



The Scent of Rain

DECEMBER 1, 2019 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

The Latter Days and Christmas Day: Why?

- Continuity of experience—just as in the Old Testament Israel longed for her coming Messiah, so too the redeemed of God in this age long for the return of the King
- It keeps us from presuming we know what this season's all about
- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Matthew 24:36-44

The Parousia

- Thayer's Lexicon: "the advent, i.e., the future, visible, return from heaven of Jesus, the Messiah, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God."
- **2 Thessalonians 2:8** NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION
"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming [Parousia]."



“I give thee, O
sovereign Lady, this
crown to wear until He
who reserves the right
to wear it shall return.”

— the Archbishop of Canterbury upon the
coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

The Message of the Second Coming

- Jude 1:2 THE MESSAGE

“Relax, everything’s going to be all right; rest, everything’s coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!”

The Parousia

- These images are an especially vivid way of portraying a damaged and dying creation being set right
- There are upheavals and disturbances and resistances when crooked things are made straight
- **Matthew 11:12** NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION
“And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.”

What's Really On the Way

- Ultimately what's really on the way is not destruction (though the devices and doings of Satan will be utterly wiped out) but a reconstruction in love
- The message of the second advent and the first sing in harmony: “People get ready—love is on the way, life is on the way, hope is on the way, help is on the way!”
- The rain of Jesus Christ is coming and the scent is in the air.

Job 14:7-9 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

At least there is hope for a tree:

If it is cut down, it will sprout again,
and its new shoots will not fail.

⁸ Its roots may grow old in the ground
and its stump die in the soil,

⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth shoots like a plant.



At the Scent of Rain

- “at the scent of water” the root, no matter how dead and dry, will bud and send forth shoots.
- There is hope that the dead places in our lives and our families will be revived
- **Romans 4: 17b** THE PASSION TRANSLATION
“God can raise the dead and call into being things that don’t even exist yet.”

At The Scent of Rain

- Jesus, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, was a carrier of the rain
- This is why Bartimaeus, for example, cried out to Him for mercy—he could smell the rain!
- It's Father's heart that we are carriers of the rain, too

At The Scent of Rain

- “And at the scent of the rain what is dead will come to life. So relax, everything’s going to be all right; rest, everything’s coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!”





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