

## Habakkuk's Two Tables #89

### CONCLUSION

#### TARRYING TIME

Isaiah 30:18; Matthew 25:5; Daniel 12:12; Habakkuk 2:3; Exodus 24:14–18; Luke 24:44–52, 36; John 20:17–22

“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.

“It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when **the events of the day of Pentecost** shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.

“**God can breathe new life into every soul** that sincerely desires to serve Him, and can **touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar**, and cause them to become eloquent with His praise. Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful truths of God’s Word. **The stammering tongue will be unloosed**, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth. May the Lord help His people to **cleanse the soul temple from every defilement**, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of **the latter rain when it shall be poured out.**” *Review and Herald*, July 20, 1886.

“We must not wait for the latter rain. It is coming upon all who will **recognize** and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us. When we gather up the fragments of light, when we appreciate the sure mercies of God, who loves to have us trust Him, then every promise will be fulfilled. [Isaiah 61:11 quoted.] The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 984.

**RECOGNIZE:** 1. To recollect or recover the knowledge of, either with an avowal of that knowledge or not. We recognize a person at a distance, when we recollect that we have seen him before, or that we have formerly known him. We recognize his features or his voice. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*.

“Not one of us **will ever receive the seal of God** while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. **Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.** . . .

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. **When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.**” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214, 216.

“The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven’s communication that the Redeemer’s inauguration was accomplished. According to His promise **He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven** to His followers as a token that He had, as priest and king, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 38.

#### THE FIRST DISAPPOINTMENT

“**Another mighty angel was commissioned to descend to earth.** Jesus placed in his hand a writing, and as he came to earth, he cried, Babylon is fallen! is fallen! Then I saw **the disappointed ones** again look cheerful, and raise their eyes to heaven, looking with faith and hope for their Lord’s appearing. But many seemed to remain in a stupid state, as if asleep; yet I could see the trace of deep sorrow upon their countenances. The disappointed ones saw from the Bible that they were in the tarrying time, and that they must patiently wait the fulfillment of the vision. **The same evidence which led them to look for their Lord in 1843, led them to expect him in 1844.**” *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, 153.

#### LAZARUS

“Had Christ been in the sickroom, Lazarus would not have died; for Satan would have had no power over him. Death could not have aimed his dart at Lazarus in the presence of the Life-giver. Therefore Christ remained away. He suffered the enemy to exercise his power, that He might drive him back, a conquered foe. He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death; and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave. Christ knew that as they looked on the dead face of their brother their faith in their Redeemer would be severely tried. But He knew that because of the struggle through which they were now passing their faith would shine forth with far greater power. He suffered every pang of sorrow that they endured. **He loved them no less because He tarried;** but He knew that for them, for Lazarus, for Himself, and for His disciples, a victory was to be gained.

“‘For your sakes,’ ‘to the intent ye may believe.’ To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is nearest. They will look back with thankfulness upon the darkest part of their way. ‘The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly,’ 2 Peter 2:9. From every temptation and every trial He will bring them forth with firmer faith and a richer experience.

“**In delaying to come to Lazarus,** Christ had a purpose of mercy toward those who had not received Him. He tarried, that by raising Lazarus from the dead He might give to His stubborn, unbelieving people another evidence that He was indeed ‘the resurrection, and the life.’ He was loath to give up all hope of the people, the poor, wandering sheep of the house of Israel. His heart was breaking because of their impenitence. In His mercy He purposed to give them one more evidence that He was the Restorer, the One who alone could bring life and immortality to light. This was to be an evidence that the priests could not misinterpret. This was the reason of His **delay** in going to Bethany. This crowning miracle, the raising of Lazarus, **was to set the seal of God on His work and on His claim to divinity.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 528–529.

“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.

“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.

#### MARTHA

“When the Lord is about to do a work, Satan moves upon someone to object. ‘Take ye away the stone.’ Christ said. As far as possible, prepare the way for my work. But Martha’s positive and ambitious nature asserted itself. Thinking that he wished only to look upon the body of her brother, she said, Lord, the work of corruption had made this impossible. She thought that it would be terrible to reveal the decomposing body to the beholders. Thus she expressed her unbelief. She did not realize that **Jesus had tarried for two days** where he was when he received the message, permitting Lazarus to die, that he might manifest the greatness of his power by raising him, thus giving all who should witness the miracle an evidence that could not be excelled.

“Christ reproved Martha for her unbelief, but his words were spoken with the utmost gentleness. ‘Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, **thou shouldest see the glory of God?**’ Why should you doubt my power? You have my word. If you will believe, **you shall see the glory of God.** Skepticism and unbelief are not humility. Implicit belief in Christ’s word is true humility, true self-surrender.” *Youth Instructor*, May 4, 1899.

#### Hosea 6:1–3

“The afternoon was half spent when Jesus sent his disciples to the village of Bethphage, saying: ‘Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.’

“This was the first time during his life of ministry that Christ had consented to ride, and the disciples interpreted this move to be an indication that he was about to assert his kingly power and authority, and take his position on David’s throne.” *The Youth Instructor*, February 21, 1901.

#### Genesis 49:10–11

“Never before had the world seen such a triumphal procession. It was not like that of the earth’s famous conquerors. No train of mourning captives, as trophies of kingly valor, made a feature of that scene. But about the Saviour were the glorious trophies of His labors of love for sinful man. There were the captives whom He had rescued from Satan’s power, praising God for their deliverance. The blind whom He had restored to sight were leading the way. The dumb whose tongues He had loosed shouted the loudest hosannas. The cripples whom He had healed bounded with joy, and were the most active in breaking the palm branches and waving them before the Saviour. Widows and orphans were exalting the name of Jesus for His works of mercy to them. The lepers whom He had cleansed spread their untainted garments in His path, and hailed Him as the King of glory. Those whom His voice had awakened from the sleep of death were in that throng. **Lazarus, whose body had seen corruption in the grave, but who now rejoiced in the strength of glorious manhood, led the beast on which the Saviour rode.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 572.

“Jesus gazes upon the enchanting scene before him, and the vast multitude hush their shouts, spell-bound by this sudden vision of beauty. All eyes turn instinctively upon the Saviour, expecting to see in his countenance the admiration which they themselves feel. But instead of this they behold a cloud of sorrow gathering upon his countenance. They are surprised and disappointed to see the eyes of the Saviour fill with tears, and his body rock to and fro like a tree before the tempest, while a wail of anguish bursts from his quivering lips as if from the depths of a broken heart. What a sight was this for angels to behold! Their loved Commander in an agony of tears! What a sight was this for that glad throng who had accompanied him with shouts of triumph and waving of palm-branches to that summit overlooking the glorious city where they fondly hoped he would reign! Their acclamations were now silenced, while many tears flowed in sympathy with the grief they could not comprehend.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 2, 390.

“The midnight cry was not so much carried by argument, though the Scripture proof was clear and conclusive. There went with it an impelling power that moved the soul. There was no doubt, no questioning. Upon the occasion of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the people who were assembled from all parts of the land to keep the feast, flocked to the Mount of Olives, and as they joined the throng that were escorting Jesus, they caught the inspiration of the hour, and helped to swell the shout, ‘Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!’ [Matthew 21:9.] **In like manner did unbelievers who flocked to the Adventist meetings**—some from curiosity, some merely to ridicule—feel the convincing power attending the message, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!’” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 250.