

## Habakkuk's Two Tables #18

PART TWO: LINE UPON LINE

**RULE X-** Figures sometimes have two or more different significations, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time.

And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, what *is* that proverb *that* ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and **every vision faileth?** Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and **the effect of every vision.** Ezekiel 12:21–23.

### THE TIME OF CHRIST

“In **cleansing the temple** from the world’s buyers and sellers, **Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin**,—from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. **Malachi 3:1–3 quoted.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 161.

### THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT

Behold, I will send **my messenger**, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

But who may abide **the day of his coming?** and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a **refiner’s** fire, and like fullers’ soap: And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

**Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.** Malachi 3:1–4.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: **Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner;** but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:11–12.

“Just how soon this **refining process** will begin I cannot say, but it will not be long deferred. **He whose fan is in His hand will cleanse His temple of its moral defilement.** He will thoroughly purge His floor.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 372–373.

1844

“**The coming** of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in **Daniel 8:14**; **the coming of the Son of man** to the Ancient of Days, as presented in **Daniel 7:13**; and **the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi**, are descriptions of **the same event**; and this is also represented by **the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage**, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of **Matthew 25.**” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

## SUDDEN: UNEXPECTED (9/11?)

“This coming is foretold also by the prophet Malachi: ‘The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.’ The coming of the Lord to his temple was **sudden, unexpected, to his people**. They were not looking for him there. They expected him to come to the earth, ‘in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel.’” *Southern Watchman*, January 24, 1905.

## TODAY

“Says the prophet: ‘Who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for **He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap**: and He shall sit as **a refiner and purifier of silver**: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.’ Malachi 3:2, 3. Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. **While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.**

“**When** this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. ‘**Then** shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 3:4. **Then** the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ Ephesians 5:27. Then she will look ‘forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ Song of Solomon 6:10.” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

## THE DAYS OF OLD AND AS IN FORMER YEARS

“Malachi 3:1–4 quoted.

“**A refining, purifying process is going on among the people of God, and the Lord of hosts has set his hand to this work.** This process is most trying to the soul, but it is necessary in order that defilement may be removed. Trials are essential in order that we may be brought close to our heavenly Father, in submission to his will, that we may offer unto the Lord **an offering in righteousness**. God’s work of refining and purifying the soul must go on until his servants are so humbled, so dead to self, that when called into active service, they may have an eye single to the glory of God.” *Review and Herald*, April 10, 1894.

## THE MIDNIGHT CRY

“Like a tidal wave the movement swept over the land. From city to city, from village to village, and into remote country places it went, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. Fanaticism disappeared before this proclamation like early frost before the rising sun. Believers saw their doubt and perplexity removed, and hope and courage animated their hearts. The work was free from those extremes which are ever manifested when there is human excitement without the controlling influence of the word and Spirit of God. **It was similar in character to those seasons of humiliation and returning unto the Lord which among ancient Israel followed messages of reproof from His servants.** It bore **the characteristics that mark the work of God in every age.** There was little ecstatic joy, but rather deep searching of heart, confession of sin, and forsaking of the world. A preparation to meet the Lord was the burden of agonizing spirits. There was persevering prayer and unreserved consecration to God.” *The Great Controversy*, 400.

## A TWO-EDGED SWORD

“The words of the Lord in **Malachi 3:1–3** lay down the work essential to be done in **the church of God**: Malachi 3:1–3 quoted. **A message which is as a two-edged sword must be given to the people, to clear away the evils that are seen among them. A living testimony that will awaken the paralyzed conscience is to be borne.**” *Review and Herald*, December 1, 1896.

“I was pointed back to the proclamation of the first advent of Christ. John was sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of Jesus. **Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus.** Their opposition to the message that foretold His coming placed them where they could not readily receive the strongest evidence that He was the Messiah. Satan led on those who rejected the message of John to go still farther, to reject and crucify Christ. **In doing this they placed themselves where they could not receive the blessing on the day of Pentecost, which would have taught them the way into the heavenly sanctuary.**” *Early Writings*, 259.

“The **voice of John was lifted up like a trumpet.** His commission was, ‘Shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins’ (Isaiah 58:1). He had obtained no human scholarship. God and nature had been his teachers. But one was needed to **prepare the way before Christ** who was bold enough to make his voice heard like the prophets of old, summoning the degenerate nation to repentance.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 148.

“Those who rejected **the first message** could not be benefited by **the second**; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them **to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.**” *Early Writings*, 260.

“So in the last work for the warning of the world, **two distinct calls are made to the churches**. The second angel’s message is, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ And in the loud cry of the third angel’s message a voice is heard from heaven saying, ‘**Come out of her, my people.**’” *Review and Herald*, December 6, 1892.

#### ADAM

And the Lord God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7.

#### EZEKIEL THIRTY-SEVEN

“What power must we have from God that icy hearts, having only a legal religion, should see the better things provided for them—Christ and His righteousness! **A life-giving message was needed to give life to the dry bones.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 12, 205.

#### JUDGMENT MESSENGERS OF GOD’S APPOINTMENT

“In Malachi’s day the mocking inquiry of the impenitent, ‘**Where is the God of judgment?**’ met with the solemn response: ‘The Lord . . . shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant. . . . But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 2:17; 3:1–4.

“When the promised Messiah was about to appear, the message of the forerunner of Christ was: Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; ‘for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Matthew 3:2.

“**Today**, in the spirit and power of Elias and of John the Baptist, **messengers of God’s appointment are calling the attention of a judgment-bound world to the solemn events soon to take place in connection with the closing hours of probation** and the appearance of Christ Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. Soon every man is to be judged for the deeds done in the body. **The hour of God’s judgment** has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin. To every human being in the wide world who will give heed must be made plain the principles at stake in the great controversy being waged, principles upon which hang the destinies of all mankind.” *Prophets and Kings*, 715–716.

## THE EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

“The **events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented.** But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.

“When God sends to men warnings so important that they are **represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven,** He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image (Revelation 14:9–11), should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: ‘The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.’ 2 Timothy 4:3. **That time has fully come.** The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.

“But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain **the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms.** The **opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils,** as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, **the voice of the majority**—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain ‘**Thus saith the Lord**’ in its support.

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to **bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology,** as their guides, **instead of searching the Scriptures** to learn their duty for themselves. Then, **by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will.**” *The Great Controversy*, 594–595.

### MILLER & JOHN

“With trembling, **William Miller** began to unfold to the people the mysteries of the kingdom of God, carrying his hearers down through the prophecies to the second advent of Christ. With every effort he gained strength. As **John the Baptist** heralded the first advent of Jesus and prepared the way for His coming, so William Miller and those who joined with him proclaimed the second advent of the Son of God.” *Early Writings*, 229–230.

## THE OPENING OF THE JUDGMENT

“It was needful that men should be awakened to their danger; that they should be roused to prepare for **the solemn events connected with the close of probation.**” *The Great Controversy*, 310.

## THE JUDGMENT OF 70AD

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, **who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?** Matthew 3:7.

#### THE JUDGMENT MESSAGE OF DANIEL

“Those who proclaimed this warning gave the right message at the right time. But as the early disciples declared, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand,’ **based on the prophecy of Daniel 9**, while **they failed to perceive** that the death of the Messiah was foretold in the same scripture, so Miller and his associates preached the message based on **Daniel 8:14 and Revelation 14:7**, and **failed to see** that there were still other messages brought to view in Revelation 14, which were also to be given before the advent of the Lord. As the disciples were mistaken in regard to **the kingdom to be set up** at the end of the seventy weeks, so Adventists were mistaken **in regard to the event** to take place at the expiration of the 2300 days. In both cases there was an acceptance of, or rather an adherence to, popular errors that blinded the mind to the truth. Both classes fulfilled the will of God in delivering the message which He desired to be given, and both, through their own misapprehension of their message, suffered disappointment.” *The Great Controversy*, 353.

#### PROPHETIC ANGELS

##### REVELATION FOURTEEN

“I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in **the first, second, and third angels’** messages. The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth’s history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are **a symbol to represent the people of God who are working** in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God, and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.” *Life Sketches*, 429.

##### REVELATION EIGHTEEN

“John saw ‘Another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the whole earth was lightened with his glory.’ Revelation 18:1. **That work is the voice of the people of God proclaiming a message of warning to the world.**” *The 1888 Materials*, 926.

##### CONNECTED

“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. . . . 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.

##### LINKED

“The first, second, and third angels’ messages **are all linked together.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 118.

## COMBINED

“The Lord is about to punish the world for its iniquity. He is about to punish religious bodies for their rejection of the light and truth which has been given them. The great message, combining the first, second, and third angels' messages, is to be given to the world. This is to be the burden of our work.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 950.

## TESTS

“And many are doing the same thing today, in 1897, because they have not had experience in **the testing messages comprehended in the first, second, and third angel's messages.**” *Evangelism*, 613.

## REPEATED

“The first, second, and third angels' messages are to be repeated.” *Review and Herald*, October 31, 1899.

## PERFECT FULFILLMENT, YET FUTURE

“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.

## PARALLEL

“God has given the messages of Revelation 14 their place in the line of prophecy, and their work is not to cease till the close of this earth's history. The first and second angel's messages are still truth for this time, and **are to run parallel with this which follows.** The third angel proclaims his warning with a loud voice. ‘After these things,’ said John, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ In this illumination, **the light of all the three messages is combined.**” *The 1888 Materials*, 804.

## OUR EXAMPLE IN ALL THINGS

“The only evidence the world can have that God's people believe His Word is to see them practicing that Word and following Christ's example in all things.” *Signs of the Times*, June 2, 1898.

## THREE TESTS

Appetite, Presumption and Worship

“For each of the classes represented by the Pharisee and the publican there is a lesson in the history of the apostle Peter.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 152.