

Habakkuk's Two Tables #9

DARKNESS

“Today the church of God is free to carry forward to completion the divine plan for the salvation of a lost race. For many centuries God’s people suffered a restriction of their liberties. The preaching of the gospel in its purity was prohibited, and the severest of penalties were visited upon those who dared disobey the mandates of men. As a consequence, the Lord’s great moral vineyard was almost wholly unoccupied. The people were deprived of the light of God’s word. The darkness of error and superstition threatened to blot out a knowledge of true religion. **God’s church on earth was as verily in captivity during this long period of relentless persecution as were the children of Israel held captive in Babylon during the period of the exile.**” *Prophets and Kings*, 714.

TIME OF THE END

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish **seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.** Daniel 9:1–2.

RECORDED IN BOOKS

“Still burdened in behalf of Israel, Daniel studied anew the prophecies of Jeremiah. They were very plain—so plain that he understood by these testimonies recorded in books ‘the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that **He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.**’ Daniel 9:2.

“With faith founded on the sure word of prophecy, Daniel pleaded with the Lord for the speedy fulfillment of these promises. He pleaded for the honor of God to be preserved. In his petition he identified himself fully with those who had fallen short of the divine purpose, confessing their sins as his own.” *Prophets and Kings*, 554.

THE DESOLATIONS OF JERUSALEM

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and **Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.** Luke 21:20–24.

But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for **it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.** And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. Revelation 11:2–3.

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, *that from the going forth of the commandment* to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be seven weeks*, and **threescore and two weeks**: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And **after threescore and two weeks** shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and **the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary**; and **the end thereof shall be with a flood**, and unto the end of the war **desolations** are determined. Daniel 9:24–26.

70 AD

“Terrible were the calamities that fell upon Jerusalem when the siege was resumed by Titus. The city was invested at the time of the Passover, when millions of Jews were assembled within its walls. . . .

“Thousands perished from famine and pestilence. Natural affection seemed to have been destroyed. Husbands robbed their wives, and wives their husbands. Children would be seen snatching the food from the mouths of their aged parents. The question of the prophet, ‘Can a woman forget her sucking child?’ [Isaiah 49:15] received the answer within the walls of that doomed city, ‘The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children; they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.’ [**Lamentations 4:10.**] **Again was fulfilled the warning prophecy given fourteen centuries before**: ‘The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter; . . . and toward her children which she shall bear; for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.’ [**Deuteronomy 28:56, 57.**]” *The Great Controversy*, 31–32.

MESSAGE FORMALIZED

“Daniel’s prayer had been offered ‘in the first year of Darius’ (verse 1), the Median monarch whose general, Cyrus, had wrested from Babylonia the scepter of universal rule. The reign of Darius was honored of God. To him was sent the angel Gabriel, ‘to confirm and to strengthen him.’ Daniel 11:1. Upon his death, **within about two years of the fall of Babylon, Cyrus** succeeded to the throne, and **the beginning of his reign marked the completion of the seventy years** since **the first company** of Hebrews had been taken by Nebuchadnezzar from their Judean home to Babylon.

“The deliverance of Daniel from the den of lions had been used of God to create a favorable impression upon the mind of Cyrus the Great. The sterling qualities of the man of God as a statesman of farseeing ability led the Persian ruler to show him marked respect and to honor his judgment. And now, just at the time God had said He would cause His temple at Jerusalem to be rebuilt, **He moved upon Cyrus as His agent to discern the prophecies concerning himself**, with which Daniel was so familiar, and to grant the Jewish people their liberty.” *Prophets and Kings*, 556–557.

THE FIRST DECREE

WORLDWIDE

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that **the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me **all the kingdoms of the earth**; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Ezra 1:1–2.

LAYING THE CORNERSTONE

“The house that was about to be rebuilt had been the subject of many prophecies concerning the favor that God desired to show Zion, and all who were present at the laying of the cornerstone should have entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. Yet mingled with the music and the shouts of praise that were heard on that glad day, was **a discordant note**. ‘Many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, **wept with a loud voice.**’ Verse 12.

“It was natural that sadness should fill the hearts of these aged men, as they thought of the results of long-continued impenitence. Had they and their generation obeyed God, and carried out His purpose for Israel, the temple built by Solomon would not have been destroyed and the captivity would not have been necessary. But because of ingratitude and disloyalty they had been scattered among the heathen.

“Conditions were now changed. In tender mercy the Lord had again visited His people and allowed them to return to their own land. Sadness because of the mistakes of the past should have given way to feelings of great joy. God had moved upon the heart of Cyrus to aid them in rebuilding the temple, and this should have called forth expressions of profound gratitude. But some **failed of discerning God’s opening providences. Instead of rejoicing, they cherished thoughts of discontent and discouragement.** They had seen the glory of Solomon’s temple, and they lamented because of the inferiority of the building now to be erected.” *Prophets and Kings*, 563–564.

THE FOUNDATION LAID

From **the first day of the seventh month** began they to offer burnt offerings unto the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not *yet* laid. . . . And **when the builders laid the foundation** of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. Ezra 3:6, 10.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **In the seventh month, in the first day of the month**, shall ye have a sabbath, **a memorial of blowing of trumpets**, an holy convocation. Leviticus 23:24.

THE FOUNDATIONS

“The enemy is seeking to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days. His sophistries are designed to lead minds away from the perils and duties of the hour. They estimate as of little value the light that Christ came from heaven to give to John for His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to receive special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin, and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science. ‘Thus saith the Lord: Stand ye in the ways, and see, and **ask for the old paths**, where is the good way, and walk therein.’ [Jeremiah 6:16.]

“Let none seek to tear away **the foundations of our faith**,—the **foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work**, by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation. Upon these **foundations** we have been building for more than fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way, that they can lay a stronger **foundation** than that which has been laid; but this is a great deception. ‘Other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid.’ [1 Corinthians 3:11.] In the past, many have undertaken to build a new faith, to establish new principles; but how long did their building stand? It soon fell; for it was not founded upon the Rock.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 296–297.

1842, 1843, 1844

“The warning has come: Nothing is to be allowed to come in that will disturb **the foundation of the faith upon which we have been building ever since the message came in 1842, 1843, and 1844**. I was in this message, and ever since I have been standing before the world, true to the light that God has given us. We do not propose to take our feet off **the platform** on which they were placed as day by day we sought the Lord with earnest prayer, seeking for light. Do you think that I could give up the light that God has given me? **It is to be as the Rock of Ages**. It has been guiding me ever since it was given.” *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1903.

NO NEW TIMBERS

“The Word of the Lord has guided our steps since **the passing of the time in 1844**. We have searched the Scriptures; we have built solidly; and **we have not had to tear up our foundations and put in new timbers**.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 55.

GOD NEVER CONTRADICTS HIMSELF

“**When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth**. No after suppositions contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. **The truth for this time God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth**. One will arise, and still another, with new light, which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit. A few are still alive who passed through the experience gained in the establishment of this truth. God has graciously spared their lives to repeat, and repeat till the close of their lives, the experience through which they passed even as did John the apostle till the very close of his life. And the standard bearers who have

fallen in death are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God’s word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves **one pillar** from **the foundation** that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.

“Elder G’s proofs are not reliable. If received, they would destroy the faith of God’s people in the truth that has made us what we are.

“We must be decided on this subject; for the points that he is trying to prove by Scripture, are not sound. **They do not prove that the past experience of God’s people was a fallacy.** We had the truth; we were directed by the angels of God. It was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that the presentation of the sanctuary question was given. It is eloquence for everyone to keep silent in regard to the features of our faith in which they acted no part. **God never contradicts Himself.** Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. But we stand by the old landmarks. [1 John 1:1–10 quoted.]

“I am instructed to say that these words we may use as appropriate for this time, for the time has come when sin must be called by its right name. We are hindered in our work by men who are not converted, who seek their own glory. They wish to be thought originators of new theories, which they present claiming that they are truth. But if these theories are received, they will lead to **a denial of the truth that for the past fifty years God has been giving to His people,** substantiating it by the demonstration of the Holy Spirit.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 161.

THAT WERE MADE CERTAIN TO US

“The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or principle of our faith as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us in 1844, **after the passing of the time.** The languishing souls are to be confirmed and quickened according to His Word. . . . **Not a word is changed or denied. That which the Holy Spirit testified to as truth after the passing of the time, in our great disappointment, is the solid foundation of truth.** [The] **pillars of truth were revealed,** and we accepted **the foundation principles** that have made us what we are—Seventh-day Adventists, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus.

“Have not the hearts of Christ’s disciples burned within them as He has talked with us by the way and opened to us the Scriptures? Has not the Lord Jesus opened to us the Scriptures, and presented to us things kept secret from the foundation of the world?” *Upward Look*, 352.

MESSAGE EMPOWERED

“While Satan was striving to influence the highest powers in the kingdom of Medo-Persia to show disfavor to God’s people, angels worked in behalf of the exiles. The controversy was one in which all heaven was interested. Through the prophet Daniel we are given a glimpse of this mighty struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil.

“For three weeks Gabriel wrestled with the powers of darkness, seeking to counteract the influences at work on the mind of Cyrus; and before the contest closed, **Christ Himself came** to Gabriel’s aid. ‘The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days,’ Gabriel declares; ‘but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.’ Daniel 10:13. **All that heaven could do in behalf of the people of God was done. The victory was finally gained; the forces of the enemy were held in check all the days of Cyrus, and all the days of his son Cambyses, who reigned about seven and a half years.**” *Prophets and Kings*, 571.

ACTION OF THE ENEMIES: EZRA 4:1–24

“During the reign of Cambyses the work on the temple progressed slowly. And during the reign of the false Smerdis (called Artaxerxes in Ezra 4:7) the Samaritans induced the unscrupulous impostor to issue a decree forbidding the Jews to rebuild their temple and city.” *Prophets and Kings*, 572.

THE SECOND DECREE

“A score or more of years passed by, when **a second decree**, quite as favorable as the first, was issued by Darius Hystaspes, the monarch then ruling. Thus did God in mercy provide another opportunity for the Jews in the Medo-Persian realm to return to the land of their fathers. **The Lord foresaw the troublous times that were to follow during the reign of Xerxes**,—the Ahasuerus of the book of Esther,—and He not only wrought a change of feeling in the hearts of men in authority, but also inspired Zechariah to plead with the exiles to return.

“**‘Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north,’ was the message given the scattered tribes of Israel who had become settled in many lands far from their former home.** Zechariah 2:6–9 quoted.” *Prophets and Kings*, 598–599.

OUT OF BABYLON

Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord:
for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the Lord.
Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon.
Zechariah 2:6–7.

TEMPLE FINISHED IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF DARIUS: EZRA 6:15

“The promise, **‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it,’** was literally fulfilled. Verse 9. ‘The elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and

according to the commandment of **Cyrus**, and **Darius**, and **Artaxerxes** king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar [the twelfth month], which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.’ Ezra 6:14, 15.” *Prophets and Kings*, 596.

THE MIDNIGHT CRY

“The events that followed in rapid succession,—the appearance of Esther before the king, the marked favor shown her, the banquets of the king and queen with Haman as the only guest, the troubled sleep of the king, the public honor shown Mordecai, and the humiliation and fall of Haman upon the discovery of his wicked plot,—all these are parts of a familiar story. **God wrought marvelously for His penitent people**; and a counter decree issued by the king, allowing them to fight for their lives, was **rapidly communicated to every part of the realm** by mounted couriers, who were ‘hastened and pressed on by the king’s commandment.’ ‘And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king’s commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for **the fear of the Jews fell upon them.**’ Esther 8:14, 17.

“On **the day appointed for their destruction**, ‘the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.’ Angels that excel in strength had been commissioned by God to protect His people while they ‘stood for their lives.’ Esther 9:2, 16.” *Prophets and Kings*, 602.

THE THIRD DECREE

“About seventy years after the return of the first company of exiles under Zerubbabel and Joshua, Artaxerxes Longimanus came to the throne of Medo-Persia. The name of this king is connected with sacred history by a series of remarkable providences. It was during his reign that Ezra and Nehemiah lived and labored. **He is the one who in 457 B.C. issued the third and final decree for the restoration of Jerusalem.** His reign saw the return of a company of Jews under Ezra, the completion of the walls of Jerusalem by Nehemiah and his associates, the reorganization of the temple services, and the great religious reformations instituted by Ezra and Nehemiah. During his long rule he often showed favor to God’s people, and in his trusted and well-beloved Jewish friends, Ezra and Nehemiah, he recognized men of God’s appointment, raised up for a special work.” *Prophets and Kings*, 607.

THE PERFECTION REQUIRED BY THE PROPHECY

“In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12–26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built ‘according to the commandment [“decree,” margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.’ These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 B.C., the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled.” *The Great Controversy*, 326.

JUDGMENT

And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that *is* in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that *are* beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know *them* not. And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether *it be* unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment. Ezra 7:25–26.

“In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 125.

EZRA’S ARRIVAL

“Ezra’s arrival in Jerusalem was opportune. There was great need of the influence of his presence. His coming brought courage and hope to the hearts of many who had long labored under difficulties. Since the return of the first company of exiles under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua, over seventy years before, much had been accomplished. **The temple had been finished**, and the walls of the city had been partially repaired. Yet much remained undone.” *Prophets and Kings*, 618.

FAST: EZRA 8:21–23

SEPARATION: EZRA 8:24–32

A COVENANT: EZRA 9:8–10:17

DISAPPOINTMENT

“Ezra had expected that a large number would return to Jerusalem, but the number who responded to the call was **disappointingly** small.” *Prophets and Kings*, 612.

“The number who responded to the call to leave Babylon, was **disappointingly** small. Ezra had expected that a large number would return.” *Review and Herald*, February 13, 1908.

OCTOBER 23, 1844

“We found everywhere the scoffers whom Peter said should come in the last days, walking after their own lusts, and saying: ‘Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.’ But those who had looked for the coming of the Lord were not without comfort. They had obtained valuable knowledge in the searching of the word. The plan of salvation was plainer to their understanding. Every day they discovered new beauties in the sacred pages, and a wonderful harmony running through all, **one scripture explaining another**, and **no word used in vain**.

“Our disappointment was not so great as that of the disciples. When the Son of man rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, they expected Him to be crowned king. The people flocked from all the region about, and cried: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David.’ And when the priests and elders besought Jesus to still the multitude, He declared that if they should hold their peace even the stones would cry out, for prophecy must be fulfilled. Yet in a few days these very disciples saw their beloved Master, whom they believed would reign on David’s throne, stretched upon the

cruel cross above the mocking, taunting Pharisees. Their high hopes were **disappointed**, and the darkness of death closed about them.

“Yet Christ was true to His promises. Sweet was the consolation He gave His people, rich the reward of the true and faithful.

“Mr. Miller and those who were in union with him supposed that the cleansing of the sanctuary spoken of in Daniel 8:14 meant the purifying of the earth by fire prior to its becoming the abode of the saints. This was to take place at the advent of Christ; therefore we looked for that event at the end of the 2300 days, or years. But **after our disappointment** the Scriptures were carefully searched with prayer and earnest thought, and after a period of suspense, light poured in upon our darkness; doubt and uncertainty were swept away.

“Instead of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 referring to the purifying of the earth, it was now plain that it pointed to the closing work of our High Priest in heaven, the finishing of the atonement, and the preparing of the people to abide the day of His coming.” *Testimonies*, volume 1, 57–58.

SEVEN WEEKS

Know therefore and understand, *that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem* unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be seven* weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Daniel 9:25.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.** Revelation 14:6–7.

NO THIRD WITHOUT A FIRST AND SECOND

“The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel’s message. **There cannot be a third without the first and second.** These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been and the things that will be.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 104–105.

THE PERFECT FULFILLMENT

“The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work ‘with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;’ and they that ‘received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,’ will be left to receive ‘strong

delusion, that they should believe a lie.' 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. **The change is a progressive one**, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future." *The Great Controversy*, 389.

1. **Fear God**
2. **give glory to him**
3. **the hour of his judgment** is come
4. **worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters**

NEHEMIAH: THE FOURTH DECREE

Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let **letters** be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me. Nehemiah 2:7, 8.

ROYAL LETTERS

"His request to the king had been so favorably received that Nehemiah was encouraged to ask for still further assistance. To give dignity and authority to his mission, as well as to provide protection on the journey, he asked for and secured a military escort. **He obtained royal letters** to the governors of the provinces beyond the Euphrates, the territory through which he must pass on his way to Judea; and he obtained, also, a letter to the keeper of the king's forest in the mountains of Lebanon, directing him to furnish such timber as would be needed. That there might be no occasion for complaint that he had exceeded his commission, Nehemiah was careful to have the authority and privileges accorded him, clearly defined." *Prophets and Kings*, 633.

EVEN IN TROUBLOUS TIMES

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Daniel 9:25.

"The experience of Nehemiah is repeated in the history of God's people in this time." *Southern Watchman*, April 12, 1904.

THE WALL

"**The law of ten commandments** is not to be looked upon as much from the prohibitory side, as from the mercy side. Its prohibitions are the sure guarantee of happiness in obedience.

As received in Christ, it works in us the purity of character that will bring joy to us through eternal ages. To the obedient it is **a wall of protection.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 235.

THE STREET

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*. Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, **Hearken to the sound of the trumpet.** But they said, **We will not hearken.** Jeremiah 6:16–17.

TROUBLOUS TIMES

And **the nations were angry**, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. Revelation 11:18.

DISTRESS OF NATIONS

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and **upon the earth distress of nations**, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. Luke 21:25.

1838

“As the prophetic period of this trumpet commenced by the voluntary surrender of power into the hands of the Turks by the Christian emperor of the East, so we might justly conclude that its termination would be marked by the voluntary surrender of that power by the Turkish Sultan back again into the hands of the Christians. **In 1838 Turkey became involved in war with Egypt.** The Egyptians bid fair to overthrow the Turkish power. To prevent this, the four great powers of Europe, England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, interfered to sustain the Turkish government. Turkey accepted their intervention. A conference was held in London at which an ultimatum was drawn up to be presented to Mehemet Ali, the Pacha of Egypt. It is evident that when this ultimatum should be placed in the hands of Mehemet, the destiny of the Ottoman empire would be virtually lodged in the hands of the Christian powers of Europe. This ultimatum was placed in the hands of Mehemet on the 11th day of August 1840! and on that very day the Sultan addressed a note to the ambassadors of the four powers, inquiring what should be done in case Mehemet refused to comply with the terms which they had proposed. The answer was that he need not alarm himself about any contingency that might arise; for they had made provision for that. The prophetic period ended, and on that very day the control of Mohammedan affairs passed into the hands of Christians, just as the control of Christian affairs had passed into the hands of the Mohammedans 391 years and 15 days before. Thus the second woe ended, and the sixth trumpet ceased its sounding.” Uriah Smith, *Synopsis of Present Truth*, 217.

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. And **he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him;** and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. Genesis 16:11–12.

So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days. Nehemiah 6:15.

PENTECOST—52 DAYS

And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye **number fifty days**; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; *they are* the **firstfruits** unto the Lord. Leviticus 23:15–17.

NEHEMIAH 7:1—PEOPLE NUMBERED

AS ONE MAN: ACTS 2:1

And **all the people gathered themselves together as one man** into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon **the first day of the seventh month**. And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law. Nehemiah 8:1–3.

And because of all this we make **a sure covenant**, and write *it*; and our princes, Levites, *and* priests, seal *unto it*. Now those that **sealed were** . . . Nehemiah 9:38–10:1.

A SEALING

“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.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214.

ZERUBBABEL

Zerubbabel: H2216—From H2215 and H894; *descended of* (that is, from) *Babylon*, that is, born there; *Zerubbabel*, an Israelite: - Zerubbabel.

H2215—A primitive root; to *flow* away. **H894**—*confusion; Babel* (that is, Babylon), including Babylonia and the Babylonian empire.

THE SECOND ANGEL

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Revelation 14:8.

THE FOURTH ANGEL

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Revelation 18:2.

PROPHET SIGNS

Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I *am* the Lord God. Ezekiel 24:24.

Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me *are* for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. Isaiah 8:18.

And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold **a candlestick** all *of* gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his **seven lamps** thereon, and **seven pipes** to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, **What are these, my lord?**

Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, **Knowest thou not what these be?** And I said, **No, my lord.**

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and **he shall bring forth the headstone** thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, **The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it;** and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

Then answered I, and said unto him, **What are these two olive trees** upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

And I answered again, and said unto him, What be **these two olive branches** which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

And he answered me and said, **Knowest thou not what these be?** And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These *are* **the two anointed ones**, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. Zechariah 4:1–14.

Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, **I will shake the heavens and the earth**; And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, everyone by the sword of his brother.

In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as **a signet**: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:21–23.