

L.12 - Earth's Closing Events - Wednesday: The Early And Latter Rain

1. Recommendation “Last Day Events” Chapter 13 on the Latter Rain (pgs. 183–196)
2. The Early and Latter Rain is a metaphor from GRAIN FARMING in both the OT & NT
 - a. **Joel 2:23-24** – *Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*²⁴ *The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.*
 - b. **James 5:7-8** – *Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.*⁸ *You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*
 - c. The early rain causes the seed that is sown to germinate and grow
 - d. The latter rain causes the plant to mature and bear fruit **FOR THE PURPOSE OF being ready for harvest.**
3. The rain represents the work of the Holy Spirit
 - a. **Zechariah 4:6** – *So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, BUT by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.*
4. Two Applications
 - a. **INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE:** The early rain is the work of the Holy Spirit that begins and brings growth in your spiritual life
 - **LDE 194.1** compares this to keeping our cup clean and RIGHT-SIDE-UP (PREPARED)
 - The latter rain is the work of the Holy Spirit bring you to maturity – RIPE for the Harvest
 - We can’t expect an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the future to miraculously change our habits, desires, and our will that we don’t submit to God through obedience today!
 - b. **PROPHETIC EXPERIENCE:** ACTS 1-2 is the Early rain of the Holy Spirit
 - **Acts 2:16-18** – Peter (UNDER INSPIRATION) refers to this as the fulfillment of **Joel 2:28-29** – *“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.*²⁹ *And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*
 - c. But the crop was not harvested AT THAT TIME
 - Jesus tells us in **Matthew 13:39** that *“the harvest is the END of the age”*
 - **GC 611.3** – *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.*
 - The work of the Holy Spirit will bring full light to those who will accept it AND full power from God to live up to that light.
 - **This produces a MATURE harvest of righteousness BY FAITH.**
5. We must ask – individually and collectively
 - a. **Zechariah 10:1** – *Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone.*
 - b. **COL p. 121.1** – *The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the former rain, but the latter rain will be more abundant. The Spirit awaits our demand and reception. Christ is again to be revealed in His fulness by the Holy Spirit's power.*