

Habakkuk's Two Tables #29

PART FOUR: DANIEL

THE VOICE OF GOD ECHOES

“When Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image was revealed to Daniel in a night vision, his first act was to thank God for this revelation. ‘Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,’ he exclaimed; ‘for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king’s matter.’

“**In past ages the Lord God of heaven revealed his secrets to his prophets.** The present and the future are equally clear to him. **The voice of God echoes down the ages, telling man what is to take place.** Kings and princes take their places at their appointed time. They think they are carrying out their own purposes, but in reality they are fulfilling the word that God has spoken.

“**Paul declares** that the records of God’s dealings with mankind in the past ‘are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ **Daniel’s history is given us for our admonition.** ‘The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him.’ Daniel’s God still lives and reigns. He has not closed heaven against his people. As in the Jewish age, so in this age, God reveals his secrets to his servants the prophets.

“The apostle Peter says: ‘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.’

“The unbelieving and godless do not discern the importance of the signs of the times, foretold in the prophetic word. In ignorance they may refuse to accept the inspired record. But when professed Christians speak sneeringly of the ways and means employed by the great I AM to make his purposes known, they show themselves to be ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. The Creator knows just what elements he has to deal with in human nature. He knows what means to employ to obtain the desired results.

“Man’s word fails. He who makes the assertions of men his dependence, may well tremble; for he will someday be as **a shipwrecked** vessel. God’s word is infallible, and endures forever. Christ declares, ‘Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.’ God’s word will endure throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.” *Youth Instructor*, December 1, 1903.

DANIEL TWO

And there followed another angel, saying, 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.

“The second angel’s message of Revelation 14 was **first preached in the summer of 1844**, and it **then** had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But **the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844**. The churches then **experienced a moral fall**, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; but **that fall was not complete**. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that ‘Babylon is fallen, . . . because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ **She has not yet made all nations do this**. The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. But **the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination**.

“The Bible declares that **before the coming of the Lord**, Satan will work ‘with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;’ and they that ‘received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,’ will be left to receive ‘strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9–11. **Not until this condition** shall be reached, **and** the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. **The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future**.

“Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in **the churches which constitute Babylon**, the great body of Christ’s true followers are still to be found in their communion. There are many of these who have never seen the special truths for this time. Not a few are dissatisfied with their present condition and are longing for clearer light. They **look** in vain for **the image of Christ in the churches with which they are connected**. As these bodies depart further and further from the truth, and ally themselves more closely with the world, **the difference between the two classes will widen, and it will finally result in separation. The time will come when** those who love God supremely can no longer remain **in connection** with such as are ‘lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.’

“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).” *The Great Controversy*, 389–390.

THE LIFE OR DEATH TEST

Daniel 2:1–15

A TARRYING TIME

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation. Daniel 2:16.

PRAYER

Daniel 2:17–18

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. **A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.** While the people are so destitute of God’s Holy spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit’s power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect. Guided by the teachings of God’s Word, with the manifestation of His Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home, will be prepared to exert a healthful influence.

“**The old standard bearers knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit.** But these are passing off from the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are **we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary**, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? **That time will never come.**

“There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a form of godliness without the spirit and power. If we are intent upon searching our own hearts, putting away our sins, and correcting our evil tendencies, our souls will not be lifted up unto vanity; we shall be distrustful of ourselves, having an abiding sense that our sufficiency is of God.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 121–122.

THE MIDNIGHT CRY

Then was **the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.** Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel 2:19.

HE CHANGETH THE TIMES AND SEASONS

Daniel 2:20–24

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar **what shall be in the latter days.** Thy dream, and the visions of

thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee **what shall come to pass**. Daniel 2:28–29.

THE KING WAS CONVINCED

But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. Daniel 2:30.

“The king was convinced of the truth of the interpretation, and in humility and awe he ‘fell upon his face, and worshiped,’ saying, ‘Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.’” *Prophets and Kings*, 499.

PHARAOH’S DREAM

“The interpretation was so reasonable and consistent, and the policy which it recommended was so sound and shrewd, that its correctness could not be doubted. But who was to be entrusted with the execution of the plan? Upon the wisdom of this choice depended the nation’s preservation. The king was troubled. For some time the matter of the appointment was under consideration. Through the chief butler the monarch had learned of the wisdom and prudence displayed by Joseph in the management of the prison; it was evident that he possessed administrative ability in a pre-eminent degree. The cupbearer, now filled with self-reproach, endeavored to atone for his former ingratitude, by the warmest praise of his benefactor; and further inquiry by the king proved the correctness of his report. In all the realm Joseph was the only man gifted with wisdom to point out the danger that threatened the kingdom and the preparation necessary to meet it; and the king was convinced that he was the one best qualified to execute the plans which he had proposed. It was evident that a divine power was with him, and that there were none among the king’s officers of state so well qualified to conduct the affairs of the nation at this crisis. The fact that he was a Hebrew and a slave was of little moment when weighed against his evident wisdom and sound judgment. ‘Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?’ said the king to his counselors.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 221.

THE MILLERITES

“The believers in this message were oppressed in the churches. For a time, **those who would not receive the message were restrained by fear from acting out the sentiments of their hearts**; but the passing of the time revealed their true feelings. They wished to silence the testimony which the waiting ones felt compelled to bear, that the prophetic periods extended to 1844. With clearness the believers explained their mistake and gave the reasons why they expected their Lord in 1844. **Their opposers could bring no arguments against the powerful reasons offered**. Yet the anger of the churches was kindled; they were determined not to listen to evidence, and to shut the testimony out of the churches, so the others could not hear it. Those who dared not withhold from others the light which God had given them, were shut out of the churches; but Jesus was with them, and they were joyful in the light of His countenance. They were prepared to receive the message of the second angel.” *Early Writings*, 237.

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY (A FALLING AWAY FIRST)

And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, **they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men**: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And **in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven **set up a kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Daniel 2:43–44.

SETTING UP HIS KINGDOM

“When the four angels let go, **Christ will set up His kingdom.**” *Spalding and Magan*, 3.

HE WHO NOW LETS

“**The restraining** Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until **the servants of God are sealed**; but **when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.**” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 408.

IS AT HAND

“The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the word of truth. In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel is given the message:

“Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: . . . exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, **until He come whose right it is**; and I will give it Him.’ Ezekiel 21:26, 27.

“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. God says, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’

“**That time is at hand.** Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.’ Matthew 24:6, 7.” *Education*, 179.

“The Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants and prophets.’ While ‘the secret things belong unto the Lord our God,’ ‘those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.’ Amos 3:7; Deuteronomy

29:29. God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.

“As the message of Christ’s first advent announced **the kingdom of His grace**, so the message of His second advent announces **the kingdom of His glory**. And the second message, like the first, is based on **the prophecies**. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, ‘many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’ ‘The wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.’ Daniel 12:4, 10. The Saviour Himself has given signs of His coming, and He says, ‘When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.’ ‘And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.’ ‘Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’ Luke 21:31, 34, 36.

“**We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures.** The time of the end is come, **the visions of the prophets are unsealed**, and their solemn warnings point us to our **Lord’s coming in glory as near at hand.**

“The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and **they knew not the time of their visitation.** The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles,—**the precious last years of grace to the chosen people,—they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord’s messengers.** Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So **today** the kingdom of this world absorbs men’s thoughts, and **they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling prophecies** and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.

“‘But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.’ While we are not to know the hour of our Lord’s return, we may know when it is near. ‘Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.’ 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6.’ *The Desire of Ages*, 234–235.

WE HAVE COME TO

“**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. Every soul who is loyal to the commandments of God will see that the distinguishing feature of our faith is the seventh-day Sabbath. If the government would honor the Sabbath as God has commanded, it would stand in the strength of God and in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints. But statesmen will uphold the spurious sabbath, and will **mingle** their religious faith with the observance of this child of the papacy, placing it above the Sabbath which the Lord has sanctified and blessed, setting it apart for man to keep holy, as a sign between Him and His people to a thousand generations. **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 STONE

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, **broken to pieces** together, and became like **the chaff of the summer threshingfloors**; and **the wind carried them away**, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. . . .

Forasmuch as thou sawest that **the stone was cut out of the mountain** without hands, and that **it brake in pieces** the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. Then **the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel**, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that **your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret**.

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon. Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel *sat* in the gate of the king. Daniel 2:34–35, 46–49.

A LIVING STONE

To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, **Ye also, as lively stones**, are **built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now **the people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:4–10.

AN HOLY TEMPLE

All the building fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy temple in the Lord**: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Ephesians 2:21–22.

LIFTED UP AS AN ENSIGN

But in **the last days** it shall come to pass, *that* **the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains**, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say,

Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to **the house of the God of Jacob**; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Micah 4:1–2.

STONES CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN

“The Jewish Temple **was built of hewn stones**, and at great expense of time and money and labor **these stones were cut out of the mountain** and fitted for their places in the building before they were collected together, so that when the building was completed there was not the sound of an ax or hammer heard in its upbuilding. The **stones** which are in God’s sacred temple are not collected from the mountains of Judea but **gathered from the nations, kindreds and tongues and people**. They are not lifeless material that must be prepared with hammer and chisel, but **living stones** which emit light. The great cleaver of truth has taken them from the quarry of the world and placed them under the hand of the great Master Builder, the Lord of the temple, and He is polishing them in His workshop, which is this world, that all the rough edges and crookedness may be removed and they hammered and chiseled and squared by the truth of God, polished and refined, ready to fill their place in God’s spiritual temple, that they may grow up a holy temple for God.

“Now we are in the workshop of God, and the process is going on **in these hours of probation to fit us for the glorious temple**. We cannot now be indifferent and negligent and careless, and refuse to depart from sin, but we must be dying to our defects of character and expect to become pure and holy and fashioned in character after the similitude of a palace. When Christ shall come, it is then . . . too late to obtain a holy character. Now is the day of preparation; now is the time when we can have our defects removed; now is the time when our sins must go beforehand to judgment, be confessed and repented of and pardon written off against our names.” *Upward Look*, 373.

“God has called His church in this day, as He called **ancient Israel**, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty **cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels**, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them **the great truths of prophecy** for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God’s messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 455.

Behold, I will make thee **a new sharp threshing instrument** having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. **Thou shalt fan** them, and **the wind shall carry them away**, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 41:15–16.

For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon *is* like **a threshingfloor**, *it is time to thresh her*: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come. Jeremiah 51:33.

Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion. But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor. **Arise and thresh**, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and **thou shalt beat in pieces many people**: and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. Micah 4:11–13.

The portion of Jacob *is* not like them; for he *is* the former of all things: and *Israel is* the rod of his inheritance: the Lord of hosts *is* his name.

Thou *art* my battle ax *and* weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider; With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid; I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers. And **I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight**, saith the Lord. Jeremiah 51:19–24.