

The Latter Rain

Harvest Rain, Rapturing Faith

Joel 2:23-27, "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month."

Listen what the Prophet of God said about it:

Now it says God is going to "restore". The Lutheran Age did not restore the church; it started a reformation. The Wesleyan Age did not restore. The Pentecostal Age did not restore. **But God has to restore for He cannot deny His Word.** This is not the resurrection of the Church; **it is the "Restoration"**. God will take the Church right back to **Pentecost of the beginning**. Now notice in Joel 2:25 it tells why we need restoration. The locust, cankerworm, caterpillar and palmerworm have eaten all but the root and a small bit of the stem. Now we are told that all these insects are all one and the same in different stages. That is right. They are the **antichrist spirit manifested in organization, denomination and false doctrine through the ages**. And that poor little root and stalk is going to be restored. God isn't going to plant a new Church, **but is going to bring His original planting back to original seed**. He is doing it as stated in verse 23, by the teaching, or "former" rain. Next will come the **harvest rain or rapturing faith**. [1]

The prophet said there'd be a former rain and a latter rain; in the latter rain would be both former and latter rain together--a great church universal that would sweep from one side of the world to the other side of the world. **A great message**, great signs and wonders, would be accomplished by this church. Daniel said the people that know their God in that day shall do exploits. That's exactly where we're living at in this day (*Daniel 12:4,9-10*). [2]

And there would be a latter rain, and it would show forth and be like the former rain, and **both former and latter rain would be together**. We know we've had many bogus names and cults that's went out by it, under it, but still the Word of God remains true. [3]

Now, remember. The Bible promises that in these last days, **just at the close of time**, it'll be another Christian light come forth--**the former and latter rain will come together**. The prophet said it will be **Light in the evening time** (*Zech. 14:7*). [4]

If you want a Life of God, start with the Word of God. Accept the Word of God in Its fullness, every measure of It. And if that is the fullness of God in you, then the rain that's falling will produce exactly what's in your garden.

Now, watch. Now, remember the word "m-o-u-r-e-h, moureh," means **"teaching, the former rain."** It says **"the moureh rain, the teaching rain," teaching rain went forth** (*Deut. 32:2*).

Billy Graham has struck the world. The Pentecostals struck the world, **and the Word has struck the world.** Now, what's the matter now? **She's now waiting for the latter rain. That's when she produces her fruits** (*Matt. 7:15-20*). Oh, I hope you get it.

Then the kind of seed you have planted in your field will be the kind of crop you will reap. If the denominations want more members, that's what they're going to get. That's what they have gotten. The Pentecostals want more Pentecostals; that's what they're going to get. That's right. **But the Word's going to produce sons and daughters of God.** That's coming too. Watch, look at that great latter rain supposed to be done, how they would run over the wall, and leap over, and how they'd be an army coming. Just wait a minute. The kind of crop you'll get is the kind of seed you put in your field.

The Baptists want to outdo the Methodists. The Methodists want to outdo the Lutheran. The Lutherans want to outdo the Catholic. They every one want to outdo somebody. See, **that's the spirit of the organization.** Jesus said, "But few there'll be that will be saved. Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, but few there'll be that'll find it." (*Matt. 7:13-14*). **Just a few. If He said few,** that's the Word of God, that Seed, there'll be a few. Won't be no tens of billions and billions. **It'll just be a few that'll find it. Them that's predestinated to it, they hear it.** The former rain has went forth now. [5]

We fuss so much about latter rain, had movements called latter rain; latter rain, former rain, inner rain, outer rain. I was reading the other day. Do you know what former rain means in the Hebrew word? I can't call it right now; I never wrote it down; it skipped my mind. But "former rain," the first rain, means "a rain of teaching." **The second rain is the Spirit that comes upon what's been taught and produces the crop.** Why is it we had such a revival? Pentecostal, Baptist, all the other trees put forth their buds, as Jesus said they would be. And what have we hatched out? The Baptists said they got a million more in '44. Look at the Catholic, how they increased. Look at all denominations. Look at Pentecost. What did we do? **We sowed denominational seeds; we reaped the denominational harvest.** Why, the church ought to be on fire for God right now, if there'd been a **Word seed** sowed back there, and there'd be signs, wonders, miracles, and that church

would be together, one heart, one accord, **and marching toward Zion for the rapture.** That's right.

What did we do? **We had intellectual speeches instead of the Word.** We had reasoning against the Word and everything else. [6]

Moureh, moureh, the rain, former rain, planting rain, has went forth. Now, what had happened? The former rain was being planted. **The latter rain fell. What happened? Sodom and its Sodomites burned. Abraham received the promised son.**

Jesus said, "Let them grow together. The tares shall be bound, bundled, and burned. The wheat will go to the garner." (*Matt. 13:24-30*). See? **The latter rain's just at hand.**

Now, what they're trying to do, **they're trying to manufacture a latter rain.** Nonsense. **Why, that latter rain will sweep the world, brother.** And then a former rain sowing Word... That's right. Now, you'll see what the latter rain produces. You'll find out there'll be an affiliation. The Pentecostals and all the groups will come together, and they'll shut the doors on them guys that won't listen to it; **and you won't even be allowed to open your mouth. That's right. That's when He will come. That's when He will show. That's when you'll see a rain. Oh, my, lay still; be quiet; let it go.** See?

Someone asked me to repeat that Hebrew word again. In Joel the 2nd chapter (*Joel 2:28*) where he's speaking of the coming of the former and latter rain, the word "former" is the Hebrew word M-o-u-r-e-h, moureh, which means "teaching." In other words, **it'll be a teaching rain and a harvest rain.** Now, **we've had the teaching rain, and we're ready now for the harvest rain. You know the first rain is when you plant the seed.** That starts your crop growing. **Then just before it matures, there comes another rain. That's what they call the harvest rain.** We know when it is--the spring rains, and then the rains about June, it makes your crop.

Now, the rain we found out was the Spirit. And now, we left off at where I gave my thoughts of what the whole thing will be. That is, I believe that the rain has been brought. That is the reason we are **quietening down, because the ground's already sowed over.** You can't find anywhere hardly but what's been sowed. **And it's went out through radio, television, tapes, word, everything; it's sowed the country down.** It's planted seeds. Now, what seeds were planted, you cannot get nothing else from it but what seeds that were planted. Can you understand now? It'll be the seed that's planted. Now, **the Spirit will fall, but It'll bring a harvest of the seed that It falls on. Now, remember.**

All right, I predict that the two denominational groups, Pentecostal and the Evangelical groups, will work together in a denomination, will unite themselves together, and will become a member (all of them) of the Federation of the Council of Churches or the **Council of Churches**. They already belong to it--all of them. **And there will come through them a forcing or a boycott, that'll stop everything but what belongs to that union of churches.** The Bible said that there would be a boycott, even to such a way it would cause people **to not buy or sell unless they had received this, the mark of the beast, which is Romanism, and the image of the beast, which is Protestantism,** that the image... (*Rev. 13:4-13*). **The beast had power, authority to give the image life to speak,** and it did. And that's the Confederation of Churches, when they confederate themselves together.

Now, there's many young people here. I don't know; **Jesus may come this afternoon; He may come next year. I don't know when He will be coming.** But remember, if I do not live to see that day of His coming--which I hope that I will, and somehow believe I will... Now if I do not see it, **do not let this Word ever depart from your ears and your heart.** See? Just remember, I speak in the Name of the Lord. Now, I believe with all my heart, that's the way it'll wind up. **There will be like a union, a boycott. All such places as this here will be closed down.** And you'll not be able to speak unless you got a permission or a license from this federation of churches to hold a service.

All Scripture that has not been fulfilled, **must be before that time.** The Bible is to be finished; **the Gentile dispensation is to be finished with the church age when this anointed messenger arrives.** Of course, **he will plant the Seed of the entire Bible, come from the serpent (*Gen. 3:1-7*) to the messenger in the former rain.** Then he will be rejected by the denominational people as his forefather John and Elijah, as was spoken by our Lord--people as Elijah was the first time to Ahab's time. It will happen here in this country, **as this country is a type of Israel.**

Then in the latter rain there will come forth a **Mount Carmel, a showdown:** Bible fulfilled to the letter. John the Baptist, His messenger before His face in Malachi 3, planted a former rain and was rejected by the churches, the denominations, the Pharisees and Sadducees in his day. Jesus came and had the Mount Transfiguration showdown. **This forerunner of the last days will sow for the former rain.** Jesus will be the showdown between denominations and creeds (which is His Word). **When He comes, the showdown, the rapture of His Bride...** The first was Mount Carmel (*I Kings 18:30-40*); the second was Mount Transfiguration (*Matt. 17:1-8*); **the third will be Mount Zion.** Glory.

We are at the end time. The seeds are sowed now; the latter rain is fixing to come forth.

Remember, there will be such a denominational gathering pretty soon; it'll be terrific. And they will bring themselves together into this federation of churches, and then this kind of a church will be put out of operation (as far as they know). **It's at that time that Jesus will appear, and He will show which is Bride and which is not.** [5]

They've been talking so much about latter rain. Not discarding you latter rain brethren, but that's not latter rain. If the latter rain would've been here, the power of God would've struck that thing, and she'd have swept the world. **The latter rain's fixing to come.** What's the matter? **The church is manufacturing herself something** just like Eve tried to do. She tried to have more light to manufacture something (*Gen. 3:1-5*).

We've done the same thing, trying to make something in ourselves. Keep your hand off of it. Let God do it. Take His Word and believe It. Hold It in your heart. **And when the rain begins to fall life will take hold, and the Word will manifest itself.** [7]

And then when the Spirit falls, it falls on the just and unjust (*Matt. 5:45; Heb. 6:4-8*).

I think, after this great revival that's swept the world in these last few years, I think the saints of God ought to be in the heavenlies everywhere (*Eph. 2:6*), and the power of God going into hospitals, and everywhere else, and great signs and wonders, and miracles taking place. **But He can't get the people to stand still long enough. If we sow denominational seeds, we reap a denominational harvest.** That's exactly. That's what we've done. [8]

Each one becomes a latter rain to the other. See, **Luther was a latter rain to the Catholic.** And John Wesley was the latter rain to Luther. The Pentecost was the latter rain to the denomination. Now, the Pentecostals are organized, now what's going to happen? See, see? [9]

In Joel 2:28 **He promised that in these last days there would be a latter rain poured out upon the people in the last days.** I think the Greek word there is "kenos," which means that "**He emptied Himself out,**" not in the way that we would say, like something was inside of somebody that had emptied out, **but He poured Himself out. He changed His en morphe.** He changed from what He was to what He is. **He never changes His nature.**

But on the day of Pentecost He changed Himself from being the Son of man to the Son of God. He came, not with the people, **He came in the people,** the same God to **carry His ministry** on through in this great age.

He prophesied in the Bible that there would come a day that would not be neither day or night, but in the evening time it should be Light. Now, the sun, geographically, rises in the east and sets in the west. It's the same sun all the time.

Now, when the Son (S-o-n) revealed Himself in the manifestation of the promised Word to Israel, the eastern people... We've had a day of gloom. We've had enough light in the reformers and so forth to make churches and denominations, and join them; and come in and kiss the babies; and marry the old; and bury the dead, and so forth; and live in the church. "But in the evening time, it shall be light," He said, "in the evening time." And no Scripture can be broken. **And the same S-o-n that poured out Himself (kenos) on the day of Pentecost, promised to do the same thing in the evening time. See? It's according to the promise.**

Get the tag together. Look what's happening, and look what He promised, **then you see where we are at.** Get the thing together. **You can see the unveiling of this great and mighty One.** Traditions have blinded the people again to these great things that's been prophesied. [10]

And what was the last sign Abraham and Sarah had before that promised son that they'd waited on all these years come back? Was God standing in the form of a Man and could discern the thoughts that were in Sarah's heart (**Sarah being the church, representing the church**)--discern the thoughts that's in the church that was even behind Him (*Gen. 18:1-15*). Is that right? [11]

He (Elohim) said, "I'm going to visit you (I, the personal pronoun.), **I'm going to visit you according to the time of life** (Oh.), and you're going to have that baby that you've waited on" (*Gen. 18:9-10*). [5] And immediately after that, she changed back to a young woman and him a young man; and Isaac was brought on the scene, the promised son (*Gen. 21:1-8*). [11]

The latter rain is fixing to fall." You've held that seed in there long enough now, on believing, **and you're looking for a coming son, and he's coming.**" Amen. That's the real church today, that elected Seed. "You've been looking for him, and I'm going to send him to you." Amen. What said that? The Word. [5]

I believe you're seeing the last thing that'll happen to the church before the rapture. That's exactly. I believe it. **The rain is over.** Just read the first three chapters of Revelations and you'll see what's promised to the church. That's what's promised, church, right there--the church ages. [11]

Now, therefore, the rain dropping down upon the natural vegetation of the earth **is a type of the Spiritual rain which gives Eternal Life,** dropping down upon the church; **for we call it the former rain and the latter rain.**

And it's a rain, pouring out of God's Spirit upon His church (*Zech. 10:1*).

[12]

Oh, there will be a true former and latter rain in the last days upon that little group that come with Him on this little donkey, low and humble, no doubt or denomination, crying, "Hosanna to the King that comes in the Name of the Lord!" (*John 12:13*). [13]

The Word promises this. "It shall come to pass before the great and terrible day of the Lord shall come, behold I will send unto you Elijah the prophet. He shall turn the hearts of the children back to the fathers." (*Mal. 4:5-6*).

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, I'll pour out my Spirit from on high. **The former and latter rain shall come together in the last days.**" (*Psalms 72:6*).

All these promises, through the Scriptures, have been given. We're looking upward, watching at the true Bride across the nation this hour, looking up.

Church, He's coming one of these days. Just as sure as He come the first time, **He's coming again. Get everything ready.** Separate yourself from shuck; lay before the sun. **Keep looking up. Be under expectation** (*Hosea 6:3*).

Brother, let's get all things ready, for one of these days, the fire's going to fall. **We're going up. Now, let's get ready for the fire-falling time.**

We're in the last days. We all know that. **And we're ready for the coming of the Lord.** The thing to do is separate yourself from all sin. Separate yourself from anything that pertains to the world. Don't love the world or the things of the world (*I John 2:15*). **Let no man, by his creed, deceive you. You stay right straight in the promise of God, the Word of God; and that Word, if It's the Word, for this day, God vindicates It so.** If He doesn't, it's not the Word for this day. **The Word that fell on the day of Pentecost will not work this day. No, sir, that was for Pentecost. This is for the Bride: going home of the Bride. We got something different. The Pentecostals represented that again. We're in the Bride age.** No more than the Word of Noah would worked in the days of Moses. No more than Moses' law would've worked in the time of Paul, here.

Church, you, who I'm speaking to tonight across the nation, **if you've separated yourself from denomination and all the filth** and things of this world, and all those things that keeps you in manmade creeds, and orders, and things like that, you separated yourself, look up. **Get ready. The fire's going to fall one of these days.** God's going to let Him come, in a sight to behold. Would you be ready when He comes? **Would you be ready to go up with Him when He comes? The secret rapture of the supernatural Bride...**

She'll be made from mortal to immortality; be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye (*I Cor. 15:51-54*). We which are alive and remain shall not prevent them which are asleep (*I Thess. 4:13-17*). [14]

Now, we know that this **is the day of salvation**, where God is calling man from the world, **from a life of sin unto a life of service. And in the day that God has poured out His Spirit from on high, great signs and wonders are to accompany the ministry of this day. This is when the former and latter rain are falling together.** And we know that there's supposed to be great signs and wonders, which in many great denominations this is turned down. But I'm very thankful for these open doors that I've had to go into and the inspiration it's given to young men like your pastor here, that's caused them... As I'm beginning to get old, and know that my days are numbered, and know now that these young men can take this message and sweep it on to the coming of the Lord, if He doesn't come in my generation... Which I'm hoping to see Him, **I look daily for Him, and watch, keeping myself prepared for that hour.** [15]

Reference:

- [1] "An Exposition of the Church Ages", pg. 379
- [2] "Mary's Belief" (61-0121), par. E-36
- [3] "Be Not Afraid, It Is I" (61-0414), par. E-22
- [4] "Forsaking All" (62-0123), par. E-76
- [5] "The Spoken Word Is The Original Seed" (62-0318M), pg. 29, 46, 75, 50, 55, 64-65, 123-125, 48
- [6] "Jehovah Jireh, Part I" (62-0705), par. 54
- [7] "End Time Sign Seed" (62-0319), par. E-65
- [8] "Hear Ye Him" (62-0711), par. E-50
- [9] "Once More" (63-1117), par. 17
- [10] "The Mighty God Unveiled" (64-0629), pg. 15
- [11] "Questions & Answers" (64-0823M), COD pg. 963, par. 194
- [12] "The Anointed Ones At The End Time" (65-0725M), par. 36
- [13] "What Is The Attraction On The Mountain?" (65-0725E), par. 119
- [14] "Invisible Union Of The Bride Of Christ" (65-1125), pg. 45-46
- [15] "Things That Are To Be" (65-1205), par. 14

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]