

Chapter 5, *The Return of the Latter Rain*

"Stand By Your Post"

[October 23 - November 4]

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October/November 1888

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 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 | | | | | |

Events in chronological order (1888):

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| 10/23 Tue | J. H. Morrison: first of seven presentations; SDAs always believed in and taught Justification by Faith; subject had been overstressed at the conference; fearful that the law might lose its important place ATJ & EJW: response was to read 16 Bible passages alternately, without comment EGW: decided to withdraw from the meeting for fear of being leavened with the prevailing spirit; many hours in prayer; had a dream or vision |
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Dream or Vision night of 10/23

EGW to stand by "post of duty" -- "for this work the Lord raised you up"

"Point by point" shown her like "flash of lightning"

1. "Manifestations of the Holy Spirit were attributed to fanaticism" -- "Doing insult to the Spirit of God" -- "spiritual pride and self-confidence will close the door that Jesus and His Holy Spirit's power shall not be admitted. They shall have another chance to be undeceived, and to repent, confess their sins, and come to Christ and be converted that He shall heal them."

2. "Sarcastic remarks"

3. No prayer

4. "Lightness, trifling, jesting, joking"

5. "Evil speaking, evil surmising, judging one another"

6. "Sister White has changed" -- "under the influence"

7. "Ridiculing those whom God had raised up to do a special work" -- "despising ... the messengers and the message"

8. "Satanic spirit"

9. Repeating the history of:

a. "the first rebellion"

b. opposition "the patriarchs and prophets" had faced

c. "the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram" (Numbers 16); contrast case of William L. Raymond

d. "Belshazzar's feast" (Daniel 5)

e. "the Jews" -- "confederacy to doubt, to criticize and become spies upon Christ"

f. "Chorazin and Bethsaida" (Matthew 11:21)

g. "the way reformers were treated"

h. "come out of the denominational churches"; see F. H. Westphal's testimony: EGW "almost lost confidence in humanity"

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| 10/24 Wed | EGW: Morning talk to ministers (Manuscript 9): "never more alarmed than at the present time"; "I have been led to realize where we as a people would be led if we refuse the light God would give us. Eyes have ye but ye see not; ears, but ye hear not. Now, brethren, light has come to us and we want to be where we can grasp it, and God will lead us out one by one to Him. I see your danger and I want to warn you." {1888 152.5} "And this is what I have been pleading with you for all the time-- we want Jesus. What is the reason the Spirit of God does not come into our meetings? Is it because we have built a barrier around us? I speak decidedly because I want you to realize where you are |
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| | <p>standing. I want our young men to take a position, not because someone else takes it, but because they understand the truth for themselves." {1888 153.2}</p> <p>J. H. Morrison: again on the law in Galatians; quoted from <i>Sketches from the Life of Paul</i>, pp. 68, 188, 192, 193, trying to show EGW believed the law was the ceremonial law; EGW apparently walked out during his presentation; [Morrison left Minneapolis after his last presentation: "They were going to try to force me to acknowledge that I am wrong. So I am leaving."</p> |
| 10/25 Thu | EGW: spoke against Smith and Kilgore; talk not recorded [and 5 other times also not recorded] |
| 10/27 Sab | EGW: spoke not extemporaneously; "reading from Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, and other Epistles"; misinterpreted as uncertainty |
| Date? | <p>EGW: (Manuscript 15) "Dear Brethren Assembled at General Conference:"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "It will grieve the Spirit of God if you close your understanding to the light which God sends you." {1888 163.1} 2. "spirit that controlled the Pharisees" 3. "debating spirit" 4. recall 1886: "Said my guide, "There is much light yet to shine forth from the law of God and the gospel of righteousness. This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory. The great decisive question is to be brought before all nations, tongues, and peoples. The closing work of the third angel's message will be attended with a power that will send the rays of the Sun of Righteousness into all the highways and byways of life, and decisions will be made for God as supreme Governor; His law will be looked upon as the rule of His government." {1888 166.1} 5. EJW: "Dr. Waggoner has spoken to us in a straightforward manner. There is precious light in what he has said. Some things presented in reference to the law in Galatians, if I fully understand his position, do not harmonize with the understanding I have had of this subject; but truth will lose nothing by investigation, therefore I plead for Christ's sake that you come to the living Oracles, and with prayer and humiliation seek God. Everyone should feel that he has the privilege of searching the Scriptures for himself, and he should do this with earnest prayer that God will give him a right understanding of His word, that he may know from positive evidence that he does know what is truth." {1888 163.2} <p>"I would have humility of mind, and be willing to be instructed as a child. The Lord has been pleased to give me great light, yet I know that He leads other minds, and opens to them the mysteries of His Word, and I want to receive every ray of light that God shall send me, though it should come through the humblest of His servants." {1888 163.3}</p> <p>"Of one thing I am certain, as Christians you have no right to entertain feelings of enmity, unkindness, and prejudice toward Dr. Waggoner, who has presented his views in a plain, straightforward manner, as a Christian should. If he is in error, you should, in a calm, rational, Christlike manner, seek to show him from the Word of God where he is out of harmony with its teachings. If you cannot do this you have no right as Christians to pick flaws, to criticize, to work in the dark, to prejudice minds with your objections. This is Satan's way of working." {1888 163.4}</p> <p>"Some interpretations of Scripture given by Dr. Waggoner I do not regard as correct. But I believe him to be perfectly honest in his views, and I would respect his feelings and treat him as a Christian gentleman. I have no reason to think that he is not as much esteemed of God as are any of my brethren, and I shall regard him as a Christian brother, so long as there is no evidence that he is unworthy. The fact that he honestly holds some views of Scripture differing from yours or mine is no reason why we should treat him as an offender, or as a dangerous man, and make him the subject of unjust criticism. We should not raise a voice of censure against him or his teachings unless we can present weighty reasons for so doing and show him that he is in error. No one should feel at liberty to give loose rein to the combative spirit." {1888 164.1}</p> |

Looking back: "have had the hardest and most incomprehensible tug of war we have ever had among our people." {1888 182.2} "This meeting has been the saddest experience of my life." {1888 179.2}