# Images of the End

Lesson 13, 2nd Quarter June 21-27, 2025.

**Sabbath Afternoon June 21**

**Memory Text:**

"And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land." KJV—Jonah 1:9

"The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the stream of time and what we may expect in the near future. Not one of the prophecies has been treated as coming to pass which the present time has been fulfilled in the past or history, and we may be assured that not one is to come will be fulfilled in order. PK 536.3

"Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything that is in keeping with the prophetic word for our eyes is fulfilling Scripture's prophecy of the events to precede this coming. "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars ... Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6, 7. PK 534.2

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element. Daily the prophecies are being fulfilled, and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. TM 33.1

"The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the record of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear." TM 537.2

**Sunday, June 22**

## The Reluctant Prophet

Read Matthew 12:38-42. Which parts of the story of Jonah Jesus refer to as the addresses, who listen to Jonah's Phenomenon? What lessons about the judgment are found in His statement?

Accordingly, Jesus was arrested early Thursday morning; tried before Annas while it was yet dark (John 18:19); brought before Caiaphas in the evening of the Sanhedrin (this night Israel's Passover lamb, Mark 14:57, 27:1); next before Pilate, Friday, before daybreak; about the sixth hour (Luke 23:44) crucified; and before the ninth hour (Luke 23:44) dead. Friday night, Joseph of Arimathea crouched in the morning of the same day, about the third hour (Mark 15:25) - 9:00 A.M., modern time.

This time record shows that His captive, His trials, and His crucifixion were carefully and completely carried out within a period of one night and early morning in contrast any scenario. "For they hatred the people." Luke 20:19.

That He remained in the tomb two nights and rose on Sunday; that the three days and three nights is the time from His last legal trial to the time of His resurrection; that the heart of the earth means the grave; that Jonah's prophecy of the great fish, which, having swallowed him, experience show, symbolized of Christ's imprisonment in the hands of sinners and in the tomb (Matthew 12:40, 16:21, 17:23, 20:19, 26:2, 27:63, Luke 9:22, 18:33, 24:7); that the time between Christ's death and His resurrection was the shortest the third day, (Luke 24:46); that the sign of the "three days and three nights" literally is fulfilled from Thursday morning, the time of His legal trial, to Sunday morning, the time of His resurrection; unbelievers who "seek a sign" are left unheed when Jesus was on the cross, was not that which was killed on the first day of the Passover week, the Sunbeam that is Christ, but that which was killed on the Passover week, the Son of the Sun of the Beats; – all these conclusions are firmly founded on the solid facts established herein in simplicity; not, dear reader, on the fancies of the unbelieving unknown to you, or called "great and unexplainable", which you yourself cannot read, and which are not accessible to you, and some of which do not even exist!

"Christ during His earthly ministry referred to the good wrought by the preaching of Jonah in Nineveh, and compared the inhabitants of that heathen center with the professed people of God in His day. "The men of Nineveh," He declared, "shall rise in judgment with this generation, and condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold a greater than Jonah is here." Matthew 12:41, cf. Into the body word, filled with the die of commerce and the alteration of trade, where men were trying to get all they could for self. Christ had come, and above the confusion His voice, like the trump of God, was heard: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36, 37. PK 273.1

"As the preaching of Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so Christ's preaching was a sign to this generation. But many in the midst of the world of the world in the face of indifference and scorn the Saviour labored on and on, until He had accomplished His mission." PK 274.1

**Monday, June 23**

## A work of Repentance

Read Jonah 3:5-10. Why was this prophecy not fulfilled?

"Confused, humiliated, and unable to understand God's purpose in sparing Ninevah, Jonah mortified himself by his own commission given him. Jonah had spoken the words which the Ancient predicted did not come to pass, yet the message of warning was nonetheless from God. And in the preaching of repentance God designed it should. The glory of this prince was revealed among the heathen. Those who had long been sitting "in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron" (Psalm 107:10), had seen a light. Those who had long been bowing to their dreamers, who had been set aside by their priests, who had been crushed under their bands in sunder." "He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." Psalm 107:10, 13, 14, 20. PK 272.3

"Our God is a God of mercy. With long-suffering and tender compassion He deals with the ignorance of the world. He knows that many who have seen and heard and have had every opportunities for becoming familiar with the divine law as revealed in Holy Writ, the great Ruler of the universe is merciful and full of compassion and long-suffering, yet slow to anger and of great mercy and truth. The end of God's forbearance with those who persist in disobedience is approaching swiftly. PK 275.3

"Ought men to be surprised over a sudden and unexpected change in the dealings of the Supreme Ruler with the inhabitants of a fallen world? Ought they to be surprised when punishment follows transgression and increasing crime? Ought they to be surprised that God should bring destruction and death upon those whom if given grants have been obtained through deception and fraud? Notwithstanding the fact that increasing light regarding God's requirements has been shining on our pathway, many have refused to recognize Jehovah's ruleship, and have chosen to remain under the black banner of the originator of all rebellion against the government of heaven. PK 276.1

"The forbearance of God has been very great—so great that when we consider the continuous insult to His holy commandments, we marvel. The Omnipotent One has been exerting a marvelous power in His own attributes. But he will certainly arise to punish the wicked, who so boldly defy the just claims of the Decalogue." PK 276.2

**Tuesday, June 24**

## Belshazzar's Feast

Read Daniel 5:1-31. What important spiritual messages can we take from this account? What ultimately tripped up Belshazzar?

"Through the folly and weakness of Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, proud Babylon was soon to fall. Nothing could have saved the city from the Medes and Persians, Babylon, gloried in his power and lifted up his heart against the God of heaven. Many had been his opportunities to learn wisdom from the experience of his grandfather, but he had not improved them. He was ignorant of his grandfather's banishment, by the decree of God, from the society of men, and he was familiar with Nebuchadnezzar's conversion and miraculous restoration. But Belshazzar allowed the same influences and gift bestowed to efface the lessons that he should never have forgotten. He wasted the opportunities graciously granted him, and neglected to use the means within his reach for learning. Very early acquainted with sin, that which Nebuchadnezzar had finally gained at the cost of untold suffering and humiliation, Belshazzar passed by with indifference. PK 529.1

"It was not long before reverses came. Babylon was besieged by Cyrus, nephew of Darius the Mede, and overwhelmed in the confusion and terror of the combined armies of the Persians. But within the seemingly impregnable fortress, with its massive walls and its gates of brass, protected by the river Euphrates, and well provisioned against the siege, the inhabitants considered themself safe and passed by time in mirth and revelry. PK 529.1

"In his pride and security, Belshazzar, the holding of security Belshazzar "made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand." All the attractions that wealth and power could command were lavished upon the scene. Beautiful women with their entertainment were among the guests in attendance at the royal banquet. Men of genius and education were there. Princes and statesmen were there who had come from distant provinces of the empire. PK 529.2

"With reason delivered through shameless incitement, and with lower impulses and passions now in the ascendancy, the king himself took the lead in the riotous orgy. As the feast progressed, he remembered that "his city is taken by the enemy against which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein." The king was proud of the goods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. PK 529.3

"Little did Belshazzar think that there was a heavenly Witness to his idolatrous revelry; that a divine Watcher, unrecognized, looked upon the scene of profanation, heard the sacrilegious words, and was recording the transgression against heaven's government. The Ruler of the universe was at his height a desolate hand came forth and traced upon the wall of the palace of the princes that glaseed like fire—words which, though unknown to the vast throng, were a portent of doom to the now conscious stricken king and his guests. PK 529.1

"Hushed was the boisterous mirth, while men and women, seized with nameless terror, watched the hand slowly tracing the mysterious characters. Before them passed, as in panoramic view, the history of the king's predecessor, his own elevation to the throne, his pride, his idolatry, his impiety, his power to do what he pleased. Where but a few moments before had been hilarity and blasphemous witticism, were pallid faces and cries of fear. When God makes man fear, they cannot hide the intensity of their terror." PK 529.2

**Wednesday, June 25**

## The Drying of The Euphrates

Read Daniel 5:6-31 and Revelation 16:12-19. What parallels do you find between some of the plagues of Revelation and the story of Babylon's fall?

"While still in the festal hall, surrounded by those whose doom has been sealed, the king is informed by a messenger that "his city is taken by the enemy against which—historians he had felt no secure; "that the passages are stopped, ... and the men of war are affrighted." Verses 31, 32. Even while he and his lords are in the midst of their revelry, the king has given orders for prizing the gold of silver and of gold, the Medes and the Persians, having turned the Euphrates out of its channel, and the city, with its gates of brass, is taken. "The king of the north shall come, and cast up a mound, and take the city of the fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither (verse 14) and their triumphant shouts could be heard above the despairing cries of the astonished revelers." PK 530.1

"The capital city of ancient Babylon was built on either side of the Euphrates, thus dividing the city into two parts. The river was spanned by a bridge, and the king was giving a birthright entertainment to his lords. The ancient Babylonians were so sure that the city could never be taken by the Euphrates, because the people had dug a great lake, and had cut a channel from the river, "a little beyond Eupharates" emerges as a type of "the waters...where the whore sitteth" (Rev. 17:15) – modern Babylon. And the Euphrates's drying is amplified by the fact that the ancient city, Babylon, does not now exist, whereas prophecy calls for a Babylon today.

Now in order for the drying of the Euphrates, there must necessarily be a repetition today of the conditions and events essentially characterizing ancient Babylon in its connection with God's people. Consequently, their captivity in Babylon, the capital of the 70 years, must first be accepted. Babylon, the antipode, very obviously, therefore, the angels being "bound in the great river Euphrates" (Rev. 9:14) must be figurative of the Christian church during the period of her captivity in antipapal Babylon – "that great city" rising after John's time.

Furthermore, the statement made by the voice from the golden altar, "loose the four angels which are bound," conclusively shows that when the "voice" spoke, the church (the angels) was already in captivity and was to be loosed.

The execution of the command, "loose the four angels," meaning to set the church free from the captivity in Babylon, resulted in her being liberated from her long bondage to the tyranny of papacy. Consequently, the drying of the Euphrates symbolizes the fall of papal Babylon, the end of her ascendency in Iran and in fact of its man, and in accountability only to their conscience and to the God, in the consequent liberation of the church-Israel. – The "Four angels" were loosed." PK 531.1

**Thursday, June 26**

## Cyrus, the Anointed

Read 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23. In what ways does the story of Cyrus parallel that of Babylon's fall? What lessons do we learn from the fall of Babylon that we need to discover after it, has ceased to be an active power? Explain your answer.

"The advent of the army of Cyrus before the walls of Babylon was to the Jews a sign that their deliverance from captivity was drawing nigh. More than a century before the birth of Cyrus, Inspiration had mentioned him by name, and had caused a record to be made of the actual work he should do in taking the city of Babylon unawares, and in preparing the way for the release of the children of the captivity. Through Isaiah the prophet had been inspired to say: PK 531.2

"Cyrus, he is My shepherd, and shall perform all My pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." "Have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build My city, and he shall let go My captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 44:28, 45:13. "PK 531.2

Cyrus, under whose command the Medo-Persian army marched into Babylon, had not yet been born when the prophet Isaiah wrote of his Divine commission to execute what Jehovah Beholdest fell perfectly secure on the night of revelry and fatal debauchery. God opened before Cyrus the two inclined plane and made possible the capture of the Kingdom. There the Medes and Persians met Daniel and his companions, who called Cyrus' attention to the Scriptures which not only predicted his coming, but even foretold his name. Having seen and read the Word of God, Cyrus was moved to decree:

"Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and He hath charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all His people? let the God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (He is the God) which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem." Ezra 1:2-4. Cyrus was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, and the Lamb, with of them whose spirit God had stirred, to go to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered. Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with the captives that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem."

It is not difficult to see that if the rulers of the Medo-Persian empire had continued to rule in the same spirit as Cyrus, the kingdom would have stood until this day. The Kingdom, though, gave way to Greece, Grecia, to Rome, and Rome, to the nations of today. Plain enough it is to see that the kingdoms of today still stand because God has purposed it so.

**Friday, June 27**

## Further Thought

"Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that the plan of God for the world might be revealed. It would fulfill the purposes of the Maker and the Holy One. Prophecy has traced the rise and progress of the world's great empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Not one of these, which of these, as with the nations of antiquity, history has repeated itself. Each has had its period of test; each has failed, its glory faded, its power departed. PK 535.1

"While nations have rejected God's principles, and in this rejection have wrought their own ruin, yet a divine, overruling power has controlled the events of the ages, and has caused the wrath of man to serve God. It was prepared in the chronicles the form of a man's hand under the wings." "Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will lift up Mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up Mine ensign to the people: and they shall bring Your sons in their bosom, and Your daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders." Isaiah 49:22. "Heavenly beings, sustained and guided by the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, were impelling those wheels, above them, upon the sapphire throne, was the Eternal One, and round about the throne was a rainbow, the emblem of divine mercy. PK 535.3

"In the unwieldy complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, so the complicated play of human events is under divine control. Amidst the strife and tumult of nations the Lord declares that the chariots of God are twenty thousand, even of thousands upon thousands of angels." PK 536.2

"The history of nations speaks to us today. To every nation and to every individual God has assigned a place in His great plan. Today men and nations are being tested by the aluminum in the hand of Him who does no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes." PK 536.2