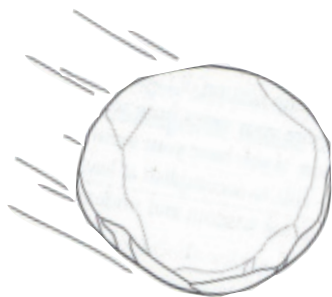


FOOD FOR THE FLOCK

Ministries Presents



The Latter-Day Kingdom of Daniel 2

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Daniel 2:44

"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to show 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.

"Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will show 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." Dan. 2:1-5

King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image disturbed him so much he that issued a decree to all the magicians and soothsayers in his realm. His requirement was that they must not only interpret the dream, but tell him what he dreamed as well.

But, "The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show

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 show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. 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." Daniel 2:10-13

The king was certain that the dream had significant meaning, and, not wanting to fall victim to the trickery of men, ordered the stunning edict. In doing so, the king wittingly ensured that the interpretation must come from a Divine Power. The dream which was later interpreted Daniel by the power of God was given so that men in every succeeding generation could know without a doubt that there is a God in heaven who controls the earth's history, and knows it from beginning to end. As God revealed to Daniel



the dream and its interpretation, the scriptures say that Daniel in gratitude; "...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

The record of the dream is in the scriptures for three reasons. The dream was as a "light that shineth in a dark place" to men. 2 Pet. 1:19 Men have no power to tell the future, so God in His infinite wisdom, revealed the things that His followers would need to know. The dream foretold the world's history in prophetic symbols. And following God's protocol for

interpreting the prophecies (See 2 Pet. 1:19-21), Daniel the prophet was given the interpretation. The interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream has also proven to soften the hardest critics of the Bible, for the accuracy of it silences their arguments. (See Chart A for interpretation of the Great Image in Daniel 2)

But the most important part of the interpretation deals with what will happen in the last days, for this is the time in which we are living. Of this time Daniel said; "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Dan. 2:44

The announcement of God's kingdom is more important to God's people than any other time in history, for we are at the very shores of its setting up. Furthermore, the kingdom has more significance than we first may have discerned. To understand the significance of the latter-kingdom we must first go back to:

The Kingdom Lost: The Adamic Kingdom

To Adam, the first created man, was given dominion over the earth (the kingdom) for the scriptures say that God "madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field..." And again in Genesis, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after

The Interpretation

This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Kingdom #1 Babylon:

"Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. Thou art this head of gold."

Kingdom #2 Medo-Persia:

"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee"

Kingdom #3 Grecia:

"and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth."

Kingdom #4 Rome:

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

Kingdom #5 Present World:

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And [as] the toes of the feet [were] part of iron, and part of clay, [so] the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

God's Latter-Day Kingdom:

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

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.

Chart A

The Great Image of Daniel 2



our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Gen. 1:26

When Satan tempted Adam to disobey God, he lost the dominion over the earth that God had given him, and Satan became the "prince of this world". Thus the kingdom given Adam was usurped (taken) by the deceiver. The Adamic kingdom was to be ruled by man, and as long as he was subject to Christ, he would remain as such.

Ellen White writes in *Desire of Ages* p. 129:

"When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits." {DA 129.4}

With the fall of man, the kingdom was lost to man, and man became a servant of sin. But God's purpose concerning the restoration of the kingdom was not to be thwarted. Even though man was in a sinful state, God endeavored to preserve His name throughout the earth. This He would do though a people, and His promise was to give them a land in which they could enjoy His theocratic rule.

Israel was to be Established as a Righteous Kingdom

The history of the Israelite people and their pilgrimage to Canaan details their struggle to gain the kingdom God intended for them to establish. In *Christ Object Lessons*, page 290, White reveals God's purpose to establish Israel as a holy nation in the earth:

"The children of Israel were to occupy all the territory which God appointed them. Those nations that rejected the worship and service of the true God were to be dispossessed. But it was God's purpose that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should be drawn unto Him. To all the world

the gospel invitation was to be given. Through the teaching of the sacrificial service Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live. All who, like Rahab the Canaanite, and Ruth the Moabitess, turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God, were to unite themselves with His chosen people. As the numbers of Israel increased they were to enlarge their borders, until their kingdom should embrace the world." {COL 290.1}



When Adam disobeyed God, he lost dominion over the earth, --the kingdom.

"God desired to bring all peoples under His merciful rule. He

desired that the earth should be filled with joy and peace. He created man for happiness, and He longs to fill human hearts with the peace of heaven. He desires that the families below shall be a symbol of the great family above. {COL 290.2}

"But Israel did not fulfill God's purpose. The Lord declared, "I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto Me?" Jeremiah 2:21. "Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself." Hosea 10:1. "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt Me and My vineyard. What could have been done more to My vineyard, that I have not

done in it? Wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: and I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For . . . He looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry." Isaiah 5:3-7. {COL 290.3}

Although the majority of the Israelites would prove untrue to their trust, the prevailing belief in the days of Christ was that the kingdom in Daniel 2 would be established. The disciples along with the Jews had an understanding that this kingdom was literal, and with great anticipation looked forward to the fulfilling of the prophecies concerning it. They foresaw Israel, as in the days of Solomon, becoming the greatest nation in all the earth, casting off their enemies forever.

Jews expected Literal Worldly Kingdom

If Christ had set up the kingdom in that day according to the Jews' expectation, a sifting would have never taken place as it did between the Christians and the Jews. Many would have flocked to Jesus simply because of the promise of power riches and glory. It was for this reason that Jesus told the Jews not to look for the latter -day kingdom. Instead, He pointed them to the work that really needed to be done in that generation, --the spiritual rebirth. But this work the Jews were not willing to do. To walk a path of humility, --to become followers instead of leaders, to admit their errors and learn of the truth, did not appeal to their prideful hearts. As a result, they rejected the Savior and His teaching regarding the kingdom.

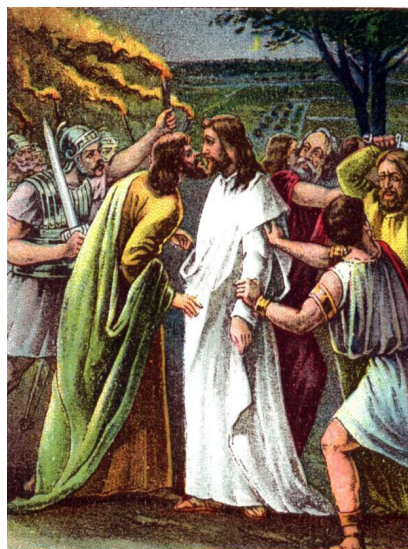
In Desire of Ages p. 130, White writes: "When the tempter offered to Christ the kingdom and glory of the world, he was proposing that Christ should yield up the real kingship of the world, and hold dominion subject to Satan. This was the same dominion upon

which the hopes of the Jews were set. They desired the kingdom of this world. If Christ had consented to offer them such a kingdom, they would gladly have received Him." {DA 130.1}

Christ's declaration, "the kingdom of heaven is within you" announced the inward requirements (the renewal of the heart) for the believer to gain entrance into the kingdom.

Indeed, it was more important for them to know the inward requirements for the kingdom, for the Jews of that day would never set their eyes upon the latter-day kingdom. The spiritual rebirth that Jesus spoke of could not occur without the acceptance of Him as

the Messiah. They must accept Him as their Savior and Lord. Thus as the kingdom was announced, it became known the very first requirement for entrance into it.



The Jews did not accept Jesus because He did not fulfill their ambitions of a worldly kingdom.

The rights to the kingdom, was then handed down to the faithful Jews who accepted the Messiah (the early Christians Acts 11:26) but to the unfaithful Jews Christ said; "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom [unbelieving Jews] shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matt. 8:11, 12

But the early Christians did not see the setting up of the expected kingdom, as seen in the disciples' inquiry in Acts 1:7, 8:

"... Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

Jesus cautioned His followers not to get caught up in the national pride that pervaded the Jewish leaders and people. He knew this pride was the means of so

many rejecting His teaching and divinity. He did not deny the future setting up of the latter-day kingdom, for to do so would conflict with the prophet Daniel's testimony. Instead He instructed the disciples not to expect it in their generation. He pointed them to the work that they lay ahead of them.

"The disciples were anxious to know the exact time for the revelation of the kingdom of God; but Jesus tells them that they may not know the times and the seasons; for the Father has not revealed them. To understand when the kingdom of God should be restored, was not the thing of most importance for them to know..." 1SM 185:2

"The Jews looked for the kingdom of God to be established in the same way as the kingdoms of the world. To promote righteousness they resorted to external measures. They devised methods and plans. But Christ implants a principle. By implanting truth and righteousness, He counterworks error and sin." {COL 77.1}

If the Jews were blind to the nature of the kingdom in their day, Seventh-day Adventists must be careful that they do not make the same mistake. Similarly, understanding the nature of the kingdom will prove to be just as consequential to us as it was to the Jews in their day.

SDA Christians must understand that there is an even greater need for the kingdom in the latter days, than was the need for the Israelite nation to establish their kingdom. To understand this we must first realize the

Purposes of the Kingdom

The great expectation of all Seventh-day Adventists is what is known as the Loud Cry. Adventists understand this Loud Cry to be the three angel's messages in the Revelation 12 which sound a warning to the world to turn back to all the commandments of God so all can be prepared for Christ's second coming.

"God will soon do great things for us, if we lie humble and believing at His feet. . . More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.-- Review and Herald, Nov. 10, 1885. {Ev 693.3}

"The Power of 1844 Repeated.--The power which stirred the people so mightily in the 1844 movement will again be revealed. The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice. --Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 252. (1885) {Ev 693.4}

"The Loud Cry.--During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere.--Review and Herald, Oct. 13, 1904. {Ev 694.1}

What we're missing is the logical side of the equation: where will all these souls be gathered to? If the Loud Cry is as great and powerful as is outlined in the scriptures and in the Spirit of Prophecy, the last harvest of souls will be far greater than any other spiritual harvest the world has ever seen. Will the seven last plagues (Rev. 14:9, 10; 18:8; Rev. 15 & 16) fall strategically around God's people while they are scattered throughout the earth? This would prove impossible, as during the seventh plague "every island fled away, and the mountains were not found". Rev. 16:20 At some point in time, God's people would have to leave those mountains and islands. Fortunately, we are not left to guess about God's provisions for catastrophe. The gathering that takes place in the last days is repeated throughout the scriptures to shed light on the kingdom's purpose:

A Place to be Gathered

Isaiah Chapt. 11:11 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

11:12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

The gathering is repeated in Isa. 2:

Isa. 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword again."

And again in Micah 2:2, 3:

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, [that] the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

The kingdom, therefore, serves as an ark, (Matt. 13:30, Luke 17:27) harboring God's people during the tumultuous events that will mark the end times. Those who have the seal of the living God in the SDA church have the privilege of entering the kingdom first. Also described is an ingathering of people who learn of the ways of the Lord. All those in Babylon, as well as heathens who accept the call to worship the true God in spirit and in truth, will join the people of

God in keeping his commandments. God says that He will accomplish this work of gathering Himself. This kingdom of peace where the people therein live in perfect harmony is shown to be during probationary time, for people are still "learning of the ways of the Lord". The land which was promised to the seed of Abraham, will once again come into the possession of God's people.

But the kingdom also serves another purpose for the saint, for when Jesus comes to take His people to heaven, we must be holy as He is holy. For can a man see GOD and live? (Exo. 33:20) The kingdom therefore serves as:

A Place to be Cleansed

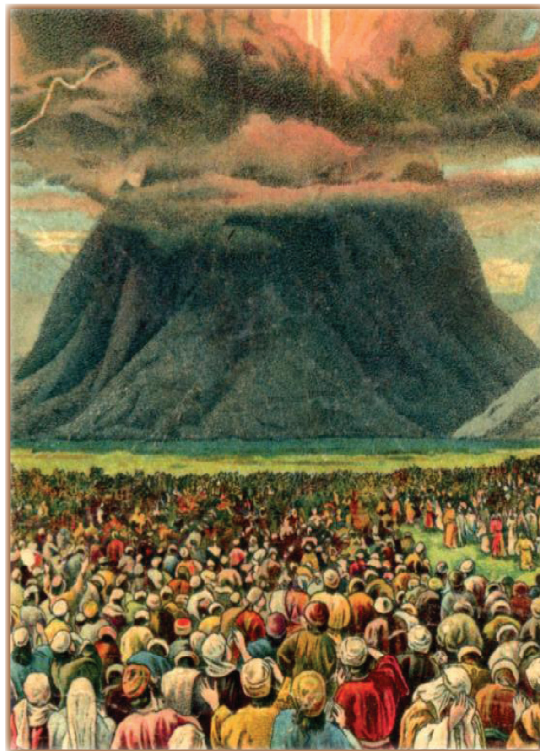
"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, [that] I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land." Zech 13:1, 2

And the Lord says, "I will sanctify My great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them, and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord,

saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit



"And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Micah 2:3

within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

“Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.” Ezek. 36:23-33, 36.

These scriptures have not met their fulfillment in the Jews of today, for they can only identify themselves as Judah, (Judah consisted of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin) as the remaining ten tribes (Israel) were dispersed among the Gentile nations long before the birth of Christ. (2 Kings 18:11, 2 Chr. 36:16-21) Theology scholars around the world are puzzled by this scripture, as they are left wondering how the 10 lost tribes will be found. The event the above scripture describes is unprecedented, for no Jew or gentile has ever been given the heart of flesh. This speaks of a removal of the man’s natural enmity against God (sinful nature) being removed and in its stead receiving a heart that loves to be obedient to God, --the heart of flesh. As the Scriptures point out, Israel and Judah will be at last reunited in the kingdom. This may be impossible for man to accomplish but God says that He will do it in the last days.

A Place to Learn

With that being said, there remains another purpose for the kingdom. It will be a place where people can learn the “ways” of the Lord, in preparation for Christ’s second coming. Surely Christ could take none with Him to heaven who are willingly or ignorantly living in sin. The kingdom serves as a place where all can come into one accord. The church of God (faithful SDA’s and faithful Protestants) long plagued by divisions, evils, and false doctrines will finally be brought into perfect unity. But this cannot be accomplished if everyone in the SDA church, whether good or evil, is ushered into the kingdom

before those in the fallen churches. What good would it be to bring the true people of God out of Babylon and into a corrupted church? It was for this reason Ellen White wrote; “The third angel’s message is to lighten the earth with its glory; but only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it when it shall have swelled into the loud cry.” {RH, November 19, 1908 par. 9}



Few great men will be used in the final work for the church, --the Loud Cry

“In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of

God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view...The time is not far distant, when the test will come to every soul. . . . In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy, will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat.” {Christian Service 49.2, 3}

Just as ancient Israel’s success in possessing the Promised land depended on every individual’s strict obedience to God, the success of the Loud Cry depends on the church’s obedience to His commands. On the threshold of Canaan, Joshua, while leading Israel into battle suffered defeat because one person

had disobeyed the express command of God. Of this event Ellen White says; "Because of this one man's sin, the presence of the Lord was withdrawn from the armies of Israel. The Lord would not serve with their sins. When the children of Israel went up against Ai, they were defeated. . ." {CTr 137.3} "In the case of Achan's sin God said to Joshua: "Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you." How does this instance compare with the course pursued by those who will not raise their voice against sin and wrong, but whose sympathies are ever found with those who trouble the camp of Israel with their sins? Said God to Joshua: "Thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."

To Israel God gave the task of searching out the sin and eradicating it. Achan, the guilty party, was stoned in the valley of Achor (trouble). However, in these last days God will not leave this momentous task for finite men to do. Instead He gives to His angels the task of:

Separating the Wheat from the Tares

Speaking of this time God says, "And I looked, and [there was] none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth... For the day of vengeance [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come." Isa. 63:5, 6, 4

We must understand that in these last days, the Lord will work in a different manner than we expect Him to. Organizations, churches, individuals, will be weighed by God. This treading of the winepress

is God reaping, or gathering His true people, while separating the unfaithful from them. The destruction of the wicked in the church is repeated in Ezekiel 9, Isa. 66:15-24, 63:1-6, and in the parables; Matt. 13:30, Luke 17:26-37, and Matt 24:37-51. This event must take place in order to establish an ark of safety, free from corruption, for God's people in Babylon to come to.

"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth [shall be] excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning."

Of this separation Ellen White wrote, "The Lord will work to purify His church. I tell you in truth, the Lord is about to turn and overturn in the institutions called by His name. Just how soon this refining process will begin I cannot say, but it will not be long deferred. He whose fan is in His hand will cleanse His

temple of its moral defilement. He will thoroughly purge His floor."--Lt 4, 1895.

"To His angels He gives the commission to execute His judgments. Let the ministers awake, let them take in the situation. The work of judgment begins at the sanctuary. "And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and



"Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." Joshua 7:13

stood beside the brazen altar.” Read Ezekiel 9:2-7.” Testimonies to Ministers p. 431.

“Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those “that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done” in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. {3T 267.1}

“But the general slaughter of all those who do not thus see the wide contrast between sin and righteousness, and do not feel as those do who stand in the counsel of God and receive the mark, is described in the order to the five men with slaughter weapons: “Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” {3T 267.2}

“The time of the harvest will fully determine the character of the two classes specified under the figure of the tares and the wheat. The work of separation is given to the angels of God, and not committed into the hands of any man.” {TM 47.2}

One might think that the slaughter of the wicked in the church is impossible, but in both groups (the SDA church and Babylon) judgment and destruction take place. In the SDA church the wicked are cut down or taken away before they can enter the kingdom. In Babylon the wicked remain while the righteous are taken and brought into the kingdom. Both the wicked in the SDA church and in Babylon receive a judgment. In Babylon, those who receive the mark of the beast fall under the plagues (Rev. 18:4) but the wicked in the SDA church fall under the “men with destroying weapons” (slaughtering angel) in Ezekiel nine.

Although the SDA church asserts that the judgment of the seven last plagues is for both the SDA and the Protestant, it is clear from White’s writings that she clearly expected the slaughter to apply to SDAs, even warning the children:

“Dear children, do not rest a moment if you do not, God loves to hear the prayers of the young. Call upon Him and make your peace with Him that you may stand in the day of slaughter. I do love you, children, and I want you to be saved in the kingdom and enjoy the beauty of the earth made new. Get ready, get ready, love not this world, love not the wicked, but God and those who have His image.” {4 Manuscript Releases 325.2}

And again the warning is repeated:

“(Eph. 1:13; 4:30) A Mark Which Angels Read.-- [Eph.1:13 quoted.] What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption.”(Letter 126, 1898). {4BC 1161.4}

“The angel with the writer’s ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel.”(Letter 12, 1886). {4BC 1161.5}

As it become clear that a separation must take place, a reorganization of God’s church takes effect.

The Reorganization of God’s Church

Jeremiah chapter 23: 3-7:

“And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

Vs 6: “In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.”

God's people have ever been plagued with false teaching and false brethren, but here God speaks of harmony that the church has never before experienced.

New Leadership of the SDA Church

"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Rev. 7:4

The 144,000 in Revelation 7 are from the 12 tribes of Israel, and they are to be sealed from the SDA church. (Counsels for the Church p. 33) This sealing is special and distinct from what Adventists know commonly as the Sabbath seal.

The 144,000 have some unique characteristics:

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads... And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

1. They have "no guile in their mouths". This denotes that they are speaking the truth and nothing but the truth.

2. They are not "defiled with women". They are not peppered with erroneous doctrines from the fallen churches.

3. They are the first to "stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion". They are the first to perfect a Christian character and the first to enter the kingdom.

4. They are the "first fruits". Where there is a first, there must also be a second fruits.

5. They are "priests" and "kings" to their Lord. They have the work of bringing in their brethren from the other churches into God's truth and kingdom. (Rev. 7, 9)

6. They are of Israelite descent. Although they may not have the racial features of a Jew, the 144,000, primarily coming from the dispersed tribes, have lost their racial identity. Many Christian Jews at the time of early Christian church lost their distinct racial identity as they mixed with the Gentiles. God, however, has always kept track of that bloodline. The Bible says in Rev. 7 they are from the 12 tribes of Israel. (See Psalms 87:4-6, Matt. 1:1-17)

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, [and] one shepherd." John 10:16

The "brethren" that will be brought in by the 144,000 are pictured right after the 12 tribes are listed and numbered in Rev. 7:1-8. "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands..." Rev. 7:9 This "great multitude" comes from the fallen churches (Babylon); they enter the kingdom so that they may escape the plagues and live by the laws of God. (Rev. 18:4)

Only 144,000 Saved?

The question has arisen if only 144,000 will be sealed and saved in the church. Although Ellen White said that only 1 in 20 will be saved in the SDA church, the 144,000 are not the only ones sealed within the church. They are the new leadership for the SDA church, as outlined in Jeremiah 23:4. They are a special class with a special experience. (See Early Writings) They have the task of leading the charge to "bring all your brethren [for] an offering unto the LORD out of all nations... to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD."

Cleansing of God's Church in Two Sections

As the Passover was celebrated twice, once in the first month, and once in the second, so both groups (the 144,000 and faithful Protestants) are sealed and set apart at different times. To recap, the judgment in the SDA church happens first; the faithful escaping the destroying angel. Next comes God's judgment in Babylon, the faithful therein escaping the plagues. God's people in the SDA church and Babylon finally come together as one in perfect harmony in the kingdom. Of this time, Ellen White writes, "When the four angels let go (Rev.7), Christ will set up His kingdom" {White, SpM 3.2} Elder White seconded these thoughts in a lecture given at the Biblical institute:

"The fact is therefore forever settled that the kingdom represented by the stone is not a spiritual kingdom, but it is literal like the four preceding it; and that it is yet future; for nothing to answer the setting up of this kingdom has taken place since 483 A.D."

"The image is all complete. We are still in the days of these kings and wait for the setting up of the kingdom of God, which is the next and only remaining event in the line of prophecy."--A Synopsis of lectures on the Principle Doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists, pp. 36-37, 38

Didn't Ellen White Say the "Stone" in Daniel 2 is Jesus' Second Coming?

This subject has been a point of controversy in the church in times past. In a letter to Craig Mueller in 1971, the Ellen White Estate wrote the following statement in regards to this very question:

"Dear Brother Mueller:

"In October you wrote to us asking if we could direct you to a statement from Mrs. White's pen indicating that Jesus Christ was the 'stone' of Daniel 2:45.

"This has been the holding of the denomination down through the years. Ellen White touches the matter of this vision of Nebuchadnezzar rather lightly. She does not go into great detail. So we are

unable to direct you to any statement from her pen on this point. This does not in any sense mean that the views that we have held are not correct.

"With the best of wishes, I am

Sincerely your Brother,
Arthur L. White"

It is interesting enough to note that, in the Jewish dispensation God's people were looking for the kingdom and rejected the Savior, but Adventists, who are due to inherit it, accept the Savior, but reject the kingdom!

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Small as a Mustard Seed

Although the kingdom of the latter days starts in a message that is as "small as a mustard seed", with a small group of faithful souls within the church (the stone = 144,000) in the SDA church, it shall soon swell into a mountain (the kingdom church). (See Dan. 2:35) The representation of God's people as a stone is found in the scriptures just as Christ is represented as the cornerstone of the church. (1 Pet.2:5-9) Speaking of this people the prophet Jeremiah said under inspiration; "The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts is his name. Thou art my battle ax and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms... Jer. 51:20,21 "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for [it is] nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, [even] to the years of many generations." Joel 2:1, 2

The Conclusion

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Daniel 2:44
Then there shall be heard “great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” Rev. 11:15

As the interpretation of the stone smiting the image was given by Daniel himself, we must ask ourselves whether we will believe just what the Bible says. According to Daniel, “the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.” Daniel 2:45

For the end cannot come until, in the words of Christ, the “gospel of the kingdom” shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations...”

Right now, God is calling subjects for His glorious kingdom. Will you answer the call?

Prophetic Key:

1st Mountain= Modern Israel SDA church
(Dan. 9:16, 20 Mar. 61.6)

Stone=God’s saints: the 144,000 and those sealed with them (Rev. 14:1-5, Rev. 7:1-8)

Great Image=Kingdoms of the world

Ten Toes: Present World

Stone Swelling: The gathering of the saints into the kingdom

2nd Mountain: Kingdom church, SDA + Protestants + Former heathens combined

