

ADVENTISM'S VISITATION PART THIRTEEN

EZRA 7:9

THE FIRST DISAPPOINTMENT—APRIL 15TH

STRANGE WIVES

Ezra 10:16–17; Jeremiah 3:1–5; 5; Revelation 18:2

THE FLOOD ENDS

Genesis 8:13; Revelation 12:15; Daniel 9:26

MESSAGE OF BABYLON

Ezekiel 29:17–21; Revelation 18:2

“In the history of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, God speaks to the people of today. The condemnation that will fall upon the inhabitants of the earth in this day will be because of their **rejection of light**. Our condemnation in the judgment **will not** result from the fact that we have lived in error, but from the fact that **we have neglected Heaven-sent opportunities for discovering truth**. The means of becoming conversant with the truth are within the reach of all; but, like the indulgent, selfish king, we give more attention to the things that charm the ear, and please the eye, and gratify the palate, than to the things that enrich the mind, the divine treasures of truth. It is through the truth that we may answer the great question, ‘What must I do to be saved?’” *Bible Echo*, September 17, 1894.

“In the history of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, God speaks to nations of today. We are to take to heart the lessons he sought to teach these rebellious kings; for if Belshazzar had pursued **a course in harmony with the instruction given to his grandfather**, he would have retained not only his kingdom but his life. **He disregarded the lessons**, and went on in rebellion against God, committing the very sins for which his grandfather had been reprovved and punished. He, too, **lifted himself up in pride and exaltation**, and the final judgment of God fell upon him and his house. His great sin was that, notwithstanding God had given him light, he refused to walk in **the paths of righteousness.**” *Signs of the Times*, July 20, 1891.

“To the last ruler of Babylon, **as in type to its first**, had come the sentence of the divine Watcher: ‘O king, . . . to thee it is spoken; **The kingdom is departed from thee.**’ Daniel 4:31.” *Prophets and Kings*, 533.

“There was in the palace **a woman who was wiser than them all**,—the queen of Belshazzar’s grandfather. In this emergency she addressed the king in language that sent a ray of light into the darkness. ‘**O king, live forever,**’ she said; **‘let not thy thoughts trouble thee**, nor let thy countenance be changed: there is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in **the days of thy father** light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, **made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers:** . . . now let **Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.**’

“Then was Daniel brought in before the king.’ Making an effort to brace himself, and to show his authority, Belshazzar said: ‘Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? . . .’

“Daniel was not awed by the king’s appearance, nor confused or intimidated by his words. ‘Let thy gifts be to thyself,’ he answered, ‘and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. . . .

“Daniel did not swerve from his duty. He held the king’s sin before him, showing him the lessons he might have learned, but did not. Belshazzar had not heeded the events so significant to him. He had not read his grandfather’s history correctly. The responsibility of knowing truth had been laid upon him, but the practical lessons he might have learned and acted upon had not been taken to heart; and his course of action brought the sure result.

“**This was the last feast** of boasting held by the Chaldean king; for he who bears long with man’s perversity had passed **the irrevocable sentence**. Belshazzar had greatly dishonored the One who had exalted him as king, and **his probation was taken from him**. While the king and his nobles were at the height of their revelry, the Persians turned the Euphrates out of its channel, and marched into the unguarded city. As Belshazzar and his lords were drinking from the sacred vessels of Jehovah, and praising their gods of silver and gold, Cyrus and his soldiers stood under the walls of the palace. ‘In that night,’ the record says, ‘was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom.’

“Could the curtain be rolled back before the youth who have never given their hearts to God, with others who are Christians in name, but who are unrenewed in heart and unsanctified in temper, they would see that God’s eye is ever upon them, and they would feel as disturbed as did the king of Babylon. They would realize that in every place, at every hour in the day, **there is a holy Watcher**, who balances every account, whose eye takes in the whole situation, whether it is one of fidelity, or one of disloyalty and deception.

“We are never alone. We have a **Companion**, whether we choose him or not. Remember, young men and young women, that wherever you are, whatever you are doing, God is there. To your every word and action you have a witness,—the holy, sin-hating God. Nothing that is said or done or thought can escape his infinite eye. Your words may not be heard by human ears, but they are heard by the Ruler of the universe. He reads the inward anger of the soul when the will is crossed. He hears the expression of profanity. In the deepest darkness and solitude he is there. No one can deceive God; none can escape from their accountability to him.” *Youth Instructor*, May 26, 1898.

THE FOOLISH KING

“Belshazzar had been given many opportunities for knowing and doing the will of God. **He had seen his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar banished from the society of men**. He had seen the intellect in which the proud monarch gloried taken away by the One who gave it. **He had seen** the king driven from his kingdom, and made the companion of the beasts of the field. But Belshazzar’s love of **amusement** and **self-glorification effaced the lessons he should never have forgotten**; and he committed sins similar to those that brought **signal judgments on Nebuchadnezzar**. He wasted the opportunities graciously granted him, neglecting to use the opportunities within his reach for becoming acquainted with truth. ‘What must I do to be saved?’ was a question that the great but **foolish king** passed by indifferently.” *Bible Echo*, April 25, 1898.

“When called before King Belshazzar to explain the mysterious writing on the wall, Daniel reminded the king of matters with which he was familiar, **but which had not taught him the lesson of humility that might have saved him.** ‘O thou king,’ said the prophet, ‘the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honor: and for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: and he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.’

“Then the enormity of Belshazzar’s guilt was thus emphasized: ‘And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, **though thou knowest all this;** but hast **lifted up thyself** against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them, and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is and whose are all thy ways hast thou not glorified: then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

“‘And this is the writing that was written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene, God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.’

“The Lord does not suffer wicked practices to go on without sending reproof and warning. There are **men in high places who know of the reproofs, of warnings, of judgment sent**, who know the example of God’s dealings with others who have been disobedient, yet who have not sought to correct their ways before God. They have endeavored rather to make of none effect the messages that God has sent. They have continued to exalt themselves, and to carry out their own ways in defiance of the words of God. They have not been ignorant of the right way, but they have allowed their eyes to be blinded. In pronouncing judgment upon these, God will say, as he said to the wicked king, ‘Thou . . . hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this.’

“Many have continued in a wicked course of action, until the Lord Jesus cannot accept their services unless there is a genuine conversion. His people today have no excuse for turning away from **the counsels of his Spirit.** In his Word, he has given us examples that should be warnings to us, yet although we have known all this, many of God’s people have not taken heed to the warnings of God.

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.’

“Among the many discordant elements, some have been unable to discern the voice of God in the messages of warning and reproof that have been sent for the guidance of the church.

“Men who have refused to walk in the plain counsel of the Lord, are not the ones who should be entrusted with the care of his sheep and lambs. **Those who, while professing to believe the truth, resist the Holy Spirit, making light of the message from heaven, will surely be punished for their transgressions. They will not in the future have greater evidence of the truth of these messages than has been given in the past.** The Lord forbids that they should be entrusted with responsibilities that they might have borne, had they heeded the messages that the Lord in mercy sent them.” *Review and Herald*, September 24, 1908.

SETTING UP THE SANCTUARY

Exodus 40:2, 16–17

CLEANSING THE SANCTUARY (A COVENANT)

2 Chronicles 29:10–20

CLEANSING WITH BLOOD

Ezekiel 45:18–21; Genesis 49:10–11; Isaiah 2:2. 4:1–6; Revelation 1:5–6; 7:14; 19:8

THE MIDNIGHT CRY—AUGUST 14TH, 1844

Numbers 33:38; Deuteronomy 10:6–8; Malachi 3:1–4

TARRYING TIME

Exodus 24:14–18

Luke 24:44–52, 36; John 20:17–22

The act of Christ in breathing upon his disciples the Holy Ghost, and in imparting his peace to them, was as a few drops before the plentiful shower to be given on the day of Pentecost.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 3, 243.

“It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when **the events of the day of Pentecost** shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.

“**God can breathe new life into every soul** that sincerely desires to serve Him, and can **touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar**, and cause them to become eloquent with His praise. Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful truths of God’s Word. **The stammering tongue will be unloosed**, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth. May the Lord help His people to **cleanse the soul temple from every defilement**, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of **the latter rain when it shall be poured out.**” *Review and Herald*, July 20, 1886.

“Not one of us **will ever receive the seal of God** while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. **Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.** . . .

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. **When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.**” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214, 216.

TIME OF THE END

29:1–23

VISIT ME

15:15–21

“**We must not wait for the latter rain.** It is coming upon all who will **recognize** and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us. When we gather up the fragments of light, when we appreciate the sure mercies of God, who loves to have us trust Him, then every promise will be fulfilled. ‘**For as the earth bringeth forth her bud**, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it **to spring forth**; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations’ (Isaiah 61:11). The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 984.

RECOGNIZE

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, **we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain.** It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 507.

RECOGNIZE: 1. To recollect or recover the knowledge of, either with an avowal of that knowledge or not. We recognize a person at a distance, when we recollect that we have seen him before, or that we have formerly known him. We recognize his features or his voice. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD

Jeremiah 8:1–4; Ezekiel 37:1–10

“I lay down my pen and lift up my soul in prayer, that the Lord would **breathe** upon his backslidden people, which are **as dry bones**, that they may live.” *General Conference Bulletin*, February 4, 1893.

“The dry bones need to be **breathed upon by the Holy Spirit of God**, that they may come into action, as by **a resurrection from the dead.**” *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

Jeremiah 8:5–12

THE KING OF THE NORTH & THE OLD PATHS

Jeremiah 6:1–15; Isaiah 28:13; 8:13–14; Jeremiah 6:16–20; 1 Peter 2:6–8; Jeremiah 6:21–30; Malachi 3:1–4; Jeremiah 7:1–7; Matthew 21:12–13; Isaiah 56:1–8; Jeremiah 7:8–16; Revelation 3:16; Jeremiah 14:1–11; 11

PROPHETS, PRIEST AND KING

Jeremiah 23:1–13; 11:21–23; 32:3–5; 39:5–8