

13 Signs and Seasons

I would like to take the time here to substantiate my opinion that the former rain sign gifts faded away when the canon of Scripture was complete (when the written word of God appeared). I would also like to verify that the latter rain sign gifts will fade away when the Living Word of God appears. I will do this by comparing God's self revelation in the Bible to that in nature. I believe God created and permitted nature to be as it is so that we could better understand Him, ourselves, and the devil.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Since God did this for our benefit, when He compares two things to each other, we may, and rightly should, assume that they have something in common. This is the principle I've used in interpreting His analogy of comparing the kingdom to that of the day night cycle with the sun ruling by day and the moon by night.

Gen 1:16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

In this analogy, the sun visibly ruling the world by day represents Jesus visibly ruling the kingdom when He was and will be present on earth. At night, with no visible presence of the

sun, the moon rules the world by reflecting the light from the sun just as the written word of God rules the kingdom by reflecting the light from the Living Word of God. Also, as at times only a crescent moon is seen due to the earth's interference, so too at times do we see only a portion of God's light when we yield to worldly influence. And finally, the stars shine at night just as the saints do due to Christ (the source of their light) living within them.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Heb 11:12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

1 Cor 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

From nature, we learn a few more interesting points. First, that the light from the sun does not instantly disappear when the sun sets (when it's not visibly present). Sunlight refracts downward from the horizon temporarily after sunset, but then fades away rather quickly. Second, that the morning star appears in the early dawn before the rising of the sun. And last, that refracted light once again reappears shortly before sunrise. These phenomena would represent the remaining and fading away of Jesus' delegated power to perform signs and wonders temporarily after He left, followed by Jesus coming to rapture the Church, the return of power to perform signs and wonders, and finally the daybreak (Jesus' visible return). Let's see if Scripture supports this, or if it's just getting too late at night for me to be up writing. Here is the kingdom analogy which Jesus gives us.

Mark 4:26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 "and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 "For the earth yields crops by

itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 "But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

First, the seed (the word of God) is scattered during the daylight, then there is night, followed by day. The parallel would be the spreading and canonization of the written word of God, followed by the spiritual kingdom, and then the literal kingdom. While Jesus was present, and for a little while after, the word was spread and collected. After He left there came the spiritual kingdom where He rules in our hearts through the reflection (the written word of God). And finally, when He returns, He will once again rule visibly. The following passage confirms my view that the sun represents Jesus as the ruler and light giver of the world by day.

John 9:1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

It's interesting that Jesus claims that no one can work the type of work He is working at night (when He is not present). The night can only mean one thing, this present time, for it was day when He was here, and it will be the Day of the Lord when He returns (when the Son of Man rises out of the East), therefore it must be night now. Scripture confirms this as we are told to watch for His return as if it were night.

Mark 13:35 "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming-- in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- 36 "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Matt 24:27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and

flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

If Jesus was claiming that no one would be able to work the works He was working after He left, then why were the apostles able to heal people once He was gone? As I said before, it was because His light was still refracting over the horizon, but quickly fading away. Equally so, when Jesus appears as the morning star to rapture the Church, His light will once again begin refracting over the horizon, yielding the second initial pouring out of the Spirit, this time on Israel as a nation.

2 Peter 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

That some feel that the moon (the "light that shines in a dark place") represents the devil because it is a false light does not bother me. If God feels free to use the same animal (a lion) to represent both the devil and Himself, then this comparison should be okay too. Note however, that the devil was like a lion, whereas Jesus is the Lion. As we all know, Satan is always the counterfeiter.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

So how's that for an analogy? Just as the spring rain stops and the refracted light from the sunset fades away, so too did the signs and wonders fade away. Also, just as the fall rain will start and the refracted light will reappear along with the morning star,

so too will the signs and wonders reappear after the rapture of the Church. And along with these signs and wonders, the counterfeit ones will intensify. But for now, at night, no one can work the work that Jesus did (healing). It can only be counterfeited. Makes you think, doesn't it?