

The Image of Daniel 2 — Part 1

Introduction

Inspiration enjoins upon God's people the duty of studying the kingdoms represented in the testimony of Daniel (16MR 333.3). The first mention of these kingdoms is found in the second chapter of his book as portrayed in Nebuchadnezzar's first dream and its interpretation. In the form of a majestic image of various metals, the Lord revealed the monarchies that would exist in prophetic history and contribute to the fulfillment of His will. But this representation also has an application to the end of the world; for the final generation witnesses the effect of every vision (SpTA07 55.1; Eze 12:23-28). Nebuchadnezzar's great and terrible image points forward to the final rise of that "gigantic system of false religion" called modern Babylon, and its subsequent fall on the geo-political stage. This illustration is the burden of this series of articles. The first installment will take up the introduction leading up to the revelation of Daniel's image.

The Hidden Prophetic Message of Babylon — Identifying Adventism's Test

"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him." (Daniel 2:1)

Nebuchadnezzar's dream was calculated to trouble his spirit and brake his sleep from him. He was the king of the north (Jer 25:8; Eze 26:7). Therefore, the dream which troubled him out of his carnal slumber prefigures the twofold tidings of the east and the north which trouble the Papacy at the end of the world (Dan 11:44). These tidings are the loud cry of the third angel's message that are to be given in earnest during the Sunday Law crisis. But the development of these tidings is progressive (10MR 314.1). The tidings out of the north is the message of the king of the north—the Papacy—which was unsealed in 1989 when the U.S.S.R collapsed in fulfillment of Daniel 11:40b. The tidings out of the east is the message of the children of the east—Radical Islam—which became present truth on 9/11/2001 with the inauguration of Revelation 11's third woe. It is this twofold message exposing the corruptions of Rome and identifying the role of Radical Islam in contributing to her final fall that will trouble the Papacy.

"Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream." (Daniel 2:2, 3)

The call of the wise men of Babylon to reveal the dream and its interpretation was a test of the legitimacy of their claims as men of understanding. These men were meant to be the experts in the learning and language of Chaldeans (Dan 1:4), with the ability to reveal the secret things of Babylon. Their call typifies the call of the ten virgins of Adventism at 9/11. Seventh-day Adventists have been called to be experts in the "learning and language" of the prophetic message of modern Babylon. As they are to herald the fall of Babylon in this final generation, they are required to be proficient in the message which identifies and is to bring about her fall. In this sense, the wise men of Babylon represent Seventh-day Adventists.

*“Now, brethren, God wants us to take our position with the man that carries the lantern; we want to take our position where the light is, and where God has given the trumpet a certain sound. We want to give the trumpet a certain sound. We have been in perplexity, and we have been in doubt, and the churches are ready to die. But now here we read: “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” [Revelation 18:1, 2].***

Well now, how are we going to know anything about that message if we are not in a position to recognize anything of the light of heaven when it comes to us? And we will just as soon pick up the darkest deception when it comes to us from somebody that agrees with us, when we have not a particle of evidence that the Spirit of God has sent them. Christ said, “I come in the name of my Father, but ye will not receive me” [see John 5:43]. Now, that is just the work that has been going on here ever since the meeting at Minneapolis. Because God sends a message in his name that does not agree with your ideas, therefore [you conclude] it cannot be a message from God. How dare you run the risk of trying in the least to shut [Remainder Missing] – {1SAT 142.1, 2}

But among these wise men were found two classes, “the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans” and the four Hebrew worthies. The former class appeared on the scene first and represent the foolish virgins or the “wicked” who according to Daniel 12 do not understand the increase of prophetic knowledge. That these appeared before the king illustrates the principle that the counterfeit always precedes the true, and also outlines the inroads of fanaticisms into the present truth movement in the post-9/11 tarrying time. The latter class who appeared at a subsequent time represent the wise virgins who have a true understanding of the increase of knowledge:

*“The dust and rubbish of error have buried the precious jewels of truth, but the Lord’s workers can uncover these treasures, so that thousands will look upon them with delight and awe. Angels of God will be beside the humble worker, giving grace and divine enlightenment, and thousands will be led to pray with David, “Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” Truths that have been for ages unseen and unheeded, will blaze forth from the illuminated pages of God’s holy word. The churches generally that have heard, refused, and trampled upon the truth, will do more wickedly; **but “the wise,” those who are honest, will understand.** The book is open, and the words of God reach the hearts of those who desire to know his will. At the loud cry of the angel from heaven who joins the third angel, thousands will awake from the stupor that has held the world for ages, and will see the beauty and value of the truth.” – {RH December 15, 1885 Par. 15}*

At 9/11, the claims of both classes were brought to test with the arrival of the second angel in the form of the Angel of Revelation 18. Each of the preceding angels were represented by inspiration as having some form of writing in their hands which God’s people have been required to assimilate into their experience (Rev 10:1; 1SG 153.1; EW 254.1). Therefore, it follows that when the Angel of Revelation descended at 9/11, He had a writing in His hand. But this writing is not apparent in His hand because it is a hidden or secret message which can only be seen and understood by employing the prophetic line upon prophetic line methodology (Isa 28:10). That the transactions of Daniel 2 are fulfilled in the post-9/11 time period is confirmed by the fact that this was in the “second year” of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, typifying the period of the second angel’s message. And

the four groups of wise men and the four Hebrew boys illustrate that the test of 9/11 confronts the ten virgins in the fourth (or last) generation of Adventism.

The Role of Prayer in the Period of the Second Angel's Message

*“Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: **for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me**, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” (Daniel 2:4-11)*

The king's word revealed the fact that the test which confronted the wise men was life and death. Failure to discover this hidden dream and its interpretation resulted in certain death, but success was accompanied with “gifts and rewards and great honour.” Thus confirming that the life and death testing process for Adventism commenced at 9/11 with the descent of the Angel of Revelation 18. A refusal to partake of the hidden manna which came in the Angel's hand at 9/11 will be followed by spiritual decline and shipwreck (BEcho Aug 26, 1895). The opposite course however will result in the restoration of all the spiritual gifts among the wise virgins and the bestowal of the honour of being God's representatives in the final crises. The response of the false wise men to the trial revealed their weakness. They had recourse to human methods and human wisdom in an attempt to reveal and interpret a divine message; but they failed dismally. This is the great weakness of the foolish virgins at the end of the world. They are “self-sufficient” and “prayerless,” and thus fail to reach the high standard of holiness and understanding required of them:

“The Lord has said that his work is to be done, “not by might nor by power; but by my Spirit.” The work of God is to be carried on to completion by the co-operation of divine and human agencies. Those who are self-sufficient may be apparently active in the work of God; but if they are prayerless, their activity is of no avail. Could they look into the censer of the angel that stands at the golden altar before the rainbow-circled throne, they would see that the merit of Jesus must be mingled with our prayers and efforts, or they are as worthless as was the offering of Cain. Could we see all the activity of human instrumentality, as it appears before God, we would see that only the work accomplished by much prayer, which is sanctified by the merit of Christ, will stand the test of the judgment. When the grand review shall take place, then shall ye return and discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. – {RH July 4, 1893 Par. 5}

None had thus far been found able to reveal and interpret the prophetic dream of Nebuchadnezzar. Consequently, a decree was effected to “destroy all the wise men of Babylon.”

“For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.” (Daniel 2:12-16)

At 9/11, none in Adventism had an understanding of the loud cry of the third angel which is to go to the world. Let alone did they not have the preparation necessary to give that message to the world. What then would we give to the world if we were to engage in public evangelism in the post-9/11 tarrying time, when prophecy represents Adventism as ignorant and unsanctified as the wise men of Babylon? It produces solemn reflections to ponder upon this reality. Nebuchadnezzar's decree to destroy all the wise men illustrates the fact that modern Rome was prepared to inaugurate the Sunday Law crisis and to destroy all of Adventism at 9/11. The agent employed to execute this work of destruction was Arioch who was a representative of the military might of the king of Babylon. He represents the United States (the military might of Rome) which was ordained to destroy Seventh-day Adventism at 9/11. The tangible evidence of this truth is the USA PATRIOT ACT which was effected shortly after the 9/11 attacks and essentially repudiated all the principles of the U.S. Constitution. But the course of Daniel represents the course of all those who would be wise. Upon realizing the wrath determined against him and his companions, requested for time to understand the secret and its interpretation. Thus showing that those who understand the implications of the events of 9/11 on the fate of Seventh-day Adventism should be pleading of the Lord for time to assimilate the hidden manna, and to save their fellow Adventist brethren if possible; for they understand that they are on borrowed time.

*“The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. **Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril;** but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. **They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help.** “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”” – {5T 209.2}*

The wise are distinguished from the foolish virgins in that they are people of “effectual fervent prayer.” The centrality of a genuine sanctified prayer experience is thus emphasized in the period of the second angel's message. The second message is a revival message (Eze 37:9-11) and inspiration clearly teaches that a revival need only be expected in answer to prayer (1SM 121, 128). The command is to pray for the latter rain in the time of the latter rain (Zec 10:1), and this is what Daniel and his companions illustrate:

*“Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: **That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret;** that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.” (Daniel 2:17, 18)*

In this manner the important lesson is taught that human intellect alone cannot avail to understand the “secret” or hidden message of the post-9/11 tarrying time. God’s people are to “desire mercies of the God of heaven” in prayer if they are to comprise the people that will have the full message of this generation revealed to them. Because God will only give wisdom and understanding to those who ask for it and meet the conditions (Jas 1:5). This is what happened in Daniel’s experience.

The End of the Hiding — New Light at Midnight

“Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.” (Daniel 2:19-23)

That the “secret” was “revealed unto Daniel in a night vision” is illustrating the wise virgins being supernaturally brought to a perfect understanding of the hidden message of 9/11 at the Midnight Cry (or at Midnight at a fractal level). Daniel’s benediction confirms this truth. He identified God as He who “changeth times and seasons” thus reminiscing the experience of the Millerites at the Midnight Cry of their history. When God opened up their understanding to the Midnight Cry message, He changed the focus of the Millerites from the “season” of spring to autumn and from the time of April 19 to the “time” of October 22, 1844 for the arrival of the judgment. But in our history, the emphasis is different and can be more accurately reflected in the words “he removeth kings and setteth up kings.” At the Midnight Cry of our history, part of the message that will be clearly revealed to the wise virgins is the approaching fall of the United States as the sixth kingdom of Bible prophecy and the rise and final fall of the seventh and eighth kingdoms of Bible prophecy—the ten kings (the United Nations) and the beast (the Papacy)—at the Sunday Law. And the wise virgins will be lifted up to public attention to deliver this message as Daniel was brought before the king to reveal his dream and the interpretation thereof:

*“Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar; Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar **what shall be in the latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.” (Daniel 2:24-30)*

Nebuchadnezzar's question symbolizes the inquiry that will come from those in Babylon concerning the issues of God's prophetic word in the history of the Midnight Cry. Daniel's response places the perfect fulfillment of Daniel 2's image in the "latter days"—the final generation. He brought to view the fact that no earthly powers can explain the program of coming events nor can they know the things now transpiring in their true import. He went on to then identify that the dream was revealed to him that the king and his realm may know that Daniel was the true prophet (the true wise man of Babylon), God's chosen representative on the earth. This is a subject of Bible prophecy. In advance of the Sunday Law, God will reveal to the world which group of professed Seventh-day Adventists are His chosen representatives, and this will be partly accomplished through the fulfillment of the predictions they will give in advance of their fulfillment. Through these sanctified people will He announce and bring to pass the final fall of modern Babylon.

Closing Remarks

"Daniel and Revelation must be studied, as well as the other prophecies of the Old and New Testaments. Let there be light, yes, light in your dwellings. For this we need to pray. The Holy Spirit, shining upon the sacred page, will open our understanding that we may know what is truth."
– {11MR 207.1}

The books of Daniel and Revelation especially demand our prayerful study in the last days. In them are truths full of glory and immortality. A blessing is pronounced on those who heed the injunction to read, hear and keep the things written therein. The wicked shall do wickedly but the wise shall understand.