

Habakkuk's Two Tables #17

PART TWO: LINE UPON LINE

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.

“For forty days Christ remained on the earth, preparing the disciples for the work before them and explaining that which heretofore they had been unable to comprehend. He spoke of the prophecies concerning His advent, His rejection by the Jews, and His death, showing that every specification of these prophecies had been fulfilled. He told them that they were to regard this fulfillment of prophecy as an assurance of the power that would attend them in their future labors. ‘Then opened He their understanding,’ we read, ‘that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved 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 He added, ‘Ye are witnesses of these things.’ Luke 24:45-48.

“During these days that Christ spent with His disciples, they gained a new experience. As they heard their beloved Master explaining the Scriptures in the light of all that had happened, their faith in Him was fully established. They reached the place where they could say, ‘I know whom I have believed.’ 2 Timothy 1:12. They began to realize the nature and extent of their work, to see that they were to proclaim to the world the truths entrusted to them. The events of Christ’s life, His death and resurrection, the prophecies pointing to these events, the mysteries of the plan of salvation, the power of Jesus for the remission of sins—to all these things they had been witnesses, and they were to make them known to the world. They were to proclaim the gospel of peace and salvation through repentance and the power of the Saviour.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 26–27.

THE FIRST TEMPLE CLEANSING

THE MESSIAH TARRIES

“The future life of Christ was mapped out before him. His divine power had been hidden, and **he had waited in obscurity and humiliation for thirty years**, and was in no haste **to act until the proper time** should arrive. *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 2, 102.

HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDS

Matthew 3:13–17

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Romans 6:3–5

THREE TESTS

Matthew 4:1–11—Diet, Presumption, False Worship

“He again demanded of Christ, if He was indeed the Son of God, to give him evidence by casting Himself from the dizzy height upon which he had placed Him. He urged Christ to show His confidence in the preserving care of His Father by casting Himself down from the Temple. In Satan’s first temptation upon the point of appetite, he had tried to insinuate doubts in regard to God’s love and care for Christ as His Son, by presenting His surroundings and His hunger as evidence that He was not in favor with God, He was unsuccessful in this. He next tried to take advantage of the faith and perfect trust Christ had shown in His heavenly Father to urge Him to **presumption**. ‘If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone’ (Matthew 4:6). Jesus promptly answered, ‘It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God’ (Matthew 4:7). . . .

“He would not put the faithfulness and love of His Father to a needless trial, although He was in the hands of the enemy, and placed in a position of extreme difficulty and peril. He would not, at Satan’s suggestion, tempt God by presumptuously experimenting on His providence. Satan had brought in scripture which seemed appropriate for the occasion, hoping to accomplish his designs by making the application to our Saviour at this special time.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 281–282.

KING SAUL’S PRESUMPTION

“But Saul **presumed upon his exaltation**, and dishonored God by unbelief and disobedience. Though when first called to the throne he was humble and self-distrustful, success made him self-confident. The very first victory of his reign had kindled that pride of heart which was his greatest danger. The valor and military skill displayed in the deliverance of Jabesh-gilead had roused the enthusiasm of the whole nation. The people honored their king, forgetting that he was but the agent by whom God had wrought; and though at first Saul ascribed the glory to God, he afterward took honor to himself. He lost sight of his dependence upon God, and in heart departed from the Lord. Thus the way was prepared for his **sin of presumption** and sacrilege at Gilgal. **The same blind self-confidence led him to reject Samuel’s reproof**. Saul acknowledged Samuel to be a prophet sent from God; hence he should have accepted the reproof, though he could not himself see that he had sinned. Had he been willing to see and confess his error, this bitter experience would have proved a safeguard for the future.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 633.

“The prevailing spirit of our time is one of infidelity and apostasy—a spirit of **avowed illumination because of a knowledge of truth**, but in reality of **the blindest presumption**. **Human theories are exalted and placed where God and His law should be**. Satan tempts men and women to disobey, with the promise that in disobedience they will find liberty and freedom that will make them as gods. There is seen a spirit of opposition to **the plain word of God**, of **idoltrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation**.” *Prophets and Kings*, 178.

THE MARRIAGE

John 2:1–10

“The gift of Christ to the marriage feast was a symbol. The water represented baptism into His death; the wine, the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world. The water to fill the jars was brought by human hands, but the word of Christ alone could impart to it life-giving virtue. So with the rites which point to the Saviour’s death. It is only by the power of Christ, working through faith, that they have efficacy to nourish the soul.

“The word of Christ supplied ample provision for the feast. So abundant is the provision of His grace to blot out the iniquities of men, and to renew and sustain the soul.

“At the first feast He attended with His disciples, Jesus gave them the cup that symbolized His work for their salvation. At **the last supper He gave it again**, in the institution of that sacred rite by which His death was to be shown forth ‘till He come.’ 1 Corinthians 11:26. And the sorrow of the disciples at parting from their Lord was comforted with the promise of reunion, as He said, ‘I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.’ Matthew 26:29.” *The Desire of Ages*, 148–149.

FIRST TEMPLE CLEANSING

“The prophet says, ‘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’ (Revelation 18:1, 2). **This is the same message that was given by the second angel.** Babylon is fallen, ‘because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (Revelation 14:8). What is that wine?—Her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told Eve in Eden—the natural immortality of the soul. Many kindred errors she has spread far and wide, ‘teaching for doctrines the commandments of men’ (Matthew 15:9).

“When Jesus began His public ministry, He cleansed the Temple from its sacrilegious profanation. Among the last acts of His ministry was the second cleansing of the Temple. **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’ (Revelation 14:8). And in the loud cry of the third angel’s message a voice is heard 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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities’ (Revelation 18:4, 5).” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 118.

DIVINITY FLASHES THROUGH HUMANITY

“Again the piercing look of Jesus swept over the desecrated court of the temple. All eyes were turned toward Him. Priest and ruler, Pharisee and Gentile, looked with astonishment and awe upon Him who stood before them with the majesty of heaven's King. **Divinity flashed through humanity, investing Christ with a dignity and glory He had never manifested before.** Those standing nearest Him drew as far away as the crowd would permit. **Except for a few of His disciples, the Saviour stood alone.** Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable. Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest: ‘It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.’ **His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple.** The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire. With authority He commanded, ‘Take these things hence.’ John 2:16.” *The Desire of Ages*, 590.

PASSOVER

“The morning before the Passover supper was to be eaten, Jesus mingled with the throng that filled the outer courts of the temple. His righteous indignation was aroused when He found that within the enclosure, voices of praise and prayer were mingled with voices engaged in the contention of traffic.

“With a voice of authority, Christ commanded: ‘Take these things hence; make not My Father’s house an house of merchandise.’ He overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and cleansed the temple-courts from unholy traffic.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, 91.

THE SECOND TEMPLE CLEANSING

A TARRYING TIME—LAZARUS

“Anxiously they waited for a word from Jesus. As long as the spark of life was yet alive in their brother, they prayed and watched for Jesus to come. But the messenger returned without Him. Yet he brought the message, ‘This sickness is not unto death,’ and they clung to the hope that Lazarus would live. Tenderly they tried to speak words of hope and encouragement to the almost unconscious sufferer. When Lazarus died, **they were bitterly disappointed**; but they felt the sustaining grace of Christ, and this kept them from reflecting any blame on the Saviour. . . .

“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*, 526, 529.

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

“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, 250–251.

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until **Shiloh** come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*. Binding his foal unto the vine, and **his ass’s colt unto the choice vine**; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: His eyes *shall be* red with wine, and his teeth white with milk. Genesis 49:10–12.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and **riding upon an ass**, and upon a colt **the foal of an ass**. Zechariah 9:9.

Matthew 21:1–12

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST—MATTHEW 2:1–20

GENESIS 37:27–28

SECOND TEMPLE CLEANSING

“At the beginning of His ministry, Christ had driven from the temple those who defiled it by their unholy traffic; and His stern and godlike demeanor had struck terror to the hearts of the scheming traders. At the close of His mission He came again to the temple, and found it still desecrated as before. The condition of things was even worse than before.” *The Desire of Ages*, 589.

“We are not to drift into worldly channels. **Consider the cleansing of the temple** at the beginning of Christ’s ministry, and at the close of his life, his personal labors in the guise of humanity. Whom did he find intent on gain? The Jews had made the courts of the temple a scene of sacrilegious traffic. They had turned the ancient and sacred institution of the Passover into a means of vile profit. They bartered deep, turning the once sacred service instituted by Christ himself, into a worship of mammon. But Christ came **suddenly** into the temple courts; **divinity flashed through humanity**, and, raising a whip of small cords in his hands, with a voice that they will hear again in the execution of the judgment, he said, ‘Take these things hence.’ ‘It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.’ These priests and rulers saw as it were an avenging angel with a flaming sword, such as guarded the way to the tree of life.

“**Today** this sacrilegious work is being more than repeated. There will be **messages** borne; and those who have **rejected the messages** God has sent, will hear most startling declarations. **The Holy Spirit will invest the announcement with a sanctity and solemnity which will appear terrible in the ears of those who have heard the pleadings of infinite love, and have not responded to the offers of pardon and forgiveness.** Injured and insulted Deity will speak, proclaiming the sins that have been hidden. As the priests and rulers, full of indignation and terror, sought refuge in flight at the last scene of the cleansing of the temple, **so will it be in the work for these last days.** The **woes** that will be pronounced upon those that have had light from heaven, and yet did not heed it, they will feel, but will have no power to act. **This is represented in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins.** They cannot obtain a character from the wise virgins, and they have **no oil of grace to discern the clear light or to accept it.** They cannot light their lamps and join the procession that goes in to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” *Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers*, number 7, 1897.

“In cleansing the temple from the world’s buyers and sellers, **Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,**—from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. **Malachi 3:1–3 quoted.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 161.

THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. **Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.** Malachi 3:1–4.

“Malachi 3:1–4 quoted.

“A refining, purifying process is going on among the people of God, and the Lord of hosts has set his hand to this work. This process is most trying to the soul, but it is necessary in order that defilement may be removed. Trials are essential in order that we may be brought close to our heavenly Father, in submission to his will, that we may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. God’s work of refining and purifying the soul must go on until his servants are so humbled, so dead to self, that when called into active service, they may have an eye single to the glory of God.” *Review and Herald*, April 10, 1894.

1844

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in **Daniel 8:14**; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in **Daniel 7:13**; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by **Malachi**, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of **Matthew 25**.” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

TODAY

“Says the prophet: ‘Who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.’ Malachi 3:2, 3. Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. **While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.**

“**When** this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. ‘**Then** shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 3:4. **Then** the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.’ Ephesians 5:27. Then she will look ‘forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ Song of Solomon 6:10.” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

MESSENGERS OF GOD'S APPOINTMENT

“In Malachi’s day the mocking inquiry of the impenitent, ‘Where is the God of judgment?’ met with the solemn response: ‘The Lord . . . shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant. . . . But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.’ Malachi 2:17; 3:1–4.

“When the promised Messiah was about to appear, the message of the forerunner of Christ was: Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; ‘for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Matthew 3:2.

“Today, in the spirit and power of Elias and of John the Baptist, messengers of God’s appointment are calling the attention of a judgment-bound world to the solemn events soon to take place in connection with the closing hours of probation and the appearance of Christ Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. Soon every man is to be judged for the deeds done in the body. The hour of God’s judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin. To every human being in the wide world who will give heed must be made plain the principles at stake in the great controversy being waged, principles upon which hang the destinies of all mankind.” *Prophets and Kings*, 715–716.

THE EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.

“When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image (Revelation 14:9–11), should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: ‘The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.’ 2 Timothy 4:3. **That time has fully come.** The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.

“But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point

of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain 'Thus saith the Lord' in its support.

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will.” *The Great Controversy*, 594–595.