

# Habakkuk's Two Tables #27

PART FOUR: DANIEL

## THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

## THE PROPHETIC CHAIN

### JEHOIAKIM—DANIEL (ONE VERSE)

In the third year of the reign of **Jehoiakim** king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. Daniel 1:1.

### JEHOIACHIN—EZEKIEL (TWO VERSES)

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God*. In the fifth *day* of the month, which *was* the fifth year of king **Jehoiachin's** captivity. Ezekiel 1:1-2.

### ZEDEKIAH—JEREMIAH (THREE VERSES) [JEHOAHAZ & JEHOIACHIN NOT MENTIONED]

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that *were* in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: To whom the word of the Lord came in the days of **Josiah** the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of **Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of **Zedekiah** the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. Jeremiah 1:1-3.

### JEHOIAKIM—DANIEL: THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

**Daniel: H1840**—Judge or judgment of God

### JEHOIACHIN—EZEKIEL: MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY

**Ezekiel: H3168**—God will strengthen.

### ZEDEKIAH—JEREMIAH: JUDGMENT

**Jeremiah: H3414**—God will rise or raise.

## TESTIMONY OF TWO

In the third year of the reign of **Jehoiakim** king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. . . . And Daniel continued *even* unto the first year of king **Cyrus**. Daniel 1:1, 21.

## THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

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.

## THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

### TWO CLASSES

“The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.’” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 106.

### A PROPHETIC TESTING MESSAGE (TWO TESTS)

“When, early in the reign of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar for **the first time** besieged and captured Jerusalem, and carried away Daniel and his companions, with others specially chosen for service in the court of Babylon, **the faith of the Hebrew captives was tried to the utmost**. But those who had learned to place their trust in the promises of God found these all-sufficient in every experience through which they were called to pass during their sojourn in a strange land. The Scriptures proved to them a guide and a stay.” *Prophets and Kings*, 428.

### DARKNESS

Manasseh to Jehoiakim

Manasseh (wicked), Amon (wicked), **Josiah (righteous)**, Jehoahaz (wicked; taken captive to Egypt), Jehoiakim (wicked)

**Josiah: H2977**—From the same root as **H803** and **H3050**. **H803**—*to found; foundation*:—foundation. **H3050**—*Jah*, the sacred name.

### LUTHER

“It was his [Luther’s] work to build in the temple of the Lord. There were living stones buried from sight amid the papal rubbish of false doctrines, forms, and ceremonies, and he must search them out, and **lay them on the true foundation**. The followers of Christ were not then united as a peculiar and holy people separate from the world. They were **mingled** with the sons of Belial, and must be separated by the power of divine truth.” *Signs of the Times*, July 19, 1883.

### A PROPHECY

Behold, **the days come**, that all that *is* in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and **they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon**.

Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good *is* the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken. And he said, *Is it not good*, if peace and truth be in my days? 2 Kings 20:17–19.

### THE TIME OF THE END

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into

the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. Daniel 1:1–2.

#### AN INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE

“Through the Hebrew captives the Lord was made known to the heathen in Babylon. This idolatrous nation was given **a knowledge of the kingdom the Lord was to establish**, and through His power maintain against all the power and craft of Satan. Daniel and his fellow-companions, Ezra and Nehemiah, and many others were witnesses for God in their captivity. **The Lord scattered them among the kingdoms of the earth** that their light might shine brightly amid the black darkness of heathenism and idolatry. **To Daniel God revealed the light of His purposes, which had been hidden for many generations.** He chose that Daniel should see in vision the light of His truth, and reflect this light on the proud kingdom of Babylon. On the despot king was permitted to flash light from the throne of God. Nebuchadnezzar was shown that the God of heaven was ruler over all the monarchs and kings of earth. His name was to go forth as the God over all gods. God desired Nebuchadnezzar to understand that the rulers of earthly kingdoms had a ruler in the heavens. God’s faithfulness in rescuing the three captives from the flames and vindicating their course of action showed His wonderful power.

“**Great light shone forth from Daniel and his companions.** Glorious things were spoken of Zion, the city of the Lord. **Thus the Lord designs that spiritual light shall shine from His faithful watchmen in these last days.** If the saints in the Old Testament bore such a decided testimony of loyalty, how should God’s people today, having the accumulated light of centuries, shine forth, when the prophecies of the Old Testament shed their veiled glory into the future!” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1169.

“God sent His angel to move upon the heart of a farmer who had not believed the Bible, to lead him to search the prophecies. Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and **open to his understanding prophecies which had ever been dark to God’s people.** The commencement of the chain of truth was given to him, and he was led on to search for link after link, until he looked with wonder and admiration upon the Word of God. He saw there a perfect chain of truth. That Word which he had regarded as uninspired now opened before his vision in its beauty and glory. He saw that one portion of Scripture explains another, and when one passage was closed to his understanding, he found in another part of the Word that which explained it. He regarded the sacred Word of God with joy and with the deepest respect and awe.” *Early Writings*, 229.

“To William Miller and his collaborators it was given to preach the warning in America. This country became the center of the great advent movement. It was here that the prophecy of the first angel’s message had its most direct fulfillment. **The writings of Miller and his associates were carried to distant lands. Wherever missionaries had penetrated in all the world, were sent the glad tidings of Christ’s speedy return.** Far and wide spread the message of the everlasting gospel: ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’” *The Great Controversy*, 368.

**Daniel:** Judge of God—Judgment of God

“To William Miller and his colaborers it was given to . . . the everlasting gospel: ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for **the hour of His judgment is come.**’” *The Great Controversy*, 368.

**Hananiah:** God has favored.

**Mishael:** Who is like unto God?

**Azariah:** God Protects.

**Belteshazzar:** Beltis protects the king.

**Shadrach:** Aku’s command.

**Meshach:** A Chaldean god.

**Abednego:** Servant of Nebo.

#### FEAR GOD—NOT MAN (HE WOULD NOT DEFILE HIMSELF)

Daniel 1:3–10

#### THE FIRST TEST: APPETITE

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:3–4.

#### GIVE HIM GLORY (LET OUR COUNTENANCES BE LOOKED UPON)

Daniel 1:11–15

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

#### THE SECOND TEST: PRESUMPTION

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Matthew 4:5–7.

“At **the end of the ten days** the result was found to be quite the opposite of Melzar’s expectations. Not only in personal appearance, but in physical activity and mental vigor, those who had been temperate in their habits exhibited a marked superiority over their companions who had indulged appetite. As a result of this trial, Daniel and his associates were permitted to continue their simple diet during the whole course of their training for the duties of the kingdom. . . .

“The life of Daniel is **an inspired illustration of what constitutes a sanctified character.** . . .

“God has said, ‘Them that honour me I will honour’ (1 Samuel 2:30). While Daniel clung to his God with unwavering trust, **the Spirit of prophetic power came upon him.** While he was instructed of man in the duties of court life, he was taught of God to read the mysteries of future ages and **to present to coming generations, through figures and similitudes, the wonderful things that would come to pass in the last days.**” *The Sanctified Life*, 22–23.

#### OPENING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. As for these four children, God gave them **knowledge** and skill in all **learning** and **wisdom**: and **Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.** Daniel 1:16–17.

#### THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT IS COME (THE END OF THE DAYS)

Now at **the end of the days** that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm. Daniel 1:18–20.

#### THE THIRD TEST: WORSHIP

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Matthew 4:8–10.

#### TESTING TIME

And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king’s meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them **three years**, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Daniel 1:5.

And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each **day for a year.** Ezekiel 4:6.

#### A SIGN

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was **three days and three nights in the whale’s belly**; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here. Matthew 12:39–41.

## SEEKING FRUIT

He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, **these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree**, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*. Luke 13:6–8.

## CONFIRMING THE COVENANT

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in **the midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Daniel 9:27.

## THE THIRD DAY

Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in **the third day he will raise us up**, and we shall live in his sight. Hosea 6:1–2.

Now is the **judgment** of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, **if I be lifted up** from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. John 12:31–32.

And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they *shall be as* the stones of a crown, **lifted up as an ensign** upon his land. Zechariah 9:16.

## FORTY-SIX YEARS

Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up**. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? John 2:18–20.

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**. Revelation 11:2.

“God always honors the right. The most promising youth from all the lands subdued by the great conqueror had been gathered at Babylon; yet among them all, **the Hebrew captives were without a rival**. The erect form, the elastic step, the fair countenance, the undimmed senses, the untainted breath,—all were so many certificates of good habits, insignia of the nobility with which nature honors those who are obedient to her laws.

“During the past **three years** the youthful Hebrews had been gaining other wisdom than the learning of the Chaldeans; God had been giving them a knowledge of himself. They had placed themselves in right relation to God, and he could trust them with a deep knowledge of eternal truths.

“The habits and understanding of the youth who were not instructed by God were in accord with the knowledge that comes from idolatrous practices, and that leaves God out of its reckoning. Daniel and his companions, from the first of their experience in the king’s court, were gaining a clearer comprehension, a sounder and more accurate judgment, than all the wise men of the kingdom of Babylon. They placed themselves where God could bless them. They followed rules of life that would give them strength of intellect and would gain for them the greatest possible benefit from the study of God’s Word.

“While faithful to his duties in the king’s court, Daniel so faithfully maintained his loyalty to God, that God could honor him as his messenger to the Babylonian monarch. It was to Daniel that Nebuchadnezzar, unable to get help from his wise men, turned for an account of his forgotten dream, and an interpretation of it. Daniel and his companions sought the Lord, and to Daniel was revealed the dream and its meaning. And when he had related to the king the vision God had shown him, Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.’

“The history of Daniel and his companions has been recorded on the pages of the Inspired Word for the benefit of the youth in all succeeding ages. What men have done, men may do. If the youth will make the unreserved surrender of the will that Daniel made, God will help them as he helped Daniel. If they will appreciate the opportunities he gives for growing in understanding of him, he will give them wisdom and knowledge, and will fill their hearts with unselfishness. He will put into their minds thoughts that will inspire them with hope and courage as they seek to bring others under the sway of the Prince of Peace. They will have the co-operation of God and the angels. They will work out with carefulness the sum of their salvation, God working in them to will and to do of his good pleasure.

“As Daniel studied the Word of God, his understanding became ever clearer; and as he comprehended its ennobling principles, he purposed in his heart to form a character that God could approve. He could not foresee the result of his determination to be true to God in the courts of Babylon; but he resolved that even at the loss of all things, he would preserve his integrity. And the Lord fulfilled to him the word that he has pledged, ‘Them that honor me I will honor.’

“There is wonderful encouragement in the story of Daniel for the youth who today are striving to gain knowledge. In his Word the Lord has left his children a divine instructor that will never disappoint those who seek its direction with a sincere heart. Its teachings will give a strength of character and mental development that no other book can impart. Let the student make the Word of God the chief book of study, giving all other branches of learning a secondary place. And as the heart is opened to the entrance of the Word, light from the throne of God will shine into the soul. The Word, cherished in the heart, will yield to the student a treasure of knowledge that is priceless. Its ennobling principles will stamp the character with honesty and truthfulness, temperance and integrity.” *Youth Instructor*, December 31, 1907.