



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 3 BAPTISM OF WATER & FIRE

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the baptism of water and fire which represents receiving the Holy Spirit as the former and latter rain.

“...If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude.” {AA 50.1}

2. When John the Baptist was baptizing at the Jordan, what two baptisms did he speak of? Matthew 3:1, 11
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3. **Note:** As we shall see, the baptism of water and fire both represent the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and we must receive both outpourings in order to be saved.

4. What element in nature is a symbol of the Holy Spirit? Isaiah 44:3; John 7:38, 39 _____

5. What is water synonymous to in scripture? Job 36:27; Job 5:10 _____

6. What are the two phases of the rain or the two stages of the Holy Spirit's work? James 5:7; Deuteronomy 11:14; Joel 2:23
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7. **Note:** The former rain was poured out on the Day of Pentecost to gather in the harvest of souls and to begin the Christian church. Compare Acts 2:16, 17 with Joel 2:28. Bear in mind that Peter said that the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. Peter added the words, “last days.” The phrase “last days” implies that there will be a latter rain, the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit in these end times. In other words, **Pentecost will be repeated. While there was the former rain at a specific time in history, individuals must receive the former rain and latter rain in their lives.**

8. What occurs once the water, the rain, the Holy Spirit falls upon the seed which represents us? Isaiah 44:3, 4
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9. **Note:** “Spring up” means to bud, to sprout, to germinate, to begin growth, according to Job 38:26, 27. This is the former rain experience.

10. What happens to an individual who receives the former rain which is revealed in Isaiah 44:3, 4? Isaiah 44:5
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11. What two things does an individual do when he or she dedicates themselves to the Lord? Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:38
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12. Read Matthew 3:8. What fruits are manifested in our lives when we are experiencing true repentance? 2 Corinthians 7:10, 11
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13. What does a person who is receiving the former rain and experiencing godly repentance say? Hosea 14:5, 8
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12. **Note:** When a person dedicates themselves to God with repentance and then gets baptized, they receive the power of the Holy Ghost, the former rain experience. Just as the literal former rain helps the crops to spring up or grow at each stage, so the power of the Holy Spirit helps the sinner to grow spiritually, and get the victory over sin at each step.

13. **Note:** Read Matthew 3:11 again. This baptism of fire, preached by John, typifies the latter rain outpouring of the Holy Ghost. Let us confirm this point.

14. What is the purpose of the latter rain for crops? **Answer:** To ripen them and prepare them for the harvest. See Deuteronomy 11:14, James 5:7, and the quotation below.

“The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the “former rain” was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the “latter rain” will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. “Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” Hosea 6:3. “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.” Joel 2:23. “In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.” “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Acts 2:17, 21. {GC 611.2}

15. What was one primary reason why the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles on Pentecost? Acts 1:5, 8; 2:41

a) When does Peter say this same Holy Spirit power will be poured out again? Acts 2:17

16. Just as John the Baptist preached, in what form did the Holy Spirit fall on the apostles? Acts 2:1-4

17. Before we can be baptized by fire and receive the latter rain, what must we do like the disciples? Acts 1:14-15; Zechariah 10:1

“The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ. Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship. They drew nearer and nearer to God, and as they did this they realized what a privilege had been theirs in being permitted to associate so closely with Christ.” {AA 37.1}

“These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls. They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ had promised.” {AA 37.2}

18. **Further Study:** The latter rain power of the Holy Spirit prepares souls for the harvest or the end of the world (Matthew 13:39), and will be poured out just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. **Therefore, the reception of the latter rain is connected to the sealing of God’s people** who reject the Mark of the Beast and are prepared to be “harvested” by Jesus at His return. The righteous are harvested to go home with Jesus, while the wicked are harvested in bundles to receive destruction (Revelation 14:9-11, 14-20; Matthew 25:31-33).

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.” CCh 334.1

19. **Note:** As we have studied, God wants us to be baptized with water and with fire so that we are not counted among the wicked. Because of wickedness, the earth WAS ‘baptized’ by water and WILL BE ‘baptized’ by fire. The unrepentant sinners will share the same fate. Read 2 Peter 3:5-7 to confirm.

20. What caused God to destroy the earth with a flood? Genesis 6:5, 17

21. How will the condition of mankind be in these last days which will cause Jesus to destroy the earth with fire? Matthew 24:37-39

22. **Note:** How will the unrepentant sinners who lived after the flood be ‘baptized’ by water and fire? The principle is found in Matthew 23:34-35 where Jesus says that the Jews who had rejected Him as well as rejected and killed the prophets, would be guilty of all the righteous blood since Abel. Likewise, because of the wicked’s rejection of the prophets, Jesus and His people, the wicked will be found guilty of all the righteous blood since Abel (who lived before the flood) because they didn’t learn from the mistakes of the antediluvians in rejecting God (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Then, they will receive God’s final baptism of the earth by

fire to forever purify it of sin.

“Little did the Jews realize the terrible responsibility involved in rejecting Christ. From the time when the first innocent blood was shed, when righteous Abel fell by the hand of Cain, the same history had been repeated, with increasing guilt. In every age prophets had lifted up their voices against the sins of kings, rulers, and people, speaking the words which God gave them, and obeying His will at the peril of their lives. From generation to generation there had been heaping up a terrible punishment for the rejecters of light and truth. This the enemies of Christ were now drawing down upon their own heads. The sin of the priests and rulers was greater than that of any preceding generation. By their rejection of the Saviour, they were making themselves responsible for the blood of all the righteous men slain from Abel to Christ. They were about to fill to overflowing their cup of iniquity. And soon it was to be poured upon their heads in retributive justice. Of this, Jesus warned them:” {DA 618.3}

“That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.” {DA 619.1}

“Looking forward, Jesus declared that the impenitence of the Jews and their intolerance of God's servants would be the same in the future as it had been in the past:” {DA 619.3}

23. The apostle Peter was a recipient of the baptism of the Holy Spirit by fire on the day of Pentecost. What is his counsel to us so that we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and not be partakers of hell's fire? 2 Peter 3:11, 12, 14
