

School of the Prophets

The First and the Last

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning
and the end, the first and the last.
Revelation 22:13.

The I AM

- I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.
- Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last. Revelation 1:8, 11, 17.

To whom then will ye liken God?

- To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these *things*, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. Isaiah 40:18, 21, 25-28.

The Time of Judgment

- Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew *their* strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment. Who raised up the righteous *man* from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made *him* rule over kings? he gave *them* as the dust to his sword, *and* as driven stubble to his bow. He pursued them, *and* passed safely; *even* by the way *that* he had not gone with his feet. Who hath wrought and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I *am* he. Isaiah 41:1-4.

That ye are gods?

- That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it. Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong *reasons*, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring *them forth*, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they *be*, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye *are* gods: *yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.* Isaiah 41:20-23.

Before They Spring Forth

- Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, *He is righteous? yea, there is none that showeth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words. Isaiah 41:26.*
- *I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Isaiah 42:8, 9.*

Hearken for the Time to Come

- Who among you will give ear to this?
- *who* will **hearken and hear for the time to come?** Isaiah 42:23.
- Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is* no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them show unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it?* ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is* no God; I know not *any*. Isaiah 44:6-8.

To Cyrus, His Anointed

- 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 45:1.
- For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I *am* the Lord, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. I *am* the Lord, and *there is* none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these *things*. Isaiah 45:4-7.

Who hath declared this from ancient time?

- I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye *that are* escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god *that* cannot save. Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the Lord? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else. Isaiah 45:19-22.

O ye Transgressors

- Remember this, and show yourselves men: bring *it* again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me*, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it. Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that *are* far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness: it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory. Isaiah 46:8-13.

The Prophets Prophecy is in Force

- “Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. ‘Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ 1 Corinthians 10:11.”
Selected Messages, book 3, 338–339.

The Things Which Will be in the Last Days

- “In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 585.
- “John beholds the things which will be in the last days, and sees a people working counter to God. ‘And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Revelation 16:13-15.’ *Manuscript Releases*, volume 17, 18.

Three Enemies

- Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 1 Timothy 5:19.
- And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Revelation 16:13.
 - **Beast: Catholicism**
 - **False prophet: Apostate Protestantism**
 - **Dragon: Spiritualism**

Modern Babylon

- **And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Revelation 16:19.**
 - **A City Symbolizes a Kingdom:**
 - Revelation 11:8; 14:8; 17:18; 18:2,10,16, 18, 19, 21; 21:2.

John 19:18–20

- “The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ—how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God’s servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 406.

Hebrew, Greek and Latin

- Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, *and* Greek, *and* Latin. John 19:18-20.

Prophetic Characteristics

- **Three-fold enemy (Hebrew, Greek, & Latin)**
 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. Romans 5:10.
- **Relatives of Adam**
 - Hebrew: “from the other side”, descendant of Shem.
 - Greek: “sons of the Ionians”, descendant of Japheth (plural).
 - Latin (Roman): “I have exalted” spiritual descendant of Ham.
- **Two singular and one plural**

Greeks

- “These men came from the West to find the Saviour at the close of His life, as the wise men had come from the East at the beginning. At the time of Christ's birth the Jewish people were so engrossed with their own ambitious plans that they knew not of His advent. The magi from a heathen land came to the manger with their gifts, to worship the Saviour. So these Greeks, representing the nations, tribes, and peoples of the world, came to see Jesus. So the people of all lands and all ages would be drawn by the Saviour's cross. So shall many ‘come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.’ Matthew 8:11.” *The Desire of Ages*, 621.

Numbers 22:4–5

- “Near the close of this earth’s history Satan will work with all his powers in the same manner and with the same temptations wherewith he tempted ancient Israel just before their entering the land of promise. He will lay snares for those who claim to keep the commandments of God, and who are almost on the borders of the heavenly Canaan.” *Adventist Home*, 327.

Moab, Midian and Balaam

- And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all *that are* round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which *is* by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they *are* too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, *that* we may smite them, and *that* I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest *is* blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. Numbers 22:4-6.

Moab, Midian and Balaam (the children of his people)

- **Prophetic characteristics**
 - **Three-fold enemy**
 - “I pray thee, curse me this people”
 - **Relatives of Israel**
 - Moab: descendant of Lot
 - Midian and Balaam: descendants of Abraham
 - **Two singular and one plural**

Nehemiah 2:19

- **“The** experience of Nehemiah is repeated in the history of God’s people in this time. **Those who labor in the cause of truth will find that they cannot do this without exciting the anger of its enemies. Though they have been called of God to the work in which they are engaged, and their course is approved of Him, they cannot escape reproach and derision.”** *Christian Service*, 173–174.

Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem the Arabian

- But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What *is* this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?
- Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of **our enemies**, heard that I had builded the wall, and *that* there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in *some one of* the villages in the plain of Ono. But **they thought to do me mischief**. Nehemiah 2:19; 6:1, 2.

They Thought to do me Mischief

- **Three-fold enemy**
 - Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem the Arabian
- **Relatives of Israel**
 - Sanballat: “the moon god, or sin has given life”, descendant of Moab or Lot.
 - Tobiah: “Yaweh is good”, descendant of Ammon or Lot.
 - Geshem the Arabian: “born in the rainy season”, descendant of Ishmael or Abraham (plural).
- **Two singular and one plural**

Literal and Spiritual

- And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is **natural; and afterward that which is spiritual**. The first man *is* of the earth, **earthy**; the second man *is* the Lord from **heaven**. 1 Corinthians 15:45-47.
- And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29.

Abraham's Seed

- For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. **Which things are an allegory**: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. . . . Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the **flesh** persecuted him *that was born after the Spirit*, even so *it is* now. Galatians 4:22-26, 28, 29.

Outward and Inward

- For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God. Romans 2:28, 29.

Balaam & Nehemiah

- And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. **Revelation 2:12-14.**
 - **The doctrine of Balaam**
 - Eat things sacrificed to idols & committing fornication

Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols

- And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take *it*, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. Revelation 10:9, 10.
 - ACCEPTING TRUTH OR DOCTRINE
- And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices *by the space of* forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon. Acts 7:41-43.
 - FALSE WORSHIP

Numbers & Nehemiah

- On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever; Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. Nehemiah 13:1, 2.

Cleansing the Chambers

- Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude. And before this, **Eliashib** the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was **allied unto Tobiah**: And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him **a chamber in the courts of the house of God**. And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber. Then I commanded, and **they cleansed the chambers**: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense. Nehemiah 13:3, 4, 7, 8.
– **THE HEART OF THE WORK CORRUPTED**

The Sabbath

- In those days saw I in Judah *some* treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all *manner of* burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day: and I testified *against them* in the day wherein they sold victuals. . . . Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing *is* this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day? Nehemiah 13:15-17.
- The Sabbath:
 - Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is a sign* between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I *am the Lord that doth sanctify you*. Exodus 31:13.
 - FALSE SANCTIFICATION

Fornication: Unlawful Relations

- In those days also saw I Jews *that* had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, *and* of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. Nehemiah 13:23, 24.

– THE DOCTRINES OF ROME

Line Upon Line

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 - **Babylon leads the world to Armageddon**

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