

Chapter 7, *The Return of the Latter Rain*

"Return to Battle Creek"

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[Major source for the chapter: Manuscript 30, 1889, June 1889, "Experience Following the 1888 Minneapolis Conference; The Danger of Legalism; Emphasizing Religious Liberty," *1888 Materials*, pp. 352-381]

November and December 1888

4 Sun	5 Mon	6 Tue	7 Wed	8 Thu	9 Fri	10 Sab
11 Sun	12 Mon	13 Tue	14 Wed	15 Thu	16 Fri	17 Sab
18 Sun	19 Mon	20 Tue	21 Wed	22 Thu	23 Fri	24 Sab
25 Sun	26 Mon	27 Tue	28 Wed	29 Thu	30 Fri	1 Sab
2 Sun	3 Mon	4 Tue	5 Wed	6 Thu	7 Fri	8 Sab
9 Sun	10 Mon	11 Tue	12 Wed	13 Thu	14 Fri	15 Sab
16 Sun	17 Mon	18 Tue	19 Wed	20 Thu	21 Fri	22 Sab
23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sab

Issues:

1. Freedom to speak in Battle Creek Church

I was invited to speak the next Sabbath in the tabernacle, but afterwards--because the impressions were so strong that I had changed--I think the brother felt a little sorry he had asked me. Two elders visited me on Sabbath morning, and I was asked by one what I was going to speak upon. I said, "Brethren, you leave that matter with the Lord and Sister White, for neither the Lord nor Sister White will need to be dictated to by the brethren as to what subject she will bring before them. I am at home in Battle Creek, on the ground we have broken through the strength of God, and we ask not permission to take the desk in the tabernacle. I take it as my rightful position accorded me of God. But there is Brother Jones, who cannot feel as I do, and who will wait an invitation from you. You should do your duty in regard to this matter and open the way before him." {1888 355.2}

But days passed and there came no invitation for Elder Jones to present to the large church in Battle Creek the message given him of God. I sent for the elders of the church and asked again if they designed to give Elder Jones an opportunity to speak to the people. The answer was, "I have consulted Brother Smith and he has decided it would not be best to ask him because he took strong positions, and carried the subject of national reform too far." {1888 356.2}

I then felt my spirit stirred within me, and I bore a very plain testimony to these brethren. I told them a little of how matters had been carried [on] at Minneapolis, and stated the position I had taken, that Pharisaism had been at work leavening the camp here at Battle Creek, and the Seventh-day Adventist churches were affected; but the Lord had given me a message, and with pen and voice I would work until this leaven was expelled and a new leaven was introduced, which was the grace of Christ. {1888 356.3}

I was confirmed in all I had stated in Minneapolis, that a reformation must go through the churches. Reforms must be made, for spiritual weakness and blindness were upon the people who had been blessed with great light and precious opportunities and privileges. As reformers they had come out of the denominational churches, but they now act a part similar to that which the churches acted. We hoped that there would not be the necessity for another coming out. While we will endeavor to keep the "unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, we will not with pen or voice cease to protest against bigotry. {1888 356.4}

2. Freedom to teach in Battle Creek College

And the arrangements were made to shut him [A. T. Jones] out of the school for fear something should come in that would be at variance with what has been taught in the school. Was this a conscientiousness inspired by the Spirit of God? Certainly there was not the spirit of inspiration upon you from God, but from another source. {1888 258.4}

Butler, Smith, & Prescott had a talk with him, and have arranged on that he shall teach in the School during the winter term. This one victory over their narrowness, and prejudice, is worth a whole winter's work. {1988 EGWE, MMM 127.2} [W. C. White]

Recorded interview Prescott, Butler, and Smith had with him, since the 11/22 meeting, in which he conceded "the right of the board to determine what views should be presented", and assured them "in a very positive manner... if he should be employed to assist in the Lectures, he would not knowingly teach any opinions contrary to those which the Board desired to be taught..." Voted 60/40 to hire Jones as stipulated. [*Ministry February 2003, pp. 6, 8, 9*]

3. Potterville Michigan Meetings

Such a state of feelings as existed was painful to me. I labored with pen and voice, doing all in my power to change this order of things. A meeting was conducted at Potterville by the Michigan ministers. I was urged by Brother Van Horn to attend the meeting. I was glad to do this, hoping that the prejudice would be removed. The Lord gave me of His Holy Spirit at that meeting. The Lord seemed to be close by my side, and I had freedom when bearing my message to the people. On this occasion, when only our brethren were present in the morning meeting, I spoke plainly, stating the light that the Lord had been pleased to give me in warnings and in reproof for His people. {1888 357.2}

EGW spoke 5 times. (see *RH1889/05/28* and *RH1889/06/04* for 2 sermon examples.)

4. National Religious Liberty Issues

After we had been here about two weeks, mother and I asked my they did not get him to speak in tabernacle, on National Reform. Sisley said that he had asked Eld. Smith, and he thought that Jones was rather extravagant in his expressions, and took an extreme view, and he hardly thought it best to ask him to speak. Well, you can guess that when mother had a chance to talk with Brn. Sisley, & Amadon, that she told them her mind quite fully about that sort of planning. Amadon did not sympathize with the opposition, and he stirred around, and gave out appointments for Sabbath, & Sunday evenings, at the TAB. A. T. did real well. Judge Graves, Ed. Nichols, and several other prominent citizens were there, and were much pleased. John Fulton stirred around, and got orders for 1500 copies of the Journal, if it had a full report, and then took his notes, and A. A's Mse. and with A. T's help got up a fine report, which I trust you have seen ere this. {1988 EGWE, MMM 126.3} [W. C. White]

ATJ went to Washington to testify; see on CD-ROM under A. T. Jones' collection: *The National Sunday Law*, Argument Of Alonzo T. Jones Before The United States Senate Committee on Education and Labor; At Washington, D. C., Dec. 13, 1888. [Sentinel Library, No. 18]

5. Battle Creek Week of Prayer

During the week of prayer in Battle Creek [Dec. 15-22] we labored earnestly, speaking at the sanitarium in the early morning, and at the office chapel to the workers in the office, and at the tabernacle. I had reason to give praise to God that strength was given me for this labor. At times the power of God rested upon me in large measure. It seemed at times while I was speaking that the unseen realities of the eternal world were opened to my view, and I know that the Lord was speaking through me to His people. I take no credit to myself. It was all of God, every bit of it, and the Spirit of God rested upon the congregation. I was glad of this for the sake of the people, for I knew that those who had been in doubt and evidence for their faith if their hearts were open to receive the impression of the Spirit of God. {1888 365.3}

Professor Prescott arose and attempted to speak, but his heart was full and he did not utter a word for five minutes, but stood weeping before the people. Then he said a few words, "I am glad that I am a Christian." He talked for about five minutes, then he gave liberty for all to speak. Many testimonies were borne, but it seemed to me that there must be a company reached that we had not yet succeeded in reaching. We called all to come forward who felt that they were unready for Christ's coming and had not an evidence of their acceptance with God. I thought the whole house was in motion. We then gave opportunity for all to express their feelings, but we had after a little another season of prayer and the blessing of the Lord seemed to reach hearts. {1SM 150.3}

A woe is pronounced upon all such unbelief and criticism as was revealed in Minneapolis and as was revealed in Battle Creek. {1888 369.4}