

# HOLY S Y M B O L S O F T H E SPIRIT

## Holy Spirit Symbols

### Part 6: Rain

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

**Discussion Question:** Why do you value rain? Are you spiritually dry?

#### **REVIEW:**

God wants us to have a personal relationship with HIM and on the earth it is the Holy Spirit that assist us in that relationship.

- ❖ Introduction: The Holy Spirit according to Jesus is Helper; Abide; Teach; Remind
- ❖ Part 1: Symbol of Fire: Fire
- ❖ Part 2: Symbol of the Dove
- ❖ Part 3: The Holy Spirit in Communion
- ❖ Part 4: The Holy Spirit as Wind
- ❖ Part 5: The Holy Spirit in Leadership

#### **TODAY:** The Holy Spirit as Rain

Acts 2:15-18 *"For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:"* [KJV]

Joel 2:23-29 *"Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before. 24 "The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. 26 "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. 27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame. 28 "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, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit."* [ESV]

I want to make one point in several ways this morning: **LORD SEND THE RAIN!**

In these two passages we see the connection with the prophetic word and the promise of the Holy Spirit. Peter, in explanation of what is happening on the Day of Pentecost points back to this word from God to Joel. Let's look deeper: **LORD SEND THE RAIN!**

### **Why do we need rain?**

On the lighter side: good excuse to stay inside;

Biological side: Rain is the major source of fresh water on the earth (we need rain);

Rain clears the air...washes away dust and other pollutants.

Spiritual: let me point to three

#### **1. Restoring of what has been lost**

In Joel the prophet describes a time where the earth has been stripped by different catastrophic events. (locust & caterpillar; armies have invaded) The rain has been withheld (early rain & the latter rain). The prophet looks past the invasion that is destroying everything good and sees God coming to restore. It is a time to rejoice!!!!

Jesus speaks of souls as a field ripened to harvest and sower & reaper to rejoice

John 4:35-38 *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."*

The one who sows and the one who reaps are to rejoice together. But we can only rejoice if there is rain! **LORD SEND THE RAIN!**

#### **2. Refreshing of what is dry**

NC is now in moderate drought. How quickly the land can become dry. So too in the spiritual...it does not necessarily mean that we are doing wrong. But quickly we can go from sowing time to dry season and wondering if there will be a harvest.

We can also become dry because of our own sin but that does not change the power of the Holy Spirit.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "You cannot have back your time, but there is a strange and wonderful way in which God can give back to you the wasted blessings, the unripened fruits of years over which you mourned... It is a pity that they should have been locust-eaten by your folly and negligence; but if they have been so, be not hope-less concerning them."

God can send the rain and refresh what is dry! **LORD SEND THE RAIN!**

### 3. Repetition of what is promised

Every sowing and reaping season needs rain!

Cycle of rain...

- Isaiah said that rain gives seed to the sower.
- The former rain assists in sowing and growth.
- The latter rain hastens the harvest and ripening the fruit

The spring and fall rains would come on time. There is a repetition to God's nature...

*Isa 44:3 "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:" [KJV]*

Peter connects the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to Joel's prophecy and a former and latter rain. This rain will impact our sons and daughters! Old and young (dreams and prophecy): **LORD SEND THE RAIN!**