

Habakkuk's Two Tables #57

PART SIX: 1989

THE BEGINNING AND THE END
EVERY WORD
DEPTH
THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
ELIJAH
THEME
REPETITION OF HISTORY
CONNECTION WITH REVELATION
STRUCTURE

THE BEGINNING AND THE END, EVERY WORD & THE DEPTH

EAST

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:32–33.

FOUR WINDS

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, **holding the four winds of the earth**, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And **I saw another angel ascending from the east**, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given **to hurt the earth and the sea**, Saying, **Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God** in their foreheads. Revelation 7:1–3.

Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; **Come from the four winds**, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. Ezekiel 37:9.

STRIFE

“In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.’ Revelation 17:15. **Winds are a symbol of strife.** The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power.” *The Great Controversy*, 439.

PROGRESSIVE—EVEN NOW

“**The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn** from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; **but when God shall bid His angels loose**

the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 408.

THE MIGHTIEST ANGEL

“If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God’s people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees **the elements of nature**--earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, **until** the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads. **The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east** (or sunrising). **This mightiest of angels** has in his hand **the seal of the living God**, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is **the voice of this highest angel** that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose.

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great anti-typical Day of Atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God’s protection. The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour—more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning—will be numbered with those who are sealed. Those who, while having all the light of truth flashing upon their souls, should have works corresponding to their avowed faith, but are allured by sin, setting up idols in their hearts, corrupting their souls before God, and polluting those who unite with them in sin, will have their names **blotted out** of the book of life, and **be left in midnight darkness, having no oil** in their vessels with their lamps. ‘Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings.’

“**This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision.** John also had been a witness of this most startling revelation. He saw **the sea and the waves roaring, and men’s hearts failing them for fear.** He beheld the earth moved, and the mountains carried into the midst of the sea (which is literally taking place), the water thereof roaring and troubled, and the mountains shaking with the swelling thereof. He was shown plagues, pestilence, famine, and death performing their terrible mission.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 445.

LUKE 21

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon **the earth distress of nations**, with perplexity; **the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear**, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. Luke 21:25–26.

“The retribution to come upon Jerusalem could be delayed only a short time; and as Christ’s eye rested upon the doomed city, he saw **not merely its destruction, but the destruction of a world**. He saw that as Jerusalem was given up to destruction, so the world will be given up to its doom. He saw the retribution that will be visited on the adversaries of God. The scenes that were transacted at the destruction of Jerusalem **will be repeated at the great and terrible day of the Lord, but in a more fearful manner**.

“A world is represented in the destruction of Jerusalem, and the warning given then comes sounding down along the line to our time: ‘And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.’ Yes, the sea shall pass its borders, and destruction will be in its track. It will engulf the ships that sail upon its broad waters; and with the burden of their living freight, these will be hurled into eternity.

“There will be calamities by land and by sea, ‘men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And **then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory**.’ In just the same manner that he ascended, will he come the second time to our world. ‘And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.’

“In this perilous time, who will be found traitors? Who will choose the friendship of the enemies of Christ? Who will accept the bribery of the world, at the expense of the principles of righteousness? Of such it will be said, ‘If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes.’ O, if men would only hear the last call of mercy that God has sent to our world, warning them of temperance, righteousness, and judgment to come, truth and light and grace would be given them, to be given to the world.

“But ministers and teachers have resisted the light, refused the grace which God has richly provided for them, and abused the opportunities he has graciously presented to them. He looks from his throne, and sees warnings despised, convictions set aside, and the truth buried beneath the rubbish of tradition. A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is counted as an idle tale. Fables are chosen before the truth of heavenly origin. Invitations to repentance and the convictions of the Spirit of God are slighted.” *Review and Herald*, December 7, 1897.

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THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

“This church in Battle Creek is like **the valley of dry bones**. They need to be stirred with some power to give them life. Why we have had to work and pray and work even to have **Brother Jones** obtain a hearing in Battle Creek, and many of our leading men were provoked after they heard him talk to think that there were those in responsible positions who would close the door to light and to knowledge, keeping out just what they needed. But I have not time to write more.” *The 1888 Materials*, 189.

WAGGONER AND JONES

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. **This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message**, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.” *Testimonies to Minsters*, 91.

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, **meaning with increasing power**, as we approach the great final test.” *The 1888 Materials*, 1710.

THE LAODICEAN MESSAGE

“**The message given us by A. T. Jones, and E. J. Waggoner is the message of God to the Laodicean church**, and woe be unto anyone who professes to believe the truth and yet does not reflect to others the God-given rays.” *The 1888 Materials*, 1053.

REVELATION 18

“**The time of test** is just upon us, for **the loud cry of the third angel** has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. **This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 362.

THE LATTER RAIN MESSAGE

“**The latter rain** is to fall upon the people of God. **A mighty angel is to come down from heaven, and the whole earth is to be lighted with his glory.**” *Review and Herald*, April 21, 1891.

“**Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God’s people is finished**, we shall receive **the outpouring of the Spirit of God**. Angels from heaven will be in our midst. The present is a fitting-up time for heaven when we must walk in full obedience to all the commands of God.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 111.

“An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord’s message through Brethren Waggoner and Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, **the special power of the Holy Spirit** that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. **The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 235.

“What power must we have from God that icy hearts, having only a legal religion, **should see** the better things provided for them—**Christ and His righteousness! A life-giving message was needed to give life to the dry bones.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 12, 205.

ADVENTISM

“I lay down my pen and lift up my soul in prayer, that the Lord would **breathe** upon his backslidden people, which are **as dry bones**, that they may live.” *General Conference Bulletin*, February 4, 1893.

“**A straight testimony** must be borne to our churches and institutions, to arouse the sleeping ones.’

“When the word of the Lord is believed and obeyed, steady advancement will be made. **Let us now see our great need. The Lord cannot use us until he breathes life into the dry bones.** I heard the words spoken: ‘Without the deep moving of the Spirit of God upon the heart, without its life-giving influence, truth becomes a dead letter.’” *Review and Herald*, November 18, 1902.

“But not only does this simile of the dry bones apply to the world, but also to **those who have been blessed with great light**; for they also are like the skeletons of the valley. They have the form of men, the framework of the body; but they have not spiritual life. But the parable does not leave the dry bones merely knit together into the forms of men; for it is not enough that there is symmetry of limb and feature. **The breath of life must vivify the bodies**, that they may stand upright, and spring into activity. **These bones represent the house of Israel, the church of God**, and the hope of the church is the vivifying influence of the Holy Spirit. **The Lord must breathe upon the dry bones**, that they may live.

“The Spirit of God, with its vivifying power, must be in every human agent, that every spiritual muscle and sinew may be in exercise. **Without the Holy Spirit, without the breath of God**, there is torpidity of conscience, loss of spiritual life. Many who are without spiritual life have their names on the church records, but they are not written in the Lamb’s book of life. They may be joined to the church, but they are not united to the Lord. They may be diligent in the performance of a certain set of duties, and may be regarded as living men; but many are among those who have ‘a name that thou livest, and art dead.’

“Unless there is genuine conversion of the soul to God; unless **the vital breath of God** quickens the soul to spiritual life; unless the professors of truth are actuated by heaven-born principle, they are not born of the incorruptible seed which liveth and abideth forever. Unless they trust in the righteousness of Christ as their only security; unless they copy His character, labor in His spirit, they are naked, they have not on the robe of His righteousness. The dead are often made to pass for the living; for those who are working out what they term salvation after their own ideas, have not God working in them to will and to do of His good pleasure.

“**This class is well represented by the valley of dry bones Ezekiel saw in vision.**” *Review and Herald*, January 17, 1893.

FOUR WINDS & THE DAY OF THE EAST WIND

Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; **Come from the four winds**, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. Ezekiel 37:9.

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, **holding the four winds of the earth**, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And **I saw another angel ascending from the east**, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given **to hurt the earth and the sea**, Saying, **Hurt not** the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed the servants of our God** in their foreheads. Revelation 7:1–3.

And it was commanded them that **they should not hurt** the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but **only those men which have not the seal of God** in their foreheads. Revelation 9:4.

“After the death of Mohammed, he was succeeded in the command by Abubekr, A.D. 632, who, as soon as he had fairly established his authority and government, dispatched a circular letter to the Arabian tribes, from which the following is an extract:—‘When you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood of women and children. Destroy no palm-trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit-trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat. When you make any covenant or article, stand to it, and be as good as your word. And as you go, **you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries**, and propose to themselves to serve God that way; let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries. And you will find another sort of people that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mohammedans or pay tribute.’

“‘It is not said in prophecy or in history that the more humane injunctions were as scrupulously obeyed as the ferocious mandate; but it was so commanded them.’ And the preceding are the only instructions recorded by Gibbon, as given by Abubekr to the chiefs whose duty it was to issue the commands to all the Saracen hosts. ‘The commands are alike discriminating with the prediction, as if the caliph himself had been acting in known as well as direct obedience to a higher mandate than that of mortal man; and in the very act of going forth

to fight against the religion of Jesus, and to propagate Mohammedanism in its stead, he repeated the words which it was foretold in the Revelation of Jesus Christ that he would say.’

“The Seal of God in their Foreheads—In remarks upon chapter 7:1–3, we have shown that the seal of God is the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and history is not silent upon the fact that there have been observers of the true Sabbath all through the present dispensation. But the question has here arisen with many, Who were those men who at this time had the seal of God in their foreheads, and who thereby became exempt from Mohammedan oppression? Let the reader bear in mind the fact, already alluded to, that there have been those all through this dispensation who have had the seal of God in their foreheads, or have been intelligent observers of the true Sabbath; and let them consider further that what the prophecy asserts is that the attacks of this desolating Turkish power are not directed against them, but against another class. The subject is thus freed from all difficulty; for this is all that the prophecy really asserts. Only one class of persons is directly brought to view in the text; namely, those who have not the seal of God in their foreheads; and the preservation of those who have the seal of God is brought in only by implication. Accordingly, we do not learn from history that any of these were involved in any of the calamities inflicted by the Saracens upon the objects of their hate. They were commissioned against another class of men. And the destruction to come upon this class of men is not put in contract with the preservation of other men, but only with that of the fruits and verdure of the earth; thus, Hurt not the grass, trees, nor any green thing, but only a certain class of men. And in fulfillment, we have the strange spectacle of an army of invaders sparing those things which such armies usually destroy, namely, the face and productions of nature; and, in pursuance of their permission to hurt those men who had not the seal of God in their foreheads, cleaving the skulls of a class of religionists with shaven crowns, who belonged to the synagogue of Satan.

“These were doubtless a class of monks, or some other division of the Roman Catholic Church. Against these the arms of the Mohammedans were directed. And it seems to us that there is a peculiar fitness, if not design, in describing them as those who had not the seal of God in their foreheads; inasmuch as that is the very church which has robbed the law of God of its seal, by tearing away the true Sabbath, and erecting a counterfeit in its place.” Uriah Smith, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, 500–502.

THE WINDS—EZEKIEL 37:9; REVELATION 7:1–3

HIS ROUGH WIND

In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: **he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.** By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this *is* all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up. Isaiah 27:8–9.

ROUGH: H7186—From **H7185**; *severe* (in various applications):—churlish, cruel, grievous, hard ([-hearted], thing), heavy, + impudent, obstinate, prevailed, rough (-ly), sore, sorrowful, stiff ([-necked]), stubborn, + in trouble. **H7185**: A primitive root; properly to *be dense*, that is, tough or *severe* (in various applications): - be cruel, be fiercer, make grievous, be ([ask a], be in, have, seem, would) hard (-en, [labour], -ly, thing), be sore, (be, make) stiff (-en, [-necked]).