

Habakkuk's Two Tables #35

PART FOUR: DANIEL

DANIEL SIX

REVELATION EIGHTEEN AND THE FIRST TEMPLE CLEANSING

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

9/11

“Now comes the word that I have declared that New York is to be swept away by a tidal wave? This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story, ‘What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! **Then the words of Revelation 18:1–3 will be fulfilled.**’ The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only that I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God’s power. From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. One word from the Lord, one touch of his mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.” *Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906.

THE FIRST TEST

“One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan’s banner **will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God’s Spirit.**” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 84.

“I saw that **the truth should be made plain upon tables**, that the earth and the fullness thereof is the Lord’s, and that necessary means should not be spared to make it **plain**. I saw that **the old chart** was directed by the Lord, and that not a figure of it should be altered **except by inspiration**. I saw that the figures of the chart were as God would have them, and that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none should see it till His hand was removed.” *Spalding and Magan*, 1.

“I saw that **God was in the publishment of the chart by Brother Nichols**. I saw that **there was a prophecy of this chart in the Bible**, and if this chart is designed for God’s people, if it [is] sufficient for one it is for another, and if one needed a new chart painted on a larger scale, all need it just as much. . . .

“I saw that **the charts [the 1843 and the 1850] ordered by God** struck the mind favorably, even without an explanation. There is something light, lovely, and heavenly in the representation of the angels on the charts. The mind is almost imperceptibly led to God and heaven. But **the other charts** that have been gotten up disgust the mind, and cause the mind to dwell more on earth than heaven.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, 359.

“**Those who rejected and opposed the light of the first angel’s message, lost the light of the second**, and could not be benefited by the power and glory which attended the message, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.’” *Early Writings*, 249.

THE SECOND TEST

THE DIVINE PRONOUNCEMENT—THE 2520 ON THE SACRED TABLES (VISUAL)

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.

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY & THE FALLING AWAY

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.

VISUAL

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed **before probation closes**; for it is to be **the great test for the people of God**, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.

“This is **the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed**. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 976.

THE THIRD TEST

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.

“A time is coming when the law of God is, **in a special sense**, to be made void in our land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws **to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath**, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888.

“If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, *refusing to keep holy the Sabbath* which God calls ‘my holy day,’ you receive the mark of the beast. *When does this take place?*—When you obey the decree that commands you to *cease from labor on Sunday and worship God*, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working-day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, *and refuse the seal of God*. If we receive this mark in our foreheads or in our hands, the judgments pronounced against the disobedient must fall upon us. But the seal of the living God is placed upon those *who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord*.” *Review and Herald*, April 27, 1911.

PARALLEL

“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*, 804.

LIFTING UP AN ENSIGN

Daniel 6:1–3; Isaiah 5:26; 18:3; Zechariah 9:16

THE LAW OF GOD

Daniel 6:4–5

THE EVENT IS SEEN TO BE APPROACHING

“Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel’s message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been—the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, **the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.**

“**In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church.** But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible— doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning.

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. **The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions.** Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.

“**As the controversy extends into new fields** and the minds of the people are called to God’s downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. **As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers.** They will be threatened with fines and **imprisonment**, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: ‘Show us from the word of God our error’—the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.” *The Great Controversy*, 605–606.

THE SUNDAY LAW DECREE

Daniel 6:6–9

“An idol sabbath **has been set up**, as the golden image was **set up** in the plains of Dura. And **as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree** that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation **will be made** that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death. Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot. But the Lord has declared, ‘Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and write grievousness which they have prescribed’ [Isaiah 10:1]. [Zephaniah 1:14–18; 2:1–3, **quoted.**]” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 14, 91.

“The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God’s people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath.” *Prophets and Kings*, 605.

AS HE DID AFORETIME

Daniel 6:10

“When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, **their character will remain** pure and spotless for eternity.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 216.

NOMINAL ADVENTISTS, LIKE JUDAS

Daniel 6:11–14

“I saw that the two-horned beast had a dragon’s mouth, and that his power was in his head, and that **the decree would go out of his mouth**. Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; that the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints. I saw that as the mother has been declining in power, the daughters had been growing, and soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother.

“I saw **the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us** to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and **report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday**.

“Then **the Catholics bid the Protestants to go forward, and issue a decree** that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be **slain**. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the Protestants will work as their mother worked before them to destroy the saints. But before their decree bring or bear fruit, the saints will be delivered by the Voice of God.” *Spalding and Magan*, 1–2.

THE SEALING IS AT THE LAW OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS

Daniel 6:15–17

THE FINAL DELIVERANCE

Daniel 6:18–23

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

Daniel 6:24

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for ‘the munitions of rocks.’ Isaiah 33:16. But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days, bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons. No human ear is open to hear their moans; no human hand is ready to lend them help.

“Will the Lord forget His people in this trying hour? Did He forget faithful Noah when judgments were visited upon the antediluvian world? Did He forget Lot when the fire came down from heaven to consume the cities of the plain? Did He forget Joseph surrounded by idolaters in Egypt? Did He forget Elijah when the oath of Jezebel threatened him with the fate of the prophets of Baal? Did He forget Jeremiah in the dark and dismal pit of his prison house? Did He forget the three worthies in the fiery furnace? or **Daniel in the den of lions?**” *The Great Controversy*, 626.