



7. This is a type or picture of the **Church Age**. The **“Former Rain”** was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church Age, *Ac 1-28*, and stretched from 30 AD to about 300 AD. The grain or seed of God’s Word was sown all over the then “known” world.

Now, at this time, we are experiencing the outpouring of the **“Latter Rain”** at the end of the Church Age. Since 1900 AD there has been a general worldwide outpouring of the Spirit. More people are coming to the Lord today than in any previous period of church history and God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. “Pentecostal and charismatic” believers are now second in number only to the Roman Catholics. The Christians in the mainline “pentecostal” denominations (A.O.God, Elim, Apostolic etc) number more than all Anglicans, Baptists and Presbyterians added together. The top ten churches of the world, numerically, are all “pentecostal”. [Factual details from the A.O.God “Evangel” Magazine, Sept 1990]

In every century of the church age there has been, somewhere, an outpouring of God’s Spirit. There have been “sporadic rains” between the “Former and the Latter” rains of the Spirit. It is very important that we realise that the outpouring of God’s Spirit is given so we **can gather in the harvest of souls for the Lord**. It is not to bless us as believers and stop there. **We must ask for the rain, *Zech 10:1*, so we can go out and gather in the harvest that is all around us.**

Jesus said “the harvest is the end of the age,” *Mat 13:39, Mk 13:24-27, Mat 24:29-31, Rev 14:14-16* is a word picture of Jesus reaping His end-time harvest, and **the blade of His sickle is made up of obedient believers witnessing to the unsaved**. Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest, *Mat 9:38*. **Pray that God will thrust out His labourers into His Harvest**. Lift up your eyes and look at the harvest all around, *Jn 4:35*. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be His witnesses everywhere you go, *Ac 1:8*.

The events at the end of the Church Age are:

1. The Latter Rain outpouring of God’s Spirit.
2. The ingathering of the harvest of God’s Word in the lives of men, women, boys and girls.
3. The second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The Judgment seat of Christ, *Mat 25:31-46*.