

FOOD FOR THE FLOCK

MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

Ezekiel Nine as Pictured in the Parables

“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.” Matt. 24:38, 39

The figure of the wicked being taken out of the church is represented by the parable in Luke 17:26-37. Many Adventists have termed this as a representation of the second coming of Christ while evangelicals use this parable as the basis for their doctrine of the pre-millennium rapture. Both are wrong, for a closer look will determine that this event clearly depicts the Judgment of the Living (Ezekiel 9) in the church.

Matt. 24: 38-41:

24:38 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,

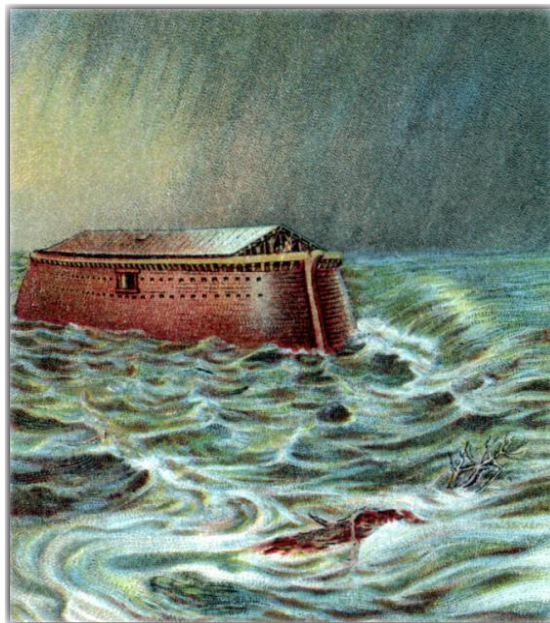
24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

This parable is repeated in Luke 17: 26, 27, 33-37:

17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.



“And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away...” Matt. 24:39

17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

17:33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

17:35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

17:36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

17:37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

"AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM, 'GO THROUGH THE MIDST OF THE CITY, THROUGH THE MIDST OF JERUSALEM..."

Christ Himself told the disciples that those who are "taken" are to be taken in death. It was the righteous that would remain. Immediately is seen that this coming is not the second coming as previously believed, for in the second coming the saints are the ones taken by Christ to heaven. See 1 Thess. 4:17

As only the righteous are left (to be ushered into the kingdom of Daniel two), it becomes clear that this is the coming of the Lord to judge His church. The scriptures say, "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. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." Mal. 3:1-4

The Lord comes suddenly to his church to execute judgment; to the wicked servant who is "smiting his fellow servant" He comes unawares, but to the wise servant who is feasting on "meat in due season" (present truth), this coming is not a surprise. Read Matt. 24:44-51 Then, the Bible says, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto ten virgins. The wise have with them the extra oil, the additional message of truth, --the message of the judgment of the living. The foolish, though, were content with the message of the judgment of the dead and did not obtain the extra oil (truth). Read Matt. 25:1-13

The "messenger", is the last prophet to be mentioned in the old testament, the anti-typical Elijah. {Mal. 3:1; 4:5} It is through his message (the day of the Lord, or Judgment of the Living) that the way is prepared for the Lord's second coming.

Ellen G. White quoted this scripture in Malachi and warned the church, saying: "Prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says: 'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful

day of the Lord.' Somebody is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, and when he appears, men may say: 'You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.'" {TM 475}

Although most of the ministry and laity alike will not hear this last day message, the Lord will not rest until His people are prepared for the day of judgment.

The Lord says, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." Isa. 62:1

The Lord will not stop speaking (in doctrine and truth) to the SDA church until a portion rises up and is sanctified by it and prepared for the latter Pentecost. At this time, the 144,000 will be disclosed to view along with those who are sealed with them. Then the scripture will be fulfilled:

"And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." Isa. 62:2

The SDA church, haunted by the destruction of the tares (wicked) will effect a need for a separation in name, just as the faithful Jews in the time of Christ's first advent were called by another name, --Christians. Upon the removal of all who vexed her, the faithful in the church, the anti-typical "Judah" and "Israel", will come into possession of the kingdom and all the latter-day promises for Israel.

Although practically the entire Christian world claims these promises for the unbelieving Jews of today, while Messianic groups are laying claim to them as well, we can see from scripture that in these last days the promises of the kingdom belong to those who worship God in Spirit and in Truth. The chain of truth, although "hidden as a treasure", will be found by all who seek it.

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'AND SET A MARK UPON THE FOREHEADS OF THE MEN THAT SIGH AND THAT CRY FOR ALL THE ABOMINATIONS THAT BE DONE IN THE MIDST THEREOF.'"