

"Make It Plain"--Rain Rejected, but Returning

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Thought Questions:

Is there evidence that God's purposes have been delayed?

What are we to do in such situations?

1 *Babylonian judgment on Judah: the endurance of faith in the midst of waiting through a tarrying time, and the vital importance of making the vision plain--*

Hab. 2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. (English translation of verse 4 in the Septuagint) If he should draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him: but the just shall live by my faith.

In our time when "the day" (Heb. 10:25) has begun--Heb. 10:35-39

2 *The journey from Egypt to Canaan: an earlier delay -- and the need to make it plain*

God wanted them to enter Canaan in a short time. Instead they rebelled against God (Num. 14:9; Deut. 9:23) which resulted in a 40-year delay (Num 14:33, 34) and further rebellion (Num. 16:1-3).

Heb 3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

At the end of the delay, Moses recounted the past. Twice the Hab. 2:2 verb is used (only other uses):

Deut. 1:5 On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law.

Deut. 27:8 And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly.

3 *In our day--*

Deuteronomy for us:

[6/1/1903] I feel deeply over our present situation. We must now do a work that should have been done long ago. We must do as the Lord directed Moses to do when the children of Israel, having crossed the desert, were encamped on the borders of Jordan. Moses was bidden to rehearse to them all the dealings of the Lord to them during their journeyings through the wilderness. The record of this rehearsal is found in the book of Deuteronomy. {17MR 344.3}

The record of the experience through which the people of God passed in the early history of our work must be republished. Many of those who have since come into the truth are ignorant of the way in which the Lord wrought. The experience of William Miller and his associates, of Captain Joseph Bates, and of other pioneers in the Advent message, should be kept before our people. Elder Loughborough's book should receive attention. Our leading men should see what can be done for the circulation of this book. {17MR 344.4}

Had there been a delay in God's purposes of the Advent Movement by 1903?

[1883] For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness,

unconsecration, and strife among the Lord's professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years. {1SM 69.1} [Ms4, 1883; see also: 1868: PH098, 16.2 (included in 2T194); 1884: 4SP291.1; 1893: Lt77, 1893 (1888 1129.4); 1894: Lt84, 1894 (in 16MR38.2); 1896: Lt83, 1896 (1888 1525.2); 1898: AUCR, October 15, 1898, par. 12; 1903: GCB, March 30, 1903, par. 25]

The Spirit's Advent--

[1893] I have been afraid, terribly afraid that those who felt the bright beams of the Sun of righteousness--for I have not one doubt but that they did receive the Holy Spirit--will come to the conclusion that God's heaven-sent blessings are a delusion. When God shall let His light shine again, how many will resist it and not respond to it because of the judgment many have passed upon its influence? If the light from heaven is not appreciated, greater evidence, greater light will be resisted. Bear in mind we are on holy ground. {1888 1212.1}

Descriptions from Return of the Latter Rain--

- *deep movings of the Spirit of God (RH09/05/1893)*
- *deep impressions were made as the Holy Spirit moved upon your hearts (1SM136.1; 1/30/1894)*
- *advent of the Holy Spirit (TM401.4, 1897)*

Now, just now is our day of mercy and salvation. The Lord God who dwelleth in the holy place, sees every soul that shows contempt for the manifestations of his Holy Spirit. God has revealed himself again and again in a most marked manner in Battle Creek. He has given a large measure of his Holy Spirit to the believers there. It has come unexpectedly at times, and there have been deep movings upon hearts and minds; a letting go of selfish purposes, and a bringing into the treasury many things that you were convicted God had forbidden you to have. This blessing extended to large numbers, but why was not this sweet, holy working continued upon hearts and minds? Some felt annoyed at this outpouring, and their own natural dispositions were manifested. They said, This is only excitement; it is not the Holy Spirit, not showers from heaven of the latter rain. There were hearts full of unbelief, who did not drink in of the Spirit, but who had bitterness in their souls. {1888 1478.1} (1/16/1896)

Our Response--

- *cruelty to the Spirit of God (Ms. 30, June 1889, 1888 360.1)*
- *condemn the Holy Spirit (Letter 2, Oct. 21, 1894, 1888 1292.1)*
- *do despite to His Holy Spirit (Letter 57, May 1, 1895, 1888 1335.3)*
- *treated as an intruder (Letter 83, May 22, 1896, 1888 1524.1)*
- *treated as unwelcomed (Letter 38, May 30, 1896, 1888 1540.1)*
- *dismissed (Letter 83, May 22, 1896, 1888 1527.2)*
- *kept away from the world in a great degree (Letter 96, June 6, 1896, 1888 1575.2)*
- *blasphemy (CT358.1, June 12, 1896)*
- *charge Holy Spirit with being a deceiving power (CT358.1, June 12, 1896); fanaticism, excitement (Letter 58, 11/30/1893, 1888 1210.1, plus many others); darkness, delusion (Letter 58, 11/30/1893, 1888 1212.1); not the Spirit of God (Letter 58, 11/30/1893, 1888 1210.2); not the Holy Spirit and not showers of the latter rain (1888 1478.1--see above)*

Observations:

We must make plain our history, repent of its mistakes, and prepare for the Lord to send again the Spirit.

Conclusion:

"Let it rain" = "re-invite the Presence"