

Habakkuk's Two Tables #44

PART SIX: 1989

THE KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

“VERSE 5. And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.’

“The king of the north and the king of the south are many times referred to in the remaining portion of this chapter. It therefore becomes essential to an understanding of the prophecy clearly to identify these powers. When **Alexander's empire** was divided, the different portions lay toward the four winds of heaven, west, north, east, and south; these divisions of course to be reckoned from the standpoint of Palestine, the native land of the prophet. That division of the empire lying west of Palestine would thus constitute the kingdom of the west; that lying north, the kingdom of the north; that lying east, the kingdom of the east; and that lying south the kingdom of the south. The divisions of Alexander's kingdom with respect to Palestine were situated as follows: Cassander had Greece and the adjacent countries, which lay to the west; Lysimachus had Thrace, which then included Asia Minor, and the countries lying on the Hellespont and Bosphorus, which lay to the north of Palestine; Seleucus had Syria and Babylon, which lay principally to the east; and Ptolemy had Egypt and the neighboring countries, which lay to the south.

“During the wars and revolutions which for long ages succeeded, these geographical boundaries were frequently changed or obliterated; old ones were wiped out, and new ones instituted. But whatever changes might occur, these first divisions of the empire must determine the names which these portions of territory should ever afterward bear, or we have no standard by which to test the application of the prophecy: that is, **whatever power at any time should occupy the territory which at first constituted the kingdom of the north, that power, so long as it occupied that territory, would be the king of the north; and whatever power should occupy that which at first constituted the kingdom of the south, that power would so long be the king of the south.** We speak of only these two, because they are the only ones afterward spoken of in the prophecy, and because, in fact, almost the whole of Alexander's empire finally resolved itself into these two divisions.” Uriah Smith, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, 249.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE TIME PERIOD OF THE CROSS

Isaiah 43:9-12; 46:5-10; 44:1-8; 41:4; Galatians 4:22-26; 3:6-9, 26-29;
Romans 2:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:42-47

THE NORTH IS BABYLON

Jeremiah 25:9; Ezekiel 26:7 (a king of kings); Joel 2:15-20 (between the seas);
Ezekiel 38:14-39:7 (falls upon the mountains)

“The woman (**Babylon**) of Revelation 17 is described as ‘arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness: . . . and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, **Babylon the Great**, the mother of harlots.’ Says the prophet: ‘I saw the **woman** drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.’ Babylon is further declared to be ‘that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.’ Revelation 17:4-6, 18. The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is **Rome**.” *The Great Controversy*, 382.

THE SOUTH IS EGYPT

SOUTH: 5045—from an unused root mean. to be parched; the south (from its drought); spec. the Negeb or southern district of Judah, occasionally, **Egypt** (as south to Pal.).

KING OF THE SOUTH

Daniel 11:5–8; Isaiah 30:1–7; Revelation 11:8

“This is **atheism**, and **the nation represented by Egypt** would **give voice** to a similar denial of the claims of the living God and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance.” *The Great Controversy*, 269.

“**The speaking of the nation** is the action of its **legislative** and **judicial** authorities.” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

“The worldwide dissemination of **the same teachings** that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.” *Education*, 228.

PUSH

PUSH: 5055—to butt with horns; fig. **to war against**: gore, push.

Daniel 8:4

COME AGAINST LIKE A WHIRLWIND

COME: 8175—a prim. root; **to storm**; by impl. to shiver, i.e. fear-:be (horribly) afraid, fear, hurl as a storm, be tempestuous, **come like (take away as with) a whirlwind**.

AGAINST: 5921—same as **5920**. **5920**—from **5927**. **5927**—**to ascend**, intrans. (be high) or act. (mount)—**arise** (up). (**cause to**) **ascend up**.

WHIRLWIND: 8175—same as ‘come’ above.

CHARIOTS & HORSES

Exodus 14:9; 1 Kings 1:5; 20:1

“Everything in God’s world—men and doctrines, and nature itself—is fulfilling God’s sure word of prophecy, and accomplishing his grand and closing work in this world’s history. We are to be ready, and waiting for the orders of God. Nations will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God’s only standard of righteousness as the only sure test of character. **And all who will not bow to the decree of national councils, and obey the national laws to exalt the sabbath instituted by the man of sin to disregard God’s holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the image of the beast.**” *Review and Herald*, March 9, 1911.

“As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness. The same argument many centuries ago was brought against Christ by the ‘rulers of the people.’ ‘It is expedient for us,’ said the wily Caiaphas, ‘that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.’ John 11:50. This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment and giving the people liberty, **after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts.**

“The people of God will **then** be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob’s trouble. ‘Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.’ Jeremiah 30:5–7.” *The Great Controversy*, 615–616.

Acts 7:54–60

SHIPS

Psalms 107:23; Proverbs 31:14; Revelation 18:17–19; 2 Chronicles 9:21–22

COUNTRIES

Daniel 11:40, 41, 42

OVERFLOW AND PASS OVER

OVERFLOW: 7857—a prim. root; **to gush**; by impl. to **inundate**, cleanse; by anal. to gallop, **conquer**;- drown, (over-) flow (-whelm), rinse. run. rush. (**thoroughly**) **wash (away)**.

PASS: 5674—a prim. root; **to cross over**.

PROPHECY DEFINED

“Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth’s history. **The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth’s history.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 102.

“**From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the pages of Holy Writ, they need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory.**” *Education*, 184.

PUSH

THE ONGOING WAR

“Until recently, the battalions of Marxism seemed to have the upper hand over the soldiers of the Cross. In the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Lenin had pledged toleration but delivered terror. ‘**Russia turned crimson with the blood of martyrs,**’ says Father Gleb Yakunin, Russian Orthodoxy’s bravest agitator for religious freedom. In the Bolsheviks’ first five years in power, 28 bishops and 1,200 priests were cut down by the red sickle. Stalin greatly accelerated the terror, and by the end of Khrushchev’s rule, liquidation of the clergy reached an estimated 50,000. After World War II, fierce but generally less bloody persecution spread into the Ukraine and the new Soviet bloc, affecting millions of Roman Catholics and Protestants as well as Orthodox.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“In 1935 Josef Stalin, absolute ruler of the Soviet Union, was given some unsolicited advice. Make a propitiatory gesture to the Vatican, he was told. **Pushed** too far, his country’s Catholics might become counterrevolutionary. Stalin’s great mustache amplified his sneer. ‘The pope. And how many divisions has he?’ ‘The answer then was that he has none. The answer now is that he needs none. The structures of Communism are crumbling to the touch.’” *Life*, December 1989.

A WHIRLWIND

“Days of the Whirlwind” Title in *Newsweek*, December 25, 1989.

“Of all the events that have shaken the Soviet bloc in 1989, none is more fraught with history—or more implausible—than the polite encounter to take place this week in Vatican City. There, in the spacious ceremonial library of the 16th century Apostolic Palace, the czar of world atheism, Mikhail Gorbachev, will visit the Vicar of Christ, Pope John Paul II.

“The moment will be electric, not only because John Paul helped inflame the fervor for freedom in his Polish homeland that **swept like brush fire across Eastern Europe**. Beyond that, the meeting of the two men **symbolizes the end of the 20th century’s most dramatic spiritual war**, a conflict in which the seemingly irresistible force of Communism battered against the immovable object of Christianity.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“While Gorbachev’s hands-off policy was the immediate cause of the chain reaction of liberty that has **swept through Eastern Europe** in the past few months, John Paul deserves much of the longer-range credit.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“With the Pope’s support, Solidarity (Polish Labor Union) was formed, and John Paul II sent word to Moscow that if Soviet forces crushed Solidarity, he would go to Poland and stand with the people. The Soviets were so alarmed that they hatched a plot to kill him. . . . The Pope cautioned Solidarity leaders, particularly his friend Lech Walesa, to proceed slowly. They did. In 1988 General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish communist leader, went to them offering a deal. Solidarity insisted on an election, which it carried with some 80 percent of the vote. When the Communist government fell, the impact on Eastern Europe was electrifying.” *Reader’s Digest*, March 1990.

“When the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV decided to seek pardon of Pope Gregory VII in 1077, he stood barefoot for three days in the snow outside the papal quarters in Canossa, Italy. Though Gorbachev’s concordat with the church was less arduous, it was no less significant in its way.” *Time*, December 11, 1989.

“**GORBY’S BOW TO THE ROMAN LEGIONS**” Title in the *US News & World Report*.

“The Soviet president’s session Friday with Pope John Paul II is the latest development of a revolution in the Communist world that the pope helped spark and Gorbachev has allowed to happen.” *USA Today*, cover story.

“In private meetings with heads of state, back room consultations with dissident groups and persistent propagandizing for his crusade against tyranny, he [John Paul II] has helped bring about the greatest policy change since the Russian Revolution.” *Life*, December 1989.

“In Poland the freedom movement was born almost three decades ago when the bishop of Krakow sought approval to build a new church. When Communist authorities denied his application, the bishop had a giant cross erected and celebrated open-air masses. The Communist tore it down. The church members replaced it over and over until finally the Communists gave up.” *Jubilee*, April 1990.

“His [Pope John Paul II] triumphant tour of Poland in 1979, says Polish bishop, altered the ‘mentality of fear, the fear of police and tanks, of losing your job, of not getting promoted, of being thrown out of school, of failing to get a passport. People learned that if they ceased to fear the system, the system was helpless.’ Thus was born Solidarity, backed by the church and led by such friends of the pope as Lech Walesa and Tadeusz Mazowieke, who subsequently became the Soviet bloc’s first Christian Prime Minister.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“In May, 1981, before a vast audience in St. Peter’s Square, Pope John Paul was shot and severely wounded by Mehmet Ali Agha. There was immediate speculation that the gunman had been sent by East bloc plotters from Bulgaria, sponsored by the Soviet secret police. Their aim: to silence **the one man capable of shaking the foundations of international Communism.**” *Life*, December 1989.

“A COMMON BRUSH WITH DEATH—At their first meeting, Reagan and John Paul II discussed something else they had in common: both had survived assassination attempts that occurred only six weeks apart in 1981, and both believed God had saved them for a special mission. And both referred to the ‘miraculous fact that they had survived.’” *Time* magazine, February 24, 1992.

CHARIOTS AND HORSEMEN

HOLY ALLIANCE, *Time* magazine, February 24, 1992, Cover Title.

“Only President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were present in the Vatican Library on Monday, June 7, 1982. It was the first time the two had met, and they talked for 50 minutes. . . .

“In that meeting, Reagan and the pope agreed to undertake a clandestine campaign to hasten the dissolution of the Communist empire. Declares Richard Allen, Reagan’s first National Security Advisor: ‘**This was one of the great secret alliances of all time.**’ . . .

“Reagan came with very simple and strongly held views,’ says Admiral Bobby Inman, former deputy director of the CIA. ‘It is a valid point that he saw the collapse (of Communism) coming and he pushed it hard.’ During the first part of 1982, **a five-part strategy** emerged that was aimed at bringing about the collapse of the Soviet economy. . . .

1. The **U.S. defense buildup**, already under way, aimed at making it too costly for the Soviets to compete militarily with the U.S. Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative-Star Wars became a centerpiece of the strategy.

2. **Covert operations** aimed at encouraging reform movements in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

3. **Financial aid** to Warsaw-Pact nations calibrated to their willingness to protect human rights and undertake political and free-market reforms.

4. **Economic isolation** of the Soviet Union and the withholding of Western and Japanese technology from Moscow. The administration focused on denying the USSR what it had hoped would be its principal source of hard currency in the twenty-first century: profits from a transcontinental pipeline to supply natural gas to Western Europe. . . .

5. Increased use of Radio Liberty, **Voice of America** and Radio Free Europe to transmit Administration’s messages to the people of Eastern Europe. . . .

“‘Like all great and lucky leaders, **the pope and President exploited the forces of history to their own ends.**’ ” *Time*, February 4, 1992, 29–30.

CHARIOTS

“In 1981, the Communist bloc got another shock. A new American President, Ronald Reagan, began fulfilling his promise to challenge the Soviets, not to placate them. Over the next few years, he accelerated the *military buildup* and announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a space-based system for protecting against missile attack. He backed anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua, Angola, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. And with American troops, he liberated the island of Grenada from Communist thugs.

“The Soviets’ confidence was shaken. . . .

“The Western Europeans also pressured the Soviets. NATO forged ahead with military modernization. German voters spurned Soviet ‘peace overtures’ and elected a government that voted to deploy new intermediate-range missiles. . . .

“**Military pressure** from America and its Western allies had caused the Soviets to flinch.” *Reader’s Digest*, March 1990.

SHIPS

“Gorbachev has also grasped the fact that political and **economic survival** depends upon the goodwill of the Soviet people, among whom Christians have always outnumbered Communists. Gorbachev, moreover, needs the cooperation of the West, observes Father Mark, a reform-minded Orthodox priest in Moscow, who considers Gorbachev’s program within the USSR ‘a result of foreign policy necessity.’ ” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“In the 1980s, **Communist economies, always inefficient, went belly up**. Before, they had lacked consumer and luxury goods. Now perennial shortages of staples worsened as well. When Soviet miners went on strike in 1989, their demands included soap, toilet paper, and sugar.” *Reader’s Digest*, March 1990.

“For Gorbachev, the ferment in the Baltics is shaking not just a small corner of the empire built by Lenin and Stalin, but the foundations of the empire itself. The nationalities question is a potent distillation of many other signs, from **a crumbling economy** to violent ethnic clashes, that the breathtaking disintegration of the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe may not stop at the Soviet border. As **the economy deteriorates** and shortages grow, public disillusionment with Communism and with Gorbachev himself is rising, and hostile republics, nationalities and interests groups are competing more fiercely for political power and for shares in **the shrinking economy**. Corruption and crime are rampant; minors and railway workers threaten to cut off fuel supplies during the bitter winter; Azerbaijanis cut the rail line to an Armenian enclave in their midst; farmers hoard food, leaving city shelves bare.” *US News and World Report*, January 15, 1990.

OVERFLOW

“The **rush** to freedom in Eastern Europe is a sweet victory for John Paul II.” *Life*, December 1989.

“THE TRIUMPH OF JOHN PAUL II—The tide of freedom **washing over** Eastern Europe answers his most fervent prayer.” *Life*, December, 1989.

HE SHALL PASS OVER

“When Tadeusz Mazowiecki took over in August 1989 as Poland’s first non-Communist prime minister in 45 years, he was asked if he was a socialist. ‘I am a Catholic,’ he answered tersely.” *US News and World Report*, May 21, 1990.

“Last year Lithuania’s two leading bishops were returned to head dioceses after a combined 53 years of internal exile, and the cathedral in Vilnius, previously used as an art museum, was restored for worship. This year the Belorussian republic got its first bishop in 63 years. That paved the way for Archbishop Angelo Sodano, who oversees the Vatican’s foreign relations, to make the arraignments for Gorbachev’s historic visit to the Holy See.

“These concessions to Catholicism are only part of Gorbachev’s religious liberalization.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“Three new Catholic bishops have recently been named in Czechoslovakia. And this month Gorbachev meets Pope John Paul II during a visit to Italy—the first face-to-face encounter between leaders of the Kremlin and the Vatican. The sessions may lead to legalization of the long-banned Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USSR.” *Life*, December, 1989.

“The revival of religious freedom is expected to include lifting of an official ban on the five-million-member Ukraine Catholic Church, which has survived underground since 1946 when Stalin ordered it absorbed into the Russian Orthodox Church. Winning legalization for the Ukrainian Church has been a primary aim of the pope’s. Officials in the Soviet Union say they will clear the way for legalization by permitting Ukrainian Catholics to register, as other religious groups are now required to do under Soviet law.” *US News and World Report*, December 11, 1989.