

Habakkuk's Two Tables #16

PART TWO: LINE UPON LINE

RULE VI- God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables, and in this way the same things are often time revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures, and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one.

RULE VIII- Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy, to represent future things, times and events; such as mountains, meaning governments; beasts meaning kingdoms. Waters, meaning people. Lamp, meaning Word of God. Day, meaning year.

RULE X- Figures sometimes have two or more different significations, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time.

And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, what *is* that proverb *that* ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and **every vision faileth?** Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and **the effect of every vision.** Ezekiel 12:21–23.

1840–1844

“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 work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the ‘former rain’ was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the ‘latter rain’ will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. ‘Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.’ Hosea 6:3. ‘Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.’ Joel 2:23. ‘In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.’ ‘And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ Acts 2:17, 21.

“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.

THE DIVINE SYMBOL DESCENDS

PENTECOST—JOHN 20:19–21; JOHN 20:17–18

“The mighty angel who instructed John was **no less a personage than Jesus Christ**. Setting His right foot on the sea, and His left upon the dry land, shows **the part which He is acting in the closing scenes of the great controversy with Satan.**” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 971.

“Jesus commissioned **a mighty angel to descend** and warn the inhabitants of the earth to prepare for His second appearing. As the angel left the presence of Jesus in heaven, an exceedingly bright and glorious light went before him. I was told that his mission was **to lighten the earth with his glory** and warn man of the coming wrath of God. Multitudes received the light. Some of these seemed to be very solemn, while others were joyful and enraptured. All who received the light turned their faces toward heaven and glorified God. Though it was shed upon all, some merely came under its influence, but did not heartily receive it. Many were filled with great wrath. Ministers and people united with the vile and stoutly resisted the light shed by the mighty angel. But all who received it withdrew from the world and were closely united with one another.” *Early Writings*, 245.

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. Revelation 18:1.

TWO STEPS

THE LAST WORK

“So in the last work for the warning of the world, **two distinct calls are made to the churches**. The second angel’s message is, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ And in the loud cry of the third angel’s message a voice is heard from heaven saying, ‘**Come out of her, my people.**’” *Review and Herald*, December 6, 1892.

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. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And **I heard another voice** from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. Revelation 18:1–4.

PENTECOST—JOHN 20:19–21; JOHN 20:17–18; LUKE 24:42–49

“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.

1840–1844

“God has given the messages of Revelation 14 **their place in the line of prophecy**, and their work is not to cease till the close of this earth’s history. The first and second angel’s messages are still truth for this time, and are to run **parallel with this which follows**. The third angel proclaims his warning with a loud voice. ‘After these things,’ said John, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ In this illumination, the light of all the three messages is combined.” *The 1888 Materials*, 803–804.

A TESTING PROCESS

1840–1844—THE THREE ANGEL’S TESTING MESSAGES

“**Many who heard the first and second angels’ messages** thought they would live to see Christ coming in the clouds of heaven. Had all who claimed to believe the truth acted their part as wise virgins, the message would ere this have been proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. But five were wise and five were foolish. The truth should have been proclaimed by the ten virgins, but only five had made the provision essential to join that company who walked in the light that had come to them. The third angel’s message was needed. **This proclamation was to be made**. Many who went forth to meet the Bridegroom **under the messages of the first and second angels**, refused the third angel’s message, **the last testing message to be given to the world**.

“**A similar work will be accomplished when that other angel**, represented in Revelation 18, gives his message. **The first, second, and third angels’ messages will need to be repeated**. The call will be given to the church, [Revelation 18:2–5 quoted].

“**Take each verse of this chapter**, and read it carefully, **especially the last two**: [verse 23, 24 quoted.]

“The parable of the ten virgins was given by Christ Himself, and every specification should be carefully studied. **A time will come when the door will be shut**. We are represented either by the wise or the foolish virgins. We cannot now distinguish, nor have we authority to say, who are wise and who foolish. There are those who hold the truth in unrighteousness, and these appear outwardly like the wise. . . .

“**This is the test**. Those who are counted among the wise virgins will let their light burn in good works. There are many who will not remain at the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him. They have not a knowledge of His ways. Let none rest in the idea that baptism has saved them, while they give no evidence that they are conformed to the image of Christ, while they cling to their old habits, while they exert their influence on the side of the world, and weave their fabric with the threads of worldly ideas and customs. These have not kept the oil in the vessels with their lamps. They are not ready for the Bridegroom. The oil is the holy grace that is sent from heaven, and there must be an inward adorning with that grace, that they may be enabled to stand when He appeareth.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 16, 269–270.

ESPECIALLY THE LAST TWO

And a mighty angel took up **a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea**, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and **shall be found no more at all**. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft *he be*, shall be found any more in thee; and **the sound of a millstone** shall be heard no more at all in thee; And **the light of a candle** shall shine no more at all in thee; and **the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride** shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. Revelation 18:21–24.

And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; Then shalt thou say, O Lord, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate forever. And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, *that* thou shalt **bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates**: And thou shalt say, **Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary**. Thus far *are* the words of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 51: 61–64.

Moreover I will take from them **the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle**. And this whole land shall be a desolation, *and* an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Jeremiah 25:10–11.

Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, **the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride**: for the land shall be desolate. Jeremiah 7:34.

And **at that time shall Michael stand up**, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. Daniel 12:1.

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing on the right hand of God**, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Acts 7:55–56.

THE SECOND CALL (VOICE)

“So in the last work for the warning of the world, **two distinct calls are made to the churches**. The second angel’s message is, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ And in the loud cry of the third angel’s message **a voice is heard from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people.’**” *Review and Herald*, December 6, 1892.

“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6–12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and **the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion**. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. **When** those that ‘believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness’ 2 Thessalonians 2:12, shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, **then** the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all **the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon** will heed the call: ‘**Come out of her, my people.**’ Revelation 18:4. *Maranatha*, 173.

TWO DISTINCT CALLS

“So in the last work for the warning of the world, **two distinct calls are made to the churches.**” *Review and Herald*, December 6, 1892.

FIRST CALL

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27.

SECOND CALL

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. John 10:16.

The Lord God which **gathereth the outcasts of Israel** saith, **Yet will I gather others to him, beside those** that are gathered unto him. Isaiah 56:8.

The Lord doth build up Jerusalem: he **gathereth** together **the outcasts of Israel**. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. Psalm 147:2–3.

And he shall set up an **ensign for the nations**, and shall assemble **the outcasts of Israel**, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:12.

And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as **the flock of his people:** for they *shall be as* the stones of a crown, **lifted up as an ensign** upon his land. Zechariah 9:16.

As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and **will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered**, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into **the bond of the covenant:** And **I will purge out from among you the rebels**, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I *am* the Lord. Ezekiel 20:33–38.

CROWNS TAKEN

“When **those who have had abundance of light** throw off the restraint which the Word of God imposes, and make void his law, **others will come in to fill their place**, and take their crown.” *Review and Herald*, June 15, 1897.

THE LINE IS DRAWN

“None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But **when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath**, and **the loud cry of ‘the third angel’** shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. **Then** those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.” *Signs of the Times*, November 8, 1899.

THE TIME OF THEIR VISITATION

“Oh, that the people might know the time of their visitation! There are many who have not yet heard the testing truth for this time. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. **The time of God’s destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth.** Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, **while the door is closed to those who would not enter.**” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 97.

TWO SHUT DOORS

1842

“**In June, 1842**, Mr. Miller gave his second course of lectures at the Casco Street church in Portland [Maine]. . . . With few exceptions, **the different denominations closed the doors of their churches** against Mr. Miller.” *Testimonies*, volume 1, 21.

1844

“The proclamation, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom.” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

A TIME WILL COME WHEN THE DOOR WILL BE SHUT

“Trials are to come upon God’s people and **the tares are to be separated from the wheat.**” *Review and Herald*, March 19, 1895.

“Let both tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. Then it is **the angels that do the work of separation.**” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 69.

“I then saw **the third angel**. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat **from** the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.’” *Early Writings*, 119.

“Again, these parables teach that there is to be **no probation after the judgment**. When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows **the separation between the good and the evil**, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 123.

WHEN THE DECREE GOES FORTH

“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, 216.

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of **sin**, of **righteousness** and of **judgment**. The **world can only be warned** by **seeing** those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, **the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God, and those who trample them under their feet**. The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between **those who have the seal of God**, and those who keep a spurious rest-day. When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy, bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws.” *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

A SHUT DOOR MESSAGE

“For a time after the disappointment in 1844, I did hold, in common with the advent body, that the door of mercy was then forever closed to the world. **This position was taken before my first vision was given me. It was the light given me of God that corrected our error, and enabled us to see the true position.**

“I am still a believer in the shut-door theory, but not in the sense in which we at first employed the term or in which it is employed by my opponents.

“There was **a shut door in Noah’s day**. There was at that time a withdrawal of the Spirit of God from the sinful race that perished in the waters of the Flood. God Himself gave **the shut-door message** to Noah: ‘My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years’ (Genesis 6:3).

“There was **a shut door in the days of Abraham**. Mercy ceased to plead with the inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot, with his wife and two daughters, were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven.

“There was **a shut door in Christ’s day**. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation, ‘Your house is left unto you desolate’ (Matthew 23:38).

“Looking down the stream of time to the last days, the same infinite power proclaimed through John: ‘These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth’ (Revelation 3:7).

“I was shown in vision, and I still believe, that there was **a shut door in 1844**. All who saw the light of the first and second angels’ messages and rejected that light, were left in darkness. And those who accepted it and received the Holy Spirit which attended the proclamation of the message from heaven, and **who afterward renounced their faith and pronounced their experience a delusion, thereby rejected the Spirit of God, and it no longer pleaded with them.**

“Those who did not see the light, had not the guilt of its rejection. It was only the class who had despised the light from heaven that the Spirit of God could not reach. And this class included, as I have stated, both those who refused to accept the message when it was presented to them, and also those who, **having received it, afterward renounced their faith**. These might have a form of godliness, and profess to be followers of Christ; but having no living connection with God, they would be taken captive by the delusions of Satan. These two classes are brought to view in the vision—**those who declared the light which they had followed a delusion**, and the wicked of the world who, having rejected the light, had been rejected of God. No reference is made to those who had not seen the light, and therefore were not guilty of its rejection.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 62–63.

For I *am* the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Malachi 3:6.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8.