY OR LATTER RAIN. THOUGH THE VERSE HAS BEEN OF SOME CONTROVERSY ON THE PEOPLE DESIGNATED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE (even some among us saying it is the Forth Angels Message). WE ARE ONLY GOING TO CONTINUE LOOKING AT WHAT IS THE LATTER RAIN OR LOUD CRY VIS SEALING AND HOW WE CAN BE CANDIDATES OF IT. FIRST THINGS FIRST.