



The Plumbline

Assessing Current Teachings, Issues and Events with Scripture

A Second Pentecost 2015 in Jerusalem

"Is There the Hope of an End-Time Repeat of Pentecost?"

The leaders of international Pentecostalism are moving toward a repeat of the first Pentecost. This world-wide "convergence" as they call it is named Empower 21. There already have been world-wide regional meetings to prepare for a Pentecost repeat in Jerusalem on Pentecost Sunday 2015. They expect tens of thousand of the world-wide Pentecostal faithful to attend. Even as the first Pentecost included many Jewish faithful of the Jewish diaspora in the Roman Empire, who had gathered in Jerusalem on the feast day of Pentecost, now nearly two thousand years later, international Pentecostalism will converge in Jerusalem once again

Plumbline readers will take note that the international steering committee includes two current Latter-Rain celebrities, namely prophetess Cindy Jacobs and Apostle Bill Johnson. **General secretary George Wood of the AOG is a co-chair.** Kenneth Copeland is also a committee member.

Charisma magazine's recent headline stated:

"Are Spirit-empowered believers praying for a second pentecostal outpouring?" (4-1-14). The Charisma article continues: "could the world experience a second pentecost? That is the hope of a global movement called Empower 21 - with organizers setting their sights on Jerusalem where the first Pentecost took place...'It is stunning' Bill Johnson from Bethel church said...Oral Roberts President Billy Wilson Director of E21 spoke at a recent event for the global movement stating: tonight we stand on history...our big vision is bigger than all of us. It comes out of Habakkuk 2: 14 'that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.'"

In this issue of Plumbline, I will try and give a simplified cliff notes version of the essentials of this Second Latter-Rain Pentecost. That is because the current Latter-Rain leaders work hard to obscure the foundations of their beliefs and promote their ideas as new and unique. Only those who are dedicated history buffs can discern the historical essentials of their current messaging. ACTUALLY only insiders know the Latter-Rain play book and they cover it up and pawn it off as a new revelation with a new name. No! the Latter-Rain has been around since the early days of 20th century. Actually the hope of a "Latter-Rain Second

Pentecost” was the stated intention of the first Pentecostal leaders when the movement was birthed at Azusa Street in the first years of the 20th century. The “Latter-Rain Evangel” was published monthly by the “Stone Church” in Chicago. And the second General Council of AOG was also hosted by this Stone church in 1914 and 1919 (Consortium of Pentecostal Archives). But shortly most of these early Pentecostals scraped the Latter_Rain teaching and returned to the then current end time teaching of a premillennial return of Christ. They apparently were satisfied with the teaching of a post conversion Pentecostal Baptism in the Holy Spirit without a Latter-Rain eschatology. In the 20's, 30's, and 40's the Pentecostal movement progressed but without the original “Second Pentecost” teaching of the original founders. This continued and was status quo until the early 50's when the original hope of a Latter-Rain Second Pentecost was re-announced to the pentecostal world. A new Pentecostal movement appeared and re-issued the original claim of an end time Second Pentecost. In that revival that began in Canada, it was proclaimed to the Pentecostal Movement that the original teaching of Azusa Street, which had been buried and deferred had now been recovered. This return of the original teaching of the first Pentecostals became known as the New Order of Latter-Rain. Lets explain the OT symbolism of the Latter-Rain.

The Latter-Rain

Latter-Rain was a symbolic invention as a template for the entire church age derived from the early and latter rains of the growing season in Palestine (Joel 2:23). The early rains were for planting barley and then after a long period of no rain the latter rains came and filled out the barley and prepared it for the end of season harvest. This simple reference to the seasonal rainfall of Palestine was lifted by the very first Pentecostals from its OT context. In the birth of Pentecostalism of the early 1900,s this symbol of the LR was pressed into service as a new paradigm for the history of the entire church age. This of course was an illegitimate way to handle scripture. But it was used nevertheless. The early Palestinian rains symbolized the first Pentecost and the latter rains were seen as a Second Pentecost just prior to an end time harvest and the return of Christ. Although this original Latter-Rain Second Pentecost in the first decade of the 20th century was later delayed, It was for the NOLR in Canada 50 years later to reclaim this historical paradigm of the church age. They also repudiated the Pre-millennial teaching of the previous years.

The Latter-Rain of the mid-century added a number of new teachings to the Latter-Rain of Azusa Street 50 years earlier.

1. A restored order of apostles and prophets who were to govern the last days church with on-going extra-biblical revelations.
2. This latter-Rain, last generation church was tasked to give birth to a new-breed of mature believers who will conquer all demons and every enemy of God. This new breed will also finally defeat death itself. These “Manifest Sons of God” will also take dominion over the whole earth, separate the sheep from the goats, judge all sinners and establish the “New Jerusalem upon the earth.
3. These Latter-Rain believers will receive a “spiritual second coming” of Jesus who will be infused into this many membered body of matured and perfected believers. This spiritual return of Jesus will be birthed by the matured body of Christ. The current Latter-Rain faithful will be or have been impregnated to give birth to a spiritual return of Jesus into these last days overcomer's This is supposedly based on the “ birth of Man-child” of Revelation. This overcoming church will become an end time Mary to birth the spiritual return of Jesus. This will make it unnecessarily for Jesus to return bodily from heaven.

George Warnock a Latter-Rain worker while still in Canada during the mid century Latter-Rain revival wrote a systematic NOLR theology. His book is called "The Feast of Tabernacles." This is actually another symbolic allegorical presentation. Warnock summarized this theology as "Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles to also typify the whole church age. Beginning with the Feast of Passover representing the death of Jesus, the Feast of Pentecost of course typified the birth of the church and the future Feast of Tabernacles points to a Latter-Rain Second Pentecost at the end of the age. This fits nicely with early and later rains and harvest motif. This teaching of the Feast of Tabernacles is simply an overlaid allegory and symbolism upon the original Latter Rain template. The end-times Feast of Tabernacles will culminate in a mature (perfected) corporate body that will be in-filled with a spiritual "presence" of Jesus." This is a spiritual return of Jesus into this body. In this spiritual return of Jesus the perfected body will become one with Christ and become one substance with Christ. These elite, perfected and matured "Sons of God" then corporately become God every bit as much as Christ is God. They will defeat all of the enemies of God culminating in a defeat of death itself.

But once again in the 1950's many pentecostal believers rebelled at this teaching. The AOG met and repudiated the New Order of the Latter-Rain. Also about this time William Branham, who initiated the Latter-Rain in Canada by the laying on of his hands, died suddenly in a car accident. A book could be written (has been written) of the weird and bizarre teachings and obvious clairvoyant and errant ministry of Wm Branham. The AOG repudiation and Branham's death caused the Latter Rain teaching to apparently fail in the mid 50's and in effect it went underground.

Another Return of the Latter-Rain

But a few ministers who had been a part of this Latter-Rain at mid century survived and entered unnoticed into the Charismatic Renewal some years later. For example Em Baxter who had been at the mid century Latter-Rain revival brought Latter-Rain teachings secretly and in piecemeal fashion into the theological fog of the Charismatic Renewal engendered. Earl Paulk also brought more explicit Latter-Rain teaching back further. In more recent times the Kansas City Prophets of Paul Cain (a contemporary disciple of Wm Branham) was sidelined because of homosexual problems) and, the now deceased prophet Bob Jones, disciplined for sexual matters became prophetic mainstays among the Kansas City Prophets. The Kansas City prophets later morphed into Mike Bickle's current IHOP ministry in Kansas City. The Toronto Blessing, and the Todd Bentley affair (pun intended) in Lakeland FL also marked a return of Latter-Rain teachings. But they all deny any connection to the NOLA of the mid century. Nevertheless, they teach Latter-Rain ideas with new labels. They essentially have re-branded the Latter-Rain. The spiritual return of Jesus is now called "The Presence" etc. They speak openly of the fulfilling the Feast of Tabernacles. They teach a church that will conquer the Anti-Christ. The perfection teaching of the Latter-Rain is now called now "100% obedience" by Mike Bickle. Christ the Bridegroom is now romancing the bride etc etc. There is so much more that can be said but it is too complicated for this basic introduction. I have only tried to give a bird eyes view and simplified summary of the new eschatology of the Latter-Rain since Azusa at the turn of 20th century though the Latter-Rain of the mid century and on to the present. Indeed, Latter-Rain teaching is alive and well but it is disguised and cleverly renamed. Apostles and prophets of the New Apostolic Reformation (ala Peter Wagner) announce a constant flow new revelations. Current Latter-Rain, Apostles and Prophets represent the current expression of the original latter-Rain paradigm. There is a flood of new prophetic revelations many of which can be found on the net at Latter-Rain central called the "Elijah List." All of these new prophetic words simply further express the Latter-Rain but in great detail. But they avoid the term Latter-Rain for obvious historical reasons.

The current E21 movement of a worldwide Pentecostal ecumenism built around another Pentecost in Jerusalem, represents a rising tide of all Pentecostals back to a Latter-Rain eschatology. In fact there is growing ferment among traditional AOG leaders for a release from Pre-Millennial eschatology. Even former General Superintendent of the AOG, Robert Trask told a pastors group off the record that the AOG missed it the first time (Canada) and we should not miss it this time around. Oh! It will never be called the Latter-Rain. But Prophetess Cindy Jacobs and Bill Johnson are on the international committee for E21 and are Latter Rain pure and simple. Johnson's book "Heaven Invades Earth" is Latter-Rain in essence. But who today knows what the Latter-Rain is or was. It is suggested that this "new move" has just been minted in heaven and is being revealed presently to end-time prophets. But there are those who use the Latter Rain play book and like NFL coaches on the sidelines hide the play book from prying eyes.

The "Resurrection-Translation" of the NAR/IHOP

Bill Hamon is a living connection to Latter Rain teaching in the present. Hamon was born in 1934. At 19 he was reportedly ordained. This means that he began his ministry right after Warnock wrote the *Feast of Tabernacles*. At that time he became a Latter Rain teacher and so is today a living connection to the NOLR. He has written numerous books but his two books, *Day of the Saints*, and *Apostles, Prophets, and the Coming Moves of God*, are instructive. In Hamon's book *The Day of the Saints*, in chapter 11 "Omega Transition Generation," Hamon states:

- "Transition means passage from one place or state of being to another - a change or process of change... [the] last generation of the mortal church [is] the one in which they experience the transition from mortality to immortality.... God has predestined a generation that will never die.... They will be a 'transitional generation' that will make the transition from mortal life to immortal life without going the way of the grave...." (*Saints*, p.386)
- "The Manifested Sons of God doctrine teaches that these Sons will be equal to Jesus Christ: immortal, sinless, perfected Sons who have partaken of the divine nature. They will have every right to be called gods and will be gods." (Hamon, *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*)
- "The [New] Apostolic Reformation will cause believers to manifest the supernatural grace, gifts and power of God." (*Apostles, Prophets*, p 13)
- "God has released the Holy Spirit to bring His revelations and activation to the end-time church. This will bring forth the last generation church of mortal people, with unlimited power...." (*Apostles, Prophets*, p 18)

Hamon speaks of what he calls "the Resurrection-Translation" (R-T) of the last generation saints. This quote does *not* mention a rapture or the physical return of Christ. This R-T resurrection ostensibly refers to deceased Christians. This

apparently appears to happen simply by the expression of God's power without any reference to the bodily return of Jesus from heaven. Hamon states:

- "the R-T is for the purpose of immortalizing their bodies. This will remove all earthly limitations, enabling the saints unlimited abilities. They will be able to travel in all space realms of the heavenlies the same as Jesus and the angels do now. They can move in and out of all dimensions of the natural and spiritual realms as Jesus did in His resurrected flesh and bone body." (Hamon, *Apostles, Prophets*, p 264-650)
- "God's great end-time army is being prepared to execute God's written judgments with Christ's victory and divine judgment decrees that have already been established in heaven." (Hamon, *Apostles, Prophets*, p 252)

On June 5, 2001, I received a very cordial letter from C. Peter Wagner writing as the Presiding Apostle of the International Coalition of Apostles. Among other things he wrote: "I never even heard of the Latter-Rain... apostles and prophets, Manifested Sons of God.... Now since I have become an advocate for contemporary apostles and prophets, all of these things have been coming up.... I have asked [apostle] Bill Hamon about these things.... but I never really was able to make sense of it until I read your article.... " This letter was a total surprise to me. Wagner surely is a quick study and an academic. Still, he must be lightning fast to understand Bill Hamon's book *Day of the Saints* in a matter of months and write a glowing endorsement for the book. He joined Cindy Jacobs and others to laud Hamon's work. He went from 0-100 in a short time in processing Hamon's book. Wagner's endorsement of Hamon's book "Day of the Saints" is without any qualification. He writes:

"The *Day of the Saints* has my vote for the book of the year. [Apostle] Bill Hamon has outdone himself...This book will help launch the Body of Christ into a dynamic and exciting era unknown since the days of Jesus and the apostles."