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Rain

“Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait for You, since You have made all these.”
Jeremiah 14:22

After numerous days of high temperatures and drought conditions the Lord has blessed our area with a most refreshing rain. Early in the year we had too much rain all at once, which resulted in flooding. Then we experienced a long period with very high temperatures and no rain. Even though our average rainfall for the year was still 7 inches above normal, we were under burn bans and gardens were burning out and crops were drying up in the fields. As I drove down the highway yesterday the grass along the sides of the road was already beginning to turn green again. What a blessing a refreshing rain is to both the land and to our spirits.

As I think about the physical benefits of rain I also think of the imagery in God’s word with regard to rain. Listen to what Isaiah wrote: “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the things for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11). This passage occurs in a section of Isaiah’s book in which he is talking about the Messiah and God’s promise to restore Israel and invites the entire world to join in the blessings of the Kingdom of God. Isaiah 55 begins with this invitation, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” (v. 1). This sounds very much like the Apostle John’s invitation at the end of Revelation, “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

God’s word is the spiritual rain that waters our souls and causes them to bring forth and bud. We grow by God’s grace into spiritual plants that provide seed to the sower and bread to the eater. The seeds of our life are sown into other hearts where they bring forth even more seeds of love and kindness that are in turn sown again into other hearts. The bread of our life gives sustenance and strength to our families, our neighbors, our church and our community causing them to be strong and healthy.

God’s word does not return to him void, just as the rain does not return to the heavens void but accomplishes the purpose for which God sends it. This is so encouraging to us to know the power and strength of God’s word. There is even more incentive for us to “hide his word in our hearts” as we understand the spiritual blessings that flow from this spiritual rain that flows from the word of God.

“The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.”
Deuteronomy 28:12