

blackened, and the baths be taken. . . . The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight. . . .

"There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away. Let all bitterness and wrath and malice be expelled from the soul. In a humble spirit, 'Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.' James 5:16.

"Before the Sabbath begins, the mind as well as the body should be withdrawn from worldly business. God has set His Sabbath at the end of the six working days, that men may stop and consider what they have gained during the week in preparation for the pure kingdom which admits no transgressor. We should each Sabbath reckon with our souls to see whether the week that has ended has brought spiritual gain or loss. . . .

"Before the setting of the sun, let the members of the family assemble to read God's word, to sing and pray. . . . Let the children take a part."—*Id.*, pp. 355-357.

Brethren and sisters, we who have embraced the Sabbath as "the sign of our order," is our soul hunger being satisfied at the banquet table? Is the Sabbath truth the joy and rejoicing of the heart? Here is the wondrous promise to those who accept this precious message in its fullness:

"Even unto them will I give in Mine house and within My walls a place and a home better than of

sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 56:5; 58:13, 14.

In Sabbathkeeping ancient Israel failed to enter into the rest and delight that God designed. Yet a loving, merciful Father still extends the gracious privilege to a chosen people; for "there remaineth therefore a rest [margin, "keeping of a Sabbath"] to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His." Heb. 4:9, 10. In other words the Sabbath which was established to commemorate a perfect creation, is also the signet of a perfect re-creation. Through the everlasting gospel God is preparing a perfect people to inhabit the redeemed new earth; and true Sabbathkeeping, resting in the Lord, becomes the sign of new creatures in Christ, the seal of highest spiritual attainments.

The Sabbath, a fragment of the long-lost Eden, spans the cycle from Paradise lost to Paradise regained. It is a memorial of the first, a pledge of the second. To those who have acquired the secret of resting in the Lord, victory is won.

The Latter Rain—No. 4

By MEADE MacGUIRE

A GAIN we return to the question, Why has not the latter rain come? The promise of the latter rain is made in the second chapter of Joel, and it is made only on certain conditions which are clearly and explicitly given.

This is God's summons to His own people:

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand."

"Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God. . . . Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" Joel 2:1, 12-17.

What a startling and impressive spectacle it would be to the world if God's remnant people should respond accordingly to God's summons. Does not God intend that this summons be literally carried out? What vivid pictures He has given us through His messenger of the remnant people pleading and agonizing at the throne of grace for victory over every sin, and power to finish the work.

Would it not seem that Satan is seeking with all his subtle devices to lull God's people to sleep, or to keep them so occupied in work which may be right in itself, that they fail to prepare for the divine power without which the work cannot be finished?

"I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, 'Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not

Supplication

BY NEVILLE N. JONES

LET us honor Thee, Lord, mighty God of creation,
With the strength of the heart and the soul and the mind.

Help us live as the members of Thy holy nation,
Ever truthful and brave, ever loving and kind.
Help us keep Thy commandments and in Thee rejoice,
Seal us all with Thy Sabbath, the day of Thy choice.

Let us honor Thee, Lord, with our every possession,
Let the morning and evening resound with Thy praise.

Lead us onward by steps in a holy progression,
From the sad walks of earth to Thy heavenly ways.
Make us ever remember the works Thou hast done;
Having love each toward each, may our hearts beat as one.

ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant." I saw that God's people are on the enchanted ground, and that some have lost nearly all sense of the shortness of time and the worth of the soul."—*Early Writings*, pp. 119, 120.

"All things are ready, but the church is apparently upon the enchanted ground. When they shall arouse, and lay their prayers, their wealth, and all their energies and resources, at the feet of Jesus, the cause of truth will triumph."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, p. 475.

"We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 601.

With these startling statements before us there need be no uncertainty regarding our present standing. The work cannot be finished until the latter rain is poured out. But it is promised only on certain definite conditions which we have not met. Many are in the Laodicean condition, which the Scriptures describe as lukewarm, self-satisfied, and complacent, though utterly unprepared for the end. The last church is represented by

ten virgins, all of whom slumbered and slept while the bridegroom tarried. More than fifty years ago this earnest appeal was made:

"Meetings should be held in every church for solemn prayer and earnest searching of the word to know what is truth. Take the promises of God, and ask God in living faith for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is shed upon us, marrow and fatness will be drawn from the word of God. . . . When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. Then the truth of God's word will be regarded with new interest, and will be explored as if it were a revelation just from the courts above. . . . The Bible will be regarded as a charter from heaven. Its study will absorb the mind, and its truth will feast the soul. The promises of God now repeated as if the soul had never tasted of His love, will then glow upon the altar of the heart, and fall with burning words from the lips of the messengers of God. They will then plead with souls with an earnestness that cannot be repulsed. Then the windows of heaven will be open for the showers of the latter rain."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1890.*

O that God may put into the hearts of His people a great determination at this time to get off Satan's "enchanted ground," that we may become enlightened with regard to our condition and our need, and may fully meet God's expectations. Then we are assured the latter rain will fall, and Jesus will soon come to take His people home.

How Jesus Conquered

By J. S. WASHBURN

AS Jesus conquered when faced with the temptations of this world, so may we. Let us follow Him. He has left us His winning sword. We may overcome as He overcame. By the Spirit of prophecy the Lord has revealed the mighty secret.

"Commit the Scriptures to memory, and then throw right back upon Satan when he comes with his temptations, 'It is written.' This is the way that the Lord met the temptations of Satan, and resisted them." "Build a wall of Scriptures around you, and you will see that the world cannot break it down."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in Review and Herald, April 10, 1888.*

Jesus was always ready. He was never caught defenseless. He must have learned the Scriptures completely as a child. He knew by experience the unflinching truth of the promise He gave the disciples, "The Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. To remember is to recollect. We cannot remember what we never had in our memory.

As a little child, a human being, Christ must have learned at His mother's knee. For He "increased in wisdom" just as truly and as literally as He increased in stature. He learned the Scriptures. He committed the Scriptures to memory,

as the above statement from the Spirit of prophecy indicates. How much of the Scriptures did He know? We may better ask, "How much of the Scriptures did He *not* know?"

One of the sure and mighty offices of the Holy Spirit is to bring to our remembrance, to help us to recall, whatever He has said unto us. That is especially true and necessary in these awful days. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isa. 59:19. Concerning the time when the Redeemer is about to come to Zion, we have this glorious promise: "As for Me, this is My covenant with them, saith the Lord, My Spirit that is upon thee, and My words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever." Isa. 59:21.

Here God has promised that He will keep in our hearts and in our mouths His precious word. This text is the mate, the companion, of John 14:26. The two texts are God's own almighty memory team, all-conquering, never failing. This glorious promise will be fulfilled to us if we grieve not the Spirit, if we learn the Scriptures as Jesus stored them in heart and memory. We may wield the "sword of the Spirit" as Jesus did, and overcome as He overcame, and sit with Him on His throne of victory and glory.