

REMNANT PROPHECY SEMINAR



Bible Prophecy for the End Times: Will Our Names Remain?

Towering Thoughts

A 7emca7 Study

“And the common people heard him gladly.” Mark 12:37

If there is one thing that all religious people have in common (All humans are ‘religious’ in some way, even if it is only in showing how anti-religious they are!) it is the delight they take in making clear truths into complex creeds and then carrying their own man made rules to such extremes that they end up making God’s amazing truths, beautiful in their elegance and simplicity, into convoluted mazes that many folk despair of ever comprehending.

This leads to the Second habit that all religious people tend to have, and that is turning around and making heroes and ‘authority figures’ out of those folk who claim to understand these convoluted muddles and uphold and enforce them! Looking to these heroes in great admiration, they rely on them to tell their followers what to believe. In this way they fail to be always double checking to see if what these folk teach is according to inspiration and remains that way. We have seen through the ages in the history of the church that many ‘reformers’ and teachers arise that are on target and may even be led and taught of God at first, then later may gradually swing wide of the mark, or fail to continue to advance, ending up false guides followed blindly by the people.

Then we have the Third habit of ‘religious’ people, the tendency to think they know everything there is to know about a subject and so dismiss any one whose ideas may differ a little, while they chisel their theories into stone walls, preventing forward progress in truth. We see this in groups that took their founders, like Calvin, Luther, or Menno as final authority and refused to advance beyond their positions.

What makes us think that here in the End of Time, when we know that Satan has pulled out all stops in his efforts to deceive and destroy, and every wind of doctrine is howling through the church and the world even, that somehow this is not going to happen among the people of Present Truth Prophecy? After all, we *are* the greatest threat to Satan’s plans and he must keep us muddled and inefficient in some way!

Come with me back in time to the days of Jesus; now we know that this was one of the most amazing eras of Present Truth Prophecy ever to hit the earth; time prophecies converged here; miracles took place; signs in the heavens and on earth declared their messages; but most failed to discern the times—why? Many reasons really; the Greek philosophy that had become mixed into their own scriptures was one; and another was that the religionists, grabbing the Greek concepts as superior, had used them to produce theories that had made the simple and clear messianic prophecies into twisted, spiritualized arguments that people could not easily understand; then those who did have the ‘scholastic learning’ were looked up to by the people and followed as the ones that knew, and were to be obeyed and not questioned.

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What was the first recorded act of Jesus in relation to these leaders? It was when he showed up as a lad at the rabbinical school and *questioned* their false interpretations, seeking to turn their eyes to the simple and literal meaning of the Messianic prophecies.

Time prophecies of Daniel were fulfilling then that showed the Messiah had to come in that era; but were the leaders looking for Him? No, they were not. The town He would be born in was foretold; did leadership keep a watch on events in Bethlehem that might signal the arrival of the Promised One? No they did not! The prophecy said He would be *born* of a virgin; but later the leaders showed their ignorance of this, as they claimed falsely: *"Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is."* John 7:27.

At one point they also showed their ignorance saying: *"... Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."* John 7:52. And yet the scriptures plainly foretold: *"...by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."* Isaiah 9:1. They did not know their own scriptures; yet they enforced their ideas on the people, most of whom 'loved to have it so'!

Why am I citing these things here? It is because we are always in danger when we look blindly to someone as the 'one who knows' and follow what he says, without carefully checking it out for ourselves in inspired writ to see if these things for sure are so. Many prophecy people are doing this right now and have been for years. Presenters may put forth things that when you actually study their claims out—you find it is not so, or that it is not completely so.

It is always risky for any of us to go further on a subject than the Lord has seen fit to give us inspired information about. There are some areas in Holy Writ where we do *not* have a lot of inspired guidance and in these areas we should walk softly. If we do put forth our ideas on them, it is wise not to dig in and solidify, declaring we are right and all other views are dead wrong. We need to look at the views and see if inspired counsel does confirm them, or if some part is denied—because if even part of it clearly does not fit with the inspired account; we dare not continue to say it is correct anyway.

There is an aspect that sadly, we have to be aware of when dealing with the Spirit of Prophecy as we have it today. The fact is, we do not have all the writings; actually about only 1/3 of them, and some are not presented to us precisely as they were written. Also, certain books have been produced in the last 20 years or so, that have taken upon themselves to make the *Spirit of Prophecy* writings 'Gender Neutral'. If you see this in the title bar of a book found on the CD-ROM, it is best not to use quotes from that book; instead extend your search to get the oldest and most complete quotes on the subject. Materials presented in compilations and 'morning devotionals' can also be very misleading; often a sentence or two is taken from several places and glued together, making it unreliable as to accuracy on what was actually being spoken of. Imagine doing this to any other instruction book or manual; how reliable would that be? Again, the best practice is to find the most complete and oldest quote available on the subject and read the context as well; this way you *can* find solid ground for your feet.

My main song and theme is to urge all people to make use of all the Spirit of Prophecy they have access to; read it extensively and get the feeling of the big pictures being put forward there, then see how it dovetails with the Bible. You can acquire such a clear vision of the grand sweep of God's truth that you will recognize when something presented just does not fit! Arguments and positions abound today, that when you explore thoughtfully through the Spirit of Prophecy you find nothing solid whatever to support them!

Literal/Spiritual

“The Bible, just as it reads, is to be our guide. Nothing is so calculated to enlarge the mind and strengthen the intellect as the study of the Bible. No other study will so elevate the soul and give vigor to the faculties as the study of the living oracles.” RH, September 28, 1897

I set myself recently to take a quick look to learn where the ‘literal vs spiritual’ concept among us mainly seems to come from. I think many of us assume it is Spirit of Prophecy or at least from William Miller; but it is not actually found there per se; it is however found in the writings of Louis Were, and we know that, like U Smith, he sometimes bent his own rules somewhat and came to certain erroneous conclusions. For example, he did not see the true meaning of the “Daily”.

From my study, so far by looking only at Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and even Miller’s rules for that matter, the literal/spiritual thing does *not* apply to *all prophecies* after the cross, but rather only to those where one applies the promises and so on of literal Israel, to the Advent People, and literal Jerusalem, to the church.

This is it; and I have not seen inspired guidance to show it otherwise. The literal/spiritual thing refers to God’s people as designated ‘Israel’ and references to Jerusalem; not *every prophecy since the cross*. Looking closely, many prophecies have both literal and spiritual meanings that dovetail together; Spirit of Prophecy uses them that way also. Many prophecies have triple applications as well.

Looking over the prophetic rules, one finds it is only Louis Were that made any kind of extensive issue about this spiritual-literal thing. Other sources seem to apply it only to Israel and Jerusalem; not to every prophecy. Notice where Spirit of Prophecy says “History will be repeated”, is this just spiritually so or literally? We have taught it is literal, as Rome rises back to power repeating the taking over of the three geographical areas. The Spirit of Prophecy says that what happened on August 11, 1840, was a fulfilment of prophecy; that was a literal restraining of a literal nation; the Ottoman power. Take the parables also, they had spiritual meanings, yes, but they were all connected with literal things that happened as well.

Israel before the cross was a literal nation; after the cross, Israel refers to Christians or more specifically, God’s denominated people. Jerusalem before the cross was a literal city in Palestine—but after, it is referring to God’s people and sometimes the New Jerusalem in Heaven. I have always thought this was so, (which does not make it so) but when I began hearing folk ‘spiritualizing’ away even the Dark Day and Stars falling, so removing the very landmarks of the Great Advent Movement, I was shocked. If you take this to its full end, it blows away Adventism and the prophetic understandings that have through the ages since 1844, led thousands to embrace the Adventist Message as validated by Bible Prophecy! It is scary, because I read a report recently that the main aim of the Jesuits in dealing with Adventism is to undermine and disparage any idea that Adventism is founded on Bible prophecy!

Does the Spirit of Prophecy say the Dark Day was only spiritual? No, it says it was a literal fulfilment! Was it before the cross or after? After—for sure!

“May 19, 1780, stands in history as “The Dark Day.” Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, is but an echo of the words of the Lord, recorded by the prophet Joel, twenty-five hundred years previous to their fulfillment: “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.” Joel 2:31. GC 308.

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This idea also that the 'Day of the Lord' is *only* the Sunday Law is not accurate according to the Spirit of Prophecy either:

"When the earth is reeling to and fro like a drunkard, when the heavens are shaking **and the great day of the Lord has come, who shall be able to stand?** One object they behold in trembling agony from which they will try in vain to escape. "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him" (Revelation 1:7). The unsaved utter wild imprecations to dumb nature--their god: "Mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne" (Revelation 6:16)."--TMK 356 (1896).

This is the actual Coming of the Lord; so what the Day of the Lord is as shown in inspiration is a gradually accelerating series of events. As you read all the Bible references to the 'Day the Lord' and 'Day of His wrath' and so on, you see that it includes the accelerating judgements of God in the land prior to the Sunday Law; as well as the Sunday Law, but also even more so the 7 Last Plagues; and even more so the Second Coming; and also the executive judgment and final destruction of the wicked. It is a series of accelerating events that end up with sin being eradicated from God's universe!

"Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zephaniah 1:18

We could actually even say the "Day of the Lord" began on Oct 22, 1844; He could have come shortly thereafter; right? Notice this reference applying to 1844:

"Another who participated in the movement testified: "It produced everywhere the most deep searching of heart and humiliation of soul before the God of high heaven. It caused a weaning of affections from the things of this world, a healing of controversies and animosities, a confession of wrongs, a breaking down before God, and penitent, brokenhearted supplications to Him for pardon and acceptance. It caused self-abasement and prostration of soul, such as we never before witnessed. As God by Joel commanded, **when the great day of God should be at hand, it produced a rending of hearts and not of garments**, and a turning unto the Lord with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. As God said by Zechariah, a spirit of grace and supplication was poured out upon His children; they looked to Him whom they had pierced, there was a great mourning in the land, . . . and those who were looking for the Lord afflicted their souls before Him."--Bliss, in Advent Shield and Review, vol. I, p. 271 (January, 1845).

"Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, none have been more free from human imperfection and the wiles of Satan than was that of the autumn of 1844. Even now, after the lapse of many years, all who shared in that movement and who have stood firm upon the platform of truth still feel the holy influence of that blessed work and bear witness that it was of God." GC 401.

There are some interesting parallels in connection to The Tower of Babel and modern Towers. I have for the last few years noticed how certain events in Millerite history are having parallels in the history of the Present Truth message today; we see how at first the messages were welcomed in the SDA churches; then the doors of Adventism became shut to us, and we started having camp-meetings; then the SDA churches became steadily more hostile against us, ridiculing and mocking and finally making large disfellowshippings of Present Truth believers; it is an amazing repeat of history!

There are topics that for some reason inspiration says very little about, one example is the supposed doings and events of Nimrod. If you take your KJV Bible and do a word search on the name "Nimrod"

and see how much the Bible says about this historical figure, you will find only 4 verses. But if you take your Spirit of Prophecy CD ROM and make a word search in the writings of Sister White on the name Nimrod; you may be surprised that there is nothing there about this person. Perhaps if inspiration doesn't say much on a subject, then we better tread softly there and not put too much emphasis on it either? We have enough with what God has provided.

Falling Towers and Church and State

With the Tower of Babel when the language was confounded we see a chiasm, a mirror image, when compared to the Twin Towers, because *from* the tower of Babel people went out *into* all the world; while *to* the Twin Towers people came together *from* all the world!

Also, Notice what Sister White says about their reasoning at the Tower of Babel; does it not line up with the reasoning behind the World Trade Center? Only it was to gather the world together from where it was scattered; and after all, we all know that modern man's god is really money; those towers were just as much part of Idolatry as the Babel Tower ever was!

"Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies. God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious. The magnificent tower, reaching to the heavens, was intended to stand as a monument of the power and wisdom of its builders, perpetuating their fame to the latest generations." PP 118.

The Apostles and Prophecy

While pondering these things, it came to me that when you really take a look at how the apostles applied the Old Testament scripture prophecies the source they quoted, could easily be said not to apply to that at all; there are many like that; notice this one:

Quoted in NT: Matthew 4:14 "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."

OT Source: Isaiah 9:1 "Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Some prophecies they used, I would not even have recognised them as they did; but WHO guided them? The Holy Spirit! You will also see places in Sister White's writings where she uses a prophecy in a somewhat unusual way; you will also see where she will clearly give a literal and later a spiritual application to the same prophecy; if we believe she was inspired, WHO guided her in this?

WHO is it that is supposed to guide our reading of the Scriptures and Prophetic study? The Holy Spirit!

CAN the Holy Spirit work in a heart that is lifted up with personal pride? If we have sin in our lives can we have the full guidance of the Holy Spirit in our studies? DO you THINK perhaps, that this is one reason why some are seeing things that others cannot? We prophecy folk have been experiencing this all along with how the official Adventist organization has been reacting to things of this message that seem so clear to us. Perhaps this blindness could even hit some of us as well. We must guard our heavenly power source!

Childlike and Wonderful Faith

Saving Faith is childlike in its trust and simplicity; Jesus made that clear. This quote is actually addressing Christian Physicians, but certainly relates to all of us.

“His faith will be full of simplicity, of childlike confidence in the Lord. He will be able to repeat to the repenting soul the gracious promises of God, and thus place the trembling hand of the afflicted ones in the hand of Christ, that they may find repose in God.” PH066 36.

Friends, we as humans delight in complicated things; we love to be able to line up a thousand figures neatly in a row and gaze upon them, this may be alright in its place, but the great danger to us is losing that childlike simplicity that always characterizes the true follower of Christ. We become proud of these complicated arguments and look down on others who are not as enlightened as we are, like the Gnostics of old. We can do this without even being aware we are doing it!

“We must die to self and cherish humble, childlike faith. God's people have departed from their simplicity. They have not made God their strength, and they are weak and faint, spiritually.” 5T 75.

“The Lord has sent a message to arouse his people to repent, and do their first works; but how has his message been received? While some have heeded it, others have cast contempt and reproach on the message and the messenger. Spirituality deadened, humility and childlike simplicity gone, a mechanical, formal profession of faith has taken the place of love and devotion. Is this mournful condition of things to continue? is the lamp of God's love to go out in darkness? The Saviour calls; listen to his voice: "Be zealous and repent." Repent, confess your sins, and you will be forgiven. "Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?" Why will you try to rekindle a mere fitful fire, and walk in the sparks of your own kindling?" 1888 765.

What man should immediately accept as a simple fact is that his place in relation to God, his Creator, is that of the child. The virtue of the child is childlike trust; childlike dependence; childlike faith, and acceptance of what the Father tells him. God has always left open the possibility of doubt. This is part and parcel of all freedom of choice. Man is at liberty to choose the road of caviling. Doubting is supposed to be a mark of independence; so man loves it, and considers it a sign of higher learning.

“Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.” DA 121.

The Finger of God

It is most fascinating to see the parallels between our situation today and the time of the Tower of Babel and the later episode of the towered and fenced fortress of Jericho. In the taking of Jericho, God laid down minute directions to be followed by the children of Israel. Oh how easy it would have been for Joshua and the people as well to have said; “Oh, this is really silly; I am sure it is not at all important for

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us to follow these directions just as God gave them. There must be other meanings to what He told us; surely He doesn't expect us to wage war using such a silly and childish battle plan as just marching around a city for seven days and then to march for seven times on the seventh day and shout? It has to be some kind of a joke!"

But they did take God seriously and took his directions literally at face value and they obeyed it; including the stipulation that they were not to take anything from that city, and it all was to be destroyed, but the gold, silver and metal vessels were for the Lord's work and to be placed in the sanctuary treasury. But there was one man there that evidently did not take the Word of God seriously; to him it seemed a terrible waste to destroy, burn, and bury all these assets, and turn all the valuables over to the sanctuary. I must admit that for many of us with our calculating and practical natures today, it would have seemed a great loss not to make use of all these valuable goods. Jericho was a rich city. We have a hard time indeed today to turn our backs on the advantages and pleasure the world has to offer and just go and obey God by simplifying our lives and moving into more secluded areas.

So Achan decided to do his part in salvaging some of these assets. When you consider it, this showed that he did not fully take God as meaning literally what He had said, or Achan would never have dared to blatantly disobey like he did! He likely would have gathered more, but it was going to be hard to manage to sneak the things past his fellow Israelites and smuggle them home to hide them in his tent. I am sure he would have liked to have gathered more, if he had the chance.

Was it possible, you may inquire, that Achan somehow did not hear the instructions and commands of the Lord? Well, we can be sure that he did hear them and know them; why? Because if he had not known these things, he would not have sneaked the items, he would have carried them openly and he would have been seen by his fellow Israelites, informed of his error, and he would straightway have put them back. If he had not known he was doing wrong, there would have been no need to bury the items in his tent.

Achan did not seem to be very worried once he got his stuff hidden safely away. Again you see a lack of real faith in God's power and Word, which seems very strange when you consider what a tremendous display of God's power had just been enacted at Jericho, when that impregnable fortress crumbled to dust at the touch of God's finger. But then today, how many take seriously what God told us about the Great Buildings of New York City; even after most of the adults among us saw those massive and mighty structures crumble to dust at the touch of God's finger at 9-11? No we lose the truly awesomeness of it amidst our various theories and calculations; failing to see the connection to God's warning that He is now searching Israel ". . . counting one by one, to find out the account:" (Ecclesiastes 7:27)

Tribe by tribe; Family by Family

Achan had to know that there was something happening in Israel that was serious; did he not consider that it had to do with him and his blatant disobedience? Apparently not; or I am sure he would have been inclined to leave camp and run somewhere, taking his booty with him. How could he stand by saying nothing as God sifted through tribe by tribe; family by family heading right towards him! He had plenty of time to have repented and confessed and thus saved his life; but in some way he did not really believe he was going to get caught it seems; his sense of God's omnipotence was very blurred somehow. Maybe he had other theories in his mind that negated what his very eyes were telling him?

Have we not as a people remained arguing and theorizing and seeming oblivious of what happened back at 9-11 and what has followed in some of the greatest natural disasters in history of this planet, one after another that have been hitting this earth ever since? We go about our business; we seek our sports

and worldly entertainment; we watch our movies and take our trips to Disneyland and the local theme parks for fun and frolic; and all the time we don't know that God is sifting Israel; tribe by tribe; family by family, heading right towards us—don't we see it? Can we say that we are right where we ought to be spiritually, in relation to these things?

When 9-11 hit and I was standing transfixed staring at the TV, seeing those massive structures crumble to dust, it was like the Lord shouted to my mind: "This is the Beginning of the End!" Later that is what I named my web page on 9-11. The 'Day of the Lord' was heading at us in 1989; but it was announced loudly on 9-11, which Sister White has indicated shows that the moral fall of Babylon had reached its fulfilment. There have been terrible disasters since then; Katrina; that terrible Tsunami in 2004, and then the earthquake and Tsunami that hit Japan and made that nuclear disaster, that is still on going as a threat; this was even worse. It keeps on and on and when the Sunday Law hits, then God pulls out the stops and the BIG things in disasters start and they only get worse and worse, until probation closes and the Seven Last plagues come. The Day of the Lord is an accelerating process; and it is synonymous with final judgement.

You can't Hide

This is a literal judgement that is taking place; we are all involved; God has tried to signal us that He is closing up shop on this world; He is going through His people to see who He has who actually take Him at His Word and are obeying Him and looking to Him in childlike trust. We need to flee spiritually, literally and mentally and emotionally; flee the frivolities and fantasies of this world; flee the entanglement of ourselves in worldly business; flee the congested areas and plead to be helped to get out away from areas we have been told are going to soon be death traps!

Amazing too how the proud and wicked always are attracted to that tower of Babel and want to rebuild it in some way or another; or else build one of their own! By the way, have you ever thought how many big cities now also have some kind of great towers in them to show off their PRIDE? I live near one; and it has its tower and it is now building MASSIVE skyscrapers so fast that it is just like what New York was doing in the 70s; one after the other! I want to get far away from it. I always get the creeps when I have to drive through those tower areas! The other day I was looking at a list of the world's high towers; there are so many of them now all over the world! Those cities with towers are going to get hit sooner or later! Let me ask; do we have any towers in our lives? Is our pride, jealousy or covetousness blinding our eyes to what God is trying to say to us? Let's remember the folly of Achan and listen and heed while we still can!

"In view of that great day the Word of God, in the most solemn and impressive language, calls upon his people to arouse from their spiritual lethargy, and to seek his face with repentance and humiliation: "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." "Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children. . . . Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar." "Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness." [Joel 2:1, 15-18, 12, 13.] GC88 310.