

Spirit (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; see also 14:4, 5; 15:2) and the Holy Spirit invites the entire globe to “come” into God’s kingdom (Rev. 22:17).

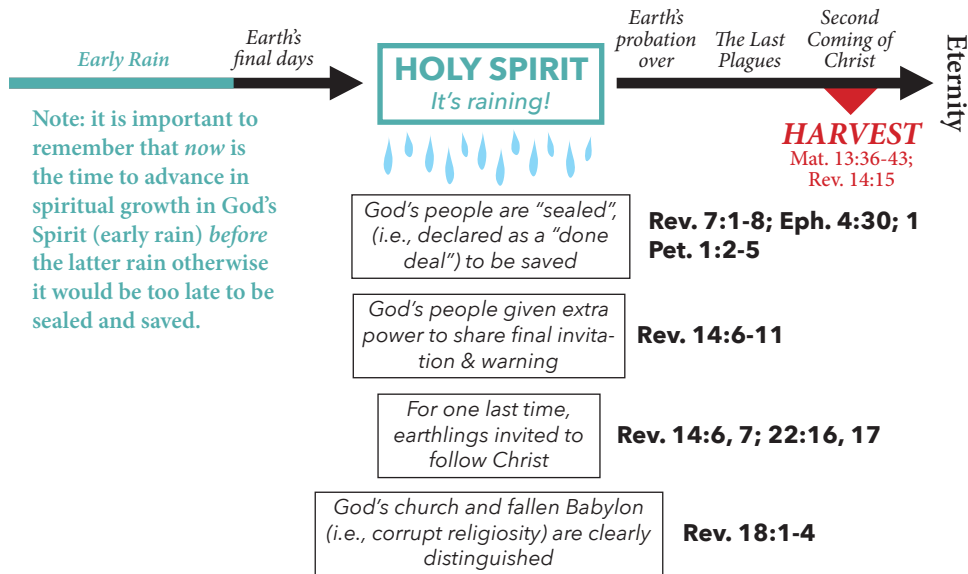
5. The readiness of earth’s finality is expressed in the agricultural term of “harvest”: “And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud [Jesus Christ], ‘Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe’ ” (Rev. 14:15). Note: this reaping takes place after the final three messages to the world are given, Rev. 14:6-11).

### III. When will the Latter Rain Fall?

The prophet Joel speaks about the latter rain just before wonders in the natural world and Christ’s return (2:28-32), and the apostle John depicts God’s people finally made complete and sealed just before the final signs and Christ’s return (Rev. 6: 11-7:3).

- The latter rain falls upon God’s end-time, Living people.

#### Summary of What The Latter Rain Does & When



The latter rain of the Spirit Grooms earth for the harvest of people.

Sermon series and study guides by pastor Ray A. Navarro  
June-August 2020

Scripture quotes taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated

# WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT & WITH FIRE

S E R M O N S E R I E S

## STUDY GUIDE 7

## THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE "LATTER RAIN"

TEACHER

Tempe Seventh-day Adventist Church, Arizona

In Lesson 6 we talked about the rains in Palestine, with a focus on the early rains and the spiritual meaning. The “early rain” of the Holy Spirit occurred on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) when the church was launched (today, this spiritual “early rain” experience corresponds to when you decided to follow Christ). But what is the “latter rain” of the Holy Spirit?

## I. The Role of the Latter Rain in Palestine



### A. Purpose of the Literal Latter Rains

In Palestine, the early rains prepared the ground for tilling. The latter rains **Finished** the work of the early rains, ripening the crops to maturity in preparation for the **Harvest**. Function of both rains:

- **Early Rains in Autumn:** preping, the agricultural beginning point.
- **Latter Rains in Spring:** reaping, the agricultural finishing point.

There were rains in between, but the early and latter rains were crucial.

### B. The Latter Rains and Spring Feasts

Various herbs and legumes were harvested in spring, but the most important spring crops were cereals: barley and wheat (major crops of the land are listed in Deu. 8:8). A spring ritual took particular note of these cereals: newly harvested grain could not be eaten until the feast of firstfruits of grain had been offered on the “day after the sabbath” of the Festival of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:9-14). The feast of unleavened bread immediately followed the Passover feast. The feast of Pentecost (7 weeks after Passover) near the end of the grain harvest, included grain and loaf offerings (vss. 16-17). Pentecost was also called “the Feast of Harvest” (Exodus 23:16). (after Pentecost, most of the harvest was fruit: grapes, olives, dates, figs, pomegranates and other fruits, and seeds and vegetables of lesser importance).



**Lesson: the latter rainfalls were critical for joyful celebration of a bountiful grain harvest and the spring festivals.**

## SPRING FEASTS

Name	Old Testament Time	Modern Equivalent
<b>Passover</b>	1st month, Abib 14	March-April
<b>Unleavened Bread</b>	1st month, Abib 15-21	March-April
<b>First Fruits</b>	1st month, Abib 16	March-April
<b>Weeks</b> (Pentecost/Harvest)	3rd month, Sivan 6	May-June

- detailed information in supplement -

God’s covenant promise of latter rain in Deuteronomy 11:13, 14:

“It shall come about, if you listen **Obediently** to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil.”

## II. The Spiritual Latter Rain

The spiritual latter rain upon earth is the final outpouring of the Spirit to prepare earth for harvest—the second coming of Christ.

1. The restoration of God’s people is in language of rain to illustrate the Spirit’s work (Isa 32:15; 44:3; Eze. 39:29).
2. After announcing the coming of literal rains, God said, “I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit **In Those Days**” (Joel 2:28, 29).
  - This prophecy was fulfilled at Pentecost as the “early rain” (Acts 2:16-18) but can also point to a fuller discharge of the Spirit “before the great and glorious day of the Lord” (Acts 2:19, 20).
3. The last message of warning for earth requires the special “latter rain” power of the Holy Spirit:
  - Rev. 14:6-12: these 3 angels represent human messengers voicing a herculean and necessary world-wide last warning
  - Rev. 18:1: this last plea (symbolized by an angel) reiterates the second angel’s caveat regarding Babylon in Rev. 14:8.
4. Before Jesus’ return, hell will perform great signs and miracles (Rev. 13:13, 14; 16:13, 14), but the Spirit expresses His truth among God’s people: all messages of power to the 7 churches are given by the Holy