

## Habakkuk's Two Tables #54

PART SIX: 1989

### OVERTHROWN

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and **many countries shall be overthrown**: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. Daniel 11:41.

“Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change in the Sabbath was made by their church, and they cite this very change as evidence of the supreme authority of the church. They declare that by observing the first day of the week as the Sabbath, Protestants are recognizing her power to legislate in divine things. The Roman church has not relinquished her claim to infallibility; and when the world and the Protestant churches accept a spurious Sabbath of her creating, while they reject the Sabbath of Jehovah, they virtually acknowledge this claim. They may cite the authority for this change, but the fallacy of their reasoning is easily discerned. The papist is sharp enough to see that Protestants are deceiving themselves, **willingly closing their eyes** to the facts in the case. As the Sunday institution gains favor, he rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.

“The change of the Sabbath is the sign or mark of the authority of the Roman church. **Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment**, choose to observe the false Sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal Sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God's appointment.

“But **the time to receive the mark of the beast**, as designated in prophecy, has not yet come. **The testing time** has not yet come. There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned **until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment**. But **when** the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit Sabbath, and **when** the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. **Then** those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast in their foreheads or in their hands.

“With rapid steps we are approaching this period. **When** Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, **then** will the papal Sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state. **There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.**” *Bible Training School*, February 2, 1913.

### LIFTING THE ENSIGN

#### THE STORM APPROACHES

“Heretofore those who presented the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. . . . But **as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated**, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.” *The Great Controversy*, 605–606.

### THE STORM APPROACHES

“As the storm approaches, **a large class** who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.” *The Great Controversy*, 608.

### A SOUND APPEARANCE

“In the absence of the persecution there have drifted into our ranks men who appear sound and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us.” *Evangelism*, 360.

### THE SHAKING

“I was pointed to the providence of God among His people and was shown that every trial made by the refining, purifying process upon professed Christians proves some to be dross. The fine gold does not always appear. **In every religious crisis** some fall under temptation. **The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves.** Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. **Adversity purges them out of the church.** As a class, their spirits are not steadfast with God. They go out from us because they are not of us; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, many are offended.” *Testimonies*, volume 4, 89.

### A LARGER PORTION

“When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and **a larger portion than we now anticipate**, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 368.

### THE WORLD CAN ONLY BE WARNED

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of **sin**, of **righteousness** and of **judgment**. The **world can only be warned** by **seeing** those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, **the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God, and those who trample them under their feet.** The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between **those who have the seal of God**, and those who keep a spurious rest-day. **When the test comes**, it will be **clearly shown** what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy, bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws.” *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

### A SANCTIFIED MINISTRY

“The great issue near at hand will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 385.

## A GREAT CRISIS

“The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in **a terrible crisis** under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the **superficial, conservative class**, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will **renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies**, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 463.

## THE LAST GREAT CRISIS

“The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and **the final movements will be rapid ones.**” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 11.

## THE FINAL CRISIS

“As God’s people approach **the final crisis**, they must with increasing power proclaim the message He has given them. The warning must be given to the churches. God’s requirements must be laid before those who are transgressing His law. They must be made to understand that this is a life and death question. God’s remnant people are to fill the earth with the cry of the third angel.” *Review and Herald*, July 16, 1901.

## THE SOON-COMING CRISIS

“God would have his people prepared for the soon-coming crisis. Prepared or unprepared, we must all meet it. Only those whose characters are thoroughly disciplined to meet the divine standard will be able to stand firm in that testing time. But **when** enemies shall be on every side, watching them for evil, the God of Heaven will be watching his precious jewels for good. **When** secular rulers unite with the ministers of religion to come between God and our conscience, **then** those who cherish the fear of God will be revealed. **When** the darkness is deepest, then the light of a noble, Godlike character will shine the brightest. **When** every other trust fails, **then** it will be seen who have an abiding trust in God.” *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 252.

## WHEN THE DECREE GOES FORTH

“None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But **when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath**, and **the loud cry of ‘the third angel’** shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. **Then** those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.” *Signs of the Times*, November 8, 1899.

**“When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.”** *Testimonies*, volume 5, 216.

**“When** the law of God is being made void, when His name is dishonored, when it is considered disloyal to the laws of the land to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath, when wolves in sheep’s clothing, through blindness of mind and hardness of heart, are seeking to compel the conscience, shall we give up our loyalty to God? No, no. The wrongdoer is filled with a Satanic hatred against those who are loyal to the commandments of God, but the value of God’s law as a rule of conduct must be made manifest. The zeal of those who obey the Lord will be increased as the world and the church unite in making void the law. They will say with the Psalmist, ‘I love thy commandments above gold; yea above fine gold’ [Psalm 119:127]. This is what will be sure to occur when the law of God is made void by a national act. **When Sunday is exalted and sustained by law, then the principle that actuates the people of God will be made manifest**, as the principle of the three Hebrews was made manifest when Nebuchadnezzar commanded them to worship the golden image in the plain of Dura. We can see what our duty is when the truth is overborne by falsehood.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 71.

#### THE PRINCIPLE THAT ACTUATES

**“Character is revealed by a crisis.** When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ the sleeping virgins **roused** from their slumbers, and it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares, but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **Character is revealed by circumstances.** Emergencies bring out the true metal of character. **Some sudden and unlooked-for calamity, bereavement, or crisis, some unexpected sickness or anguish, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will bring out the true inwardness of the character. It will be made manifest** whether or not there is any real faith in the promises of the word of God. **It will be made manifest** whether or not the soul is sustained by grace, whether there is oil in the vessel with the lamp.

“Testing times come to **all**. How do we conduct ourselves under the test and proving of God? Do our lamps go out? or do we still keep them burning? Are we prepared for every emergency by our connection with Him who is full of grace and truth? The five wise virgins could not impart their character to the five foolish virgins. Character must be formed by us as individuals.” *Review and Herald*, October 17, 1895.

## IS IT SAFE TO WAIT?

“We are now living in a most perilous time, and not one of us should be tardy in seeking a preparation for the coming of Christ. **Let none follow the example of the foolish virgins, and think that it will be safe to wait until the crisis comes before gaining a preparation of character to stand in that time. It will be too late** to seek for the righteousness of Christ when the guests are called in and examined. **Now is the time** to put on the righteousness of Christ,—the wedding garment that will fit you to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. In the parable, the foolish virgins are represented as begging for oil, and failing to receive it at their request. This is symbolic of **those who have not prepared themselves by developing a character to stand in a time of crisis.** It is as if they should go to their neighbors and say, Give me your character, or I shall be lost. Those that were wise could not impart their oil to the flickering lamps of the foolish virgins. Character is not transferable. It is not to be bought or sold; it is to be acquired. The Lord has given to every individual an opportunity to obtain a righteous character **through the hours of probation;** but he has not provided a way by which one human agent may impart to another the character which he has developed by going through hard experiences, by learning lessons from the great Teacher, so that he can manifest patience under trial, and exercise faith so that he can remove mountains of impossibility. It is impossible to impart the fragrance of love,—to give to another gentleness, tact, and perseverance. It is impossible for one human heart to pour into another the love of God and humanity.

“But the day is coming, and it is close upon us, **when every phase of character will be revealed by special temptation. Those who remain true to principle, who exercise faith to the end, will be those who have proved true under test and trial during the previous hours of their probation,** and have formed characters after the likeness of Christ. It will be those who have cultivated close acquaintance with Christ, who, through his wisdom and grace, are partakers of the divine nature. But no human being can give to another, heart-devotion and noble qualities of mind, and supply his deficiencies with moral power. We can each do much for each other by giving to men a Christlike example, thus influencing them to go to Christ for the righteousness without which they cannot stand in the judgment. Men should prayerfully consider the important matter of character-building, and frame their characters after the divine model.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 16, 1896.

“If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, *refusing to keep holy the Sabbath* which God calls ‘my holy day,’ you receive the mark of the beast. *When does this take place?*—When you obey the decree that commands you to *cease from labor on Sunday and worship God*, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working-day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, *and refuse the seal of God.* If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, the judgments pronounced against the disobedient must fall upon us. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those *who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord.*” *Review and Herald*, April 27, 1911.