

Book of Reform Lines



THE LITTLE BOOK PUBLISHING

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Reform lines are found in the different histories throughout the Bible.

This is where God brings a reformation to His church, resulting in a separation of good from evil.

To accomplish this, He always follows the same sequence of events. We can call this the Everlasting Gospel in action.

This book is a basic guide to the prophetic meaning of these lines.

The purpose is for parents to read and then explain these histories to their children. Understanding can be further increased by attaching the round “way-marks” on the lines: in the correct order. You can download them on www.little-book.org. Also should the illustrations be colored!

God bless!

Marco & Solange

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The Line of Noah

A Period of Darkness

This story of the reform line of Noah begins with a period of darkness:

*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,
and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis
6:5*

But what had happened to the noble man and woman that God had created? Where were they in the days of Noah? Is it possible that the generations of Adam could forget God? Did they forget that God is the only source of love in this world?

Sadly, that was exactly what happened; everyone had forgotten God. Without Him in their lives, their thoughts became selfish, evil and without love; for they had rejected God—who is love.



The Time of the End

And all the days of Methuselah were 969 years: and he died. Genesis 5:27

The sins that called for vengeance upon the antediluvian world exist today. The fear of God is banished from the hearts of men. His law is treated with indifference and contempt. "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:38, 39. God did not condemn the antediluvians for eating and drinking. He had given the fruits of the earth to supply their physical wants. Their sin consisted in taking these gifts without gratitude to the Giver, indulging appetite without restraint. It was lawful to marry. He gave special directions concerning this ordinance, clothing it with sanctity and beauty. But marriage was perverted and made to minister to passion. PP, 101.2

Methuselah is the son of Enoch and the grandfather of Noah. His death marks the time of the end because his name means: "when he dies, it shall come." But what shall come? This I will tell you later, but we can see that with his death, the period of wickedness had come to an end.

Methuselah was the longest living man in history!



An Increase of Knowledge

When Noah understood that something terrible was going to happen, he gained an increase of knowledge in regard to the future for his generation.

Enoch instructed his family in regard to the flood. Methuselah, the son of Enoch, listened to the preaching of his grandson, Noah, who faithfully warned the inhabitants of the old world that a flood of waters was coming upon the earth. Methuselah and his sons, and grandsons, lived in the time of the building of the ark. They, with some others, received instruction from Noah, and assisted him in building the ark. 1SP 65.2

Before giving Noah the message of the coming flood of waters, God had already given the warning to his forefathers.



The Formalization of the Message

When God reveals His purpose to Noah, He also gives a specific message for His people which will begin a reformation.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. Genesis 6:8

What was the specific message that God had given?

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. Genesis 6:17



The First Message: A Heavenly Being Descends

The first warning message points to judgment, which causes fear. Fear does not mean to be afraid, but rather to have respect for God and have fear of the consequences for not responding to God's message of mercy and warning. To have the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. . . Psalm 111:10. We also see this in Revelation:

*... Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.
Revelation 14:6, 7*

*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet,
moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; Hebrew 11:7*

The first warning message is the first test to that generation.



Next is the combination of divinity with humanity. It is God's hand guiding and instructing Noah through every step of the way.

God gave Noah the exact dimensions of the ark and directions in regard to its construction. Human wisdom could not have devised a structure of so great strength and durability. God was the designer, and Noah the master builder. . . . All that man could do was done to render the work perfect, yet the ark could not of itself have withstood the storm. God alone could preserve His servants upon the tempestuous waters. PP 92.3

*And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me;
for the earth is filled with violence through them;
and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

*Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make
in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. . . .*

*And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth,
to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven;
and every thing that is in the earth shall die. Genesis 6:13, 14, 17*

The Foundations

The first step for Noah was to build the ark, the foundation of their salvation from the flood:

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. Genesis 6:14-16

While giving his warning message, his faith was perfected and made evident, an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed he invested in the ark. As he began to construct that immense boat, multitudes came from every direction to see the strange sight and to hear the earnest words of the preacher. PP 95.1



The Activity of the Enemies

When construction of the ark began, it was then that their enemies appeared. They ridiculed Noah and everyone who believed in God's revelation of the coming flood. Many were influenced by the detractors; and as doubt crept in, their faith began to waver. Eventually, they rejected not only Noah, God's messenger, but they also rejected God and His message.

Many at first appeared to receive the warning, yet they did not turn to God with true repentance. Overcome by the prevailing unbelief, they finally joined their former associates in rejecting the solemn message. Some were convicted and would have heeded the warning, but there were so many to ridicule, that they partook of the same spirit, resisted the invitations of mercy, and were soon among the most defiant scoffers. None go to such lengths in sin as do those who have once had light but have resisted the convicting Spirit of God. PP 95.2

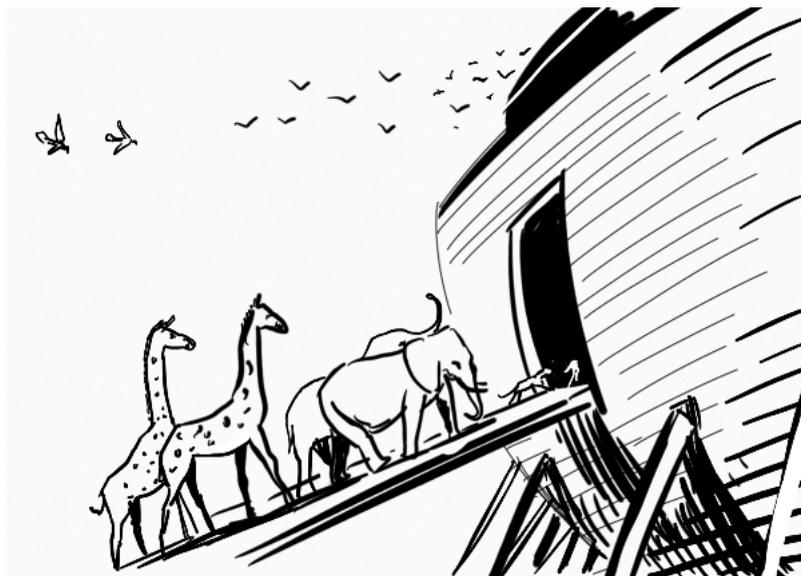


The Second Message: A Glorious Manifestation of God's Power

This was the second test for that generation. This test is always visual—something that everybody can see and no one can ignore.

God now gives them a manifestation of His power, thereby confirming the message.

The period of their probation was about to expire. Noah had faithfully followed the instructions which he had received from God. The ark was finished in every part as the Lord had directed, and was stored with food for man and beast. And now the servant of God made his last solemn appeal to the people. . . . Beasts of every description, the fiercest as well as the most gentle, were seen coming from mountain and forest and quietly making their way toward the ark. A noise as of a rushing wind was heard, and lo, birds were flocking from all directions, their numbers darkening the heavens, and in perfect order they passed to the ark. Animals obeyed the command of God, while men were disobedient. . . . PP 97.3

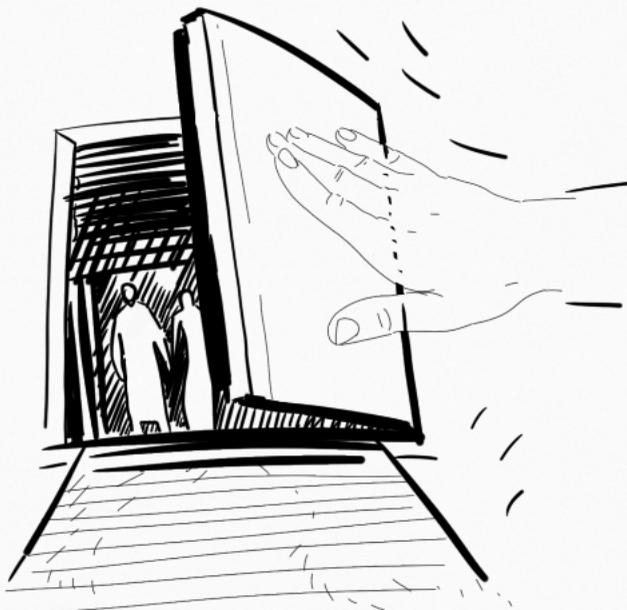


The Third Message: the Door Closes

Now the judgment had finally come. God would no longer give the invitation to enter into the ark. Instead, He would shut the door.

And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. Genesis 7:16

Mercy had ceased its pleadings for the guilty race. The beasts of the field and the birds of the air had entered the place of refuge. Noah and his household were within the ark, “and the Lord shut him in.” A flash of dazzling light was seen, and a cloud of glory more vivid than the lightning descended from heaven and hovered before the entrance of the ark. The massive door, which it was impossible for those within to close, was slowly swung to its place by unseen hands. Noah was shut in, and the rejecters of God’s mercy were shut out. The seal of Heaven was on that door; God had shut it, and God alone could open it. PP 98.2



The Number Seven

For seven days Noah and his family waited inside the ark. This was a time of probation for him, his wife and the rest of his family; we can also call it a tarrying time.

For seven days after Noah and his family entered the ark, there appeared no sign of the coming storm. During this period their faith was tested. It was a time of triumph to the world without. The apparent delay confirmed them in the belief that Noah's message was a delusion, and that the flood would never come. Notwithstanding the solemn scenes which they had witnessed—the beasts and birds entering the ark, and the angel of God closing the door—they still continued their sport and revelry, even making a jest of these signal manifestations of God's power. They gathered in crowds about the ark, deriding its inmates with a daring violence which they had never ventured upon before. PP 98.3

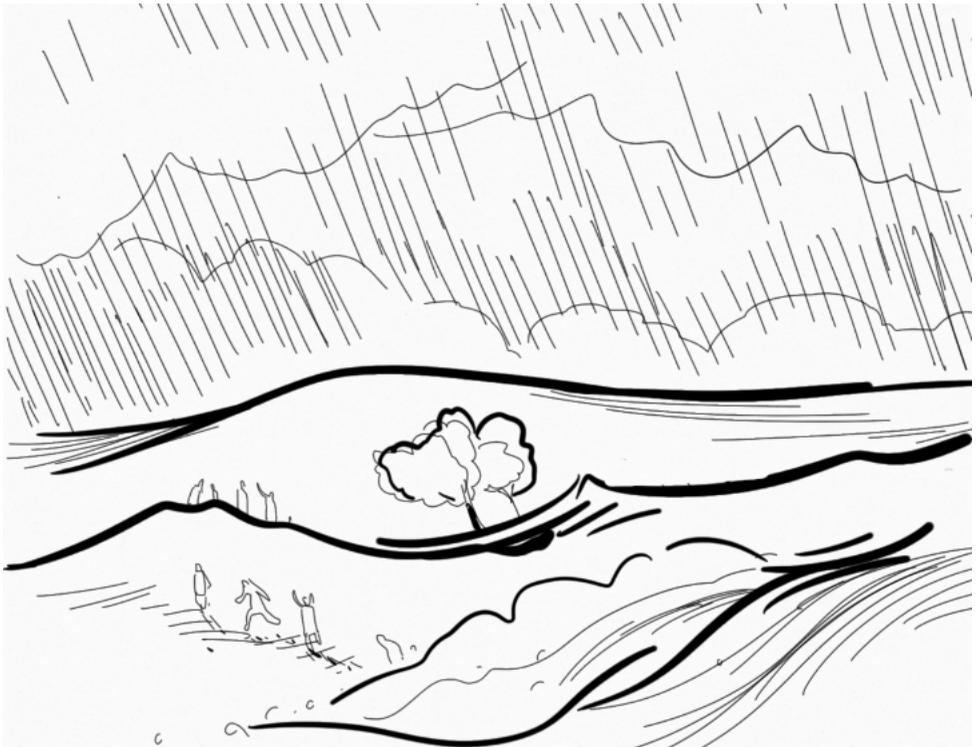


40 Days of Rain

Now God fulfills the prophecy first given to Noah that man's days shall be 120 years and He shall bring a flood of waters upon the earth.

*And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.
Genesis 7:12*

As the violence of the storm increased, trees, buildings, rocks, and earth were hurled in every direction. The terror of man and beast was beyond description. Above the roar of the tempest was heard the wailing of a people that had despised the authority of God. Satan himself, who was compelled to remain in the midst of the warring elements, feared for his own existence. PP 99.3



The Line of Moses

The Period of Darkness

God's people were fruitful and multiplied while in the land of Egypt. Then came a period of darkness when a new king, who knew not Joseph, decided to enslave the children of Israel. Because of the exhausting work, along with living in the midst of a pagan nation, it was very difficult for them to keep God's law.

In their bondage the Israelites had to some extent lost the knowledge of God's law, and they had departed from its precepts. The Sabbath had been generally disregarded, and the exactions of their taskmasters made its observance apparently impossible. PP 258.1



The Time of the End

God's prophecy to Abraham of the 400 years was coming to an end.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. Genesis 15:13-14

In the time of persecution, the child Moses was born. One day he would deliver God's people.

While this decree was in full force a son was born to Amram and Jochebed, devout Israelites of the tribe of Levi. The babe was "a goodly child;" and the parents, believing that the time of Israel's release was drawing near, and that God would raise up a deliverer for His people, determined that their little one should not be sacrificed. PP 242.2



An Increase in Knowledge

During the Time of the End, Moses was returned to his mother and she carefully and diligently educated him.

God had heard the mother's prayers; her faith had been rewarded. It was with deep gratitude that she entered upon her now safe and happy task. She faithfully improved her opportunity to educate her child for God. PP, 243.4

*Then he was brought to the palace of Pharaoh,
“and Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,
and was mighty in words and in deeds.” Acts 7:22*

While the angels instructed Israel's leaders that the redemption of God's people was near, and that Moses was to free them, the angels also communicated this same message to Moses.



The Formalization of the Message

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; . . . Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:7-10

God instructed Moses from within a burning bush and told him how He would deliver the descendants of Jacob from bondage: not with human power, not with the sword, but by His power. Moses also learned that God would use him as His messenger.



The First Message: A Heavenly Being Descends

And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. Exodus 4:24-25

As he journeyed to Egypt, an angel came down and appeared as if he would kill him. Moses remembered that he had not circumcised his son according to the law. Zipporah, his wife, acted quickly and performed the procedure; then the angel let them continue because now he was ready for the work he had to do. In Egypt, Moses would be placed in great danger; God's angels could not protect him while in rebellion to a known duty.



The Foundations

What Moses had just learned, he was now to teach the people: to keep God's commandments and precepts. This was his first job and the first step towards redemption.

In their bondage the Israelites had to some extent lost the knowledge of God's law, and they had departed from its precepts. The Sabbath had been generally disregarded, and the exactions of their taskmasters made its observance apparently impossible. But Moses had shown his people that obedience to God was the first condition of deliverance . . . PP 258.1

He also had a special message for the Pharaoh:

And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. Exodus 5:1



The Activity of the Enemies

Immediately, the enemy went into action to make things worse for Moses and the people by provoking Pharaoh against Moses' plans.

The king, thoroughly roused, suspected the Israelites of a design to revolt from his service. Disaffection was the result of idleness; he would see that no time was left them for dangerous scheming. And he at once adopted measures to tighten their bonds and crush out their independent spirit. The same day orders were issued that rendered their labor still more cruel and oppressive. PP 258.2

And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying, Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God. Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words. Exodus 5:6-9



The Second Message: The Glorious Manifestation of God's Power (The 10 Plagues)

Pharaoh had hardened his heart so much that neither Moses' words, nor the miracles, could penetrate. The people accused Moses for their increased affliction. Thus Moses cried to the Lord for help, and He answered: "now you will see what I will do."

He was informed that the monarch would not yield until God should visit judgments upon Egypt and bring out Israel by the signal manifestation of His power. Before the infliction of each plague, Moses was to describe its nature and effects, that the king might save himself from it if he chose. Every punishment rejected would be followed by one more severe, until his proud heart would be humbled, and he would acknowledge the Maker of heaven and earth as the true and living God. PP 263



The Third Message: Judgment of the 10th Plague

After rejecting the evidence of His power and mercy, God no longer demanded that Pharaoh let His people go. But instead would now bring judgment. It was their last opportunity to obey God.

God gave to Pharaoh the most striking evidence of divine power, but the monarch stubbornly refused to heed the light. Every display of infinite power rejected by him, rendered him the more determined in his rebellion. The seeds of rebellion that he sowed when he rejected the first miracle, produced their harvest. As he continued to venture on in his own course, going from one degree of stubbornness to another, his heart became more and more hardened, until he was called to look upon the cold, dead faces of the first-born. PP 268.1



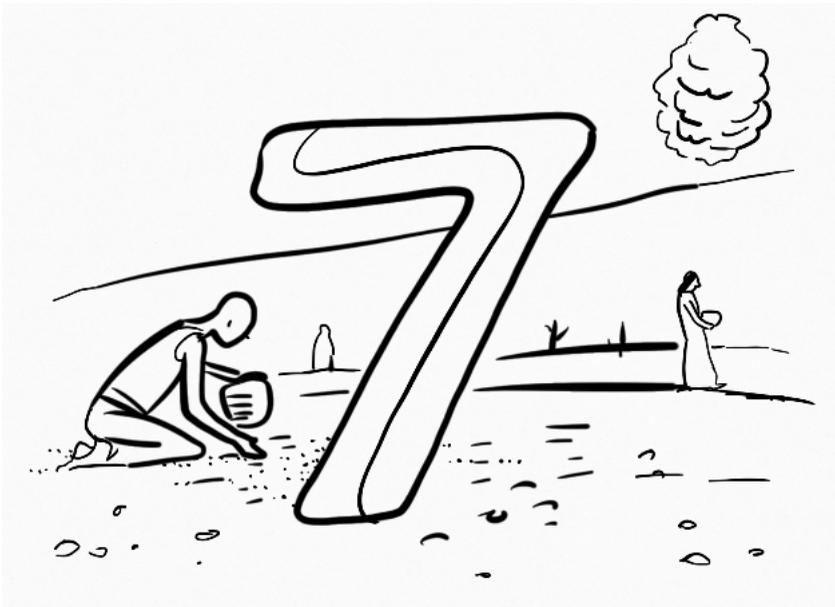
The Number 7: the Manna Test

Even though God's people were now free, they had to pass yet another test. They must learn to depend on God alone for His protection and provision. By night He gave them light and protection with a cloud of fire, and during the day He led them with a shade-giving cloud. He would give them food from heaven; but they were to learn to make preparations for the seventh day and to keep it holy.

Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them. And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. Exodus 16:4, 20-22



The 10 Commandments

After having learned about the Sabbath, God's people reached Mount Sinai.

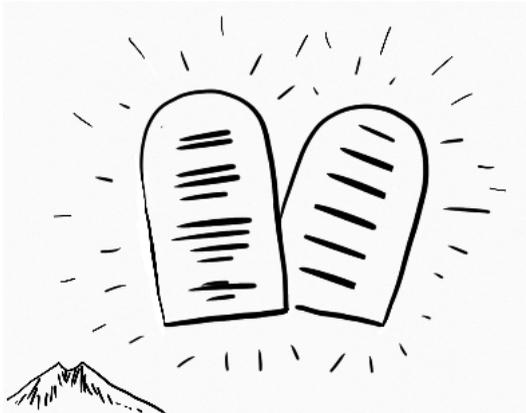
Israel camped before the mount. And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; . . .

And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. Exodus 19:3, 20

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:1-2

Never since man was created had there been witnessed such a manifestation of divine power as when the law was proclaimed from Sinai. "The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel." Psalm 68:8. Amid the most terrific convulsions of nature the voice of God, like a trumpet, was heard from the cloud. The mountain was shaken from base to summit, and the hosts of Israel, pale and trembling with terror, lay upon their faces upon the earth. PP 340.1



The Line of Elijah

A Period of Darkness & Time of the End

Elijah lived under the reign of Ahab who “did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him” (1 Kings 16:30). He married Jezebel, who induced him into pagan idolatry. God sent the prophet Elijah to give King Ahab a warning, declaring that there would be no rain for 3.5 years.

Under the blighting influence of Ahab's rule, Israel wandered far from the living God and corrupted their ways before Him. For many years they had been losing their sense of reverence and godly fear; and now it seemed as if there were none who dared expose their lives by openly standing forth in opposition to the prevailing blasphemy. The dark shadow of apostasy covered the whole land. PK 115.2

Once-flourishing fields have become like burning desert sands, a desolate waste. The groves dedicated to idol worship are leafless; the forest trees, gaunt skeletons of nature, afford no shade. The air is dry and suffocating; dust storms blind the eyes and nearly stop the breath. Once-prosperous cities and villages have become places of mourning. Hunger and thirst are telling upon man and beast with fearful mortality. Famine, with all its horror, comes closer and still closer. PK 124.3



The Formalization of the Message

After 3.5 years of drought, God sent Elijah once again to bring together the king and the people so that they may repent.

Standing before Ahab, Elijah demanded that all Israel be assembled to meet him and the prophets of Baal and Ashtoreth on Mount Carmel. "Send," he commanded, "and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table." PK 143.1

The command was issued by one who seemed to stand in the very presence of Jehovah; and Ahab obeyed at once, as if the prophet were monarch, and the king a subject. Swift messengers were sent throughout the kingdom with the summons to meet Elijah and the prophets of Baal and Ashtoreth. In every town and village the people prepared to assemble at the appointed time. As they journeyed toward the place, the hearts of many were filled with strange forebodings. Something unusual was about to happen; else why this summons to gather at Carmel? PK 143.2



The First Message: Reformation and the Foundations

In anxious expectancy the people wait for him to speak. Looking first upon the broken-down altar of Jehovah, and then upon the multitude, Elijah cries out in clear, trumpet-like tones, "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." PK 147.2

The people answer him not a word. Not one in that vast assembly dare reveal loyalty to Jehovah. Like a dark cloud, deception and blindness had overspread Israel. . . . PK 147.3

The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work. The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil. PK 148.1

With this inquiry Elijah had established the foundations and took the people to take a decision upon who was their God.



The Activity of the Enemies

The enemies of God and His messenger were the priests of Baal. They tried to bring fire down from heaven in opposition to God, and were determined to destroy the reformation that Elijah had begun.

Outwardly bold and defiant, but with terror in their guilty hearts, the false priests prepare their altar, laying on the wood and the victim; and then they begin their incantations. Their shrill cries echo and re-echo through the forests and the surrounding heights, as they call on the name of their god, saying, "O Baal, hear us." The priests gather about their altar, and with leaping and writhing and screaming, with tearing of hair and cutting of flesh, they beseech their god to help them. PK 149.2



The Second Message: A Manifestation of God's Power

No sooner is the prayer of Elijah ended than flames of fire, like brilliant flashes of lightning, descend from heaven upon the up-reared altar, consuming the sacrifice, licking up the water in the trench, and consuming even the stones of the altar. The brilliancy of the blaze illumines the mountain and dazzles the eyes of the multitude. In the valleys below, where many are watching in anxious suspense the movements of those above, the descent of fire is clearly seen, and all are amazed at the sight. It resembles the pillar of fire which at the Red Sea separated the children of Israel from the Egyptian host. PK 152.4

The people on the mount prostrate themselves in awe before the unseen God. . . . PR 153.1

The false priests witnessed with dismay the glorious power of the true God. Yet, they did not repent.



The Third Message: Judgment

God instructed Elijah to kill the false prophets, “And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.” 1 Kings 18:40

They seize the priests, and take them to the brook Kishon, and there, before the close of the day that marked the beginning of decided reform, the ministers of Baal are slain. Not one is permitted to live. PK 153.2

With the slaying of the prophets of Baal, the way was opened for carrying forward a mighty spiritual reformation among the ten tribes of the northern kingdom. Elijah had set before the people their apostasy; he had called upon them to humble their hearts and turn to the Lord. The judgments of Heaven had been executed; the people had confessed their sins, and had acknowledged the God of their fathers as the living God; and now the curse of Heaven was to be withdrawn, and the temporal blessings of life renewed. The land was to be refreshed with rain. PK 155.1



The Number 7: Disappointment

. . . now the curse of Heaven was to be withdrawn, and the temporal blessings of life renewed. The land was to be refreshed with rain. “Get thee up, eat and drink,” Elijah said to Ahab; “for there is a sound of abundance of rain.” Then the prophet went to the top of the mount to pray. PK 155.1

It was not because of any outward evidence that the showers were about to fall, that Elijah could so confidently bid Ahab prepare for rain. The prophet saw no clouds in the heavens; he heard no thunder. PK 155.2

The prophet did not become impatient or lose faith, but continued his earnest pleading. Six times the servant returned with the word that there was no sign of rain in the brassy heavens. Undaunted, Elijah sent him forth once more; and this time the servant returned with the word, “Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand.” PK 156.1

This was enough. Elijah did not wait for the heavens to gather blackness. In that small cloud he beheld by faith an abundance of rain; and he acted in harmony with his faith, sending his servant quickly to Ahab with the message, “Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.” PK 156.2



The Fourth Message: the Rain

And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Kings 18:45, 46

The shades of night were gathering about Mount Carmel as Ahab prepared for the descent. "It came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel." As he journeyed toward the royal city through the darkness and the blinding rain, Ahab was unable to see his way before him. Elijah, who, as the prophet of God, had that day humiliated Ahab before his subjects and slain his idolatrous priests, still acknowledged him as Israel's king; and now, as an act of homage, and strengthened by the power of God, he ran before the royal chariot, guiding the king to the entrance of the city. PK 158.1



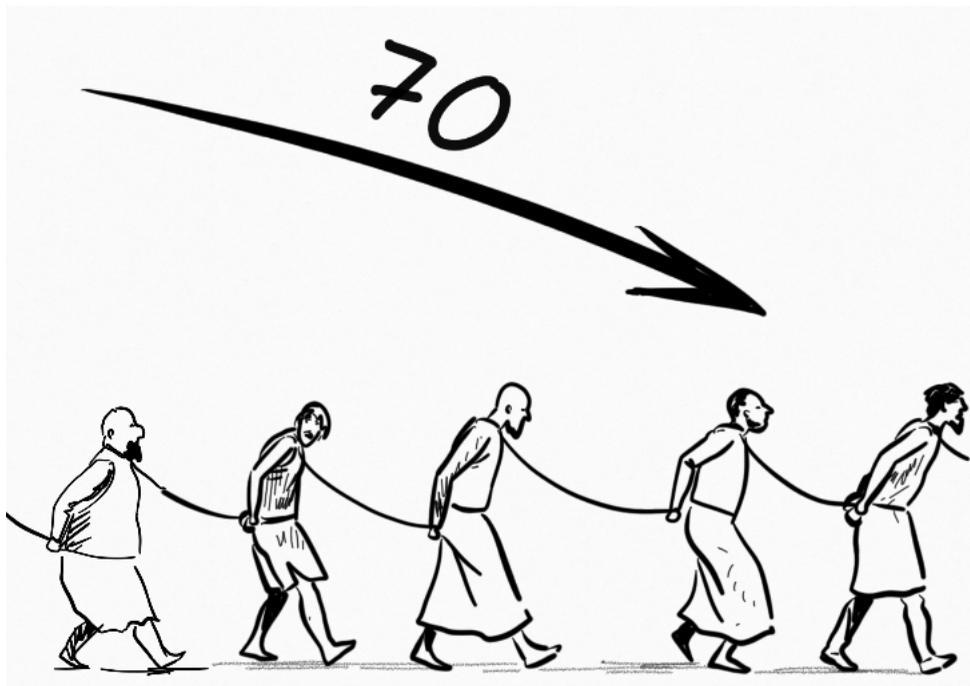
The Line of Nehemiah

Period of Darkness & Time of the End

When God's people were taken into Babylonian captivity they fell into another period of spiritual darkness and bondage.

In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign "Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem," to besiege the city. 2 Kings 25:1. The outlook for Judah was hopeless. "Behold, I am against thee," the Lord Himself declared through Ezekiel. "I the Lord have drawn forth My sword out of his sheath" it shall not return any more.... Every heart shall melt, and all hands shall be feeble, and every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water."

"I will pour out Mine indignation upon thee, I will blow against thee in the fire of My wrath, and deliver thee into the hand of brutish men, and skillful to destroy." Ezekiel 21:3, 5-7, 31. PK 452.1



An Increase of Knowledge & Formalization of the Message

The prophecy of the 70 years was coming to an end as foretold by Jeremiah:

And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Jer 25:11

At the same time we also observe an increase of knowledge in regard to the prophecies: In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Daniel 9:2

With faith founded on the sure word of prophecy, Daniel pleaded with the Lord for the speedy fulfillment of these promises. He pleaded for the honor of God to be preserved. PK 554.3



The First Message: A Heavenly Being Descends (1st Decree)

And now, when the time came for the temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt, God moved upon Cyrus as his agent to discern the prophecies concerning himself, and to grant the Jewish people their liberty. And furthermore, Cyrus furnished them the necessary facilities for rebuilding the temple of the Lord. RH March 28, 1907, par. 5

That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; Isaiah 44:28-45:1

God sent an angel down to accomplish His plans for His people and to deliver them from bondage by convincing the king of Medo-Persia. The angel tells Daniel:

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Daniel 10:13



The Foundations

The decree of Cyrus permitted the Jewish captives to return Jerusalem and start rebuilding the temple.

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. Ezra 3:10-11



The Activity of the Enemies

Angry over the success of God's people, the devil came up with a plan to hinder their progress. He used the kingly impostor called false Smerdis (also called Artaxerxes) to interfere in the work in Jerusalem:

Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me. . . . Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power. Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia. Ezra 4:21, 23, 24

During the reign of Cambyses the work on the temple progressed slowly. And during the reign of the false Smerdis . . . the Samaritans induced the unscrupulous impostor to issue a decree forbidding the Jews to rebuild their temple and city. PK 572.2



The Second Message, part I: The 2nd Decree

But God helped His people once again to continue their work through a second decree by a new king:

Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail . . . Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this. And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed. Ezra 6:8-9, 11-12



The Second Message, part II: A Glorious Manifestation of the Power of God

To advance and secure the success of the work, God intervenes to ensure that the temple is restored.

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me. Zechariah 2:8-9

The promise, “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it,” was literally fulfilled. Verse 9. “The elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar [the twelfth month], which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.” Ezra 6:14, 15. PK 596.1



The Third Message: the 3rd Decree

The third decree by Artaxerxes restored Judah's sovereignty; having restored their temple and city, now they could elect their own judges and leaders. It is Ezra who brings the decree to Jerusalem. With this decree, the remaining Jews in Babylon were again called to leave their captivity and return to Jerusalem.

And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not. And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment. Ezra 7:25-26



The Number Seven

This is the last test of faith that the Jews had to pass, exactly at the beginning of the 7th week - at the end of 7 weeks (49 years) the temple in Jerusalem would be restored. But there is a great disappointment when only a few heed the call to return to Jerusalem.

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Daniel 9:25

Ezra had expected that a large number would return to Jerusalem, but the number who responded to the call was disappointingly small. Many who had acquired houses and lands had no desire to sacrifice these possessions. They loved ease and comfort and were well satisfied to remain. Their example proved a hindrance to others who otherwise might have chosen to cast in their lot with those who were advancing by faith. PK, 612.2

As Ezra looked over the company assembled, he was surprised to find none of the sons of Levi. Where were the members of the tribe that had been set apart for the sacred service of the temple? To the call, Who is on the Lord's side? the Levites should have been the first to respond. During the captivity, and afterward, they had been granted many privileges. PK, 612.3



The Fourth Message: the 4th Decree

Still, the city of Jerusalem, along with the walls were not completely finished. Seeing the sadness of his servant Nehemiah, once again, King Artaxerxes helps by sending building materials and other support to finalize the work.

Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me. Nehemiah 2:7-8



The Line of John the Baptist

A Period of Darkness

In this story the people of God were lost in religious and pagan traditions. They did not understand God's Word any longer.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Isaiah 9:2

Before the days of Christ, men asked in vain, "What is truth?" Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Even Judea was shrouded in gloom, although the voice of God spoke to them in His oracles. The truth of God had been silenced by the superstition and traditions of its professed interpreters, and contention, jealousy, and prejudice divided the professed children of God. FE 238.1



The Time of the End

The Messiah who came to free the world from sin was rejected; His own people were lost in their traditions and customs. Christ's birth came in the last week, at the end of the prophecy of the 69 (7+62) weeks:

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Daniel 9:25

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



An Increase of Knowledge

But those who truly longed for the Redeemer to come were not left in darkness: the wise men from the East, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna, all understood the coming of Christ's birth. Jesus Himself as a youth, also increased in understanding of Bible truth and prophecy.

From the earliest times the faithful in Israel had given much care to the education of the youth. The Lord had directed that even from babyhood the children should be taught of His goodness and His greatness, especially as revealed in His law, and shown in the history of Israel. Song and prayer and lessons from the Scriptures were to be adapted to the opening mind. Fathers and mothers were to instruct their children that the law of God is an expression of His character, and that as they received the principles of the law into the heart, the image of God was traced on mind and soul. Much of the teaching was oral; but the youth also learned to read the Hebrew writings; and the parchment rolls of the Old Testament Scriptures were open to their study. DA 69.2



The Formalization of the Message

To prepare the way for Jesus God sent a messenger, John the Baptist. He prepared the people and delivered the message for their time.

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. Malachi 3:1

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Matthew 3:1-4



The First Message: A Heavenly Being Descends

John had a powerful message for his generation:

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. Matthew 3:5-7, 11

Many came to hear John's message; and because his message had reached their hearts, they were baptized. Just as John had announced, Jesus Himself came to be baptized. The three Heavenly beings were present to testify and bless the ministry of the Son of God.

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. Luke 3:21-22



The Foundations

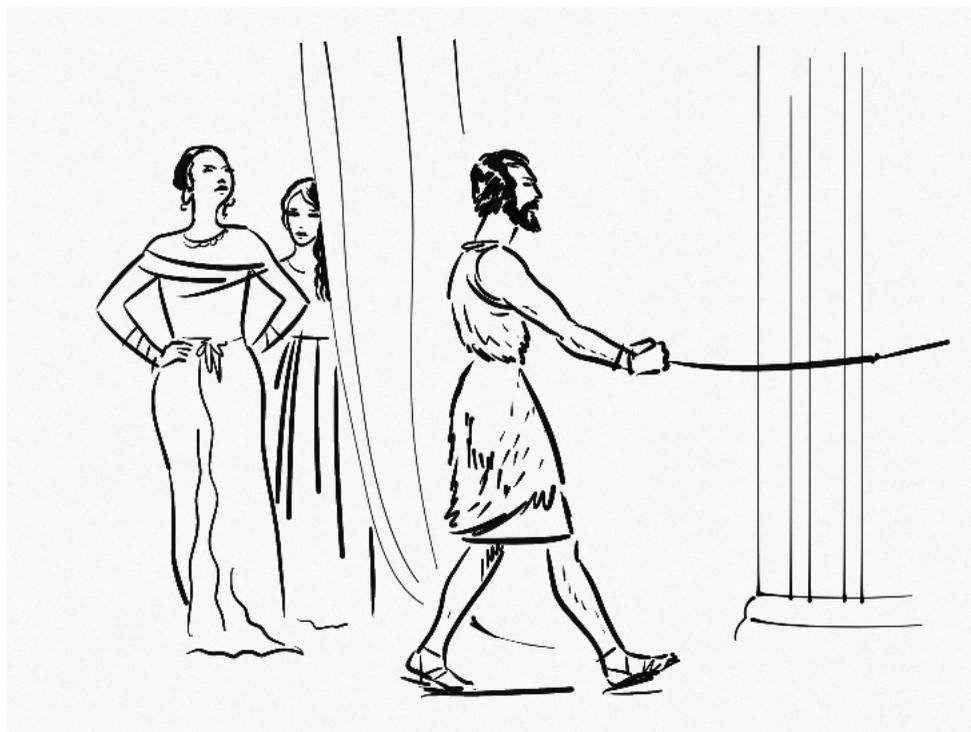
With the calling of John and Andrew and Simon, of Philip and Nathanael, began the foundation of the Christian church. John directed two of his disciples to Christ. Then one of these, Andrew, found his brother, and called him to the Saviour. Philip was then called, and he went in search of Nathanael. These examples should teach us the importance of personal effort, of making direct appeals to our kindred, friends, and neighbors. There are those who for a lifetime have professed to be acquainted with Christ, yet who have never made a personal effort to bring even one soul to the Saviour. They leave all the work for the minister. He may be well qualified for his calling, but he cannot do that which God has left for the members of the church. DA 141.2



The Activity of the Enemies

It did not take long before the Jewish leaders plotted against John. He was eventually killed as a result of offending Herod's wife. But John had completed his work successfully and would now give place to a much greater work: that of Jesus Christ.

When Christ came in a manner contrary to their expectations, they would not receive Him; and in order to justify themselves, they tried to prove Him a deceiver. When once they had set their feet in this path, it was easy for Satan to strengthen their opposition to Christ. The very words that should have been received as evidence of His divinity were interpreted against Him. Thus they turned the truth of God into a lie, and the more directly the Saviour spoke to them in His works of mercy, the more determined they were in resisting the light. DA 212.2



The Second Message, part I: Christ's Public Ministry

And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables. John 2:13-15

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. DA 161.1



The Second Message, part II: A Glorious Manifestation of the Power of God

Jesus had miraculously healed many of the sick. But, the greatest miracle was the healing of the soul. But there was yet another work He must perform: the resurrection of Lazarus, who had been four days in the grave.

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. DA 529.1

It was Lazarus who led the beast on which the Saviour rode at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and it was Lazarus who was the greatest manifestation of God's power.

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. Luke 19:37-38



The Third Message: Judgment

On the day of Passover Jesus was killed. He had gone to judgment. The nation of Israel was unaware that His death would result in their own judgment.

Five hundred years before, the Lord had declared by the prophet Zechariah: “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. Had the disciples realized that Christ was going to judgment and to death, they could not have fulfilled this prophecy. GC 405.1



The Number Seven: Disappointment

The death of Jesus was an incredible disappointment for his disciples. They had thought He would reign as king in Jerusalem, after having freed the nation from Rome. And yet, on the Sabbath day Jesus rested in the tomb.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:1-2, 5-6



The Fourth Message: Pentecost

Fifty days after celebrating the Passover feast, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and many other followers of Christ in the form of tongues of fire.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Acts 2:1-2



The Line of Miller

Darkness & The Time of the End

After 1260 years of papal rule, this power came to an end in 1798. Then came freedom of thought and freedom of religion. It was during the Dark Ages that the papacy forbid the reading of the Bible. At that time, the Catholic Church also claimed to be the sole authority in regard to any spiritual teaching.

The history of God's people during the ages of darkness . . . have little place in human records. Few traces of their existence can be found, except in the accusations of their persecutors. It was the policy of Rome to obliterate every trace of dissent from her doctrines or decrees. Everything heretical, whether persons or writings, she sought to destroy. Expressions of doubt, or questions as to the authority of papal dogmas, were enough to forfeit the life of rich or poor, high or low. Rome endeavored also to destroy every record of her cruelty toward dissenters. Papal councils decreed that books and writings containing such records should be committed to the flames. Before the invention of printing, books were few in number, and in a form not favorable for preservation; therefore there was little to prevent the Romanists from carrying out their purpose. GC 61.2



An Increase of Knowledge

A man named William Miller was chosen by God to start a reformation amongst the Protestant churches. From 1816 to 1818 he studied the Bible, and was given understanding of the prophecies which had previously been sealed.

God sent His angel to move upon the heart of a farmer who had not believed the Bible, to lead him to search the prophecies. Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and open to his understanding prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people. The commencement of the chain of truth was given to him, and he was led on to search for link after link, until he looked with wonder and admiration upon the Word of God. He saw there a perfect chain of truth. That Word which he had regarded as uninspired now opened before his vision in its beauty and glory. He saw that one portion of Scripture explains another, and when one passage was closed to his understanding, he found in another part of the Word that which explained it. He regarded the sacred Word of God with joy and with the deepest respect and awe. EW 229.1



The Formalization of the Message

In the year 1833, Miller received credentials from his church to preach. Shortly thereafter, God gave a sign of approval of His messenger and message with a meteoric shower.

In 1833, two years after Miller began to present in public the evidences of Christ's soon coming, the last of the signs appeared which were promised by the Saviour as tokens of His second advent. Said Jesus: "The stars shall fall from heaven." Matthew 24:29. And John in the Revelation declared, as he beheld in vision the scenes that should herald the day of God: "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." Revelation 6:13. This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment in the great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833. That was the most extensive and wonderful display of falling stars which has ever been recorded. GC 333.



The First Angel's Message, part I: A Heavenly Being Descends

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. Revelation 10:1-3



The First Angel's Message, part II

In 1838, based upon their interpretation of Bible prophecies, the Millerites predicted the fall of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire. This prediction was fulfilled two years later.

In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire [Turkey]. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown . . . GC, 334.4

At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended. GC, 335.1



The Foundations

In 1842 the Millerites produced the 1843 chart showing all their foundational beliefs based on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. Three hundred preachers used this chart to proclaim the message.

And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Habakkuk 2:2

As early as 1842 the direction given in this prophecy to “write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it,” had suggested to Charles Fitch the preparation of a prophetic chart to illustrate the visions of Daniel and the Revelation. The publication of this chart was regarded as a fulfillment of the command given by Habakkuk. GC 392.2

I have seen that the 1843 chart was directed by the hand of the Lord, and that it should not be altered; that the figures were as He wanted them; that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none could see it, until His hand was removed. EW 74.1



The Activity of the Enemies

At first, the churches gladly received Miller's message. Large crowds attended the churches when he lectured. But when they truly understood his message, they rejected the message and became his enemies.

In June, 1842, Mr. Miller gave his second course of lectures in Portland. . . . This second course created much more excitement in the city than the first. With few exceptions the different denominations closed the doors of their churches against Mr. Miller. Many discourses from the various pulpits sought to expose the alleged fanatical errors of the lecturer; but crowds of anxious listeners attended his meetings, while many were unable to enter the house. 1T 21.1



The Second Angel's Message: Disappointment & the Tarrying Time

The Millerites thought that Jesus would return to the earth in 1843. When He did not come, they were very sad and disappointed. Many left the movement, the remaining ones studied and waited for more understanding of what had just happened.

Then I saw the disappointed ones again rise their eyes to heaven, looking with faith and hope for their Lord's appearing. But many seemed to remain in a stupid state, as if asleep; yet I could see the trace of deep sorrow upon their countenances. The disappointed ones saw from the Scriptures that they were in the tarrying time, and that they must patiently wait the fulfillment of the vision. EW 246



The Midnight Cry: A Glorious Manifestation of the Power of God

To awaken those who were still hoping that Jesus would come, God sent them a message that correctly explained when He would come. (Because they had made a miscalculation of the previous date.) This message was the Midnight Cry and was announced by a young man named Samuel Snow. On horseback he rode into a camp meeting where many of the Millerites were gathered.

Near the close of the second angel's message, [see Appendix.] I saw a great light from heaven shining upon the people of God. The rays of this light seemed bright as the sun. And I heard the voices of angels crying, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him!" This was the midnight cry, which was to give power to the second angel's message. Angels were sent from heaven to arouse the discouraged saints and prepare them for the great work before them. EW 238

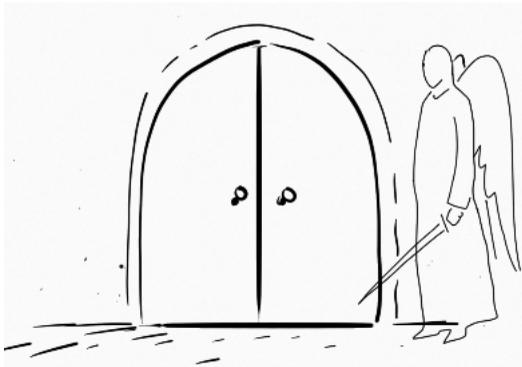


The Third Angel's Message: Judgment

The fulfillment of the prophecy that the Millerites had been waiting for arrived on October 22, 1844. On this day Jesus entered the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary and began a work that still continues.

And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. Daniel 8:14

As the ministration of Jesus closed in the holy place, and He passed into the holiest, and stood before the ark containing the law of God, He sent another mighty angel with a third message to the world. ... This message was designed to put the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. ... The third angel closes his message thus: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary. The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living. It includes all who died trusting in Christ, but who, not having received the light upon God's commandments, had sinned ignorantly in transgressing its precepts. EW 254.1



The Number Seven

In 1846 the Millerites understood that they needed to keep all the commandments of God, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Lord had raised up a prophet among them and gave her visions. She explained the Scriptures and many came to understand what God expected from them.

But the Lord gave me a view of the heavenly sanctuary. The temple of God was opened in heaven, and I was shown the ark of God covered with the mercy seat. Two angels stood, one at each end of the ark, with their wings spread over the mercy seat, and their faces turned toward it. My accompanying angel informed me that these represented all the heavenly host looking with reverential awe toward the holy law which had been written by the finger of God. Jesus raised the cover of the ark, and I beheld the tables of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written. I was amazed as I saw the fourth commandment in the very center of the ten precepts, with a soft halo of light encircling it. Said the angel: "It is the only one of the ten which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein. When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was laid the foundation of the Sabbath also." 1T 75.4



The Fourth Message: Another Angel

The fourth message links the Millerite history with our history. This angel is the First Angel's message of today. We will see this in the next chapter.

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "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 work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message. EW 277.1



The Line of the 144,000

A Period of Darkness

It is difficult to describe the darkness of our time, because it is so dark and strong. Of all the periods in the history of the world, ours is the worst. The very church of God has opened itself to the ideas of Satan - but does not even recognize it. The Bible calls this church Laodicea.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. Revelation 3:14-17



The Time of the End: 1989

When the Soviet Union fell, along with the power of Communism, Bible prophecy was fulfilled. But Russia still remains as a power that the Bible calls the King of the South, because the south is a symbol of Atheism, and Communism is a form of Atheism.

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. Daniel 11:40



An Increase of Knowledge

When the Time of the End came, God helped His people to understand the great controversy between God and Satan. Since the devil was using the Papacy to accomplish his plans, men especially needed to understand the methods of the Papacy.

The Lord established a man as a reformer for the last generation. He directed His messenger to understand these things in the last six verses of Daniel 11, which had been sealed since Daniel's time. But he also understood the reform-lines which you are now reading in this book.

In the first angel's message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject. 2SM 106.1

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Daniel 12:4



The Formalization of the Message

After years of studying prophecy, “The Time of the End” magazine was published in 1996. It was the message for our generation and it opened up the meaning of Daniel 11:40-45. These verses speak about the last movements of the Papacy and show that we are living at the very end of this world.



The First Angel's Message: A Heavenly Being Descends

On 9/11/2001 the World Trade Center in New York City was attacked and destroyed. This had been predicted by Ellen Gould White:

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 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." LS 411.5

She also says that Revelation 18 was fulfilled: a mighty Angel (a heavenly being) came down to fill the earth with His glory. We also can call this the Early Rain.



The Foundations

Our generation was called to remember and return to the old paths, the foundations God had laid at the beginning. These foundational truths were expressed in two prophetic charts: the 1843 and 1850 charts of Millerite history.

The warning has come: Nothing is to be allowed to come in that will disturb the foundation of the faith upon which we have been building ever since the message came in 1842, 1843, and 1844. I was in this message, and ever since I have been standing before the world, true to the light that God has given us. We do not propose to take our feet off the platform on which they were placed as day by day we sought the Lord with earnest prayer, seeking for light. Do you think that I could give up the light that God has given me? GCB, April 6, 1903 par. 35

We also had to learn how to study the Bible correctly:

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. Isaiah 28:9-10



The Activity of the Enemies

The enemies of the message for God's people at the end of the world came from the same church. They did not like many of the rediscovered truths and the new light. They attacked the prophecy of the 2520, the understanding about the three woes, the true meaning of the daily, and many other prophetic truths.

Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way and that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid. 8T 297.1



The Second Angel's Message: The Sunday Law.

The Sunday Law is a law that will try to destroy the Bible Sabbath and force its followers to break the commandments of God.

When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery.—Testimonies for the Church 5, 712 (1889). LDE 128.2

The decree which is to go forth against the people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. ... Satan instigated the scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserved the knowledge of the true God. But his plots were defeated by a counterpower that reigns among the children of men. Angels that excel in strength were commissioned to protect the people of God, and the plots of their adversaries returned upon their own heads. The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, expressing reverence for the law of God, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling upon His Sabbath; the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way. 5T 450.1



The Midnight Cry: A Glorious Manifestation of the Power of God

The Midnight Cry in our history is also known as the Loud Cry. It is a message which is focused on the people in the world.

We are in time's closing hours, and the Advent message, proclaimed to make ready a people prepared for our Lord's return, must swell to a loud cry reaching the uttermost parts of the earth. Ev 5.1

At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out. EW 86



The Third Angel's Message: Judgment

This last message is from the time of the Latter Rain to the Close of Probation, when Michael stands up. Michael is Christ who at that point will have finished His work of intercession for mankind - forever.

When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received "the latter rain," "the refreshing from the presence of the Lord," and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, "It is done;" and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. GC 613.2

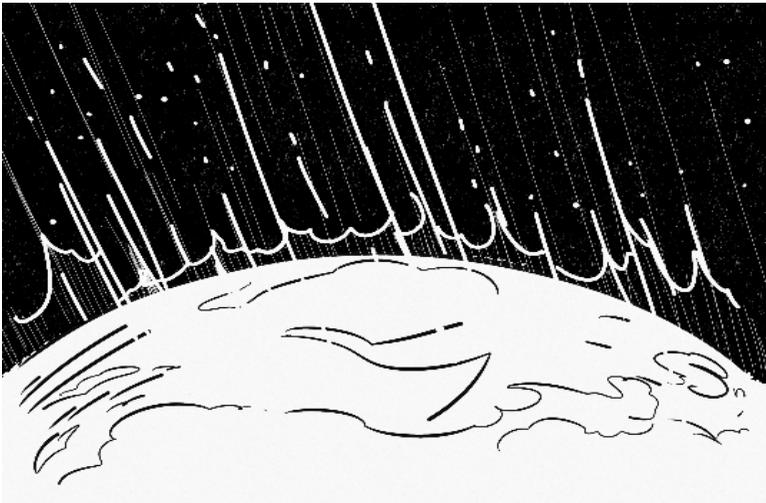


The Number Seven

Seven Last Plagues will follow the close of probation. They are a punishment of the Lord like the plagues in Egypt.

... when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out. EW 36.1

The wrath of God in the seven last plagues had been visited upon the inhabitants of the earth, causing them to gnaw their tongues from pain and to curse God. The false shepherds had been the signal objects of Jehovah's wrath. Their eyes had consumed away in their holes, and their tongues in their mouths, while they stood upon their feet. After the saints had been delivered by the voice of God, the wicked multitude turned their rage upon one another. The earth seemed to be deluged with blood, and dead bodies were from one end of it to the other. The earth looked like a desolate wilderness. Cities and villages, shaken down by the earthquake, lay in heaps. Mountains had been moved out of their places, leaving large caverns. Ragged rocks, thrown out by the sea, or torn out of the earth itself, were scattered all over its surface. Large trees had been uprooted and were strewn over the land. EW 298-290



The Fourth Message: Christ's Second Coming

The fourth message during this time should be called "the last step". Here the story of God's people on earth comes to an end. The Lord will come down to take His children into heaven. Only after 1,000 years He will come down again to judge the devil and all wicked who were not delivered at His Second Coming.

Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of man. When it first appeared in the distance, this cloud looked very small. The angel said that it was the sign of the Son of man. As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer. A retinue of holy angels, with bright, glittering crowns upon their heads, escorted Him on His way. No language can describe the glory of the scene. ... EW 286.2



