

Habakkuk's Two Tables #26

PART FOUR: DANIEL

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S FALL

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SECOND DREAM

Daniel 4:1-3

Sign: H852—(Chaldee); corresponding to H226; a *portent*: - sign. **H226**—(in the sense of *appearing*); a *signal* (literally or figuratively), as a *flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence*, etc.: - mark, miracle, (en-) sign, token.

Miracle: H8540—(Chaldee); from a root corresponding to H8539; a *miracle*: - wonder. **H8539**—A primitive root; to *be in consternation*: - be amazed, be astonished, marvel (-lously), wonder.

“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.

“This is the danger of heedless, reckless youth today. The hand of God will awaken the sinner as it did Belshazzar, but with many it will be too late to repent.

“The ruler of Babylon had riches and honour, and in his haughty self-indulgence he had lifted himself up against the God of heaven and earth. He had trusted in his own arm, not supposing that any would dare to say, ‘Why doest thou this?’ But as the mysterious hand traced letters on the wall of his palace, Belshazzar was awed and silenced. In a moment he was completely shorn of his strength and humbled as a child. He realized that he was at the mercy of One greater than Belshazzar. He had been making sport of sacred things. Now his conscience was awakened. He realized that he had had the privilege of knowing and doing the will of God. **The history of his grandfather stood out as vividly before him as the writing on the wall.**” *Bible Echo*, April 25, 1898.

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY ALREADY WORKS

Daniel 4:4-7

A WARNING MESSAGE

Daniel 4:8-12

JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING—DIVINE PRONOUNCEMENT

Daniel 4:13-16

A TREE—A KINGDOM OR A CHURCH

“Study Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as recorded in the fourth chapter of Daniel. The king saw a lofty tree planted in the earth. Flocks and herds from the mountains and hills enjoyed its shelter, and the birds of the air built their nests in its branches. Thus were represented Nebuchadnezzar’s greatness and prosperity. Nations were gathered under his sovereignty. His kingdom was firmly established in the hearts of his loyal subjects.

“The king saw his prosperity, and because of it he was lifted up. Notwithstanding the warnings that God had given him, he did the very things which the Lord had told him not to do.

“He looked upon his kingdom with pride and exclaimed: ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?’ Daniel 4:30. The instant that the words were uttered, the sentence of judgment was pronounced. The king’s reason was taken away. The judgment that he had thought so perfect, the wisdom that he had prided himself on possessing, were removed. The jewel of the mind, that which elevates man above the beasts, he no longer retained.

“The scepter is no longer held in the hand of a proud and powerful monarch. The mighty ruler is a maniac. He now herds with the cattle to eat as they eat. He is a companion of the beasts of the field. The brow that once wore a coronet is disfigured by the absence of reason and intellect. The mandate has gone forth: ‘Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit.’ Verse 14.

“So the Lord magnifies Himself as the true and living God. Well might David exclaim: ‘I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.’ Psalm 37:35, 36. Let men become lifted up in pride, and the Lord will not sustain them and keep them from falling. **Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground.** Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will soon be brought to confusion.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 126–127.

SCATTERED FRUIT

Fruit: H4—(Chaldee); corresponding to **H3**: - fruit. **H3**—From the same as **H24**; a *green* plant: - greenness, fruit. **H24**—From an unused root (meaning to *be tender*); *green*, that is a young *ear* of grain; hence the name of the month *Abib* or Nisan: - Abib, ear, green ears of corn.

This day came ye out in the month **Abib**. Exodus 13:4.

Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month **Abib**; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) Exodus 23:15.

BRASS AND IRON BANDS

“The Lord made a covenant with Israel that, if they would obey His commandments, **He would give them rain in due season**, the land should yield her increase, and the trees of the field should yield their fruit. He promised that their threshing should reach unto the vintage and the vintage unto the sowing time, and that they should eat their bread to the full and dwell in their land safely. He would make their enemies to perish. He would not abhor them, but would walk with them and would be their God, and they should be His people. But if they disregarded His requirements, He would deal with them **entirely contrary** to all this. **His curse** should rest upon them in place of His blessing. He would break their pride of power and would make the heavens over them as **iron** and the earth as **brass**. ‘Your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. And if ye walk contrary unto Me,’ ‘then will I also walk contrary unto you.’” *Testimonies*, volume 2, 661.

BRASS—AFFLICTION AND JUDGMENT

“It was when **the heavens were as brass** over Paul that he trusted most fully in God. More than most men, he knew the meaning of **affliction**; but listen to his triumphant cry as, beset by temptation and conflict, his feet press heavenward: ‘Our light **affliction**, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.’ 2 Corinthians 4:17, 18.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 363.

“Ahab knew that it was by the word of God that the heavens had become as **brass**, yet he sought to cast upon the prophet the blame for the heavy **judgments** resting on the land.” *Prophets and Kings*, 139.

IRON—SEVERE SERVITUDE

“God had said that His people should be saved, that the yoke He would lay upon them should be light, if they submitted uncomplainingly to His plan. Their **servitude** was represented by a yoke of wood, which was easily borne; but resistance would be met with corresponding **severity**, represented by **the yoke of iron**.” *Testimonies*, volume 4, 172.

DANIEL’S ALTAR CALL

Daniel 4:27

PROBATIONARY TIME, DIVINE PRONOUNCEMENT AND EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT

Daniel 4:29–33

“What is justification by faith? It is **the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself**. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When they begin to praise and exalt God all the day long, then by beholding they are becoming changed into the same image. What is regeneration? It is

revealing to man what is his own real nature, that in himself he is worthless.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, 117.

THE END OF THE DAYS

And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and **mine understanding returned unto me**, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth forever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At **the same time** my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and **my counsellors and my lords sought unto me**; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. Daniel 4:34–37.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST

“**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.

“Belshazzar, awed by this representation of God’s power, showing that they had a witness, though they knew it not, had had great opportunities of knowing the works of the living God, and His power, and of doing His will. **He had been privileged with much light. His grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, had been warned of his danger in forgetting God and glorifying himself.** Belshazzar had a knowledge of **his banishment** from the society of men, and his association with the beasts of the field; and these facts, which ought to have been a lesson to him, he disregarded, as if they had never occurred; and he went on repeating the sins of his grandfather. He dared to commit the crimes which brought **God’s judgments** upon Nebuchadnezzar. He was condemned, not alone that he himself was doing wickedly, but that he had not availed himself of opportunities and capabilities, if cultivated, of being right.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 436.

THE OLD PATHS

“**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 reproved 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.

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.

FOUR WORKS

And *they that shall be* of thee shall **build the old waste places**: thou shalt **raise up the foundations of many generations**; and thou shalt be called, The **repairer of the breach**, The **restorer of paths** to dwell in. Isaiah 58:12.

Repairer: H1443—A primitive root; to *wall* in or around:—close up, fence up, hedge, enclose, make up [a wall], mason, repairer.

Restorer: H7725—A primitive root; **to turn back** (hence, away) transitively or intransitively, literally or figuratively (not necessarily with the idea of *return* to the starting point); generally to **retreat**; often adverbially *again*.

THE OLD WASTE PLACES

The spirit of the Lord God *is* upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and **the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called **trees of righteousness**, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. And **they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations**, and they shall repair the waste cities, **the desolations of many generations**. Isaiah 61:1–4.

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to

the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. Luke 4:18–20.

Old: H5769—From **H5956**; properly **concealed**, that is, the *vanishing* point; generally time *out of mind* (past or future), that is, (practically) *eternity*. **H5956**—A primitive root; to *veil* from sight, that is, *conceal* (literally or figuratively):—X any ways, blind, dissembler, **hide** (self), secret (thing).

Waste: H2723—properly *drought*, that is, (by implication) a **desolation**: - decayed place, desolate (place, -tion), destruction, (laid) waste (place).

Former: H7223—From **H7221**; **first, in place, time or rank** (as adjective or noun):—**ancestor**, (that were) before (-time), **beginning**, eldest, first, fore [-father] (-most), **former (thing), of old time, past**. **H7221**—a *beginning*: - **beginning**.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF MANY GENERATIONS

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are* weaned from the milk, *and* drawn from the breasts. For **precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line**; here a little, *and* there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: **yet they would not hear**.

But the word of the Lord was unto them **precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line**; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isaiah 28:9–13.

LINE UPON LINE

TWO ANGELS

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which *are* upon the ark of the testimony, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel. Exodus 25:22.

TWO OLIVE TREES

And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. Revelation 11:3–4.

TWO TABLES

And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God. Exodus 31:18.

TWO TABLES

And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon **tables**, that he may run that readeth it. Habakkuk 2:2.

Plain: H874—A primitive root; to *dig*; **by analogy to engrave**; figuratively to *explain*: - declare, (make) plain (-ly).

And the tables *were* the work of God, and the writing *was* the writing of God, graven upon the tables. Exodus 32:16.

“I saw that **the truth should be made plain upon tables**, that the earth and the fullness thereof is the Lord’s, and that necessary means should not be spared to make it **plain**. I saw that **the old chart** was directed by the Lord, and that not a figure of it should be altered **except by inspiration**. I saw that the figures of the chart were as God would have them, and that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none should see it till His hand was removed.” *Spalding and Magan*, 1.

“On our return to Brother Nichol’s, **the Lord gave me a vision and showed me that the truth must be made plain upon tables**, and it would cause many to decide for the truth by the third angel’s message with the two former being made **plain upon tables**.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 5, 201–203.

“**The [1850] chart** is being executed in Boston. **God is in it**.

“Brother Nichols has the charge of it.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 15, 213.

THE CHARTS ORDERED BY GOD

“I saw that **God was in the publishment of the chart by Brother Nichols**. I saw that **there was a prophecy of this chart in the Bible**, and if this chart is designed for God’s people, if it [is] sufficient for one it is for another, and if one needed a new chart painted on a larger scale, all need it just as much. . . .

“I saw that **the charts [the 1843 and the 1850] ordered by God** struck the mind favorably, even without an explanation. There is something light, lovely, and heavenly in the representation of the angels on the charts. The mind is almost imperceptibly led to God and heaven. But **the other charts** that have been gotten up disgust the mind, and cause the mind to dwell more on earth than heaven.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 359.

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

AMALGAMATE, v.i. To mix or unite in an amalgam; to blend. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary.*

The message for these last days is not to become amalgamated with human devising
turn from heaven's light to human wisdom
Solomon mingled error with truth
incorporate light with darkness, Christ with Belial, purity with impurity
teachers mingle the sentiments of infidel authors
man's teaching put in the place of God's
reject divine truth for the wisdom of this world

sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair
intermarriage of those who feared God and those who feared Him not
called mixed multitude, because the Hebrews had intermarried with the Egyptians
the Israel of God mingled in marriage with Phoenicia, Egypt, Edom, Moab, and Ammon
intermarriage with idolaters
the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people' of heathen lands
mingling with the depraved
mingled with the nations who had no fear of God
Israel's apostasy was largely traceable to their mingling with heathen nations
mingled with the sons of Belial
alliances with pagan kingdoms

“We have come to a time when God’s sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay. God has a people, a chosen people, whose discernment must be sanctified, who must not become unholy by laying upon the foundation wood, hay, and stubble. Every soul who is loyal to the commandments of God will see that the distinguishing feature of our faith is the seventh-day Sabbath. If the government would honor the Sabbath as God has commanded, it would stand in the strength of God and in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints. But statesmen will uphold the spurious sabbath, and will mingle their religious faith with the observance of this child of the papacy, placing it above the Sabbath which the Lord has sanctified and blessed, setting it apart for man to keep holy, as a sign between Him and His people to a thousand generations. **The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay.** This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1168.

“The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed **when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power** for the enforcement of their dogmas. The ‘mark of the beast’ still remains to be defined.” *The Great Controversy*, 445.

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. Revelation 13:11.

“The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.

“But **what is the ‘image to the beast’?** and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image *to* the beast. It is also called an image *of* the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and **in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power.** The result was the papacy, **a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends,** especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, **the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.**” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

“The enforcement of Sundaykeeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. **But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sundaykeeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.**” *The Great Controversy*, 448–449.

“Several times during our conversation, in which you become very much in earnest, you repeated the sentence, ‘O consistency, thou art a jewel!’ I repeat the same with decided force to you. **You say that Anna’s visions place the forming of the image of the beast after probation closes. This is not so.** You claim to believe the testimonies; let them set you right on this point. The Lord has shown me clearly that **the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes;** for it is to be **the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.** Your position is such a jumble of inconsistencies that but few will be deceived.

“In Revelation 13 this subject is plainly presented; [Revelation 13:11–17, quoted].

“This is **the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed.** All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 15, 15.