

Habakkuk's Two Tables #7

LINE UPON LINE

“Prophecy has been fulfilling, **line upon line**. The more firmly we stand under **the banner of the third angel's message**, the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel; for the Revelation is the supplement of Daniel.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 114.

THE TESTIMONIES NEVER CONTRADICT HIS WORD

“Study it and the testimonies God has given; for they never contradict His Word.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 32.

LINE UPON LINE

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; **line upon line, line upon line**; here a little, and there a little:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the **rest** wherewith ye may cause the weary to **rest**; and **this is the refreshing**: yet they would not hear.

But **the word of the Lord** was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; **line upon line, line upon line**; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isaiah 28:9–13.

THE SPECIFICATIONS GIVEN BY THE PROPHETS

“We must have a **knowledge of the Scriptures**, that we may **trace down the lines of prophecy**, and understand **the specifications given by the prophets**, and by **Christ and the apostles**; that we may not be ignorant; but be able to see that the day is approaching, so that with increased zeal and effort, we may exhort one another to faithfulness, piety, and holiness.” *Review and Herald*, July 31, 1888.

THE REFRESHING

THE OPENING AND THE CLOSE OF THE GOSPEL

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel **are again to be fulfilled** in the latter rain at its close. Here are ‘**the times of refreshing**’ to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: ‘Repent ye therefore, and be converted, **that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come** from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.’ Acts 3:19–20.” *The Great Controversy*, 611–612.

THE FORMER AND THE LATTER

“The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was ‘**the former rain,**’ and glorious was the result. But **the latter rain** will be more abundant. What is the promise to those living in these last days? ‘Turn you to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee.’ ‘Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.’ Zechariah 9:12; 10:1.” *Testimonies*, volume 8, 21.

“‘Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain.’ ‘He will cause to come down for you the rain, **the former rain, and the latter rain.**’ In the East the former rain falls at the **sowing time**. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, **ripens the grain** and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent **the work of the Holy Spirit**. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the **seed to germinate**, and **then to ripen the harvest**, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from **one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth**. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God’s grace in **the soul**. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

“The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents **the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life**; the green blade will not spring up. Unless **the early showers have done their work, the latter rain** can bring no seed to perfection.

“There is to be ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive **the former rain**. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by **the latter rain**. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. **But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. 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*, 506–507.

ADVENTISM

“The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel’s message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840–44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; **the first angel’s message was carried to every missionary station in the world,** and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.” *The Great Controversy*, 611.

THE LOUD CRY

“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.

THE MIDNIGHT CRY

“You are getting the coming of the Lord too far off. I saw the latter rain was coming as [suddenly as] the midnight cry, and with ten times the power.” *Spalding and Magan*, 5.

“There is a world lying in wickedness, in deception and delusion, in the very shadow of death,—asleep, asleep. Who are feeling travail of soul to awaken them? What voice can reach them? **My mind was carried to the future, when the signal will be given. ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.’** But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable.” *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1896.

A TWO STEP MESSAGE

PENTECOST’S TWO STEPS

“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.

Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, **came Jesus and stood in the midst**, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. John 20:19–21.

Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not**; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, **I ascend unto my Father**, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her. John 20:17–18.

PARALLEL PASSAGE

And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: **handle me**, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

And when he had thus spoken, he showed them *his* hands and *his* feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but **tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high**. Luke 24:36–49.

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. 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*, 506–507.

THE MESSAGE OF THE GOLDEN OIL

“**The anointed ones** standing by the Lord of the whole earth, have the position once given to Satan as covering cherub. By the holy beings surrounding his throne, the Lord keeps up **a constant communication** with the inhabitants of the earth. The golden oil represents the grace with which God keeps the lamps of believers supplied, that they shall not flicker and go out. Were it not that **this holy oil is poured from heaven in the messages of God’s Spirit**, the agencies of evil would have entire control over men.

“God is dishonored when we do not receive the **communications** which he sends us. **Thus we refuse the golden oil** which he would pour into our souls to be **communicated** to those in darkness. **When the call shall come, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’** those who have not received the holy oil, who have not cherished the grace of Christ in their hearts, will find, like the foolish virgins, that they are not ready to meet their Lord. They have not, in themselves, the power to obtain the oil, and their lives are wrecked. But if God’s Holy Spirit is asked for, if we plead, as did Moses, ‘Show me thy glory,’ the love of God will be shed abroad in our hearts. Through the golden pipes, the golden oil will be **communicated** to us. ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.’ By receiving the bright

beams of the Sun of Righteousness, God's children shine as lights in the world." *Review and Herald*, July 20, 1897.

“Then answered I, and said unto him, What *are these two olive trees* upon the right *side* of the candlestick and upon the left *side* thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What *be these two olive branches* which through the two golden pipes empty the golden *oil* out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these *be*? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These *are* the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. Zechariah 4:11–14. These empty themselves into the golden bowls, which represent the hearts of the living messengers of God, who bear the Word of the Lord to the people in warnings and entreaties. **The Word itself must be as represented, the golden oil, emptied from the two olive trees that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.** This is **the baptism by the Holy Spirit with fire.** This will open the soul of unbelievers to conviction. The wants of the soul can be met only by the working of the Holy Spirit of God. Man can of himself do nothing to satisfy the longings and meet the aspirations of the heart.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1180.

TWO OLIVE TREES

“Concerning **the two witnesses** the prophet declares further: ‘These are **the two olive trees**, and **the two candlesticks** standing before the God of the earth.’ ‘**Thy word,**’ said the psalmist, ‘**is a lamp** unto my feet, and **a light unto my path.**’ Revelation 11:4; Psalm 119:105. **The two witnesses** represent **the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament.**” *The Great Controversy*, 267.

Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, **the words of my mouth.** **My doctrine shall drop as the rain,** my **speech** shall distil as the **dew,** as **the small rain** upon the tender herb, and as **the showers** upon the grass. Deuteronomy 32:1–2.

THEY WOULD NOT HEAR

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; **line upon line, line upon line;** here a little, and there a little:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the **rest** wherewith ye may cause the weary to **rest;** and **this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.**

But **the word of the Lord** was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; **line upon line, line upon line;** here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isaiah 28:9–13.

WHY?

PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD

“The **refreshing** or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 33.

THE EARLY RAIN

“The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents **the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life**; the green blade will not spring up. Unless **the early showers have done their work, the latter rain** can bring no seed to perfection. . . .

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive **the former rain**. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by **the latter rain**. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. . . . **But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. 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*, 506–507.

WATCH

“Christ had bidden His people **watch for the signs of His advent** and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King. ‘When these things begin to come to pass,’ He said, ‘then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.’ **He pointed His followers to the budding trees of spring**, and said: ‘When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.’ Luke 21:28, 30, 31.” *The Great Controversy*, 308.

WE MUST NOT WAIT

“**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. ‘For **as the earth bringeth forth her bud**, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it **to spring forth**; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations’ (Isaiah 61:11). The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 984.

RECOGNIZE

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. 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.

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*.

“Unless those who can help in—are aroused to a sense of their duty, **they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard.** When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 300.

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, and **ye shall find rest for your souls.** But they said, **We will not walk therein.** Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, **Hearken to the sound of the trumpet.** But they said, **We will not hearken.** Jeremiah 6:16–17.

THE TRUMPET SOUND

“Now, brethren, God wants us to take our position with the man that carries the lantern; we want to take our position where the light is, and **where God has given the trumpet a certain sound. We want to give the trumpet a certain sound.** We have been in perplexity, and we have been in doubt, and the churches are ready to die. But now here we read: ‘And after these things I saw **another angel come down from heaven**, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird’ [Revelation 18:1–2].

“Well now, how are we going to know anything about that message **if we are not in a position to recognize anything of the light of heaven when it comes to us?** And we will just as soon pick up the darkest deception when it comes to us from somebody that agrees with us, when we have not a particle of evidence that the Spirit of God has sent them. Christ said, ‘I come in the name of my Father, but ye will not receive me’ [see John 5:43]. Now, that is just the work that has been going on here ever since the meeting at Minneapolis. **Because God sends a message in his name that does not agree with your ideas, therefore [you conclude] it cannot be a message from God.**” *Sermons and Talks*, volume 1, 142.

LINE UPON LINE: WEANED FROM THE MILK

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? **them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.** Isaiah 28:9.

MILK OR MEAT

For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving **the principles of the doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance** from dead works, and of **faith** toward God, Of the doctrine of **baptisms**, and of laying on of hands, and of **resurrection of the dead**, and of eternal **judgment**. And this will we do, if God permit.

For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers of the Holy Ghost**, And have **tasted the good word of God**, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall **fall away, to renew them again unto repentance**; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers *is* rejected, and *is* nigh unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned. Hebrews 5:12–6:8.

PRESENT TRUTH

“There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is ‘present truth’ that the flock needs now.” *Early Writings*, 63.

LINE UPON LINE: UNDERSTANDING KNOWLEDGE

Whom shall he teach **knowledge**? and whom shall he make to **understand** doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. Isaiah 28:9.

For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. Hebrews 5:12.

TEACHERS THE KNOWLEDGE

And **they that be wise** shall **shine** as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to **the time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge** shall be increased. Many shall be purified,

and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but **the wise shall understand**. Daniel 12:3, 4, 10.

Wise: teachers

Shine: to teach

My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**: because thou hast **rejected** knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6.

THE DOCTRINE

Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, **the words of my mouth**. **My doctrine shall drop as the rain**, my **speech** shall distil as the **dew**, as **the small rain** upon the tender herb, and as **the showers** upon the grass. Deuteronomy 32:1–2.

THE WISE AND THE WICKED

And **they that be wise shall shine** as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness **as the stars** for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and **none of the wicked shall understand**; but the **wise** shall understand. Daniel 12:3, 4, 10.

FALSE TEACHERS

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any **private interpretation**. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

But **there were false prophets** also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers among you**, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 1 Peter 1:19–2:1.

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For **with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people**. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isaiah 28:9–13.

ANOTHER TONGUE

“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.

“Those who are in responsible positions are not to become converted to the self-indulgent, extravagant principles of the world, for they cannot afford it; and if they could, Christlike principles would not allow it. **Manifold teaching needs to be given.** ‘Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.’ Thus the word of the Lord is patiently to be brought before the children and kept before them, by parents who believe the word of God. ‘For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.’ **Why?—because they did not heed the word of the Lord that came unto them.**

“This means those who have not received instruction, but have cherished their own wisdom, and have chosen to work themselves according to their own ideas. The Lord gives these the test, that they shall either take their position to follow His counsel, or refuse and do according to their own ideas, and then the Lord will leave them to the sure result. In all our ways, in all our service to God, He speaks to us, ‘Give Me thine heart.’ It is the submissive, teachable spirit that God wants. That which gives to prayer its excellence is the fact that it is breathed from a loving, obedient heart.

“God requires certain things of His people; if they say, I will not give up my heart to do this thing, the Lord lets them go on in their supposed wise judgment without heavenly wisdom, until this scripture [Isaiah 28:13] is fulfilled. **You are not to say, I will follow the Lord’s guidance up to a certain point that is in harmony with my judgment, and then hold fast to**

your own ideas, refusing to be molded after the Lord's similitude. Let the question be asked, Is this the will of the Lord? not, Is this the opinion or judgment of-----?" *Testimonies to Ministers*, 419.