

Daniel -

Know therefore and understand . . .

“And Daniel purposed in his heart, that he (and Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) would not defile themselves with the portion of the king’s meat (food), nor with the wine which he drank . . . As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams . . .” Daniel 1:8, 17

“There is not always perfect order or apparent unity in the Scriptures . . . The Truths of the Bible are as pearls hidden, they must be searched, dug out by painstaking effort.”
– I Selected Messages, p.20

For to “Whom shall He teach knowledge? and to whom shall He make to understand doctrine? but them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breast. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, and line upon line; here a little, and there a little . . .

To whom He said, **This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest*** (*resting in faith upon the unfailing promises of the LORD God – Hebrews 3:7-19 and 4:1-3*); **and this is the REFRESHING**: yet they would not hear. For the Word of the LORD unto them only precept upon precept, and line upon line . . . that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared and taken . . .!”

Isaiah 28:9-13

Quote –

“**Those who search** this Word should keep the mind clear . . . Never should they indulge perverted appetite in eating or drinking. If they do this, the brain will be confused; they will be unable to bear the strain of digging deep to find out the meaning of those things which relate to the closing scenes of this earth’s history.

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates* of heaven (*Revelation 3:8 and John 8:21-24*) that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of **the pure in heart.**”

– Testimonies to Ministers, p.114

The Great Awakening -

1755, November 1st - Lisbon Earthquake, Portugal

1780, May 19th - The “Dark Day,” and “moon turns to blood.”

1833, November 12-13th - The stars fall from heaven.

Many of God's people, even among our own 7th day Adventist churches, are losing sight of the times in which we are now living. And the question must be asked, Why ?

They have been led to believe that all of the signs pointing to the eminent return of our Lord (Sovereign King) and Saviour in the clouds of heaven and glory, **were fulfilled nearly 200 years ago or more.** For they look to those prophetic signs which took place just preceding the 2nd Great Awakening, and then they see these signs also foretold by the apostle John in Revelation 6:12-17, and they are led to believe that these are speaking of the very same events. For the beloved disciple John reveals that under the sixth seal . . .

“And lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood. And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of mighty wind . . .

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places . . . !”

*ref: Revelation 6:12-17**

And many in our day feel, that because those prophecies appear to have been filled full (fulfilled) long ago, and the very next event which John says will take place is the “heavens departing as a scroll,” that we can have no idea of how long we have yet to wait for our Saviour's return. But is there something that may have been missed or possibly misunderstood in their reckoning of the prophecies, and the Word of God ?

The Day of Pentecost -

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and said . . . “This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel . . . **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and *the moon into blood*, before that great and notable day of the Lord (Sovereign King) shall come . . . !”**

Acts 2:14-21

The Prophet Joel gives five specific signs in this prophecy which was quoted by Peter (chapter 2:1-11 and 2:23-32).

And quoting Acts 2:17-18, the LORD's servant Ellen Whites writes and says . . .

“If this prophecy of Joel met a partial fulfillment in the days of the apostles, we are living in a time when it is to be even more evidently manifest to the people of God.

He will so bestow His Spirit upon His people that they will become a light amid the moral darkness; and great light will be reflected in all parts of the world. O that our faith might be increased, that the Lord might work mightily with His people (MS 49, 1908). {4BC 1175.2}

The first Vision -

A Kingdom that shall never be destroyed !

Thou, O king (Nebuchadnezzar) sawest . . . “till that a **Stone** was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. **And then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together** . . . and became like the chaff (dust) of the summer threshing floors . . .

And the Stone that smote the image “became a great mountain and filled the whole earth . . . !” Daniel 2:34-35 and 2:44-45*

“Thy holy mountain . . . Thy city, and Thy people which are called by Thy name .”
– ref: Daniel 9:16-19

note: It is here, in the sides of the north, and the mount of the Congregation (us – God’s people), that our great Adversary, the Devil and Satan, boasted he would “exalt his throne” (Isaiah 14:12-15). And it is here, within the heart of man, that Christ came to break Satan’s reign and dominion, and regain all that the first Adam lost by transgression.

Jesus saith unto them . . . “Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The Stone which the builders rejected (Isaiah 53:1-3), the same is become the Head of (and) the corner: this is the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.” “And “whosoever shall fall upon this Stone shall be broken, but . . . on whomsoever It shall fall, it will grind him to powder . . . !”
Psalm 118:-22-23, Matthew 21:42-44
and Luke 20:16-18

“**Great is the LORD** and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness . . . O beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King !”

– Psalm 48:1-2 ref: Isaiah 14:12-14*

In each of the visions given in the book of Daniel, four world empires are recorded; and although the details of each vision may differ, the kingdoms and the order of their dominion are the same. The 4th empire is always portrayed as Rome.

And an interesting note is found in the closing words of Peter’s first epistle (written while there in Rome), written “to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia; where he says . . . **The church** (congregation) **that is at Babylon**, elected together with you, saluteth you !” I Peter 5:13

Here, Peter reveals that it was common among the believers of his day, to refer to Rome as not only that forth empire recorded by Daniel, but also as verily spiritual Babylon (confusion) revived.-

a Stone cut out without hands -

“Where is He that is born . . . King of the Jews (Judaea)?”

Matthew 2:2

It was during this 4th empire of Rome (iron and clay – *partly strong, and partly broken*), that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ came into this world,; for the sole purpose to take back all that the first Adam had lost and yielded to Satan in transgression, and to set Satan’s captives free. And at Christ’s first Advent, these are the very words that were spoken of Him . . .

Fear not Mary: “for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son . . . and thou shalt call His name JESUS.

He shall be great (Mighty – Isaiah 9:6-7), and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the LORD God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David . . . **And He shall reign** over the house of Jacob for ever . . . and of His Kingdom , there shall be no end !”

Luke 1:26-33

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 !**”

– Matthew 3:1 and 4:17-24*

Most of us as Christians have held to the idea that “the Kingdom of God” is limited prophetically to the second coming of Christ Jesus in the clouds of heaven. But if we limit this declaration to only the end of the world, then we find ourselves in a desperate struggle to reconcile the repeated use of this phrase (Kingdom of God and Kingdom of heaven) throughout the gospels.

As I also found myself struggling with this apparent contradiction between what I had been taught my whole life, and that which the Word of God clearly says, our Mighty God spoke ever so clearly to my heart, and said . . . “Are you sure you even know what that word KINGDOM actually means ?”

And so I began to realize, that I must open my Bible again, and by the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, begin seeking the Truth without any of my preconceived biases. And I was not alone in this struggle, for here also we are told, that is where the apostles and early disciples found themselves blinded by their own religious and prophetic interpretations.

Kingdom* (H4437, G932, 935) = Sovereign, dominion, foundation of power,
reign and King !

And speaking of this promised King (Genesis 49:10-11), the prophet Micah also foretells us, saying . . .

“**And Thou, O Tower of the flock**, the Stronghold of the daughter of Zion . . . unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion; and the Kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.” Micah 4:7-9. For we are verily His bride, “members of His flesh and of His bones.”

– Ephesians 5:25-32 and Revelation 21:11.

That it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by Esaias (Isaiah) the prophet, saying, “The people which sat in darkness saw great Light, and unto them which sat in the region and shadow of death, Light is sprung up. **And from that time, Jesus began to preach and to say . . . Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand . . . !**”

– Matthew 4:14-17 and ref: Isaiah 9:1-7*

And Jesus answered and said . . . “Thou art Peter (*petros* – a piece of the Rock), but upon this Rock (*Petra*) **I will build My church** (congregation); and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it . . . !”

– Matthew 16:18 ref: I Samuel 17:49*

To Whom coming, “as unto a living (Life-giving) Stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious . . . **Ye also, as living stones ARE built up a spiritual house; that ye might shew forth the praises of Him** Who hath called you out of the darkness, and into His marvellous Light . . . !”

I Peter 2:4-9 and ref: Exodus 19:4-6*

And ye ARE built upon “the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone** In Whom all the building fitly framed* (I Kings 6:7) together, groweth unto a holy temple **in** the Lord (our Sovereign King) . . .

In Whom ye also ARE builded together for an habitation* (permanent dwelling) **of God**, through the Spirit !”

– Ephesians 2:19-22 ref: Desire of Ages, p.161

It is amazing to see, that when Solomon was building the first temple, a structure which surpassed all others across the world in beauty and glory (I Kings 8 and II Chronicles chapters 6 and 7), the Bible tells us that, “there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building . . . !” I Kings 6:1-7

This was symbolic of the Truth, that the work of the temple was wrought by the hand of Almighty God, and not by man . . . “for we ARE His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** (John 2:19-21 and Romans 6:1-6) unto good works.” Because “**the temple of God is holy, which temple we are !**”

– Ephesians 2:10 and I Corinthians 3:16-17

Quote –

God designed “that the temple at Jerusalem should be **a continual witness** to the high destiny open to every soul. **But the Jews had not understood** the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit.-

The courts of the temple at Jerusalem (ref:- Daniel 9:-17-24), filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly **the temple of the heart**, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. 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 . . .” – Desire of Ages, p.161

Quote –

“**Satan is working** so that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present Truth. The Jews had the Old Testament Scriptures, and supposed them-selves conversant with them. **But they made a woeful mistake**.”

The prophecies that refer to the glorious second appearing of Christ in the clouds of heaven they regarded as referring to His first coming. *And* because He did not come according to their expectations, they turned away from Him . . .”

– 17 Manuscript Releases, p.13

The words which the priests and rabbis “so much desired to hear... that Jesus would now restore the kingdom to Israel, had not been spoken. **For such a king they had been waiting and watching; such a king they were ready to receive**. But One Who sought to establish in their hearts a kingdom of righteousness and peace, they would not accept.”

– Desire of Ages, p.138

“Behold, the Kingdom of God is within you . . . !”

Luke 17:21

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; “shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: **for behold . . . thy King cometh unto thee**. He is just* and having Salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, *yea*, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey . . .”

– Zechariah 9:9

And when He was come nigh, “the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice, saying . . . Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the LORD !”

– Luke 19:37-42

And some of the Pharisees said unto Jesus . . . “Master, rebuke Thy disciples. But He answered and said unto them . . . I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out . . .”

And when Jesus was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it (us), saying . . . If thou hadst *only* known, even thou _____ (your name) at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace . . . but now they are hid (*ref: II Corinthians 4:3-4*) from thee . . .”

– John 12:31-32

The Kingdom of heaven ?

Matthew 10:-1-7*

Luke 9:1-11

Matthew 12:28

Matthew 13:11-19

Matthew 13:33-38*

Matthew 13:41-43

Matthew 18:3-4

Matthew 19:14*

Matthew 22:2-12

Matthew 24:14*

Matthew 28:18-19

Mark 16:15-20

Quote –

“Mighty issues for the world “were at stake in the conflict between the Prince of Light and the leader of the kingdom of darkness. **After tempting man to sin**, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world. Having conformed to his own nature the father and mother of our race, he (Satan) thought to establish here his empire.

He declared that men had chosen him as their sovereign. Through his control of men, he held dominion over the world. Christ had come to disprove Satan’s claim. As the Son of man, Christ would stand loyal to God. Thus it would be shown that Satan had not gained complete control of the human race, and that his claim to the world was false. All who desired deliverance from his power would be set free. The dominion that Adam had lost through sin would be recovered.

– Desire of Ages, p.114

“Now is the judgment* (tribunal) of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me !”

– John 12:31-32

Quote –

The burden of Christ’s preaching was, “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel (Glad Tidings).” Thus the gospel message, as given by the Saviour Himself, was based on the prophecies.

The “time” which He declared to be fulfilled was the period made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel. “Seventy weeks,” said the angel, “are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish* the transgression, and **to make an end* of sins**, and to make reconciliation* for iniquity . . . And to bring in everlasting righteousness,* and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint* the most holy !”

– Desire of Ages, p.232-233

This prophecy found in Daniel 9:24, pointed forward in the clearest and most powerful way to that work which our Saviour had come here to this fallen world to do. And as we look more closely at the things declared in this Scripture, we shall see as never before, the unveiling of our Saviour’s face and glory . . .

These words spake Jesus [*in His last prayer before Calvary – John 17*], and “lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said . . . **Father, the hour (time) has come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee !”**

To finish transgression - "It is finished . . . !" John 19:30*

To make an end of sins - "but now, once . . . hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Hebrews 9:24-26* and ref: John 1:29 and Hebrews 10:4-14

To make reconciliation - "And having made peace *between God and man* through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself . . ." Colossians 1:20-21

To bring in everlasting Righteousness - "For He hath made Him (Christ Jesus) to BE sin for us; that we may be made the righteousness of God . . . in Him !" II Corinthians 5:21 and ref: Jeremiah 23:4-6

To anoint the Most Holy - "Touch Me not, for I have not yet ascended to My Father, and your Father!" John 20:17 and Leviticus 16:12-16*

And the great dragon was cast out, "that old serpent called the Devil (adversary) and Satan (the Accuser) . . . which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast unto the earth, and his angels (messengers) were cast out with him . . .

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven . . . Now is come Salvation and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ* (*Anointed One* – Luke 4:18-19). For the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night . . . !"

– Revelation 12:9-11 *ref: Desire of Ages, p.761**

Quote -

"Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. **Christ bowed His head** and died (Romans 6-:10—11) but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come Salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. **Henceforth his work was restricted**. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken . . ."

– Desire of Ages, p.761

Quote –

"Henceforward Christ's followers were (are) to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; *and* that victory He desired them to accept as their own. "Behold," He said, "I give unto you _____ (your name) power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you !"

The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. **Not one that in penitence**

and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. The Saviour is by the side (even within – Colossians 1:27) of His tempted and tried ones.

With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us !”

– Desire of Ages, p.490

Under the New Covenant, “the conditions by which Eternal Life may be gained are the same as under the old. The conditions are, and ever have been, based on perfect [not one mark or failure] obedience . . .

Only through faith in Christ is such obedience possible. Men may comprehend the spirituality of the law, they may *even* realize its power as a detector of sin, **but they are helpless** to withstand Satan's power and deceptions, unless they accept *by faith* **the atonement** provided for them in the remedial sacrifice of Christ, **Who is our Atonement** . . . our At-one-ment--with God.” *ref: Ephesians 2:13-14*

– Signs of the Times, July 23, 1902