

Chapter 3, *The Return of the Latter Rain*

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Events in chronological order (1888):

1888	<i>The Great Controversy</i> published first time under that title. New material: "... the ' latter rain ' will be given at its [the gospel's] close, for the ripening of the harvest.... The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are 'the times of refreshing' to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said, 'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [in the investigative Judgment], when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus.'" [Acts 3:19, 20.] {GC88 611.1} [last two brackets in original; emphases supplied]
1888 Jul	California Workers Meeting: reviewed Butler's "list of the subjects" to be considered at the GC Session; GIB's pamphlet <i>The Law in Galatians</i> ; EJW encouraged to print his response
1888 08/05	EGW wrote to "Brethren Who Shall Assemble In General Conference": first sentence: "We are impressed that this gathering will be the most important meeting you have ever attended." Call for: "humbling your hearts"; "all selfish ambition ... laid aside"; "plead with God for his Spirit to descend"; "Truth can lose nothing by close investigation. Let the word of God speak for itself." " We are not to set our stakes, and then interpret everything to reach this set point."
1888 Aug	"... how little the message of Christ in His Word has been heeded, and how little the message given me of God has affected the course of action of many of my brethren! When unable to sleep nights I have entreated the Lord in prayer to remove the burden that caused me so great pain of heart." {1888 176.2} "I carried the burden until nature gave way and while at Healdsburg I fainted. For about two weeks I was prostrated by sickness so severe that I had no power to exercise faith. A discouragement was upon me that it seemed I should never rise above. My courage was gone. I lost my desire to live." {1888 177.3} "the peril ... the cherishing of a hard, unkind spirit." {1888 178.1}
1888 09/02	EGW: "A strong, firm, resistance was manifested by many against anything that should interfere with their own personal ideas, their own course of action. This laid upon me the heaviest burdens I could possibly bear." {1888 48.2}
	Looking back from October 1888: "I have been awake night after night with a sense of agony for the people of God, that the sweat would roll off from me." {1888 157.2} "The time had come when the temple and its worshipers had to be measured." {1888 157.3}
	Looking back from November 1888: "lost my desire to live" {1888 177.3}
1888 Sep	Oakland, California Camp Meeting: bitter spirit against EJW and ATJ; opponents would "neither consent to a fair examination of the subject or would they let it alone"; "piecemeal picking process"
	EGW taken there in a bed {1888 47.1} "I was not made strong at once, but the Lord gave me strength and grace to be upon the camp-ground a part of the time, and to bear my testimony before the people." {1888 48.1}
	"Hearts were broken, more confessions were made, and this work continued,--seasons of prayer, then of confessions of sin till three o'clock in the morning." {1888 54.1}
	"Little did I think, when making these solemn appeals, that a letter had gone forth from one present at that meeting stating things he thought were true but were not true and which preceded us and built up a wall of difficulty...." {1888 55.1}

October/November

Ministerial Institute			10 Wed	11 Thu	12 Fri	13 Sab
14 Sun	15 Mon	16 Tue	17 Wed	18 Thu	19 Fri	20 Sab
21 Sun	22 Mon	23 Tue	24 Wed	25 Thu	26 Fri	27 Sab
28 Sun	29 Mon	30 Tue	31 Wed	1 Thu	2 Fri	3 Sab
4 Sun	General Conference Session					

10/11 Thu	"If we ever needed the Holy Ghost to be with us, if we ever needed to preach in the demonstration of the Spirit, it is at this very time." {1888 72.1} "The baptism of the Holy Ghost will come upon us at this very meeting if we will have it so." {1888 72.2}
10/12 Fri	Farnsworth: "preached a most gloomy discourse"; "There was a general gloom diffused among the delegates to the conference." {1888 68.1}
10/13 Sab	"the Lord gave me testimony calculated to encourage." {1888 68.1}
10/14 Sun	EGW: Reply to GIB's 41-page letter [his letter is in MMM 77.1 and following] "spirit and influence ... to discard light" {1888 86.2}; "oppression of conscience" {1888 94.1} "the influence of this meeting will be as far-reaching as eternity" {1888 94.3}
10/15 Mon	EGW: Another reply to GIB's 41-page letter "Those who have marked out a certain course in which the light must come will fail to receive it, for God works in His own appointed way." {1888 95.2} "standing directly in the way of the workings of God" {1888 113.1} "stand barricading the way, lest a ray should come into the hearts and minds of the people, through some other channel than that which you had decided to be the proper one." {1888 115.1}
	EGW to ministers: " How shall we stand in the time of the latter rain? Who expects to have a part in the first resurrection? You who have been cherishing sin and iniquity in the heart? You will fail in that day." {1888 162.1}
	Uriah Smith attacked ATJ on 10 horns
10/16 Tue	ATJ responded to Uriah Smith: EGW: "not so sharp, Brother Jones, not so sharp"
10/18 Thu	EGW: "Brethren and sisters, there is great need at this time of humbling ourselves before God, that the Holy Spirit may come upon us." {1888 117.3}
10/19 Fri	EGW: "Christ is here this morning; angels are here, and they are measuring the temple of God and those who worship therein. The history of this meeting will be carried up to God; for a record of every meeting is made; the spirit manifested, the words spoken, and the actions performed, are noted in the books of heaven. Everything is transferred to the records as faithfully as are our features to the polished plate of the artist." {1888 120.4}