

Habakkuk's Two Tables #31

PART FOUR: DANIEL

REVELATION FIVE

“**The fifth chapter of Revelation needs to be closely studied.** It is of great importance to those who shall act a part in the work of God for these last days. There are some who are deceived. They do not realize what is coming on the earth. Those who have permitted their minds to become beclouded in regard to what constitutes sin are fearfully deceived. Unless they make a decided change they will be found wanting when God pronounces judgment upon the children of men. They have transgressed the law and broken the everlasting covenant, and they will receive according to their works.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 267.

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Revelation 5:1–7

THE BOOK

“We ask John what **he saw and heard** in the vision at Patmos, and he answers: ‘And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.’

“There in His open hand lay **the book**, the roll of **the history of God’s providences, the prophetic history of nations and the church**. Herein was contained **the divine utterances, His authority, His commandments, His laws, the whole symbolic counsel of the Eternal, and the history of all ruling powers in the nations**. In symbolic language was contained in that roll the influence of every nation, tongue, and people from the beginning of earth’s history to its close.

“This roll was written within and without. John says: ‘I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.’ The vision as presented to John made its impression upon his mind. **The destiny of every nation was contained in that book**. John was distressed at the utter inability of any human being or angelic intelligence to read the words, or even to look thereon. His soul was wrought up to such a point of agony and suspense that one of the strong angels had compassion on him, and laying his hand on him assuringly said, ‘Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.’

“John continues: ‘I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.’

“**As the book was unrolled, all who looked upon it were filled with awe. There were no blanks in the book. There was space for no more writing.** [Revelation 5:8–14; 6:8, quoted.]” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, 197.

THE SACRED VOLUMES—THE BOOK OF DIVINE INSTRUCTION

“When **Christ** came to this earth, the **traditions that had been handed down from generation to generation**, and the **human interpretation of the Scriptures**, hid from men the truth as it is in Jesus. **The truth was buried beneath a mass of tradition.** The spiritual import of **the sacred volumes** was lost; for in their unbelief men locked the door of the heavenly treasure. **Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people.** Truth looked down from heaven to earth; but nowhere was revealed the divine impress. A gloom like the pall of death overspread the earth.

“But **the Lion of the tribe of Judah prevailed. He opened the seal that closed the book of divine instruction.** The world was permitted to gaze upon pure, unadulterated truth. Truth itself descended to roll back the darkness and counteract error. A Teacher was sent from heaven with the light that was to light every man that comes into the world. There were men and women who were eagerly seeking for **knowledge, the sure word of prophecy**, and when it came, it was as a light shining in a dark place.” *Spalding and Magan, 58.*

THE BIBLE IS THE BOOK OF DIVINE INSTRUCTION

“Let everyone who has been blessed with reasoning faculties take up the **Bible** and search its pages, that he may understand the will of God concerning him. In this **Book divine instruction** is given to all. The **Bible** is addressed to every one—to every class of society, to those of every clime and age.” *Signs of the Times, July 11, 1906.*

COME AND SEE

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, **Come and see.** . . . And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, **Come and see.** . . . And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, **Come and see.** And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. . . . And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, **Come and see.** Revelation 6:1, 3, 5, 7.

THE LION UNSEALS THE BOOK

“**It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah who unsealed the book and gave to John the revelation of what should be in these last days.** Daniel stood in his **lot** to bear his testimony, **which was sealed until the time of the end**, when the first angel’s message should be proclaimed to our world. **These matters are of infinite importance** in these last days, but while ‘**many shall be purified, and made white, and tried,**’ ‘the wicked shall do wickedly: and **none of the wicked shall understand.**’” *Manuscript Releases, volume 18, 14–15.*

IN THE REVELATION

“All that God has in prophetic history specified to be **fulfilled in the past has been**, and all that is yet to come **in its order will be.** Daniel, God’s prophet, stands in his place. John stands in his place. **In the Revelation the Lion of the tribe of Judah has opened to the students of prophecy the book of Daniel, and thus is Daniel standing in his place.** He bears his testimony, that which the Lord revealed to him in vision of **the**

great and solemn events which we must know as we stand on the very threshold of their fulfillment.

“In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. **Those things which have been, will be repeated.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 109.

PIONEER POSITION

“**What Daniel was commanded to seal up and close**, (Daniel 12:4) is now, through the all-powerful mediation of **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, revealed unto us. **Revelation 5:5.** Hence ‘many run to and fro, and knowledge is increased.’” James White, *Review and Herald*, November 1, 1853.

THE LION SEALS

Revelation 10:1–4

“After these seven thunders uttered their voices, **the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book**: ‘Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered.’ **These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order.** Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel’s prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels’ messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time.

“**The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one.** One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened. John heard the mysteries which the thunders uttered, but he was commanded not to write them.

“The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a **delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels’ messages.** It was not best for the people to know these things, for their faith must necessarily be tested. In the order of God most wonderful and advanced truths would be proclaimed. The first and second angels’ messages were to be proclaimed, but no further light was to be revealed before these messages had done their specific work. This is represented by the angel standing with one foot on the sea, proclaiming with a most solemn oath that time should be no longer.” *The Seventh-day Adventists Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 971.

SEALED UNTIL THE TIME OF THE END

“Daniel stood in his lot to bear his testimony, **which was sealed until the time of the end**, when the first angel’s message should be proclaimed to our world. These matters are of **infinite importance in these last days**, but while ‘many shall be purified, and made white, and tried,’ ‘the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand.’” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, 14–15.

JUST BEFORE PROBATION CLOSES

Revelation 22:10–11

STANDING IN HIS LOT

“Daniel has been standing in his **lot since the seal was removed** and the light of truth has been shining upon his visions. He stands in his **lot**, bearing the testimony which was to be understood at **the end of the days**.” *Sermons and Talks*, volume 1, 225–226.

JEWELS

MEN AND WOMEN

“**The Lord will call young men from the humble walks of life** into his service, just as he did when living in person on this earth. He passed by the learned rabbis, to choose as his first disciples humble, unlearned fishermen. He has workers whom he will call forth from poverty and obscurity. Engaged in the common duties of life, and clothed with coarse raiment, they are looked upon by men as of little worth. But **they will become precious jewels**, to shine brightly for the Lord. ‘They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, **in that day** when I make up my jewels.’” *Review and Herald*, May 5, 1903.

MILLER’S TENTH RULE

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

TRUTHS TO SHARE

“**Mighty truths** have been buried beneath the sophistry of error, but **they will be found** by the diligent searcher. As he finds and opens **the treasure house of the precious jewels of truth**, it is no robbery; for all who appreciate these **jewels** may possess them, and then **they too have a treasure house to open to others. He who imparts does not deprive himself of the treasure; for as he examines it that he may present it in such a way as to attract others, he finds new treasures.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 40.

THE CASKET

“The Bible is a field where are concealed heavenly treasures, and they will remain hidden treasures until, by diligent mining, they are discovered and brought to light. **The Bible is a casket containing jewels of inestimable value**, which should be so presented as to be seen in their intrinsic luster. But the beauty and excellence of these diamonds of truth are not discerned by the natural eye. The lovely things of the material world are not seen until the sun, dispelling the darkness, floods them with its light. And so with the treasures of God’s word; they are not appreciated until they are revealed by the Sun of Righteousness.” *Special Testimonies on Education*, 53.

“The ‘casket’ represents the great truths of the Bible, relative to the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, which were given Brother Miller to publish to the world.” James White, *Brother Miller’s Dream*, footnotes.

“**The word of God abounds in precious jewels of truth**, and parents should bring them forth from their **casket** and present them before their children in their true luster.” *Signs of the Times*, September 10, 1894.

“God has given His ministers the message of truth to proclaim. This the churches are to receive and in every possible way to communicate, catching the first rays of light and diffusing them. Here is our great sin. We are years behind. The ministers have been seeking **the hidden treasure** and have been **opening up the casket and letting the jewels of truth shine forth**, but the members of the church have not done a hundredth part of that which God requires of them.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 425.

A CASKET WITH A KEY ATTACHED

“**Connected with the Word of God there is a key** that unlocks the precious **casket**, to our satisfaction and delight. I feel thankful for every ray of light. In the future, experiences now to us very mysterious will be explained. Some experiences we may never fully comprehend until this mortal shall put on immortality.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 17, 261.

THE KEY

“Faithful teachers should be placed in charge of the Bible classes, teachers who will strive to make the students understand their lessons, not by explaining everything to them, but by **requiring them to explain clearly every passage they read**. Let these teachers remember that little good will be accomplished by skimming over the surface of the word. Thoughtful investigation and earnest, taxing study are required in order for this word to be understood. **There are truths in the word which, like veins of precious ore, are hidden beneath the surface. The hidden treasure is discovered as it is searched for, as a miner searches for gold and silver. The evidence of the truth of God’s word is in the word itself. Scripture is the key that unlocks scripture.** The deep meaning of the truths of God’s word is unfolded to our minds by His Spirit.

“The Bible is the great lesson book for the students in our schools. It teaches the whole will of God concerning the sons and daughters of Adam. It is the rule of life, teaching us of the character that we must form for the future life. We need not **the dim light of tradition** to make the Scriptures comprehensible. As well might we suppose that the noonday sun needs the glimmering torchlight of earth to increase its glory. **The utterances of priest and minister are not needed to save men from error.** Those who consult the divine Oracle will have light. In the Bible every duty is made plain. Every lesson given is comprehensible. Every lesson reveals to us the Father and the Son. The word is able to make all wise unto salvation. In the word the science of salvation is plainly revealed. Search the Scriptures, for they are the voice of God speaking to the soul.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 157.

MILLER’S FOURTH & FIFTH RULES

“To understand doctrine, bring all the scriptures together on the subject you wish to know, then let every word have its proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in an error.”

“Scripture must be—its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound it to me and he should, guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed or wisdom is my rule, not the Bible.”

“The ‘key attached’ was his manner of interpreting the prophetic Word—Comparing scripture with scripture—the Bible its own interpreter. With this key Brother Miller opened the ‘casket,’ or the great truth of the advent to the world.” James White, *Brother Miller’s Dream*, footnotes.

MILLER’S FOURTEENTH RULE

“The most important rule of all is, that you must have faith.”

“Salvation depends upon our knowledge of God’s will as contained in His Word. Never cease asking and searching for truth. It is God’s will that you shall know what He has said to you. But you must exercise faith. As you search the Scriptures, **you must believe that God is**, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

“Search, O search the Bible with a heart hungry for spiritual food. Dig into the Word as the miner digs into the earth to find the veins of gold. Do not give up your search till you have ascertained your relation to God and His will concerning you.

“‘Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life.’ To search means to look diligently for something. Search for the hidden treasures in God’s Word. You cannot afford to be without them. Study the difficult passages, **comparing verse with verse, and you will find that scripture is the key which unlocks scripture.** Those who prayerfully study the Bible go from each search wiser than they were before.

“That which is worth having is not obtained without earnest, persevering effort. In business life, those only who are willing to put forth determined effort see successful results. Without earnest toil we cannot expect to obtain a knowledge of spiritual things. Those who find **the jewels of truth** must dig for them as the miner digs for the precious ore hidden in the earth.” *Signs of the Times*, September 5, 1906.

“We are to study the Word of God, comparing one portion with another. **Scripture is the key that unlocks scripture.** As we read and study and pray, there is beside us a divine Teacher, the Holy Spirit, enlightening our understanding, that we may comprehend the great truths of God’s Word.

“We are also to search our hearts carefully, to see if we really desire to understand the teaching of the Word of God.

“We are to listen attentively to the words of the ministers of God, those chosen of Him and precious, whose opportunities for learning of Him have been larger than our own. We are to respect and appreciate those who have a knowledge of His words, and who understand its application better than we do.” *Pacific Union Recorder*, February 23, 1905.

THE SCATTERED JEWELS

“The apostle says, ‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of

God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.' **The Bible is its own expositor.** One passage will prove to be **a key that will unlock other passages**, and in this way light will be shed upon the hidden meaning of the word. **By comparing different texts treating on the same subject, viewing their bearing on every side, the true meaning of the Scriptures will be made evident.**

"Many think that they must consult commentaries on the Scriptures in order to understand the meaning of the word of God, and we would not take the position that commentaries should not be studied; but **it will take much discernment to discover the truth of God under the mass of the words of men.** How little has been done by the church, as a body professing to believe the Bible, to gather up **the scattered jewels of God's word** into one perfect chain of truth! **The jewels of truth do not lie upon the surface, as many suppose.** The master mind in the confederacy of evil is ever at work to keep the truth out of sight, and **to bring into full view the opinions of great men.** The enemy is doing all in his power **to obscure heaven's light through educational processes;** for he does not mean that men shall hear the voice of the Lord, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'

"**The jewels of truth lie scattered over the field of revelation;** but they have been **buried** beneath **human traditions,** beneath **the sayings and commandments of men,** and the wisdom from heaven has been practically ignored; for **Satan has succeeded in making the world believe that the words and achievements of men are of great consequence.** The Lord God, the Creator of the worlds, at infinite cost has given the gospel to the world. Through this divine agent, glad, refreshing springs of heavenly comfort and abiding consolation have been opened for those who will come to the fountain of life. **There are veins of truth yet to be discovered;** but spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Minds beclouded with evil cannot appreciate the value of the truth as it is in Jesus." *Review and Herald*, December 1, 1891.

TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS & MAXIMS

A SEALED BOOK

"The scribes and **Pharisees** professed to explain the Scriptures, but they explained them in accordance with **their own ideas and traditions.** Their **customs** and **maxims** became more and more exacting. In its spiritual sense, the sacred Word became to the people as **a sealed book,** closed to their comprehension." *Signs of the Times*, May 17, 1905.

BURIED JEWELS

"We have an infinite Redeemer, and how precious are **the gems of truth** that testify to this **in God's word.** But **these precious jewels** have been **buried** beneath **a mass of rubbish, of tradition, of heresies, which Satan himself has originated.** His schemes are working with a strange power upon human minds to eclipse the value of Christ to those who believe in him. The enemy of God and man has cast a spell over those who profess to be the followers of Christ, until of many it can be said, **They know not the time of their visitation.**" *Review and Herald*, August 16, 1898.

THE TIME OF THE SAVIOR

“In the time of the Savior, the Jews had so covered over **the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable**, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Savior came to clear away **the rubbish of superstition and long-cherished errors**, and to set **the jewels of God’s word** in the framework of truth. **What would the Savior do if he should come to us now as he did to the Jews? He would have to do a similar work in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony.** The Jews were greatly disturbed when he did this work. They had lost sight of **the original truth** of God, but Christ brought it again to view. **It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error.** What a work is committed to us in the gospel!” *Review and Herald*, June 4, 1889.

“When Christ came into the world to exemplify true religion, and to exalt the principles that should govern the hearts and actions of men, **falsehood** had taken so deep a hold upon those who had had so great light, that they no longer comprehended the light, and had no inclination to yield up **tradition** for truth. They rejected the heavenly Teacher, they crucified the Lord of glory, that they might retain their own **customs and inventions. The very same spirit is manifested in the world today.** Men are averse to investigating truth, lest their **traditions** should be disturbed, and **a new order of things should be brought in.** There is with humanity a constant liability to err, and **men are naturally inclined to highly exalt human ideas and knowledge**, while the divine and eternal is not discerned or appreciated.” *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 47.

CASTING THE JEWELS INTO THE FRAMEWORK OF TRUTH

“The key of knowledge in Christ’s day had been taken away by those who should have held it to unlock the treasure house of wisdom in the Old Testament Scriptures. The **rabbis** and **teachers** had virtually shut up the kingdom of heaven from the poor and the afflicted, and left them to perish. In His discourses Christ did not bring many things before them at once, lest He might confuse their minds. He made every point clear and distinct. He did not disdain the repetition of old and familiar truths in prophecies if they would serve His purpose to inculcate ideas.

“**Christ was the originator of all the ancient gems of truth.** Through the work of the enemy these truths had been displaced. They had been disconnected from their true position, and **placed in the framework of error.** Christ’s work was to readjust and establish **the precious gems in the framework of truth.** The principles of truth which had been given by Himself to bless the world had, through Satan’s agency, been buried and had apparently become extinct. Christ rescued them from **the rubbish of error**, gave them a new, vital force, and commanded them to shine as **precious jewels**, and stand fast forever.

“Christ Himself could use any of these old truths without borrowing the smallest particle, for He had originated them all. **He had cast them into the minds and thoughts of each generation**, and when He came to our world He rearranged and vitalized the truths which had become dead, **making them more forcible** for the benefit of future generations. It was Jesus Christ who had the power of rescuing the truths from the **rubbish**, and again giving them to the world with more than their original freshness and power.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 240–241.

CHRIST IS READY TO SWEEP AWAY

“The Scriptures are given for our benefit that we may have instruction in righteousness. Precious rays of light have been obscured by **the clouds of error**, but **Christ is ready to sweep away the mists of error and superstition**, and to reveal to us the brightness of the Father’s glory, so that we shall say as did the disciples, ‘**Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way?**’” *Publishing Ministry*, 68.

TRUTHS WILL BLAZE FORTH

“**The dust and rubbish of error have buried the precious jewels of truth**, but the Lord’s workers can uncover these treasures, so that thousands will look upon them with delight and awe. Angels of God will be beside the humble worker, giving grace and divine enlightenment, and thousands will be led to pray with David, ‘Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.’ **Truths that have been for ages unseen and unheeded, will blaze forth from the illuminated pages of God’s holy word**. The churches generally that have heard, refused, and trampled upon the truth, will do more wickedly; but ‘**the wise, those who are honest, will understand**. The book is open, and the words of God reach the hearts of those who desire to know his will. At **the loud cry of the angel** from heaven who joins the third angel, thousands will **awake** from the stupor that has held the world for ages, and will see the beauty and value of the truth.” *Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885.