

Chapter 6, *The Return of the Latter Rain*

"Three Responses"

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"The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law. The law reveals sin to us, and causes us to feel our need of Christ, and to flee unto him for pardon and peace by exercising repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. {1888 1575.1}

An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren Waggoner and Jones. By exciting that opposition, Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world. {1888 1575.2} (Letter 96, 1896; June 6, 1896) [Note: p. 138.0 and p. 151.1 both quote from this letter; observe the references to the Latter Rain ("the special power of the Holy Spirit," "that efficiency ... as the apostles ... after the day of Pentecost"), and to the Loud Cry ("the light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory").]

Responses

The statements on pp. 156-160 appear to show 5 possible responses: (1) wholehearted acceptance; (2) mere assent; (3) no response; (4) afraid; (5) firm rejection. The last four can be seen as a spectrum of rejection, from passive to active. Note these sources, observations, and who was held responsible.

Source	Acceptance		Rejection (passive ←-----→ active)			
	Mere assent		No response	Afraid	Decided rejection	
N. F. Pease (NFP) c.1969	"evidence of acceptance ... can find"		"evidence of rejection can also find"			
EGW 1896			"succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure"; "resisted, and by ... our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world"			
L. H. Christian (LHC) c.1947	"glorious victory"; "beginning of a great spiritual awakening"; "the great Minneapolis revival"					
A. W. Spalding (AWS) 1949	"greatest event of the eighties"; "the church was aroused by the revival message of justification by faith"					
General Conference <i>A Further Appraisal</i> (GCFA) 1958	"rank and file ... accepted"					"certain leading men ... resisted";
General Conference <i>The Story of Our Church</i> (GCSC) c.1956						"dissension was largely a conflict of personalities and hardness of heart"
AWS						"rancors aroused by personalities, much more than the differences in beliefs"; "Waggoner was regarded as a conceited upstart, and Jones as a barbarian"; "were not wholly sanctified"; "failed to show humility and love"; "extreme teachings"
NFP c.1962						Jones: "uncouth posturings and gestures"; "naturally abrupt"
GCSC	"a great victory for the church"; "new experience"; "rapid progress"; "proper emphasis"			"Ellen White did not take sides"		"Conference seemed depressing and alarming"
A. V. Olson (AVO) c.1966	"thirteen years between ... 1888, and ... 1901 ... victory"					

L. E. Froom (LEF) 1971	"denomination ... and its leadership ... did not reject"				"'some' who rejected ... less than twenty"; "most of those ... made confessions"
Marjorie Lewis Lloyd 1973					"some rejected it-- a vocal minority"
Arthur L. White (ALW) 1984	"no suggestion of denominational rejection"				
Steve Wohlberg 1995	"false to state categorically that 'the Seventh-day Adventist Church rejected...'"				
George R. Knight (GRK) 1998	EJW, ATJ, EGW: "church had accepted"	at least on "the intellectual level"			
Gerhard Pfandl 2010	"turning point in the history"; "church was saved from an incomplete understanding of the gospel"				"most of those who opposed ... changed ... and accepted"
LEF	"not possible to establish ... the relative number in each" group				
					"less than one quarter" rejected; most of these repented
G. I Butler (GIB) 1886					"views not believed by two-thirds or three-fourths of the denomination"
GIB 1888					"position held by the majority" was contrary
J. S. Washburn 1950					"three-fourth of the workers stood against"
A. G. Daniells 1941					"message has never been received ... as it should have been"
R. T. Nash 1955					"united opposition from nearly all the senior ministers"
C. McReynolds 1931					"closed with a dark shadow over many minds"
Taylor G. Bunch 1937				"or were afraid of it"	"fully two thirds ... either opposed"
ATJ 1921	"cannot now name anyone who definitely and openly accepted"				
EGW 8/27/90					"some ... on the enemy's side"; "seen to be wrong by very many"
EGW 9/7/88					"strong, firm, resistance was manifested by many"
EGW 10/14/88			"standstill"		"the spirit ... of the ministers generally ... is to discard light"; "turn away"
EGW 10/18/88		"mere assent"			"many ministers ... never been converted"
EGW 10/19/88					"not half ... have a thorough understanding"
EGW 11/88					"but few .. comprehend"; "opposition ... the order of the day"
EGW 12/88		"very few ... responded except by assent"			"nearly leavened the lump"
EGW 5/12/89					"disregarded by nearly all"; "Rebellion was popular"
EGW 5/2/89					"not one ... to stand by my side"
ATJ 1893	"Some ... accepted it"	"all the way between"			"others rejected it entirely"
EGW 11/88		"larger number who profess"			
EGW 2/90			"many ... no response"		
EGW 12/31/90		"many ... bare assent"			"decided unbelief"