

Habakkuk's Two Tables #43

PART SIX: 1989

THE SEVEN SEALS

ANCIENT ISRAEL

“The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, **illustrate the position of the people of God** in their experience before the second coming of Christ.

“Satan’s snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. **We are repeating the history of that people.**

“**Their history should be a solemn warning to us.** We need never expect that when the Lord has light for his people, Satan will stand calmly by and make no effort to prevent them from receiving it. Let us beware that we do not refuse the light God sends, because it does not come in a way to please us. . . . If there are any who do not see and accept the light themselves, let them not stand in the way of others.

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live; that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him; for he is thy life, and the length of thy days; that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.’

“**This song was not historical but prophetic.** While it recounted the wonderful dealings of God with his people in the past, **it also foreshadowed the great events of the future**, the final victory of the faithful when Christ shall come the second time in power and glory.

“The apostle Paul plainly states that **the experience of the Israelites in their travels has been recorded for the benefit of those living in this age of the world, those upon whom the ends of the world are come.** We do not consider that our dangers are any less than those of the Hebrews, but greater.” *Healthful Living*, 280–281.

ALL THE GREAT EVENTS

“**The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.**” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 338–339.

THYATIRA

“Today the church of God is free to carry forward to completion the divine plan for the salvation of a lost race. For many centuries God’s people suffered a restriction of their liberties. The preaching of the gospel in its purity was prohibited, and the severest of penalties were visited upon those who dared disobey the mandates of men. As a consequence, the Lord’s great moral vineyard was almost wholly unoccupied. The people were deprived of the light of God’s word. The darkness of error and superstition threatened to blot out a knowledge of true religion. **God’s church on earth was as verily in captivity during this long period of relentless persecution as were the children of**

Israel held captive in Babylon during the period of the exile.” *Prophets and Kings*, 714.

PARALLEL LINES: REPEAT AND ENLARGE

“While the seven churches present the internal history of the church, the seven seals bring to view the great events of its external history.” Uriah Smith, *The Biblical Institute*, 253.

THE FIRST FIVE SEALS

Revelation 6:1–11

“**And when he had opened the fifth seal . . .** [Revelation 6:9–11]. Here were scenes presented to John that were **not in reality but that which would be in a period of time in the future.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, 197.

“**When the fifth seal was opened**, John the Revelator in vision saw beneath the altar the company that were slain for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **After this came the scenes described in the eighteenth of Revelation, when** those who are faithful and true are called out from Babylon. Revelation 18:1–5 quoted.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, 14.

“We have now traced the churches, the seals, and the beasts, or living beings, as far as they will compare as covering **the same periods of time. . . . Neither do the last three churches, and the last three seals, compare, as covering the same periods of time, as the first four churches, and the first four seals do.** But, as we have shown, the churches, seals and beasts do agree, as covering the same periods of time for the space of nearly 1800 years, till we come down to a little more than half a century of the present time.” James White, *Review and Herald*, February 12, 1857.

WALKING TO AND FRO

Zechariah 1:7–11; Zechariah 6:1–8

HOW LONG?

Zechariah 1:12–17

HOW LONG?

Isaiah 6:11–13; Psalm 74:1–10; 79:5–10; Daniel 8:13; Revelation 6:9–11

THE LORD WILL CHOOSE ISRAEL

Zechariah 1:17; Isaiah 14:1–7

THE FOUR SCATTERING HORNS

Zechariah 1:19–20; Jeremiah 50:17–18

THE LORD RESTORING HIS PEOPLE

“Zechariah then saw the powers that had ‘scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem,’ symbolized by four horns. Immediately afterward he saw four carpenters, representing **the agencies used by the Lord in restoring His people and the house of His worship.** See verses 18–21.

“‘I lifted up mine eyes again,’ Zechariah said, ‘and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof. And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, and said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: for I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.’ Zechariah 2:1–5.

“God had commanded that Jerusalem be rebuilt; the vision of **the measuring of the city was an assurance that He would give comfort and strength to His afflicted ones**, and fulfill to them the promises of His everlasting covenant. His protecting care, He declared, would be like ‘a wall of fire round about;’ and **through them His glory would be revealed to all the sons of men**. That which He was accomplishing for His people was to be known in all the earth. ‘Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.’ Isaiah 12:6.” *Prophets and Kings*, 580–581.

FOUR CARPENTERS

Zechariah 1:20–21

THREE DECREES

“In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12–26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built ‘according to the commandment [‘decree,’ margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.’ These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 B.C., the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled.” *The Great Controversy*, 326.

THE FOURTH DECREE

“His request to the king had been so favorably received that Nehemiah was encouraged to ask for still further assistance. To give dignity and authority to his mission, as well as to provide protection on the journey, he asked for and secured a military escort. **He obtained royal letters** to the governors of the provinces beyond the Euphrates, the territory through which he must pass on his way to Judea; and he obtained, also, a letter to the keeper of the king’s forest in the mountains of Lebanon, directing him to furnish such timber as would be needed. That there might be no occasion for complaint that he had exceeded his commission, Nehemiah was careful to have the authority and privileges accorded him, clearly defined.” *Prophets and Kings*, 633.

MEASURING JERUSALEM

Zechariah 2:1–13; Revelation 11:1–2

ALL WILL BE TESTED

“All who occupy positions in our institutions will be tested. If they will make Christ their pattern, He will give them wisdom and knowledge and understanding; they will grow in grace and aptitude in Christ’s way; their characters will be molded after His similitude. If they fail of keeping the way of the Lord, another spirit will control the mind and judgment, and they will plan without the Lord and will take their own course and leave the positions they have occupied. The light has been given them; if they depart from it, let no man present a bribe to induce them to remain. They will be a hindrance and a snare. The time has come when everything is to be shaken that can be shaken, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Every case is coming in review before God; **He is measuring the temple and the worshipers therein.**” *Testimonies*, volume 7, 219.

THE PLUMMET OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB

2 Kings 21:10

Isaiah 28:14–18

Zechariah 4