

THE GOLDEN THREAD OF PROPHECY

“Those who take only a surface view of the Scriptures will, with their superficial knowledge, which they think is very deep, talk of the contradictions of the Bible, and question the authority of the Scriptures. But those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions. The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity, one grand golden thread running through the whole, but it requires patience, thought, and prayer to trace out the precious golden thread.” 7BC 945

Lesson #07

The Abomination of Desolation

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

There are very few places in the scripture where we find Jesus saying that we need to understand this subject in this book of the Bible.

The Pioneers correctly identified the Abomination of Desolation as the PAPACY. In the book of Daniel, the Abomination of Desolation is the Papacy. The pioneers always related to the book of Daniel and Rome in a two-fold fashion; whether it was the ‘daily’ representing paganism, pagan Rome in connection with the abomination of desolation, papal Rome, they were always seeing both phases of Rome.

Daniel 8:13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

Here it is the ‘transgression’ of desolation.

Daniel 11:31 “And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”

Daniel 12:11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.”

In all these places, the pioneers understood that this was the papacy. In each of these cases it is in association with the ‘daily’ which was paganism. The Pioneers correctly identify the Abomination of Desolation as the PAPACY.

Jesus in Matthew 24:15 said everyone needs to understand the abomination of desolation in the book of Daniel. In the Great Controversy, Sister White says that this prophecy was fulfilled when Pagan Rome placed its standards in the sacred precincts of Jerusalem. This was the sign to the Christians in Jerusalem that they should stop what they were doing and get out of Jerusalem because the destruction was about to take place. We are told not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem.

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So what is the discrepancy there? The discrepancy is that the abomination of desolation is a Triple Application of Prophecy. The pioneers were correct and Ellen White was correct when she identified it as Pagan Rome.

If you look at the first two times that the abomination of Desolation is fulfilled, you will find the characteristics of the third time that it is fulfilled.

Mark 13:14 “But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:”

In Matthew it is standing in the holy place, in Mark it is standing where it ought not. Of course Pagan Rome should not be standing in the sacred precincts of the temple in Jerusalem. Matthew and Mark aren't disagreeing; they are broadening the definition of the abomination of desolation.

Luke 21:20 “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter there into.”

The first fulfillment of the abomination of desolation took place when Rome came a few years before AD 70, and placed the standards of Rome that had the idols of Rome illustrated on them in the sacred precincts, the area that extended out around the walls and that was the sign for the Christians to flee.

When that took place, unexpectedly, the armies of Rome withdrew and the Jews chased them. This left a clear opportunity for the Christians to safely flee the city and they did.

So what we see here, spoken of by Jesus, and verified by Ellen White and shown in history is that the abomination of desolation is a sign for Christians to flee. The sign consists of the mark of Rome's authority being placed where it ought not to be.

So how can the pioneers justify saying that the abomination of desolation is the Papacy?

This is an important understanding about where we are today. We are told that the leadership in Adventism at the end of the world is going to be given a book that is sealed and they are going to be asked if they can read the book and they say, “No—it is sealed”.

Isaiah 29:11 “And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: 12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.”

What book is sealed? The book of Daniel. All the prophets are speaking about the end of the world. Here we see the educated class saying they cannot read the book because it is sealed. Then the book is delivered to him that is not learned—the ordinary person, saying read this—and he says he cannot for he is unlearned.

Isaiah 29:13 “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: 14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.”

There are two groups of people in Adventism that cannot understand the book that is sealed: the first are those that are learned. The other group that will not understand the book are those that believe that the understanding in the sealed book can only be brought forth by one that is learned. They will not

study for themselves, they are going to wait until someone stands in front of them and tells them—but they won't receive it unless he is 'learned'.

Why is it they can't understand the book that is sealed?

Isaiah 29:16 "Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?"

The reason the people in Adventism cannot understand the book that is sealed is because they have turned something upside-down. When we are speaking of the abomination of desolation in Daniel it is always in connection with the Daily. The pioneers believed the 'daily' is paganism—a satanic power; but today we teach that it is Christ's work in the heavenly sanctuary—a godly power! It has been turned upside-down!

When you take the daily and you say that it is Christ's work in the heavenly sanctuary, you destroy the understanding the pioneers had, that when it comes to Rome in the book of Daniel, it is portrayed in two phases—pagan and papal Rome, and you destroy the ability to understand the message of Daniel for the end of the world.

This is very sacred ground. That is why Jesus said, 'whosoever readeth—let him understand' because you do not find the abomination of desolation in Daniel where it is not in connection with the 'Daily' and the 'Daily' has been turned upside-down.

When did the 'Daily' get turned upside-down? In 1901 by a man named Conradi, who is one of the most famous apostates in Adventist history. He is the man that is credited for virtually destroying any respect for the Spirit of Prophecy in Europe. He re-introduced that old protestant teaching in 1901. What was 1901? It was the time period of the Alpha of Apostasy.

Now I know that many people have singular ideas about what the Alpha of Apostasy was—but it came with a multitude of Alpha apostasies and a multitude of Omega apostasies—there is an Alpha in the health work and an Omega in the health work; also in the gospel and the education work and so on—but the Alpha of prophetic apostasy is the 'Daily'—turning a Satanic work into a godly work—turning it upside-down, to where you cannot read the book that is sealed!

What is the Omega of prophetic apostasy? The Glorious Land in Daniel 11:41 "He shall enter also into **the glorious land**, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon."

Is it the United States—a satanic power—forcing the world to worship the beast and its image? Or is it the Seventh-day Adventist church—a godly power. This verse is worth understanding because the argument in Adventism is that it is either a godly power or a satanic power. The type of United States in prophecy is paganism—pagan Rome which the pioneers taught is also symbolized by the Daily.

So the first time we see the abomination of desolation fulfilled it is Rome's mark in a place where it should not be—a sign for the Christians to flee.

The abomination of desolation was identified by the pioneers as the papacy.

Daniel 9:26 "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Now everyone agrees that the first part of this verse is Pagan Rome and it destroys Jerusalem and the sanctuary and put Jesus on the cross—but this verse says the war continues and desolations—in the

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plural—are determined. The pioneers focus on this and say this is identifying two desolation powers—the daily desolating power—Paganism—and the abominable desolating power—the Papacy. So they understood that the term Jesus was speaking about is a term dealing with BOTH these desolating powers.

Let's see what happened when Pagan Rome fulfilled the abomination of desolation—it came into Jerusalem, trampled down the city, came into the temple precincts; it was a sign for Christians to flee.

What is the classic characteristic of the Papacy?

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4 “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

Where he ought not to be—in a holy place—showing himself that he is God. But Pagan Rome also trampled down the city.

Revelation 11:2 “But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.” 1260 years.

In Revelation, the church of Thyatira is the church of the Papacy ruling the world. Pergamos is the church during the time of compromise. In Thessalonians, this is the time of the falling away that proceeds the Papacy sitting on the throne of the earth. Great Controversy tells us the during that time the true Christians recognized that they had to flee and leave that apostate church and they fled into the wilderness for 1260 years. That was the abomination of desolation—the sign for them to flee when they saw Rome's authority in a place where it ought not to be.

The characteristics of those two testimonies when put together give us the fulfillment of the third abomination of desolation.

If you take the book 'Country Living' and you look at the dates in the comments in country living, you will find that Sister White prior to 1888 was talking about there would come a time when we need to get out of the cities. But after 1888 it was past tense.

What happened in 1888? In 1888 the Blair Bill arrived in history. What was that? It was the Sunday Law in the United States. What did Rome do? It came and placed the mark of its authority in the sacred precincts, in a place where it ought not to be. This was the sign for Christians to flee—in 1888. Rome's mark of authority came into a sacred place—where it ought not to be—and this was the sign, according to Sister White, that we were to flee the cities and get out into the country. 1888!

In AD 70, Pagan Rome unexpectedly and mysteriously withdrew its armies—giving time for Christians to leave. And in 1888 the Blair Bill did not pass. Why? American History shows there was one man that went into congress and gave a presentation on why it was wrong and it turned the tide. That man was A. T. Jones. He was a messenger of the Latter Rain Message. It is at the Sunday Law that the Latter Rain comes. The potential was all there but Rome withdrew.

The characteristics are that when you see the Mark of Rome's authority—Sunday Enforcement—when you see that in a place where it ought not to be—where is the Sunday Law not supposed to be at the end of the world? In the Glorious Land, in the Constitution of the United States.

The Constitution of the United States is a sacred document. There are a few documents in history that God had His hand in preparing. The United States was designed by God to be the great protector of

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religious liberty. How did He do it? Through the constitution of the United States; the separation of church and state which is destroyed by Sunday enforcement.

So this was a prophetic sign to flee—and it came into history in 1888. How many Christians died in the destruction of Jerusalem? They all got out. So when Rome comes back—in the Sunday Law that is about to take place—how many Christians are going to be in the city?

Our first test is the Spirit of Prophecy—she said, “Out of the cities, out of the cities—this is my message!” before 1888 she said there would come a time but after 1888 it was past tense.

Here at the end of the world when we are seduced by the Laodicean condition, and we are seduced by the ease of living in the cities, and we are seduced by the culture of Adventism, we are not willing to look closely at those passages. We were supposed to be out of the cities before our grandparents were born.