

Seminar Reunion March 2019 History Repeats itself Part 1

Let's turn to Daniel chapter 11. As we traveled across the world, we have seen an interesting phenomenon. It is interesting but not surprising as we see what's happening in God's church today. Across the world, whether you are in the church or you are in the world, there is an awareness that something is happening. The world has fundamentally changed in the last three decades. Even though people are aware of this change, most people can't put their finger on what is happening. Politicians are trying to straighten the economies of the world. Society is becoming more and more out of control. The events that are happening in the Middle East are shaking the world. The people that should have answers to these questions, God's church, this church, find themselves asking the same questions. Many of us do not have a clear understanding of the events that are occurring at the end of the world. Before we can reach out to the world to answer their questions, we need to have our own questions answered. The reason why I ask you to turn to Daniel 11 is because I want us to read verse 45.

11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

As I traveled across the world, I and others are noticing something. That hidden, buried in various countries across the world, are small groups like this group. Independent fellowships that God has raised up to act as a bulwark or a stop to the apostasy that is in our church. As I heard the name of this fellowship, it reminded me of this verse. It is not coincidental that you call yourselves the church of the mountain because it is on this glorious mountain, that is mentioned in this verse, just before Jesus stands up in the next verse, and human probation closes, that things begin to happen. So for you to choose that name is providential to say the least. God raised up people over that last 30 years to preach a message about his soon coming. It cannot be a coincidence, this close to the very end of history, that he allows our paths to cross, and that he inspires your church to use this name, to help give you confidence that he is leading you.

I am not sure how much time each of you spent in the study of end time prophecy. I am not sure how many of you are aware of the political situation of the world and how it is an answer to our prophetic message, but these are some of the topics we want to discuss this week with you. End time prophecy is a vast subject. There are many nations that are involved in this issue. But there are a few nations that are specifically mentioned in Bible prophecy that allow us to understand where we are at the end of the world. We want to share those topics with you.

I want us to turn to Testimonies to the Church Vol. 9. Some of these references are available in the French and some are not. This one is. The title of this section is called the Coming of the king. It is addressing the subject of the second advent. The subsection title is called the last crisis. EGW references Heb 10:37.

"Yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10:37.

If we go to the first paragraph, we will read all of that paragraph.

We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. {9T 11.1}

This phrase which begins this section which is called the time of the end, is a phrase that you come across often in the Bible, particularly in the book of Daniel. We will be spending quite a bit of time in Daniel and Revelation this week. One of the things I want us to be aware of and understand is what the time of the end is. Whatever your current understanding is, as we have just read, EGW tells us that she, Gods church, are living in the time of the end. She says, there are signs that are happening in the world, that show us that Christ coming is near. She also tells us that the holy spirit is being withdrawn from the world. As he is being withdrawn, the judgements of God are being poured upon the land. There are natural disasters. There will be alarms of war. All of these are harbingers or signs that the end is coming.

I want to skip a few paragraphs down. I want to go to page 14 p.2.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. {9T 14.2}

Before I comment on this passage, I already spoke to you at the beginning that we are seeing and meeting independent fellowships across the world. I have just come from Brazil and there I met and fellowshiped with an independent church as yourselves, with the same types of issues and concerns that you have. The organization, the movement that I am associated with, have begun to forge close ties with that church because we share a common interest. It is our hope that we will be able to form similar types with yourselves. Of course I don't want us to pretend that there are thousands, literally thousand of SDA's across the world who are regular church members, and they too have questions. I hope we will meet them this week. We embrace independent ministries, conference church members, all those who are desirous of studying the bible. These are not sermons that we are going to be having this week. These are bible studies. They are more akin to a Sabbath School class. So if you have questions please ask preferably at the end of the presentation. I will either address it in the following presentation or privately.

Back to your quote.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. {9T 14.2}

We see that she says that the world is striving for war. I want us to recall that this book was published in 1909. This statement was written some time before that. We all know that the first world war is about to burst upon the world soon after this was written. Soon followed by the second World War. Today we are now in the third World War. This World War has different but similar characteristics to the previous two. I think each of us can see that war has been raging across the world and has since this statement was written. The reference to this statement, the biblical reference, she quite clearly tells us. She says the prophecy of the 11th of Daniel has nearly reached it's fulfillment. She then goes on to say, the

scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. She doesn't just refer to the plagues Rev 16. There are many more troubles that precede that. So our studies are going to focus on the closing scenes of Daniel 11, because by the time Michael stands up in Daniel 12:1, Probationary time not only for the church but the world, has already closed. We are now living in the history that is just before Daniel 12:1. At the beginning of this section on page 11 we read that we are living in the time of the end. If you go to verse 40 of Daniel 11 and read the first part of the verse.

11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

It speaks about the time of the end. If you drop back five verses, it mentions the same time period. It is about half way into the verse.

11:35 And [some] of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make [them] white, [even] to the time of the end: because [it is] yet for a time appointed.

This week we are going to use these boards to try to lay out graphically some of the things that we are discussing. In my experience I found it easier for people to grasp what they are reading if you draw it out on a board. In Verse 40, we will discuss 35 later, it begins with the time of the end. It ends in 12:1 with the close of probation. And we are living in this history now. You can see that straight from what EGW is teaching. 1909 is somewhere in this history.

Christ has not stood up yet and closed off probation. We know we are living in these verses. Most of God's church have no idea what these verses teach. We want to spend some time this week just briefly reviewing these verses so that we have an understanding of how to prepare for when Michael stand up and closes our human probation. As she says on page 14, there is war. There is war in this history.

For sure the first, second and the current war that we are in. The prophecy in Daniel 11 has nearly reached it's fulfillment. Then she says soon the scenes of trouble will take place. Those scenes of trouble are encoded in these verses somewhere. If you go to Daniel 12:1, when Michael stands up, and he says, he that is righteous will stay righteous and he that is filthy will stay filthy, what happened after that? It's the seven last plagues. These seven plagues, which are the time of trouble that she refers to, are soon to take place. She wrote this statement over 100 years ago. We can now demonstrate that we are close to Michael standing up. But we are SDA's. We know before Michael stands up, before the close of human probation, we expect the fulfillment of Revelation 13 to occur. All SDA's know that Rev 13 is the subject of the mark of the beast. If you are not familiar with that, if you turn to Rev 14, it discusses the subject in verses 9-11. Rev 14:9-11. We will just read verse 9.

14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

It talks about the worship of the beast and the beast's image. It talks about the receiving of a mark in your right hand or in your forehead. This mark of the beast, unlike what most people teach that it's some kind of computer chip or some kind of pass book, we know that that is not what the mark of the beast is.

Gods people should be intimately familiar with parables and how they work and operate. Most of us are not aware of that. We have all heard of parables. In fact we are probably familiar with most of them. If I drew this picture, what parable would this be?

There is a woman. She lives in a house. She has ten coins and loses 1. We are all familiar with that parable. I could go to other ones. We have a superficial relationship with parables. We understand them to a limited degree. Perhaps you have all read Christ object lessons, a book that explains parables. But I think most people, most SDA's that I come across don't have a good working knowledge of how parables work, the construction of them. The methodology behind them. You have all heard of the word parallel. You know what that means. If I had two lines, would these lines be parallel?

No. The word parallel refers to two lines that never touch. It is a mathematical term, a mathematical definition in fact. So to have parallelism, you need to have two lines that never touch one another. This concept of bringing two lines close to one another, is the concept behind parables. An associated idea about parables... Let me explain with this model. If this was a shepherd and that is his crook, his stick that he holds, and this is the sheep. I am beginning to set up a parable. What is this sheep a symbol of?

Us. A human being. And what is this shepherd a symbol of? Christ. So we understand how parables work at a simple level, but one thing that we are not familiar with, generally, is that what we are doing here is comparing and contrasting two things. We understand the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. Sheep are wayward and they do their own thing, they have short attention spans, sometimes they listen and sometimes they don't. A Shepherd, he is the master, he is the one that is in charge, he directs and controls. This natural story we use to explain our relationship to Christ. That is all quite straight forward. But what we are doing when we develop this kind of a model, is we are comparing and contrasting two things. You can take that concept and apply it in different ways. As an example, when we talk about the mark of the beast in Rev 14:9. We have the mark of the beast and what we want to do is compare that with something. This mark is being placed upon people by a foreign kingdom, and alien kingdom. This is Satan's kingdom. So we have Satan here. What we want to do is compare this with something else. What do you compare Satan to? Satan is on one side. Who is the opposite? The adversary? Christ. He gives you a mark. What does Christ give you? A Seal. If you turn to Ezekiel 9 it talks about this seal. But, it doesn't call it a seal. It calls it a mark.

9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

So Christ places a seal upon his people. If you want to understand what the mark of the beast is, how would you know? You would compare it just like we would compare a shepherd and Christ, a sheep and a human. You would compare it with the seal of God. What is this seal of God? As SDA we know at a very simple level that it is the Sabbath. If this is the Sabbath then what is the mark? Sunday Keeping. Using Parables, comparing and contrasting two different phenomena, two different kingdoms, you can demonstrate what the mark of the beast is. We know that this is going to be initiated or promulgated by the Catholic Church, the Papacy. But it is not just the Catholic Church. Protestantism itself will be doing this work. They will be aided by the governments of this world. These are the subjects that we need to have clarity on as we come to a time period where there is war in the world, just before the scenes of trouble before the second Advent.

We are speaking about the mark of the beast or Sunday sacredness. The Phrase we use as SDA is Sunday Law. I presume we all know, maybe we don't, the Sunday Law that SDA speak about is not the first time a Sunday Law has been issued in the world. I don't mean a local Sunday Law somewhere, I mean an international Sunday Law. It's already happened Twice in history. It happened in the year 321 AD and then 538 AD. This is the first and the second. Based upon the circumstances of these two Sunday Laws, we can gain understanding of how the third Sunday Law is going to be give to this world. We all know that the Sunday Law has not arrived yet. There is not a national enforcement of Sunday Sacredness. We understand that the Sunday Law will be forced upon the world as a test, a test of allegiance. Whether you serve Christ and his kingdom or Satan and his kingdom. This term the close of probation means the end of tests. So we know that the Sunday Law is going to happen before Michael stands up.

EGW wrote this passage, Testimonies to the Church Vol 9, in 1909. We are now living over 100 years since that statement was given. How bad do you think things are going to get? How much time do you really think that we have left on this planet before the final test comes, the Sunday Law? Because once that final test happens, the next event is that Michael stands up, the plagues come, and the Second Advent. We are living in this part of history here.

We can show that the Sunday Law is eminent. Closer than many of us realize. Let me read another passage to you. This is 13 MR p 394. This statement is similar to the one we just read. It speaks about Daniel 11 but it goes into a little bit more detail.

Let me summarize what we have said so far. We are living in a time period. We will call it the time of the end. Time of the end can be located in Daniel 11:40. This period comes to it's completion in Daniel 12:1. EGW says we are in the closing verses of Chapter 11. Somewhere in those verses from verse 40 to verse 45, has to be the Sunday Law. It has to be in those Verses because the Sunday Law occurs before Chapter 12. What we need to understand so we can be prepared for these events, is where we are in history. The only way we can do that is by seeing what is happening in the world, interpreting those things correctly as we compare them to the things we see in inspiration. Conceptually it is very straight forward. You read the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, you see what is happening in the world, and you see the fulfillment and therefore you know where you are. But, it is not that straight forward to do. This is because many people have preconceived ideas, sometimes we don't understand the Bible passages we are reading, sometimes we actually misunderstand or misinterpret what we are seeing. Let's read 13 MR. We will begin with paragraph 1.

We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that "shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant." [Verses 31-36, quoted.] {13MR 394.1}

There is a lot in this paragraph. Before we discuss things in here, there is one idea or one concept that I want us to see. In the middle of the paragraph we read, much of the history that has taken place in the fulfillment of the prophecy will be repeated. Let me draw that out. This is Daniel 11. That is the whole chapter 45 verses.

She says that a lot of this prophecy has already happened. We already read that we are living in this time period here. So we have the present and the past. She says much of the history in the past will be repeated. Can we see that? At the simple level, verses 1-39 are going to be repeated in verses 40-45 in Daniel 11. So there is this concept of repetition. The Bible repeats itself. This is a technique that the Bible uses over and over again so you can be certain of things. Let me explain. We are living in this history from verse 40-45 just before Michael stands up. If I give you an explanation of these verses here and I say, you see what's happening in the world? This is an explanation of these verses in the present. How would you know my prediction is accurate? How do you know I am reading correctly? I could be saying something wrong. The Bible has a fail safe mechanism built into it's structure. It is this principle of repetition. If you want to know if a persons prediction of the future is accurate, you can check for yourself. The way you check is by seeing if their prediction is in agreement with things that have happened in the past. Because she says the things that are going to happen in the present, are a repeat of what has happened in the past. If my prediction of the future is not in agreement with what happened in the past, what do you know? That I am teaching error.

I will give you an example, one that I have already mentioned. How do you know that there is going to be a Sunday Law here in the present? The reason we know is because the present is a repeat of the past. What has happened in the past? We have already had two Sunday Laws. Those two Sunday Laws, in the past, prove to us that there is going to be a Sunday Law in the present. It's easy enough to say that but as Gods people we need to understand the events that lead up to the Sunday Law. All the information is coded in inspiration. Our task is to understand that coding.

I want to read some Bible verses to us. Let's go to Deuteronomy 19.

19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

We have an established Biblical principle here that if something is coming to judgment, or a decision needs to be made, you cannot make a decision based upon 1 testimony. So if you come to a conclusion about the end of the world, the present, and it is not in agreement with the past, it is not established and therefore it cannot be trusted. More than that, by definition it has to be wrong, because we know the end must look like the beginning, the present looks like the past. We just read it in the spirit of prophecy and we have just read it in Deuteronomy 19. It is an established principle. I will give you an example. These two Sunday Laws that happened in the past are evidence that we are about to have another Sunday Law. I will do it in a simple way. Sunday Law 1 + Sunday Law 2 = 2 Sunday Law 3. This last one is the present one that we are going to experience soon. If you take the history, the characteristics for the first and combine them with the history and the characteristics of the second so that you have an understanding of how the third is going to happen.

Let me give you another Bible verse. Go to the book of Job

33:14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, [yet man] perceiveth it not.

Here we are told that God does not just speak once but he speaks twice. Unfortunately even when he does speak twice, men often don't understand what he is teaching or what he is saying. But it is an established principle. You cannot establish the truth without two testimonies. Sometimes you even have

three but you need a minimum of two. And when God speaks, he speaks twice, so that we are certain of what he is trying to teach us.

Let's summarize what we have discussed. We went to testimonies to the church vol 9. That passage is dealing with the coming of the king, the last crisis. EGW tells us that we are living in the time period of the time of the end. She then says three pages later on page 14 that we are in the closing scenes of Daniel 11 and the time of trouble is soon to come upon us. For many as an overwhelming surprise. That event happens after Michael stands up in Daniel 12:1. This time of trouble are the Seven last plagues that proceed the second Advent. So we are now living in the time period between verse 40 and verse 12:1. We know that in this testing period, the period of probationary time, the final test is the Sunday Law test. It is the Third Angels Message. The Third Angels message is brought to view in Rev 14:9. It speaks about the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast is connected to the beast. We have not discussed who that beast is, but I am saying it is connected to Satans kingdom. We saw how parables work are to compare two different things, to show their similarities and their differences. If you are talking about Satans kingdom and his mark, then we know that we should be comparing him to Christ. It is not an accident that we have Christ and Anti-Christ, the one who apposes Christ. Also the word Anti means the one who comes before. The one who is in prominence. Satans kingdom has a mark. Gods kingdom has mark. We call it a seal but in Ezekiel 9:4 it mentions it as a mark. We know what that mark or that seal is. It is the Sabbath issue. If you turn to Revelation 9. Before we went to Ezekiel 9:4. Now we are going to Revelation 9:4. Same chapter and same verse. There are no accidents in the Bible, hopefully you believe that. It is no coincidence that the same issue, the same subject, is in the same chapter and in the same verse.

9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

There is much in this passage but the point I want us to pick up is that it speaks about the seal of God in the forehead which is the same place that you receive the mark of the beast. So for those people who want to make the mark of the beast a computer chip, some mechanical scientific instrument, then we would have to make the seal of God the same. So you would have to come to Church, receive a document or some kind of stamp that no one could erase. If the mark of the beast was a computer chip, the seal of God would have to be something similar. We know it's not. The seal of God is not something that can be seen. It is a connection between you and God. Therefore we know that all the stories, these false reports about the mark of the beast being some kind of chip, is a wrong understanding of what is happening in the world. You can see that when you use compare and contrast, which we know are parables. We then read a second quote. 13 MR. There we saw that the book of Daniel chapter 11 is divided into two parts. The past and the present. The present is defined by verse 40-45 as we saw from Testimonies vol. 9. Not only is it in two parts, the past and the present, she tells us explicitly that the past will be repeated in the present. That is an important Bible principle. If I came to you and I told you what is happening in the world is a new thing that has never happened before, you would know that I was teaching error. Now we all know that Solomon says what? There is nothing new under the sun. Do you think he was serious when he said that? Of course he was. There is nothing new happening today that has not already happened. That is not in some simple generic way like people are bad today because they have always been bad. No, it is very specific. She tells us that the events that occurred in this history here will be repeated. Scenes similar to the ones that have already happened will happen again. Then we went to two Bible passages. Deut 19 and Job 33. Both passages taught us that God

speaks twice so that we can be sure of things. He has already shown us two Sunday Laws in history in 321 and 538. Those two Sunday Laws, one and two, show us the characteristics of the third. Let's pray.