GARY REPORT

The Latter Rain & The Teacher Of Righteousness

I find myself right now very much so relating to John the Baptist when he was placed into prison by Herod. Let me explain. And in this examination we will see Yahweh's ways and hopefully what He is doing. And, the outcome is most hopeful. As is the way of Yahweh, He turns the valley of Achor (the valley of trouble) into a door of hope (Hosea 2:15), which is something we most desperately need.

Obviously wearied by his imprisonment, in Matthew 11:1 and following we read that John sent word to Yahshua by his disciples and asked: "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" Yahshua sent word back to him: "... *the* blind receive sight and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense/stumble at Me." I wish that we could see this fulfilled today spiritually: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers cleansed, the deaf see, the dead raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

How is it that I can relate to John in prison? Because we do not see these things taking place as we need to. I see the need for them, I see the need for the Elijah work, but am imprisoned from experiencing them; and as with John I am afraid I will lose my Head and He will not come. And worst of all, it would be in like fulfillment of a birthday party which Herod held (where one's dreadful possession of this flesh existence is <u>celebrated</u>), as well as by the weakness of the man once again listening to the voice of the woman (Herod listening to the voice of the queen's daughter, prompted by the queen). I pray that the fulfillment of John today does not lie in listening to that voice of the woman, or like Herod falling prey to pleasure from the entertainment of the female. And I pray this not just for myself, but for all! Once again we see here the curse in the Garden!

Today, we are in the place of John the Baptist at his end. And what we have had to do is unite with him in that bondage. But, the voice of the woman has to be silenced and John released as Herod actually desired. In Mark 6:20 we read: "Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him." But Herod listened to the voice of the woman and John lost his head! Today, that must be reversed—the course of the woman being fulfilled already—and we now not listen to that voice and John come out of prison as Herod desired. The curse must be reversed, and the Elijah (and company) come out of prison and today prepare the way for Immanuel! Yahshua returned back to heaven, and there must be another "John" kingdom work that brings the first Remnant out of death, and Immanuel back to this earth—death, burial, and resurrection!

Yahshua said to His disciples regarding John: "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about

whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You''' (Luke 7:26-27). Who was Yahshua more completely speaking of when He said this about His messenger and was recorded for us today? The answer is quite obvious. In Malachi 3:1-3 we read concerning the Elijah:

"Behold, I am going to send My **messenger**, and he will clear the way before Me, and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple. And the **messenger** of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, he is coming," says Yahweh of hosts. "But who can endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to Yahweh offerings in righteousness."

The messenger whom Yahshua sends is Elijah, and his company. And when He said, "Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You," He was presenting this in context with John the Baptist. But as we see, this is precisely the transition we have to have today—from John, who lost his head, to the Elijah who will not lose his Head, Immanuel. But rather, He will complete what He has begun and call us up to Him. Blessed be Yahweh!

Having introduced this, let us turn to another subject, and we will get back to this later in the report. On the day of Pentecost when Yahweh sent the Spirit in the former rain, Peter stood up and declared:

"Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved''' (Acts 2:14-21).

We ask: From what passage in Joel did Peter, by the Holy Spirit, provide this quote? It was from Joel 2:28-32. And amazingly, this is not all that Joel 2 reveals to us concerning the outpouring of the Spirit! The fact is, if there was a former rain at the beginning of the church, there is a latter rain at the end. The former rain formed the first Remnant, and the latter rain will form the second Remnant. Let's get straight to the point of this report.

What we learn is that Joel 2:28-32 reveals, or is relative to, the former rain that was given to the first Remnant. And preceding this passage, and this is important to note, we find that Joel 2:18-27 reveals and is relative to the latter rain that is given to the second Remnant. So in this account the latter rain was actually addressed before the former rain. Here once again we see Yahweh flipping two things to make them clean—the first being last and the last actually being first.

We read these verses and see the wonder of our hope today. But, where did the church end up after the former rain? Appropriately, verses 30-31 warn us of the breach that would follow: "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes!" This phrase "great and terrible" is not good. In two other occasions in the Old Testament it is used to describe the breach church. Deuteronomy 1:19 and 8:15 speak of the "great and terrible wilderness," and similarly <u>in Malachi 4:5</u> we read, "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet during the coming great and terrible day of Yahweh." So actually, verse 31 could well be more accurately translated: "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood during the great and terrible day of Yahweh that comes!" And Peter actually changes this to "before the great and apparent [not "terrible"] day of the Lord shall come." But one thing is for certain—this blood, fire, and columns of smoke, and the sun turned into darkness and the moon into blood is not what we need! What do we need? We need the latter rain addressed in Joel 18-27, and the coming of Immanuel!

Let us now look at the verse specifically identifying not just the former rain, but more importantly the latter rain. First though, very likely you cannot go to your Bible, no matter what translation you use, and find this in its complete and accurate form. This is actually a blend between Young's Literal Translation and the Concordant Literal Translation. Why? Because each of these had partial and important truth. And frankly, all the others I assessed were way off. Here is what Joel 2:23 literally reads:

"Then, sons of Zion, exult! And rejoice in Yahweh, your God! For He will give to you the teacher of righteousness, and He will bring down for you the downpour, the former rain and the latter rain as at first."

First, you will notice that there is the former rain, and then there is the latter rain as at first. We have already received the former rain, as well as the terrible breach between these two outpourings of the Spirit. Now we need the latter rain "as at first." And I urge you to read Joel 2:18-27 concerning that rain. (And frankly, the verses prior to those are fantastic! For example, "Let the bridegroom come out of his room and the bride out of her *bridal* chamber." Amen!) I really like verse 25 that says: "Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust—My great army which I sent among you." Ugh! I have especially known those locusts in the last twenty-three years, particularly with the loss of my family. Ohhhh how we need the latter rain!

So do you see this? Verses 18-27 tell us what we will experience today with the latter rain, and then in verses 28-32 we see the former rain and what followed for the next two thousand years. Again, these passages are actually flipped here where the first is

presented last, and the last is first—things that we have already seen fulfilled. But let's point out something else.

Most revealing, when Peter quoted these latter verses on the day of Pentecost, he stopped short of qualifying who were those who call on the name of Yahweh and are saved. He stated in Acts 2:21: "And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But he stops there and does not quote the rest of that passage. Actually, that passage in Joel goes on to state: "—for in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, shall be **a delivered remnant**, just as Yahweh has said, and among the survivors, whom Yahweh calls." And we now know whom that delivered remnant is: the first Remnant during the time when Peter declared this, who were formed by/under the former rain ("in Mount Zion"), as well as and now the second Remnant who in the end are formed by/under the latter rain ("in Jerusalem"). The former rain of the Spirit, and then the latter rain of the Spirit, form these two essential bookend remnant works!

Now let us learn even more from this critical and extraordinary passage. In Joel 2:23, which is specifically concerning the latter rain, we read: "For He [Yahweh] will give to you the teacher of righteousness, and He [Yahweh] will bring down for you the downpour, the former rain and the latter rain as at first." Again, very few translations translate this to say "the teacher of righteousness." In fact, Young's Literal Translation is the only one I have seen, but that is in truth the literal translation of this. You can study this for yourself, but briefly, to begin with, the Cambridge Bible notes that this was a recognized old Jewish translation. Barnes' Notes on the Bible supports this as well. And Matthew Poole's Commentary states regarding the identity of this teacher of righteousness: "Either some eminent prophet, or prophets, as Isaiah, or Joel himself, but as forerunners and types of the great Prophet Christ."

And looking back in history, the most well-known texts among the Dead Sea Scrolls are the ancient religious writings found in eleven caves near the site of Qumran. From those we find that there was a time of apostasy when God "remembered the covenant of the forefathers and caused a remnant to remain for Israel." As noted in <u>Encyclopedia</u> <u>Judaica</u>, "For 20 years this remnant groped for a way like blind men, 'and God took note of their deeds, for they sought Him with a perfect heart; and He raised up for them a **teacher of righteousness** to direct them in the way of His heart, that He might make known to the last generations what He was about to do to the last generation."

So, who is this teacher of righteousness? Christianity is very shallow, and all they know is Jesus. He is the answer to every Bible question. They know nothing else. They have no idea concerning the Bride and the Body. They have no idea concerning the two-part Bride, separated by the Body—the essential covenant pattern. They have no idea who and what the Elijah is; in fact they falsely say that Jesus could come at any time. And on and on we could go. But regarding Elijah, and this is essential, he prepares the way for Immanuel, and as with John and Yahshua they share that beginning ministry.

Look at Yahshua's first coming. John baptized for six months prior to Yahshua coming on the scene. And most noteworthy, John was a type of Elijah. Yahshua said that if you are willing to accept it, John was Elijah (Matthew 11:14). But John himself said very clearly that he was not Elijah (John 1:21). The fact is, John foreshadowed him. In other words, as a precursor his work looked to what the Elijah would be. It is important to note that John baptized for six months, and when Yahshua came, there was an overlapping transition period where Yahshua baptized (though not He Himself), and was soon baptizing more than John (John 3:22-24 and 4:1). Do you see the transition between the Elijah work and Yahshua's work? And that is exactly what will happen regarding the Elijah and Immanuel. You can be assured, Elijah will be a teacher of righteousness, calling man to repentance and to forsake ungodliness. If you question that for a minute, remember that in Malachi 3:2-3 regarding the Elijah, the messenger, we read:

"For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to Yahweh offerings **in righteousness**."

Elijah prepares the way for Immanuel; and when He comes He will further purify men, ruling with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15), and every man will be judged according to his deeds. He will be the ultimate teacher of righteousness, and His kingdom will have no end.

But for now, the Elijah will fulfill that initial teacher of righteousness, who purifies the silver—the Bride who makes herself ready. If Yahweh has called and chosen this man to be that teacher, I will MOST gladly occupy that place and purpose. And if you want to know where that refining today begins, read <u>Remnant Bride Conduct</u> or <u>The Curse Of 1920</u> or other writings here and you will see. I would love to deliver the message of the teacher of righteousness under the Spirit of Yahweh. Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand. As John the Baptist prepared for the first coming of Yahshua with the message of repentance, one can be most certain that a man will stand in that place today with the same call for repentance. John had "the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17), setting forth the role of the fulfilling Elijah—the teacher of righteousness. And I would greatly enjoy performing such if Yahweh chooses—with power and high expectations! Yahshua is NOT coming for a harlotrous bride—conforming to and committing harlotry with the world. But He is coming for a bride that is without spot or wrinkle—pure in heart and actions. She proves that she is worthy (Ephesians 4:1). And people of all nations need to fear God and repent as well.

Send the Spirit O Immanuel (John 15:26). But as well, given what we are learning of late, has He already begun His work (John 16:12-14)? We look to the Father.

Gary