

Habakkuk's Two Tables #76

CONCLUSION

THE DAILY

“The Bible contains all the principles that men need to understand in order to be fitted either for this life or for the life to come. And these principles may be understood by all. No one with a spirit to appreciate its teaching can read a single passage from the Bible without gaining from it some helpful thought. But the most valuable teaching of the Bible is not to be gained by occasional or disconnected study. Its great system of truth is not so presented as to be discerned by the hasty or careless reader. Many of its treasures lie far beneath the surface, and can be obtained only by diligent research and continuous effort. The truths that go to make up the great whole must be searched out and gathered up, ‘here a little, and there a little.’ Isaiah 28:10.

“When thus searched out and brought together, they will be found to be perfectly fitted to one another. Each Gospel is a supplement to the others, every prophecy an explanation of another, every truth a development of some other truth. The types of the Jewish economy are made plain by the gospel. **Every principle in the word of God has its place, every fact its bearing.** And the complete structure, in design and execution, bears testimony to its Author. Such a structure no mind but that of the Infinite could conceive or fashion.” *Education*, 123.

CHURCH AND STATE

ISAIAH 14:12–14

BABAL

Genesis 11:4

TOWER IS A CHURCH

“In the parable the householder represented God, the vineyard the Jewish nation, and the hedge the divine law which was their protection. **The tower** was a symbol of the **temple.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 597.

CITY IS A KINGDOM

Revelation 11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21; 21:10

DANIEL TWO

IRON AND CLAY

“**We have come to a time when** God’s sacred work is represented by **the feet of the image** in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay. God has a people, a chosen people, whose discernment must be sanctified, who must not become unholy by laying upon the foundation wood, hay, and stubble. . . . **The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay.** This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1168.

THE IMAGE TO THE BEAST

Revelation 13:11, 14

“The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed **when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power** for the enforcement of their dogmas. The ‘mark of the beast’ still remains to be defined.” *The Great Controversy*, 445.

“But **what is the ‘image to the beast’?** and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image *to* the beast. It is also called an image *of* the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and **in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power.** The result was the papacy, **a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends**, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, **the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.**” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

“The enforcement of Sundaykeeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. **But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sundaykeeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.**” *The Great Controversy*, 448–449.

SPEAKING

“The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.

THE TEN KINGS AND THE BEAST

Revelation 17:17

“**Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon** who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 38.

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

Isaiah 14:12–14; Philippians 2:5–8

“If Satan can get us to enshroud ourselves in garments of self-righteousness, then we will not wear the robe of Christ’s righteousness. **Self-exaltation and pride of position and self-importance were the sins of Satan in heaven.** True religion dies out of the heart when these take possession and are developed in the character.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 21, 330.

MICHAEL: WHO IS LIKE GOD

Revelation 12:7–9; Jude 1:9; Daniel 10:12–21

“By this we see that heavenly agencies have to contend with hindrances before the purpose of God is fulfilled in its time. The king of Persia was controlled by the highest of all evil angels. He refused, as did Pharaoh, to obey the word of the Lord. Gabriel declared, He withstood me twenty-one days by his representations against the Jews. But Michael came to his help, and then he remained with the kings of Persia, holding the powers in check, giving right counsel against evil counsel. Good and evil angels are taking a part in the planning of God in His earthly kingdom. It is God's purpose to carry forward His work in correct lines, in ways that will advance His glory. But Satan is ever trying to counterwork God's purpose. Only by humbling themselves before God can God's servants advance His work. Never are they to depend on their own efforts or on outward display for success.” *Seventh-day Adventists Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1173.

PROGRESSION

DANIEL TWO

“‘Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.’

“The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power and glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion and morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, in like proportion they become weak morally.

“Babylon passed away because in her prosperity she forgot God, and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to human achievement.

“The Medo-Persian kingdom was visited by the wrath of heaven because in this kingdom God's law was trampled underfoot. The fear of the Lord found no place in the hearts of the people. The prevailing influences in Medo-Persia were wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption.

“**The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt.** They deteriorated because they cast off their allegiance to God. As they forgot him, they sank lower and still lower in **the scale of moral value.**

“The vast **empire of Rome** crumbled to pieces, and from its ruins rose that mighty power, **the Roman Catholic Church.** This church boasts of her infallibility and her hereditary religion. But this religion is a horror to all who are acquainted with the secrets of the mystery of iniquity. The priests of this church maintain their ascendancy by keeping the people in ignorance of God’s will, as revealed in the Scriptures.

“It is sin that is ruining nations today. Even many leaders in the religious world have not a good conscience toward God. **Many of those who claim to be Protestants** have not the faith in God’s word that Luther had in the early days of the Reformation. They have left the old

landmarks, and depend on ceremony and formal display to make up for their lack of the purity and piety, the meekness and lowliness, found in obedience to God.

“There is no real standard of righteousness apart from God’s law. By obedience to this law the intellect is strengthened, and the conscience is enlightened and made sensitive. The youth need to gain a clear understanding of God’s law. They are not left to follow blindly the guidance of men. The great prophetic waymarks which God himself has set up show the path of obedience to be the only path that can be followed with certainty.

“Those who love and obey the law of God will meet with trials and temptations; but if they hope and pray, and trust his word, they will be able to say, with Paul, ‘I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’

“My dear young friends, have you wholly given yourselves up to God, to do his will? Are you transformed by the grace of Christ? Some claim to be one with Christ, while their special work is to make void the law of God. Will you accept their assertions? How will you distinguish God’s true servants from the false prophets that Christ said would arise to deceive many? There is only one test of character,—God’s holy law.

“We are living in a momentous period of this earth’s history. The final conflict is just before us. We see the world corrupted under the inhabitants thereof. Satanic agencies have made the earth a stage for horrors that no language can describe. War and bloodshed are carried on by nations claiming to be Christian. A disregard for God’s law has brought the sure result.

“‘We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.’ ‘Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.’

“There will be a sharp conflict between those who are loyal to God and those who cast scorn upon his law. The church has joined hands with the world. Reverence for God’s law has been subverted. The religious leaders have taught for doctrine the commandments of men. As it was in the days of Noah, so it is in this age. But shall the prevalence of disloyalty and transgression cause those who have revered God’s law to have less respect for it, or to unite with the powers of earth in attempting to make it void?

“**The test comes to everyone. There are only two sides.** Dear young reader, on which side are you standing?” *Youth Instructor*, September 22, 1903.

REVELATION SEVENTEEN

Revelation 17:3, 9, 10; 2:12–13

“Christ speaks of the church over which Satan presides as the synagogue of Satan. Its members are the children of disobedience. They are those who choose to sin, who labor to make void the holy law of God. It is Satan’s work to mingle evil with good, and to remove the distinction between good and evil. Christ would have a church that labors to separate the evil from the good, whose members will not willingly tolerate wrong-doing, but will expel it from the heart and life.” *Review and Herald*, December 4, 1900.

REPEAT AND ENLARGE

GREAT—GADAL

GADAL: H1431—A primitive root; properly to *twist*, that is, to *be* (causatively *make*) *large* (in various senses, as in body, mind, estate or honor, also in pride): - advance, boast, bring up, exceed, excellent, be (-come, do, give, make, wax), great (-er, come to . . . estate, + things), **grow (up), increase, lift up, magnify** (-ifical), be much set by, nourish (up), pass, promote, **proudly [spoken]**, tower.

The Ram—verse 4

The he-goat—verse 8

The masculine little horn—verse 9

The feminine little horn—verse 10

Leviticus 1:3, 10; Deuteronomy 22:5