



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 7 THE FOUR BEASTS & LITTLE HORN, PART 5

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will show how Daniel 7:13-14 is connected with Matthew 25 - the message of the wise and foolish virgins.

“To the student of prophecy, the seventh chapter of Daniel is a most important record. By a continuous chain of events, the prophet gives the history from the days of Babylon to the great investigative judgment, which is the central theme of the chapter.” {1901 SNH, SDP 88.2}

2. In the previous lesson, we identified that when the Son of Man comes before the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:13, He comes to begin the work of investigative judgment. This officially began on October 22, 1844 in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. The group that preached the message of Daniel 8:14, that the sanctuary would be cleansed, was the Adventist Millerites. What did they believe the sanctuary represented, and what event did they originally believe was to take place on October 22, 1844? See quotation.

“The scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration: “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14. These had been familiar words to all believers in the Lord's soon coming. By the lips of thousands was this prophecy repeated as the watchword of their faith. All felt that upon the events therein foretold depended their brightest expectations and most cherished hopes. **These prophetic days had been shown to terminate in the autumn of 1844. In common with the rest of the Christian world, Adventists then held that the earth, or some portion of it, was the sanctuary. They understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the purification of the earth by the fires of the last great day, and that this would take place at the second advent. Hence the conclusion that Christ would return to the earth in 1844.**” {GC 409.1}

3. Instead of coming to the earth on that date, where did Jesus go? Daniel 7:13; Malachi 3:1; Hebrews 9:8, 24-25

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4. What is Jesus' work in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary? Malachi 3:2, 3; Leviticus 16:16; Isaiah 43:25

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5. Read Malachi 3:4. After Jesus finishes His work of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary from sin, how will the church stand before Him? Ephesians 5:27

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6. In Malachi 3, notice that there are two distinct and separate “comings” of Jesus. In Malachi 3:1, He comes to His temple in heaven. Read Malachi 3:5. After Jesus finishes His work in the Most Holy Place, where does He come to next? Revelation 22:11, 12; Jude 14-15; Matthew 25:31-33

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7. **Note:** Understand that Daniel 8:14, the coming of Jesus to the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:13, the coming of Jesus to His temple in Malachi 3, and the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 are all describing the same event. Read the following quotation and then, let us briefly study Matthew 25.

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” {GC 426.1}

8. Leading up to October 22, 1844, what message did the Millerite Adventists preach? Matthew 25:6
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“In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,” was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed—one class who looked with joy to the Lord’s appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. In the parable, when the bridegroom came, “they that were ready went in with him to the marriage.” {GC 426.2}

9. Did Jesus return to the earth on October 22, 1844?

10. Like the early Adventist believers, the disciples of Jesus also experienced a great disappointment. What was their disappointment? Luke 24:19-21; John 6:15

11. As the early Adventist believers continued studying after the passing of October 22, 1844, what did they understand took place on that date? Daniel 7:13; 8:14

“Thus those who followed in the light of the prophetic word saw that, instead of coming to the earth at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844, Christ then entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to perform the closing work of atonement preparatory to His coming.” {GC 422.1}

12. What work did Jesus go before the Father to do? Daniel 7:10, 13, 14

13. Which event takes place first: the investigative judgment or Jesus receiving His kingdom? Daniel 7:13-14, 9-10; Matthew 22:2, 11-13

14. Notice that the setting of Matthew 25 is a wedding, and Jesus is the bridegroom. What is Jesus being married to once the investigative judgment ends? Revelation 21:2, 9, 10

15. Read Matthew 25:10. If the marriage takes place in heaven, how are we to be guests at this wedding? 1 Peter 2:21; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Corinthians 4:18

“The proclamation, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,” in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom. “They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” **They were not to be present in person at the marriage; for it takes place in heaven, while they are upon the earth. The followers of Christ are to “wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding.” Luke 12:36. But they are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage.**” {GC 427.1}

16. Once Jesus receives the kingdom, what will He do next? John 14:1-3

17. **Note:** The experience of the 10 virgins applies to the time of the early Advent believers as well as to our time.

18. Read Matthew 25:1-3. How many groups of virgins are seen?

19. When was the distinction between the two groups made clear? Matthew 25:6-8

20. Read Matthew 25:10-12. After the passing of October 22, 1844, what two groups were seen among the professed Advent believers?

"The passing of the time in 1844 was followed by a period of great trial to those who still held the advent faith. Their only relief, so far as ascertaining their true position was concerned, was the light which directed their minds to the sanctuary above. **Some renounced their faith in their former reckoning of the prophetic periods and ascribed to human or satanic agencies the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit which had attended the advent movement. Another class firmly held that the Lord had led them in their past experience; and as they waited and watched and prayed to know the will of God they saw that their great High Priest had entered upon another work of ministration, and, following Him by faith, they were led to see also the closing work of the church.** They had a clearer understanding of the first and second angels' messages, and were prepared to receive and give to the world the solemn warning of the third angel of Revelation 14." {GC 431.3}

21. **Note:** Only those who understand Jesus' work and follow Him by faith into the most holy place are in the marriage, and they are represented as the five wise virgins. This is still true today.
22. In our time, there are also two groups that profess to believe in Jesus. When will the distinction between these two groups be clearly seen? Revelation 14:9-12; Matthew 25:31-33

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23. Some of us may not live to see the Mark of the Beast crisis. What else will show us if we are a wise or foolish virgin? 1 Corinthians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:7; James 1:3

"It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.**" {COL 412.1}

24. The foolish virgins were not unbelievers. They had a knowledge of the truth but were shut out of God's kingdom. Can merely knowing or professing the truth save us? James 2:19

"Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan." {COL 408.3}

25. Like the five wise virgins, what does Jesus desire us to experience so that we may be saved? Matthew 5:48; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4; John 17:17

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26. Sanctification is synonymous to perfection. Therefore, what do we have to go through in order to be perfected? 1 Peter 5:10; Philippians 3:12-15

"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience." {AA 560.3}

27. What does Jesus give us to show us perfection, and when obeyed, what will it do for us? Psalm 19:7, 8

"...When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." {COL 69.1}

"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some

point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble." {GC 623.1}

28. What is the final reward for all those who are victorious over sin?

a) John 17:24; Proverbs 2:21

b) Psalm 37:37
