

THE PROPHETIC FRACTAL

DESIGNED

“**The whole natural world is designed to be an interpreter of the things of God.** To Adam and Eve in their Eden home, nature was full of the knowledge of God, teeming with divine instruction. It was vocal with the voice of wisdom to their attentive ears. Wisdom spoke to the eye, and was received into the heart; for they communed with God in his created works. As soon as the holy pair transgressed the law of the Most High, the brightness from the face of God departed from the face of nature. Nature is now marred and defiled by sin. But God's object-lessons are not obliterated; even now, rightly studied and interpreted, she speaks of her Creator.” *Special Testimonies on Education*, 59.

GREAT LESSON BOOK

“**Next to the Bible, nature is to be our great lesson book.** But there is no virtue in deifying nature, for this is exalting the thing made above the great Master Artist who designed the work, and who keeps it every hour operating according to His appointment. As we plant the seed, and cultivate the plant, we are to remember that God created the seed, and He gives it to the earth. By His divine power He cares for that seed. It is by His appointment that the seed in dying gives its life to the blade, which contains in itself other seeds to be treasured and again put into the earth to yield their harvest. **We may also study how the co-operation of man acts a part.** The human agent has his part to act, his work to do. This is one of the lessons which nature teachers, and we shall see in it a solemn, a beautiful work.” *Australasian Union Conference Record*, July 31, 1899.

HEAVENS DECLARE HIS GLORY

Psalms 19:1

“**The truth and the glory of God are inseparable;** it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.” *The Great Controversy*, 597.

EVERY OBJECT

“Many illustrations from nature are used by the Bible writers; and as we observe the things of the natural world, we shall be enabled, under the guiding of the Holy Spirit, more fully to understand the lessons of God's Word.

“**In the natural world God has placed in the hands of the children of men the key to unlock the treasure house of His Word.** The unseen is illustrated by the seen; divine wisdom, eternal truth, infinite grace, are understood by the things that God has made.

“Children should be encouraged to search out in nature the objects that illustrate Bible teachings, and to trace in the Bible the similitudes drawn from nature. They should search out, both in nature and in Holy Writ, every object representing Christ, and those also that He employed in illustrating truth. Thus may they learn to see Him in tree and vine, in lily and rose, in sun and star. They may learn to hear His voice in the song of birds, in the sighing of the trees,

in the rolling thunder, and in the music of the sea. And **every object in nature will repeat to them His precious lessons.**" *Child Guidance*, 46.

PARABLE TEACHING

"In Christ's parable teaching the same principle is seen as in His own mission to the world. **That we might become acquainted with His divine character and life, Christ took our nature and dwelt among us.** Divinity was revealed in humanity; the invisible glory in the visible human form. Men could learn of the unknown through the known; heavenly things were revealed through the earthly; God was made manifest in the likeness of men. **So it was in Christ's teaching: the unknown was illustrated by the known;** divine truths by earthly things with which the people were most familiar.

"The Scripture says, 'All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; . . . that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.' Matthew 13:34, 35. **Natural things were the medium for the spiritual;** the things of nature and the life-experience of His hearers were connected with the truths of the written word. Leading thus from the natural to the spiritual kingdom, **Christ's parables are links in the chain of truth that unites man with God, and earth with heaven.**

"In His teaching from nature, Christ was speaking of the things which His own hands had made, and which had qualities and powers that He Himself had imparted. **In their original perfection all created things were an expression of the thought of God.** To Adam and Eve in their Eden home nature was full of the knowledge of God, teeming with divine instruction. Wisdom spoke to the eye and was received into the heart; for they communed with God in His created works. As soon as the holy pair transgressed the law of the Most High, the brightness from the face of God departed from the face of nature. The earth is now marred and defiled by sin. Yet even in its blighted state much that is beautiful remains. God's object lessons are not obliterated; **rightly understood, nature speaks of her Creator.**

"In the days of Christ these lessons had been lost sight of. Men had well-nigh ceased to discern God in His works. The sinfulness of humanity had cast a pall over the fair face of creation; and instead of manifesting God, His works became a barrier that concealed Him. **Men 'worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator.'** Thus the heathen 'became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.' Romans 1:25, 21. **So in Israel,** man's teaching had been put in the place of God's. Not only the things of nature, but **the sacrificial service** and the Scriptures themselves--all given to reveal God--were so perverted that they became the means of concealing Him." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 17, 18.

THE PROPHETIC CHAIN – 3:1

"...Christ's parables are **links in the chain of truth** that unites man with God, and earth with heaven." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 17.

The First Link

"The message in regard to the fall of Babylon must be given. God's people are to understand in regard to the angel who is to lighten the whole world with his glory, while he cries mightily, with a **loud voice**, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.' **The solemn events which are now taking place belong to a series of events in the chain of history, the first link of which is**

connected with Eden. Let the people of God prepare for what is coming upon the earth.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 985.

The Last Link

“From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, **the last link in the chain of this earth’s history**,—the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory.” *The Desire of Ages*, 630.

Miller

“With intense interest **he [Miller] studied the books of Daniel and the Revelation**, employing the same principles of interpretation as in the other scriptures, and found, to his great joy, that the prophetic symbols could be understood. He saw that the prophecies, so far as they had been fulfilled, had been fulfilled literally; that all the various figures, metaphors, parables, similitudes, etc., were either explained in their immediate connection, or the terms in which they were expressed were defined in other scriptures, and when thus explained, were to be literally understood. ‘I was thus satisfied,’ he says, ‘that the Bible is a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.’--Bliss, page 70. **Link after link of the chain of truth** rewarded his efforts, **as step by step he traced down the great lines of prophecy.**” *The Great Controversy*, 320.

WHAT IS A FRACTAL?

“A fractal is a natural phenomenon or a mathematical set that **exhibits a repeating pattern that displays at every scale**. If the replication is exactly the same at every scale, it is called a **self-similar pattern**. Fractals can also be **nearly the same** at different levels.” *Wikipedia*.

EXAMPLES OF FRACTALS

Vascular system; Heart beats (EKG); Lungs; The brain; Solar system rotations; Trees; Fern leaves; Lightning; Shells; Snowflakes; Romanesco broccoli; Clouds; Mountain ranges; Leaves

THE ORIGINS OF THE FRACTAL

“In mathematics, any of a class of complex geometric shapes that commonly have ‘fractional dimension,’ a concept first introduced by the mathematician Felix Hausdorff in 1918. **Fractals are distinct from the simple figures** of classical, or Euclidean, geometry—the square, the circle, the sphere, and so forth. **They are capable of describing many irregularly shaped objects or spatially nonuniform phenomena in nature** such as coastlines and mountain ranges. The term fractal, derived from the Latin word fractus (‘fragmented,’ or ‘broken’), was coined by the Polish-born mathematician Benoit B. Mandelbrot [1975].” *Britannica*.

“Jakob Boehme, a simple shoemaker born in the 15th century, suddenly realized one day that God, ‘was a binary, **fractal**, self-replicating **algorithm** and that the universe was a **genetic** matrix resulting from the existential tension created by His desire for self-knowledge.’

“This is a peculiar, mathematical way of describing the idea of God. **Although Boehme did not specifically use those words**, the concepts and ideas he used to express his theory equate to the same meaning. Let’s take it piece by piece.”

FRACTALS & SPIRITUALISM

“Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. **Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.** The Spirit and power of God will be **poured out** upon his children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and his Word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time, to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and **before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it, by introducing a counterfeit.** In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.” *The Great Controversy* 1888, 464.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF FRACTALS

Revelation 14:6	Fear God	Give Glory	Judgment
John 16:8	Sin	Righteousness	Judgment
Daniel 12:10	Purified	Made White	Tried
Revelation 3:18	Gold	White Raiment	Eyesalve
John 14:6	Way	Truth	Life
The Sanctuary	Courtyard	Holy Place	Most Holy Place
Theology	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Revelation 17:14	Called	Chosen	Faithful

Psalms 77:13

AGE TO AGE

“The work of God in the earth presents, **from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement.** The principles of God's dealing with men are **ever the same.** The important movements of the present have their **parallel** in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.” *The Great Controversy*, 343.

EZEKIEL'S WHEELS

“The wheels were so complicated in arrangement that **at first sight they appeared to be in confusion; but they moved in perfect harmony.** Heavenly beings, sustained and guided by the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, were impelling these wheels; above them, upon the sapphire throne, was the Eternal One; and round about the throne a rainbow, the emblem of divine mercy.

“As the wheellike complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, **so the complicated play of human events is under divine control.** Amidst the strife and tumult of nations, He that sitteth above the cherubim still guides the affairs of the earth.” *Prophets and Kings*, 535–536.

HIDDEN TREASURE

“The only safety now is to search for the truth as revealed in the word of God, as for **hid treasure**.” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 1, 300.

“Christ knew there were many who would keep these lessons [parables] in mind until their **hidden meaning should be discerned**, but **that others would never reach to their deep meaning**. The disciples would come to the Great Teacher to inquire, and he instructed them. Christ gladly taught all who had interest enough to say, Explain to us the meaning of your words.” *The Review & Herald*, September 26, 1899.

COME TO A MAN

“I have often said to our brethren: ‘Your opponents will make statements about your work that are false. Do not repeat their statements; but hold to your assertions of the living truth, and angels of God will open the way before you. We have a great work to carry forward, and we must carry it in a sensible way. Let us never get excited or allow evil feelings to arise. Christ did not do this, and **He is our example in all things**. For the work given us to do we need much more of heavenly, sanctified, humble wisdom, and much less of self. We need to lay hold firmly on divine power.’

“Those who have departed from the faith will come to our congregations to divert our attention from the work that God would have done. You cannot afford to turn your ears from the truth to fables. Do not stop to try to convert the one who is speaking words of reproach against your work; but let it be seen that you are inspired by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and angels of God will put into your lips words that will reach the hearts of the opposers. If these men persist in pressing their way in, those who are of a sensible mind in the congregation will understand that yours is the higher standard. So speak that it will be known that Jesus Christ is speaking through you.” *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, 148.

“**Some who heard the parables of Christ came to him privately, and asked for an explanation. This was the desire that Christ wished to arouse**, that he might give them more definite instruction. Those who study his word, with hearts open to receive the impressions made by the Holy Spirit, **will not complain that they can not see clearly the meaning of his word. All who come to Christ and inquire for a clearer knowledge of truth, will receive it. He will unfold to them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**; and these mysteries will be understood by the heart that **longs to know the truth**. A heavenly light will shine into the soul temple, and will be revealed to others as the bright shining of a candle on a dark path.” *The Review & Herald*, September 26, 1899.

MISREPRESENTATIONS

Matthew 13:10-17; Isaiah 6:8-13

“It is only the honest seeker after truth who can be benefited by the presentation of truth. Those who have not a heart to receive the truth, be it ever so plainly presented, **will find a way whereby they can misinterpret its plainest portrayal, and evade its evident conclusions. Jesus had to meet this class in his day, as we have to meet them today**. They perverted his word, distorted his utterances, and presented his teaching in a false light, declaring that the mission he proclaimed he had come to accomplish, was needless and would not be fulfilled. ‘Without a parable he spoke not unto them.’ **In this way he could present the plainest truths**,

and the Pharisees and Sadducees were placed at a disadvantage; for they could not find fault with his words, or bring an accusation against him. His warnings, rebukes, and denunciations were spoken in the language of parables. In figures and symbols he presented the principles of truth, and those who had a heart to understand were not left in doubt as to the meaning of his words; for the Holy Spirit was ever present to make the right impression upon heart and conscience.” *Signs of the Times*, October 24, 1892.