

## Habakkuk's Two Tables #75

CONCLUSION

### THE VERY LAST DECEPTION

“Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. **The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.** ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.

“**There will be** a hatred kindled against the *Testimonies* which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his **delusions** if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48.

### DELUSIONS

“One who sees beneath the surface, who reads the hearts of all men, says of **those who have had great light**: ‘They are not afflicted and astonished because of their moral and spiritual condition.’ Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. **I also will choose their delusions**, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before Mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.’ **‘God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie,’ because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,’ ‘but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’** Isaiah 66:3, 4; 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 10, 12.

“The heavenly Teacher inquired: ‘What stronger delusion can beguile the mind than the pretense that **you are building on the right foundation** and that God accepts your works, when in reality you are working out many things according to worldly policy and are sinning against Jehovah? Oh, it is a great deception, a fascinating delusion, that takes possession of minds when **men who have once known the truth**, mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof; when they suppose that they are rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, while in reality they are in need of everything.’” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 249–250.

### THIS WILL SAVE US FROM ACCEPTING STRONG DELUSION

“Perilous times are before us. Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake, and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. Wake up, brethren, wake up. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. **We must follow the directions given in the spirit of prophecy.** We must love and obey the truth for this time. **This will save us from accepting strong delusions.** God has spoken to us through his Word. **He has spoken to us through the Testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy.** The warnings that have been given, **line upon line, precept upon precept**, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse shall we offer?

“The new theories in regard to God and Christ, as brought out in *The Living Temple*, are not in harmony with the teaching of Christ. The Lord Jesus came to this world to represent the Father. He did not represent God as an essence pervading nature, but as a personal being.

Christians should bear in mind that God has a personality as verily as has Christ.” *Spalding and Magan*, 324.

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“I beseech those who are laboring for God not to accept the spurious for the genuine. Let not human reasoning be placed where sanctifying truth should be. Christ is waiting to kindle faith and love in the hearts of His people. **Let not erroneous theories receive countenance from the people who ought to be standing firm on the platform of eternal truth. God calls upon us to hold firmly to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.**” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 298.

#### OMEGA

“Be not deceived; **many will depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. **The omega will be of a most startling nature.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 198.

#### DEPARTING FROM THE FAITH

“Let those who stand as God’s watchmen on the walls of Zion be men who can see the dangers before the people,—men who can distinguish between truth and error, righteousness and unrighteousness.

“The warning has come: Nothing is to be allowed to come in that will disturb **the foundation of the faith upon which we have been building ever since the message came in 1842, 1843, and 1844**. I was in this message, and ever since I have been standing before the world, true to the light that God has given us. We do not propose to take our feet off the **platform** on which they were placed as day by day we sought the Lord with earnest prayer, seeking for light. Do you think that I could give up the light that God has given me? **It is to be as the Rock of Ages**. It has been guiding me ever since it was given.” *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1903.

“The apostles built upon a sure foundation, even **the Rock of Ages**. To this **foundation** they brought the stones that they quarried from the world. Not without hindrance did the builders labor. Their work was made exceedingly difficult by the opposition of the enemies of Christ. They had to contend against the bigotry, prejudice, and hatred of **those who were building upon a false foundation**. Many who wrought as builders of the church could be likened to the builders of the wall in Nehemiah’s day, of whom it is written: ‘They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.’ *Nehemiah 4:17.*” *Acts of the Apostles*, 596.

## THE FOUNDATION OF SAND

“In a vision of the night I was shown distinctly that these sentiments have been looked upon by some as the grand truths that are to be brought in and made prominent at the present time. I was shown a **platform**, braced by solid timbers—the truths of the Word of God. Someone high in responsibility in the medical work was directing this man and that man to loosen the timbers supporting this **platform**. Then I heard a voice saying, ‘Where are the watchmen that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? Are they asleep? This **foundation** was built by the Master Worker, and will stand storm and tempest. Will they permit this man to present **doctrines that deny the past experience of the people of God?** The time has come to take decided action.’

“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.

## MATTHEW 7:24–27

### THE PLATFORM OF ETERNAL TRUTH

“But we must firmly refuse to be drawn away from **the platform of eternal truth, which since 1844 has stood the test.**

“I am instructed to speak plainly. ‘Meet it,’ is the word spoken to me. ‘Meet it firmly, and without delay.’ But it is not to be met by our taking our working forces from the field to investigate doctrines and points of difference. We have no such investigation to make. In the book *Living Temple* there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. **The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.**

“Our physicians, upon whom important responsibilities rest, should have clear spiritual discernment. They are to stand constantly on guard. Dangers that we do not now discern will soon break upon us, and I greatly desire that they shall not be deceived. I have an intense longing to see them standing free in the Lord. I pray that they may have courage to stand firm for the

truth as it is in Jesus, **holding fast the beginning of their confidence unto the end.**" *Selected Messages*, book 1, 200.

#### THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE

"These things . . . are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.' 1 Corinthians 10:11. The warning comes sounding down along the line to our time:

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;** while it is said,

Today if ye will hear His voice,

Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

'For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.' Hebrews 3:12–16.

"Cannot we who are living in the time of the end realize the importance of the apostle's words: 'Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God'? Verse 12.

"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. Had the Adventists in the early days still trusted to the guiding Hand that had been with them in their past experience, they would have seen of the salvation of God. If all who had labored unitedly in the work of 1844 had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. **Years ago** the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, the closing work would have been completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people." *Testimonies*, volume 8, 115.

#### NUMBERS 14:11–23, 34

#### THE OLD PATHS

"The enemy is seeking to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from **the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days.** His sophistries are designed to lead minds away from the perils and duties of the hour. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give to John for His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to receive special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin and **rob the people of God of their past experience,** giving them instead a false science.

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and **ask for the old paths,** where is the good way, and walk therein.' Jeremiah 6:16.

"Let none seek to tear away the **foundations** of our faith—the **foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work** by prayerful study of the word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have

found a new way and that **they can lay a stronger foundation** than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other **foundation** can no man lay than that which has been laid.

“In the past many have undertaken the building of a new faith, the establishment of new principles. But how long did their building stand? It soon fell, for **it was not founded upon the Rock**.

“Did not the first disciples have to meet the sayings of men? Did they not have to listen to false theories, and then, having done all, to stand firm, saying: ‘Other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid’? 1 Corinthians 3:11.

“So we are to hold **the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end**. Words of power have been sent by God and by Christ to this people, bringing them out from the world, point by point, into the clear light of present truth. With lips touched with holy fire, God’s servants have proclaimed the message. The divine utterance has set its seal to the genuineness of the truth proclaimed.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 296–297.

### **THE WORK OF PREPARING A PEOPLE TO STAND IN THESE LAST DAYS** Ezekiel 37:1–14

#### **THE BREATH OF PENTECOST**

“The act of Christ in breathing upon his disciples the Holy Ghost, and in imparting his peace to them, was as a few drops **before** the plentiful shower to be given on the day of Pentecost.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 3, 243.

“Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 507.

#### **REVIVAL**

“The dry bones need to be **breathed upon by the Holy Spirit of God**, that they may come into action, as by **a resurrection from the dead**.” *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 121.

“When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 112–114.

“To John were opened scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the experience of the church. He saw the position, dangers, conflicts, and final deliverance of the people of God. **He records the closing messages which are to ripen the harvest of the earth, either as sheaves for the heavenly garner or as fagots for the fires of destruction**. Subjects of vast importance were revealed to him, especially for the last church, that those who should turn from error to truth might be instructed concerning the perils and conflicts before them. None need be in darkness in regard to what is coming upon the earth.” *The Great Controversy*, 341.

#### **A MESSAGE**

“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.

#### ***MANUSCRIPT RELEASES, VOLUME 20, 216–217***

“Angels are holding the four winds, represented as an angry horse seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.

“Shall we sleep on the very verge of the eternal world? Shall we be dull and cold and dead? Oh, that we might have in our churches the Spirit and breath of God breathed into His people, **that they might stand upon their feet and live.** We need to see that the way is narrow, and the gate strait. But as we pass through the strait gate, its wideness is without limit.”

#### **A FIRM PLATFORM**

“I saw a company who stood well-guarded and firm, giving no countenance to **those who would unsettle the established faith of the body.** God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels’ messages. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. **The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.**’ I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable **platform.** I saw individuals approach the **platform** and examine the **foundation.** Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the **foundation.** They wished improvements made, and then the **platform** would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the **platform** to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the **platform** and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him. They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm **platform,** and in union raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God. This affected some of those who had complained and left the **platform,** and they with humble look again stepped upon it.

“I was pointed back to the proclamation of the first advent of Christ. John was sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of Jesus. Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus. Their opposition to the message that foretold His coming placed them where they could not readily receive the strongest evidence that He was the Messiah. Satan led on those who rejected the message of John to go still farther, to reject and crucify Christ. In doing this they placed themselves where they could not receive the blessing on the day of Pentecost, which would have taught them the way into the heavenly sanctuary. The rendering of the veil of the temple showed that the Jewish sacrifices and ordinances would no longer be received. The great Sacrifice had been offered and had been accepted, and the Holy Spirit which descended on the day of Pentecost carried the minds of the disciples from the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly, where Jesus had entered by His own blood, to shed upon His disciples the benefits of His atonement. But the Jews were left in total darkness. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation, and still trusted in their useless

sacrifices and offerings. The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had no knowledge of the change. Therefore they could not be benefited by the mediation of Christ in the holy place.

“Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. But God who reads the hearts of all, has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel. All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel’s message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel’s message, which shows the way into the most holy place. I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there. Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left; and Satan, pleased with the deception, assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of these professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare.” *Early Writings*, 258–261.