

Habakkuk's Two Tables #66

PART SEVEN: JOSIAH

AARON'S FOUNDATIONAL REJECTION—EXODUS 32

“Upon us is shining the accumulated light of past ages. The record of Israel's forgetfulness has been preserved for our enlightenment. In this age God has set His hand to gather unto Himself a people from every nation, kindred, and tongue. **In the advent movement He has wrought for His heritage, even as He wrought for the Israelites in leading them from Egypt.** In the great **disappointment** of 1844 the faith of His people was tested **as was that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea.**” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 115–116.

Exodus 32:1–4

SELF-PRESERVATION; AN IMAGE TO THE BEAST AND A FALSE ALTAR

“**Aaron feared for his own safety**; and instead of nobly standing up for the honor of God, he yielded to the demands of the multitude. His first act was to direct that the golden earrings be collected from all the people and brought to him, hoping that pride would lead them to refuse such a sacrifice. But they willingly yielded up their ornaments; and from these he made a molten calf, in **imitation of the gods of Egypt**. The people proclaimed, ‘These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.’ And Aaron basely permitted this insult to Jehovah. He did more. Seeing with what satisfaction the golden god was received, **he built an altar before it**, and made proclamation, ‘Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.’ The announcement was heralded by trumpeters from company to company throughout the camp. ‘And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink and rose up to play.’ **Under the pretense** of holding ‘a feast to the Lord,’ they gave themselves up to gluttony and licentious reveling.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 317.

IMITATION: That which is made or produced as a copy; likeness; resemblance. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*.

A FALSE CHRIST

“Anciently it was a great sin for the people of God to give themselves away to the enemy, and open before them either their perplexity or their prosperity. **Under the ancient economy it was a sin to offer sacrifice upon the wrong altar.** It was a sin to offer incense kindled by the wrong fire.

“We are in danger of mingling the sacred and the common. The holy fire from God is to be used in our efforts. **The true altar is Christ**; the true fire is the Holy Spirit. This is our inspiration. It is only as the Holy Spirit leads and guides a man that he is a safe counselor. If we turn aside from God and from His chosen ones to inquire at strange altars we shall be answered according to our works.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 300.

WORSHIPPING THE IMAGE

. . . **eat and to drink, and rose up to play.** Exodus 32:5–6.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

“The Sabbath therefore lies at **the very foundation of divine worship**, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures.” *The Great Controversy*, 437.

SELF, IMAGE OF THE BEAST, A FALSE CHRIST—THEN FALSE WORSHIP

SELF-EXALTATION; SPIRITUALISM, A FALSE CHRIST AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

And when the people saw that **Moses delayed . . .** Exodus 32:1.

“When the ten virgins went forth to meet the bridegroom, their lamps were trimmed and burning. Apparently there was no difference between the five who were wise and the five who were foolish. To outward appearance all were prepared, robed in white, and carrying their lighted lamps. But only five of these virgins were wise. These **anticipated delay**, and filled their flacons with oil, ready for any emergency. Five of the number had not this foresight; **they made no provision for disappointment or delay.**” *Review and Herald*, October 31, 1899.

. . . *as for* this **Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt**, we wot not what is become of him. Exodus 32:1.

LITERAL AND SPIRITUAL

John 6:53–66

. . . make us **gods, which shall go before us.** . . . Exodus 32:1.

DENIED THE MIDNIGHT CRY

“They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the ‘midnight cry.’ This light shone all along the path, and gave light for their feet, so that they might not stumble.

“If they kept their eyes fixed on **Jesus, who was just before them**, leading them to the city, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the advent band, and they shouted ‘Alleluia!’ Others rashly denied the light behind them, and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below.” *Early Writings*, 15.

THE MARKED MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S POWER

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: ‘Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.’

“Here we see that the church—the Lord’s sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. **They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God’s power as in former days.** Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus ‘Peace and safety’ is the cry from **men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God’s people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins.** These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.

“The abominations for which the faithful ones were sighing and crying were all that could be discerned by finite eyes, **but by far the worst sins**, those which provoked the jealousy of the pure and holy God, were **unrevealed**. The great Searcher of hearts knoweth every sin committed in secret by the workers of iniquity. These persons come to feel secure in their deceptions and, because of His long-suffering, say that the Lord seeth not, and then act as though He had forsaken the earth. But He will detect their hypocrisy and will open before others those sins which they were so careful to hide.

“No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle **when left to their own deceitful hearts**. Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous **prove to be ring-leaders in apostasy** and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God’s mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy.

“It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from **those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the word in ministering to others**. They were **once** His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 211–212.

THERE IS TO BE A WONDERFUL MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S POWER

“The True Witness declares, ‘I know thy works.’ ‘Repent, and do the first works.’ This is the true test, the evidence that the Spirit of God is working in the heart to imbue you with his love. ‘I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.’ The church is like the unproductive tree which, receiving the dew and rain and sunshine, should have produced an abundance of fruit, but on which the divine search discovers nothing but leaves. Solemn thought for our churches! solemn, indeed, for every individual! Marvelous is the patience and forbearance of God; but ‘except thou repent,’ it will be exhausted; the churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from cold formality to deadness, while they are saying, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.’ The True Witness says, ‘And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Will they ever see clearly their condition?

“**There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God**, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. **In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God**, they will see only something which in their blindness they think **dangerous**, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations, they will oppose the work. ‘Why,’ they say, ‘should not we know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?’—**Because** they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties of the messages of God, but persistently said, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.’ Talent, long experience, will not make men channels of light, unless they place themselves under the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and are called, and chosen, and prepared by the endowment of the Holy Spirit. When men who handle sacred things will humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, the Lord will lift them up. He will make them men of discernment—men rich in the grace of his Spirit. Their strong, selfish traits of character, their stubbornness, will be seen in the light shining from the Light of the world. ‘I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.’ If you seek the Lord with all your heart, he will be found of you.” *Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

BEFORE THE LOUD CRY

“I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and **before** the loud cry of the third angel is given, **he raises an excitement in these religious bodies**, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.” *Early Writings*, 260–261.

THE PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S DEALING WITH MEN

“The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. **The principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same.** The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.” *The Great Controversy*, 343.

EVERY REFORM MOVEMENT

“But Satan was not idle. He now attempted what he has attempted in every other reformatory movement—to deceive and destroy the people by palming off upon them a **counterfeit** in place of the true work. As there were false Christ's in the first century of the Christian church, so there arose false prophets in the sixteenth century.” *The Great Controversy*, 186.

BEFORE THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S POWER

“Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. **The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children.** At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and **before the time for such a movement shall come**, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a **counterfeit**. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.” *The Great Controversy*, 464.

THE COUNTERFIET

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a **great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists**, and that this reformation would consist in **giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars** of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. **Our religion would be changed.** The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as **error**. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. **A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.** The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be

lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of **the new movement**. The leaders would teach that **virtue is better than vice**, but God being removed, **they would place their dependence on human power**, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and **storm and tempest would sweep away the structure**.

“Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by **the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit**. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 204–205.