

"REFRESHING RAIN IN A TIME OF WEARINESS"**Introduction**

1. Those who are spiritual look differently at life
2. What excites the world makes believers groan
3. There is plenty in the UK to make us groan

1. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WEARY

- 1) What is this weariness?
 - (i) heaviness of soul because there is no blessing
 - (ii) a gloomy feeling that we shall see no good
 - (iii) a sadness settling on the soul // incubus

ILLUSTRATION: Peden's sigh: "O to be with Ritchie!"

- 2) Examples from God's Word:
 - (i) Israel in the desert
 - (ii) Christ: "O faithless generation..."
 - (iii) Paul: "Be not weary in well-doing..."

- 3) The effects of this weariness:
 - (i) to slacken in our service to God
 - (ii) to lose heart + to give up
 - (iii) to long for death and deliverance

APPLICATION: Such times there are (Moses / Jeremiah...)

2. AT SUCH TIMES GOD IS ABLE TO SEND BLESSING

- 1) The meaning:
 - (i) a timely intervention to lift our hearts up

- (ii) a sudden alteration to give blessing
- (iii) an unlooked for, sovereign intervention by God

- 2) How described:
 - (i) a shower of rain
 - (ii) which alters everything for the better
 - (iii) and turns away our sighs and groans
- 3) God may allow His people to be at their wits' end before this refreshing comes:
 - (i) Exx. from scripture: Abraham; Joseph; Jeremiah
 - (ii) Exx. from history: Constantine; Luther; Korea
- 4) Why does God allow us to go so far down?
 - (i) to test our faith in His power + promises
 - (ii) to show that it is His work, not man's

ILLUSTRATION: Israel hemmed in by the Red Sea
- 5) Our faith must "hope against hope".

APPLICATION: At weary times

 - (i) remind yourself of God's promises
 - (ii) plead them with God

3. THE EFFECT IS TO REFRESH GOD'S WEARY PEOPLE

- 1) There are texts to show this:
 - (i) Hannah's prayer: "No more sad"
 - (ii) Ps. 137 with 126: "As men that dream!"
 - (iii) Simeon, Anna, Mary: "them of low degree"
 - (iv) The two on the way to Emmaus
 - (v) The sight of Christ raised from the dead

APPLICATION: How often the face of things looks bad for God's cause – and then!
- 2) Revival is God's way of refreshing His people:
 - (i) Pentecost: "suddenly..."
 - (ii) Brainerd with North American Indians

(iii) "Out of weakness – made strong"!

APPLICATION:

1. In a weary time do not give up
2. The duty is to pray on and work on
3. Be patient with yourself and with all others.

CONCLUSION

The change in America after the War of Independence.

PSALM

93: 1 – 5

68: 7 – 10

90: 14 – 17