

Leaves of Life



Tree of Life Ministries

Special Edition

The War in Ukraine

- Gog and Magog

19 November 2022

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was ever prophesying the coming of the Lord. This great event had been revealed to him in vision. Abel, though dead, is ever speaking of the blood of Christ which alone can make our offerings and gifts perfect. **The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.** There is Moses still speaking, teaching self-renunciation by wishing himself blotted from the Book of Life for his fellow men, that they might be saved. David is leading the intercession of the church for the salvation of souls to the ends of the earth. The prophets are still testifying of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. **There the whole accumulated truths are presented in force to us that we may profit by their teachings. We are under the influence of the whole.** What manner of persons ought we to be to whom all this rich light of inheritance has been given. **Concentrating all the influence of the past with new and increased light of the present, accrued power is given to all who will follow the light.** Their faith will increase, and be brought into exercise at the present time, awakening an energy and an intensely increased earnestness, and through dependence upon God for His power to replenish the world and send the light of the Sun of Righteousness to the ends of the earth.” {Selected Messages, Book 3, P. 339, par. 1}

Tree of Life Ministries

Tree of Life Ministries is a self-supporting, non-profit, Seventh-day Adventist ministry, which was officially registered in Germany in 2016. At present, the majority of its members are based in Austria.

Our mission is to prepare Seventh-day Adventists for the soon-coming Sunday law crisis and to teach the everlasting gospel of the three angel's messages of Revelation 14, through seminars, video productions and written publications. We believe that we are living in the last generation, for whom the entire Bible has been written. Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. The different stories in the Bible typify events that will take place at the end of the world. History will repeat itself. We aim to teach the scriptures "line upon line" in light of their prophetic application to the final generation. This constitutes the "present truth" for this time, which is needed to prepare the church to receive the "latter rain." By understanding the spiritual application of these histories, we can understand what "righteousness by faith" means and enter in to the true born-again experience.

Leaves of Life is a present truth periodical, which is mainly compiled and edited by Mark Bruce.

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Introduction

The last edition of *Leaves of Life* was published in the beginning of 2021, a time where great events were taking place in the world and also within this movement. At that time, we had great turmoil taking place in the USA and around the world, with Antifa and Black Lives Matter, rioting, burning down and vandalising many businesses. This was also the time where Biden had been voted into office, where the claims of widespread voter fraud, brought about the January 6th Capitol protests. On top of that, one year earlier, we had the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic, beginning to bring about great changes and upheaval within society as we know it, coupled with the globalist community, claiming their need to make a Great Reset. At this time, light began to come from God's word, so quickly, that it just wasn't possible for me to keep this magazine up to date. It was a clear indication for me that great things were just about to happen and for this reason I concentrated my efforts in trying to understand God's word, in relation to what was happening around us. However, one year later from the time I last wrote, in February of 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. At that time, I was much engrossed in some other topics that I had been focusing on, when several people began to ask me if the war in Ukraine had any bearing upon Bible prophecy. For this reason, coupled with my own convictions, I began to search out this topic. This special edition is based upon those findings, which are now so important that I decided to publish a special edition related just upon this topic. I pray that all who read through this will receive a great blessing, as we see the hand of God preparing His people for what shortly lies ahead of us.

Alpha and Omega

As a movement, we understand that the great truth given to God's people at the end of the world is the Alpha and Omega. This is an allegoric phrase, used to illustrate the only true God, who is able to tell us what will come to pass before it happens. It is this great truth upon which the whole of God's word was designed to be accomplished. We are merely the people who have been privileged to understand this in advance, in order to accomplish His great purposes. Before we get into the subject of the war in Ukraine, let us first remind ourselves of this principle, so that we are able to rightly understand what we are about to study.

Let us begin. The Lord, in the book of Revelation, says of Himself in several places:

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8)

“Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last**: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”
(Revelation 1:11)

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”
(Revelation 22:13)

As we can read, the Bible explains that the alpha and Omega refers to the beginning and end, or first and last, teaching us something about Christ. In order to understand this, the Bible must explain itself. The New Testament is merely an unfolding, or revelation of the Old. For this reason, let us go to the Old Testament, to give us more information on this point of truth. The answer to this we will find in the book of Isaiah, where Christ explains what he means by the Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, first and last.

In the following verses, Christ explains that the beginning represents former things of old, that will explain to us what will happen at the end of the world, which are declared to us through the nations in history.

“Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things that are not yet done*, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”
(Isaiah 46:9, 10)

When the Lord tells us to remember, we can be sure that we need to heed those words. In the next verses, instead of using the phrase end from the beginning, He uses the term first and last. Again, as we can read, it refers to events of the past, that have been chronicled for us in His word and on the pages of history, to show us what will come in the future.

“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is* no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.” (Isaiah 44:6, 7)

Again, we can read that the former things, are past truths that will show us what will happen before it comes to pass.

“Behold, **the former things** are come to pass, and **new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.**” (Isaiah 42:9)

“Produce your cause, saith the LORD; **bring forth your strong *reasons***, saith the King of Jacob. **Let them bring *them* forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things**, what they *be*, **that we may consider them**, and **know the latter end** of them; or **declare us things for to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye *are* gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold *it* together.**” (Isaiah 41:21-23)

The Lord does this so that we can be prepared for what is about to come upon us, but also to prevent us from being deceived.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and **shall deceive many.**” (Matthew 24:3-5)

The Lord states plainly that everything that is to come, has already been, so that we can be sure of what is coming.

“**The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is that which shall be done*: and *there is no new thing* under the sun. Is there *any* thing whereof it may be said, **See, this *is new*?** it hath been already of old time, which was before us.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10)**

According to the next verses, he makes sure that nothing can be controverted as to what is coming, that it can only be according to what has already happened and been recorded, so that we might fear of forgetting the past, instead of remembering it as He has commanded us to.

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth *it*, that *men* should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.” (Ecclesiastes 3:14, 15)

“In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”
{Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 204, par. 1}

The Apostle Paul, in the New Testament, clearly understood this point, when speaking of the history of the Jewish nation, said...

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” (1 Corinthians 10:11)

That word ensamples means types, which are pointing to the end of the world. In line with this he goes on to say in another place.

“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.” (1Corinthians 15:46)

Therefore, in order for there to be an antitype at the end of the world, the type must first be fulfilled. The Lord does this so that everyone can know that what happened in the type, will be repeated in the antitype that it points to.

An Unfulfilled Type

In the Bible, there are still certain prophecies, or parts of prophecies, that have never been fulfilled historically. One of those prophecies is the story of Gog and Magog, in chapters 38 and 39, of the book of Ezekiel. Let us read what our pioneers wrote upon this topic.

“Many people have read the thirty-eighth and the thirty-ninth chapters of Ezekiel, and have wondered and longed to know what those two chapters can mean; **what it is to which they refer.**

And, all this time, the first verses of these same chapters of Ezekiel tell definitely what is referred to; what nation of to-day is meant in those two chapters. Read the verses: **‘Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.’** In the Revised Version it runs thus: ‘Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rush, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him.’ And the same connection is found in the third verse, just following, and also in the thirty-ninth chapter. **Now, we shall not attempt an exposition of these two chapters; we simply point out the meaning of the names that are spoken, that all may plainly see what nation is referred to, and that that nation is Russia.**” {The Marshalling Of The Nations, P. 26, par. 2}

“We have already seen that ‘the land of Magog’ through his descendants comprises the entire country of Northern Asia from Germany to the Pacific Ocean. This prophecy of Ezekiel refers in some way to the last days (38:2, 3, 8, 16) and shows that then Russia and the prince of Russia, will be the chief of all that country, and that Meshech and Tubal would also dwell in the land of Magog under its Russian chief. So that 587 years b. c., 2474 years ago, the prophet of God pointed out the Russian Empire as it exists to-day. The Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” {The Peopling of The Earth, P. 264, par. 3}

As we can read, history explains to us who Gog and Magog referred to anciently. Sister White goes on to say, that the Bible is the best historical record of these events that has been preserved for us at the end of the world.

“The Bible is the most ancient and the most comprehensive history that men possess. It came fresh from the fountain of eternal truth, and **throughout the ages a divine hand has preserved its purity.** It lights up the far-distant past, where human research in vain seeks to penetrate. In God's word only do we behold the power that laid the foundations of the earth and that stretched out the heavens. **Here only do we find an authentic account of the origin of nations.** Here only is given a history of our race unsullied by human pride or prejudice.

“In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. **But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counterplay of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.**” {Education, P. 173, par. 1,2}

From this understanding, now that we have identified to whom Gog and Magog refers to historically, it will help us to see whether Russia attacking Ukraine, is a fulfillment of this end time

prophecy, in type. The Bible is not only a history of what has been, but it is also a history in the making as to what will come.

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and **that which is done is that which shall be done**: and there is no new thing under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

That which is done refers to something that is happening presently. As these events unfold, they give us a living illustration of what shall be done in the future. In order to make sure we identify these things properly, Miller’s Rule no 13 gives us counsel upon this point.

“**To know whether we have the true historical event** for the fulfillment of prophecy: If you find every word of the prophecy (**after the figures are understood**) is **literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event**; but if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development; **for God takes care that history and prophecy shall agree**, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed. Ps. 22,5; Isa. 45,17-19; 1Pet. 2,6; Rev. 17,17; Acts 3,18.” {Life Incidents, James Springer White, 1868, P. 37, par. 4}

According to Miller, in order to understand if the history that is taking place is correct, we must first understand the figures, or symbols. Past history already declares to us to whom Gog and Magog refers. However, what we need to know, is do the symbols contained in Ezekiel 38 and 39 agree with the current events taking place in Ukraine? Before we go to compare the scriptures upon this subject, let us first examine another point that will help us to understand how we should relate to these events taking place.

The World a Great Theatre

“**T**he world is a theater; the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the **last great drama**. With the great masses of mankind, there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. **The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season**. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama,—Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. **Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy**. The cause will be followed by the effect.” {Christian Service, P. 50, par.1}

As we can read, the world is a theatre and we are all actors in a play that has been determined before the world existed. God, who knows the end from the beginning, knew which part each of us would play in the great plan of salvation, depending upon our choices. Hence, there is no new thing

at the end of the world, for God already knew who would act out the parts of both type and antitype. These things are already determined by the choices, the Lord knows in advance that we will make. God deals with both nations and individuals upon the same principles of choice. We truly choose the part which we will act out, whether it will be for good, or whether it will be for evil and the Bible has recorded these acts in history so that we need not repeat them.

“God has revealed in His law the principles that underlie all true prosperity both of nations and of individuals. ‘This is your wisdom and your understanding,’ Moses declared to the Israelites of the law of God. ‘It is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life.’ Deuteronomy 4:6; 32:47. The blessings thus assured to Israel are, on the same conditions and in the same degree, assured to every nation and every individual under the broad heavens.

“The power exercised by every ruler on the earth is Heaven-imparted; and upon his use of the power thus bestowed, his success depends. To each the word of the divine Watcher is, ‘I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me.’ Isaiah 45:5. And to each the words spoken to Nebuchadnezzar of old are the lesson of life: ‘Break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.’ Daniel 4:27.

“To understand these things,—to understand that ‘righteousness exalteth a nation;’ that ‘the throne is established by righteousness’ and ‘upholden by mercy’ (Proverbs 14:34; 16:12; Proverbs 20:28); to recognize the outworking of these principles in the manifestation of His power who ‘removeth kings, and setteth up kings’ (Daniel 2:21),—this is to understand the philosophy of history.

“In the word of God only is this clearly set forth. Here it is shown that the strength of nations, as of individuals, is not found in the opportunities or facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. It is measured by the fidelity with which they fulfill God's purpose.

“An illustration of this truth is found in the history of ancient Babylon. To Nebuchadnezzar the king the true object of national government was represented under the figure of a great tree, whose height ‘reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: the leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all;’ under its shadow the beasts of the field dwelt, and among its branches the birds of the air had their habitation. Daniel 4:11, 12. This representation shows the character of a government that fulfills God's purpose—a government that protects and upbuilds the nation.

“God exalted Babylon that it might fulfill this purpose. Prosperity attended the nation until it reached a height of wealth and power that has never since been equaled—fitly represented in the Scriptures by the inspired symbol, a ‘head of gold.’ Daniel 2:38.

“But the king failed of recognizing the power that had exalted him. Nebuchadnezzar in the pride of his heart said: ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?’ Daniel 4:30.

“Instead of being a protector of men, Babylon became a proud and cruel oppressor. The words of Inspiration picturing the cruelty and greed of rulers in Israel reveal the secret of Babylon's fall and of the fall of many another kingdom since the world began: ‘Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.’ Ezekiel 34:3, 4.” {Education, P. 174-176}

“Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that it might be seen whether it would fulfill the purpose of ‘the Watcher and the Holy One.’ Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world's great empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history repeated itself. **Each had its period of test, each failed, its glory faded, its power departed, and its place was occupied by another.**” {Education, P. 176, par. 7}

The prophecy of Gog and Magog in type, refers to the nation of Russia and the leader of that nation. As we have just read, righteousness exalteth a nation. Yet when the king lifts himself up and fails to understand that God placed kings upon the Earth to protect the weak and punish the wicked, then just as He set them up, He will also take them down. The Lord records these things in history so that we might fear before Him.

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and **God doeth it, that men should fear before him.**” (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

In the next quote, Sister White explains to us that those nations that have acted out, or are acting out history, are unconscious of the part that they are playing. However, we as a people have God's word, which is how He speaks to us, have no excuse for not understanding the actors at play.

“The history of nations that one after another have occupied their allotted time and place, unconsciously witnessing to the truth of which they themselves knew not the meaning, speaks to us. To every nation and to every individual of today **God has assigned a place in His great plan.** Today men and nations are being measured by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes.” {Education, P. 178, par. 2}

Let us now go and look at the figures in Ezekiel 38 and 39, and show that the scriptures and the current events are the same, for as we read: “**for God takes care that history and prophecy shall agree**, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed.” (Miller’s Rule No 13)

The Figures

The Bible must be its own expositor, we must never allow our own thoughts, or feelings, to be our guide in the study of God’s word. For this reason, let us now go to the scriptures and “let them (the ancient people) bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.” (Isaiah 41:22)

If we go to the book of Revelation, it will give us more information as to whom Gog and Magog points forward to at the end of the world. This will give us an understanding to whom Gog and Magog in the book of Ezekiel typifies.

“And when the thousand years are expired, **Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations** which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, **and compassed the camp of the saints about**, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And **the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:7-10)

In the above verses, it explains to us that Gog and Magog is a representation of Satan and the whole wicked world, coming up and surrounding the New Jerusalem. The literal city of Jerusalem, or Mount Zion as it is also called, was a symbol for God’s people.

“And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, **and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.**” (Isaiah 51:16)

The temple in Jerusalem being merely an allegory for our hearts, a place where Christ wants to dwell.

“What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

“And **what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2 Corinthians 6:16)

The seventh plague, which is typified near the end of the Sunday law crisis, is where Gog and Magog come up to surround God’s people, marking where God’s people come face to face with death.

“When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, **there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction**. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. **It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof**.

“The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter **companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death**. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Saith the Lord; ‘Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth ... to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel. And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.’ Isaiah 30:29, 30.

“**With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth**. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. **The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested**. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.” {Great Controversy, P. 635, par. 1-3}

Satan and all his host are illustrated by the threefold union found in Revelation 16.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of **the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet**. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, **which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world**, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” (Revelation 16:13-14)

The above verses are an illustration of the whole world coming up to destroy God's people at the battle of Armageddon, where the Lord punishes them by fire and brimstone, just as we read in Revelation 20.

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**” (Revelation 19:19-20)

When you bring all these things together, we can understand that Gog and Magog in the book of Ezekiel are typifying the work of the threefold union at the end of the world, which is also a representation of the King of the North. Let us now go to the book of Ezekiel and see if these things correlate with what we have already ascertained.

In the following verses we can read that Gog comes against God's people, with a great army (Magog) out of the North.

“Therefore, son of man, **prophesy and say unto Gog**, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when **my people of Israel** dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And **thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee**, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; **it shall be in the latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.” (Ezekiel 38:14-16)

To further strengthen these thoughts, let us continue in the book of Ezekiel, that it may give us more information to show that Gog and Magog, is a representation of the threefold union that come against God's people during the Sunday law crisis. To accomplish this, let us take some illustrations from chapters 38 and 39, and allow the Bible to explain them to us.

“Son of man, **set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him**, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Behold, I am against thee, O Gog**, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And **I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws**, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:” (Ezekiel 38:2-4)

As we can read, the Lord sets His face against Gog and Magog, whereupon He states that He will put hooks in his jaws. Therefore, allowing the Bible to interpret itself, let us find more information upon this topic by the same author.

“Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt: Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself. But I will put hooks in thy jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales, and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, and all the fish of thy rivers shall stick unto thy scales.” (Ezekiel 29:2-4)

Here, in the book of Ezekiel, we see the exact same language used against Pharaoh and all Egypt as against Gog and Magog. Notice that the Lord calls Pharaoh “the great Dragon:” Again, allowing the Bible to interpret itself, we know from Revelation 12 that the dragon in a perfect sense is a symbol for Satan.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:9)

We have already ascertained from Revelation chapter 20 that Gog and Magog in a perfect sense represents Satan and the whole wicked world. Therefore, the next question we should ask ourselves, is can we show that Egypt is a symbol of the world? In the book of Isaiah, when Christ comes to execute judgment upon the wicked world, they are represented as Egypt.

“The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.” (Isaiah 19:1-2)

As we can see, not only is Pharaoh a representation of Satan, as is Gog, but also Egypt is a symbol for the whole wicked world just as Magog is. However, what we do not see in these illustrations is the Papacy, represented by the woman. In spite of that, when we study line upon line, bringing all the evidence together, we can understand that there is in fact a woman there controlling the mind of the King. Let us go to the book of Revelation for more information.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. **These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.** These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” (Revelation 17:12-14)

These same ten kings are represented several places in the Bible, illustrating the whole world uniting with the Papacy to murder God’s people. In the next verses we have ten nations lifting up the head, which Sister White explains is the Pope. Notice the same language of one mind that is found in Revelation 17.

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. **For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.** They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. **They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent:** they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of **Edom**, and the **Ishmaelites**; of **Moab**, and the **Hagarenes**; **Gebal**, and **Ammon**, and **Amalek**; the **Philistines** with the inhabitants of **Tyre**; **Assur** also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.” (Psalms 83:1-8)

“As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities. **The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head—the papal power—the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses.** This union is cemented by the great apostate...” {Pastoral Ministry, P. 114, par. 4}

This is the same symbol of the world that was promised to Abraham, represented by ten nations.

“In the same day **the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land,** from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The **Kenites**, and the **Kenizzites**, and the **Kadmonites**, And the **Hittites**, and the **Perizzites**, and the **Rephaims**, And the **Amorites**, and the **Canaanites**, and the **Girgashites**, and the **Jebusites.**” (Genesis 15:18-21)

“...The gift to Abraham and his seed included not merely the land of Canaan, **but the whole earth...**” {Patriarchs and Prophets, P. 169, par. 4}

Hence in the book of Ezekiel, Egypt is also symbolised by ten cities. In the following verses, when it states “the tower of syene,” in the margin it states from Migdol to Syene, indicating a

judgment from one city to another. When you read the remainder of the text, between these two cities there are eight others that are to be judged, making up ten.

“Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from **the tower of Syene** shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD. And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and **her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted**. And they shall know that I am the LORD, **when I have set a fire in Egypt, and when all her helpers shall be destroyed**. In that day shall messengers go forth from me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid, and great pain shall come upon them, as in the day of Egypt: for, lo, it cometh. Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon. He and his people with him, the terrible of the nations, shall be brought to destroy the land**: and they shall draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with the slain. And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it. Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of **Noph**; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt. And I will make **Pathros** desolate, and will set fire in **Zoan**, and will execute judgments in **No**. And I will pour my fury upon **Sin**, the strength of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No. And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily. The young men of **Aven** and of **Pibeseth** shall fall by the sword: and these cities shall go into captivity. At **Tehaphnehes** also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity. **Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the LORD.**” (Ezekiel 30:6-19)

From all these illustrations, it is clear to see how the ten nations are a symbol for the kings, or rulers of the earth, upon which the woman sits and controls through her false doctrines. Hence in the book of Revelation, she is illustrated as sitting upon the minds of the Kings down through the ages.

“And here is the mind which hath wisdom. **The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings**: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” (Revelation 17:9-10)

As we can see, down through time, the same woman, referring to the doctrine of Babylon, has been responsible for the fall of those nations, From Babylon to Medo-Persia, to Greece, to Pagan Rome, to Papal Rome, to the USA, which is now leading up to the final kingdom at end of the world. In the book of Jeremiah, it tells us that it makes them mad.

“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, **that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.**” (Jeremiah 51:7)

Hence, we have a warning from the Lord in regards to this woman, in the form of an allegory.

“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: **That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.** For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, **Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,** In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, **there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.** (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. **Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.** He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. **Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.**” (Proverbs 7:1-27)

Notice in the above verses it uses the same expression used by the serpent in Eden, telling us that she is subtle of heart, referring to her deceptive words. Sister White tells us that the Natural world is always teaching us spiritual lessons.

“...As in the natural world, so in the spiritual,..” {5 Letters and Manuscripts, Letter 21a, 1888, par. 12

If you want to know what is always on a man's mind, just go to prophecy that was written by a God who knows all things. The kings in Revelation 17 are illustrated by the statue in Daniel 2. Do we think it is an accident that nations are illustrated by a man? No, for it is this woman that we are warned about that sits upon the mind of every man, which unless cleansed by the gospel, so that we have the mind of Christ, we will surely lose our souls.

To give even more evidence and understanding to this, let us now show how the fall of man, in the garden of Eden, is an illustration of the fall of Gog and Magog, at the end of the world.

The Garden of Eden

In the Garden of Eden, we will see the very same events that are illustrated in the book of Revelation. Let us begin by going to the book of beginnings (Genesis) and see what the Lord, who demonstrated the end by the beginning wants us to see.

“Now **the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field** which the LORD God had made. And **he said unto the woman**, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Genesis 3:1)

As we mentioned already, the woman that we are warned to avoid in Proverbs 7 is subtle of heart, just as this serpent sitting in the branches of the tree is to Eve. Sister White explains to us that the serpent is a symbol for the Papacy.

“**Popery is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times.** [2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.] It is a part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but **beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon, she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent.** ‘We are not bound to keep faith and promises to heretics,’ she declares. **Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowledged as a part of the church of Christ?**”

“It is not without reason that the claim has been put forth in Protestant countries, that Catholicism differs less widely from Protestantism than in former times. **There has been a change; but the change is not in the papacy. Catholicism indeed resembles much of the Protestantism that now exists, because Protestantism has so greatly degenerated since the days of the reformers.**” {Great Controversy, 1888, P. 571, par. 1, 2}

In Revelation 17 it tells us that she, this serpent, is the Mother of harlots.

“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, **THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**” (Revelation 17:5)

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The harlot daughters represent all the other churches that are deceived by the catholic Church. When you understand this point, that the serpent in the tree symbolizes the Papacy (a woman), representing false and subtle doctrines, and that this serpent is deceiving another woman, or another church, it can help us to see many things. What I want to suggest is, that Eve is a representation of the SDA Church during the Sunday law crisis, that after being deceived herself, goes on to deceive God's people, represented by Adam. This representation in the church is merely a mirror representation that had already occurred to the Protestant churches in the Millerite history, where after they had rejected the truth, became her Babylonian daughters.

“Jeremiah 51:6-9. Revelation 14:8; 17:5; 18:2-4.—The word Babylon comes from Babel and signifies ‘mixture, confusion.’ **We read of Babylon the great, the mother of harlots, etc. Protestant commentators agree that this ‘mother’ is the Catholic church, and if so, who are the ‘harlot daughters,’ but the various Protestant sects?** If ‘the woman’ singular [Revelation 17:4] be a symbol of one church, (Catholic) then, ‘women’ plural, [Revelation 14:4,] are symbols of CHURCHES. The Catholic church is a unit the world over. **But when we consider the hundreds of Protestant sects, with all their discordant theories, their spirit of oppression, and their connection with the civil power, we cannot avoid the conclusion that they belong to the Babylon of the Apocalypse.**” {Facts for the Times, Merritt E Cornell, P. 18, par. 1}

It tells us in God's word that there is no new thing under the sun. Therefore, that which hath been, is that which shall be. For this reason, we should find this fact illustrated in God's word. Let us go to the story of Elijah, where he rebukes the King of Israel (Ahab), who is the King over ten nations, for marrying Jezebel (an impure woman).

“And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. And **Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.** And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that **he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal,** and worshipped him. And **he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal,** which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.**” (1 Kings 16:29-33)

According to Sister White, Baal worship is sun worship, typifying the Sunday law crisis, where the state power enters into an illicit relationship with the Papacy (Jezebel).

“But in the days of Ahab, one of Israel's wicked kings, the people wandered far from God. **The heathen Jezebel, whom Ahab married, introduced the worship of false gods,—Baal and the Zidonian goddess Ashtoreth...**” {Signs of the Times, December 18, 1884, par. 2}

“... The God of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists—the God of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—is **little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.**” {Great Controversy, P. 583, par.1}

In the book of Revelation, Jezebel is represented in the time period of Thyatira, which was the time period from 538-1798, where God's true people were persecuted by the Papacy through the Kings of Europe for refusing to worship her deities, keep Sunday, or partake in her blasphemous ceremonies.

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest **that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**” (Revelation 2:20)

This is in agreement with the story of Elijah, where the heavens were shut up for three and half years, a symbol of the 1260 years of the Papacy, because Ahab married Jezebel.

“And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.**” (1 Kings 17:1)

“But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, **when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;**” (Luke 4:25)

“**This fixes upon the Papacy** the application, in the Christian dispensation, of the phrase ‘**that woman Jezebel.**’

“**In the reign of the original Jezebel,** when the king charged Elijah with being ‘he that troubleth Israel,’ the prophet replied, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and **thou hast followed Baalim.**’ 1 Kings 18:17, 18.

“**The ancient Jezebel caused the people not only to forsake the commandments of God, but to do honor to idols.** And she not only caused them to forsake the commandments of God, and to do honor to idols, **but to do honor also to the sun.**”

“So it was with the modern Jezebel: In the making of the Papacy, idolatry—image-worship— was introduced, and grew until it became universal in the Church. And when in the seventh century an effort was made to abandon it, the Church of Rome, under Pope Gregory II and his successors, defended the images and their worship, and maintained their cause until the seventh general Council, September 24 to October 23, 787, the Second Council of Nice, **by a decree confirmed image-worship, and established it as a legitimate part of Catholic worship.** ‘The scene was decorated by the legates of Pope Adrian and the eastern patriarchs; the decrees were framed by the president Tarasius, and ratified by the acclamations of three hundred and fifty bishops. **They unanimously pronounced that the worship of images is agreeable to Scripture and reason, to the fathers and the councils of the Church.**’—‘Decline and Fall,’ Chap. XLIX, par. 17.” {The Great Nations of Today, Alonso Trevier Jones, P. 170-171}

When you bring these things together, Elijah, a representation for God’s true people at the end of the world, is rebuking the King of ten nations, a symbol of the world, for marrying Jezebel (The Papacy), illustrating the Sunday law crisis. However, when we look closer at the story, there is another religious element within the same illustration. The King of Israel had his own priests, who had been indoctrinated by Jezebel, leading him into the idolatry that separated him and the nation from God.

“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? **if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.** And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, **I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.**” (1 Kings 18:21-22)

At the end of the world, the civil power that is instrumental in making a Sunday law and enforcing all the world to worship on that day, is the USA, which I want us to understand is illustrated by Ahab and the prophets of Baal, a two horned power.

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and **he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.**” (Revelation 13:11)

The Bible teaches us the USA is a two horned power, representing within itself, the two fundamental principles of Republicanism and Protestantism, or in other words State power and church power. When the USA was set up, these two horns were kept separate, but once the USA brings these two powers together, where the church now influences the workings of the state, the Papacy (Jezebel) regains her lost power.

“‘**And he had two horns like a lamb.**’ The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as ‘coming up’ in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and **sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance** were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that ‘all men are created equal’ and endowed with the inalienable right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. **Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation.** These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and **the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth.**”

“**But the beast with lamblike horns ‘spake as a dragon.** And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and **causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed;** ... saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.’ Revelation 13:11-14.” {Great Controversy, P. 441, par. 2}

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and **Sunday sacredness**, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, **the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States** will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; **they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power;** and under the influence of **this threefold union**, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” {Great Controversy, P. 588, par. 1}

“**I saw that the two-horned beast had a dragon's mouth**, and that his power was in his head, and **that the decree would go out of his mouth.** Then **I saw the Mother of Harlots;** that **the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them.** She has had her day, and it is past, and **her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints.** I saw that as the mother has been declining in power, the daughters had been growing, and **soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother.**” {Spalding and Magan, P. 1, par. 4}

When we understand that Jezebel is the Papacy, and the Power at the end of the world that will bring the world (ten kings) together, to give homage to Jezebel, is the USA, a two horned beast,

consisting of the state and Protestantism, then it is easy to see that Ahab and the Prophets of Baal represent these same two horns. Two quotes above, it speaks of this threefold union, which are represented by the USA, Spiritualism and the Roman Power. However, in Revelation 16, that same threefold union was also illustrated.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of **the dragon**, and out of the mouth of **the beast**, and out of the mouth of **the false prophet**. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, **which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world**, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” (Revelation 16:13-14)

The Dragon and the False prophet represent the two horns of Republicanism (State Power) and Protestantism (Church Power), that unites with the Beast (the Catholic Church). Together, these entities go forth to deceive the whole world, represented by the symbol of Spiritualism, or Paganism, a symbol for all these false pagan religions of the world. Thus, the threefold union is a symbol that encompasses the whole world.

These thoughts can be cemented even further, when we read in the book of Ezekiel some more information about Pharaoh. In the 31st chapter, Pharaoh is likened unto the Assyrian, a king that resembled a great tree, under which all the other nations of the world resided.

“Son of man, **speaking unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude**; Whom art thou like in thy greatness? **Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon** with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs. The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers **unto all the trees of the field**. **Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field**, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth. **All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field** bring forth their young, and **under his shadow dwelt all great nations**. Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters. The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chesnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty. I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: **so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him**.” (Ezekiel 31:2-9)

Firstly, the verses are addressed to Pharaoh and to his multitude, paralleling the prophecy that speaks to Gog and Magog. In this illustration, Pharaoh is being likened unto, not only a tree, but a tree that is greater than all the other trees. Trees in the Bible can illustrate nations depending

upon context. In the book of Luke, the prophet speaks about the fig tree (God's people) and all the other trees, referring to all the other nations.

“And he spake to them a parable; **Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;**” (Luke 21:29)

However, from the words of Christ, who explains to us that the Fig tree represents the Jewish nation, we can know that in this sense, the other trees would be all the other nations of the world.

“**The cursing of the fig tree was an acted parable.** That barren tree, flaunting its pretentious foliage in the very face of Christ, **was a symbol of the Jewish nation.** The Saviour desired to make plain to His disciples the cause and the certainty of Israel's doom. For this purpose He invested the tree with moral qualities, and made it the expositor of divine truth. The Jews stood forth distinct from all other nations, professing allegiance to God. They had been specially favored by Him, and they laid claim to righteousness above every other people. But they were corrupted by the love of the world and the greed of gain. They boasted of their knowledge, but they were ignorant of the requirements of God, and were full of hypocrisy. **Like the barren tree, they spread their pretentious branches aloft, luxuriant in appearance, and beautiful to the eye, but they yielded ‘nothing but leaves.’** The Jewish religion, with its magnificent temple, its sacred altars, its mitered priests and impressive ceremonies, was indeed fair in outward appearance, but humility, love, and benevolence were lacking.

“**All the trees in the fig orchard were destitute of fruit;** but the leafless trees raised no expectation, and caused no disappointment. **By these trees the Gentiles were represented. They were as destitute as were the Jews of godliness; but they had not professed to serve God.** They made no boastful pretensions to goodness. They were blind to the works and ways of God. With them the time of figs was not yet. They were still waiting for a day which would bring them light and hope. The Jews, who had received greater blessings from God, were held accountable for their abuse of these gifts. The privileges of which they boasted only increased their guilt.” {Desire of Ages, P. 583, par. 1}

Therefore, Pharaoh as this great tree, illustrating the empire that he commanded over, was greater than all the other nations which sheltered under his branches. Those nations are also likened unto “Beasts of the field.” They are thus likened because beasts represent nations that persecute God's people. In the book of Daniel, an illustration of these empires that have ruled down through time, who have been responsible for persecuting God's people, are likened unto beasts.

“**These great beasts, which are four, are four kings,** which shall arise out of the earth.” (Daniel 7:17)

Also remember, that in Revelation 17, the woman is sitting upon a scarlet coloured beast, symbolising, the civil power.

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and **I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast**, full of names of blasphemy, **having seven heads and ten horns.**” (Revelation 17:3)

This scarlet beast is the same red dragon of Revelation 12.

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, **having seven heads and ten horns**, and seven crowns upon his heads.” (Revelation 12:3)

Therefore, this scarlet beast represents Pharaoh, who is the dragon.

“Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon** that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.” (Ezekiel 29:3)

This scarlet beast has ten horns, symbolising all the other nations (ten kings) that shelter under him. The woman sitting upon him, we shall establish in a moment. However, before we get to this point, if we go back to Ezekiel 31, it states that Pharaoh, who is this great tree, is situated in Eden.

“I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: **so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him.**” (Ezekiel 31:9)

In the book of Daniel, we also have a parallel illustration, where Nebuchadnezzar, the King of the North, is also likened unto a great tree.

“**Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north**, saith the LORD, and **Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon**, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.” (Jeremiah 25:9)

“Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and **behold a tree in the midst of the earth**, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and **the height thereof reached unto heaven**, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: The leaves thereof were fair, and the

fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: **the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.**” (Daniel 4:10-12)

“The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: **It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.**” (Daniel 4:20-22)

When you bring these stories together, line upon line, Pharaoh, who is Gog, a King coming from the North, is a parallel to Nebuchadnezzar, who also comes from the North. Both of them are likened unto this great tree, under which all the nations dwell. To add to this Nebuchadnezzar, like Pharaoh, is also likened unto the Dragon.

“**Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon** hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, **he hath swallowed me up like a dragon**, he hath filled his belly with my delicates, he hath cast me out.” (Jeremiah 51:34)

Also, in the above verses from Daniel 4, it states that this tree is situated in the midst of the earth. Couple this with Pharaoh, who is situated in Eden, it is saying that this tree is situated in the midst of the garden, just like in Genesis chapter 3.

“**But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden**, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” (Genesis 3:3)

The Lord specifically tells Adam and Eve, not to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden. Yet as we read in the book of Daniel, this tree in the midst of Eden is feeding the whole world.

“The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and **in it was meat for all**: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and **all flesh was fed of it.**” (Daniel 4:12)

In the tree in the Garden, it was the serpent, sitting in the branches that gave Eve the fruit to eat, symbolising the food that is being fed to the whole world.

“In order to accomplish his work unperceived, **Satan chose to employ as his medium the serpent—a disguise well adapted for his purpose of deception.** The serpent was then one of the

wisest and most beautiful creatures on the earth. **It had wings, and while flying through the air** presented an appearance of dazzling brightness, having the color and brilliancy of burnished gold. Resting in the rich-laden branches of the forbidden tree and regaling itself with the delicious fruit, it was an object to arrest the attention and delight the eye of the beholder. **Thus in the garden of peace lurked the destroyer, watching for his prey.**” {Patriarchs and Prophets, P. 53, par. 4}



Sister White explains to us that the serpent, which we have already established, represents the woman, or the Papacy, is what is causing all the world to drink her wine. In this illustration, the serpent has wings, enabling her to fly up into the branches of the tree. If we compare both Ezekiel 31 and Daniel 4, both times it explains to us that there are fowls sitting in the branches of this great tree, whose top reaches unto heaven.

“All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.” (Ezekiel 31:6)

“The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, **and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof,** and all flesh was fed of it.” (Daniel 4:12)

Allowing the scripture to interpret themselves, it explains to us in the book of Matthew that the fowls represent the deceptive work of Satan, which we have seen is the work of the Serpent.

“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, **some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:**” (Matthew 13:3-4)

“Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. **When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.** This is he which received seed by the way side.” (Matthew 13:18-19)

A second witness for these fowls stealing away the truth from our thoughts, can be found in the book of Genesis.

“When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and **the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.** And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and **the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.** And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.” (Genesis 40:16-20)

The birds coming to steal from the Baker's head, is a parallel to the fowls stealing from the heart. However, it goes on to say, that after three days, marking the judgment, that the birds will come and eat his flesh. There is a principle about Satan that is illustrated perfectly in this what we are bringing together and it is that Satan is first a deceiver, then after he has deceived, he claims the right to destroy.

“**Trial and persecution will come to all** who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. **Force is the last resort of every false religion.** At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. **If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, failed to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. So it will be now.** The Papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. We need the same spirit that was manifested by God's servants in the conflict with paganism. Giving an account of the treatment of the Christians by the emperor of Rome, Tertullian says, ‘We are thrown to the wild beasts to make us recant; we are burned in the flames; we are condemned to prisons and to mines; we are banished to islands,—such as Patmos,—and all have failed.’ So it was in the case of the three Hebrew worthies; their eye was single to the glory of God; their souls were steadfast; the power of the truth held them firmly

to their allegiance to God. It is in the power of God alone that we shall be enabled to be loyal to him.” {Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897, par. 16}

Hence, when you go to the book of Revelation chapter 12, the 1260 years where Satan persecutes, he is illustrated as both a serpent (The Papacy), which is the deceiver and the Dragon, (Pharaoh/State powers) which destroys those who refuse to obey her mandates.

“And **the great dragon** was cast out, **that old serpent**, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:9)

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, **where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.**” (Revelation 12:14)

You can also see this principle in Revelation 13, referring to the Sunday law crisis, where the False prophet first deceives and anyone who refuses those deceptions will face death.

“And **I beheld another beast** coming up out of the earth; and **he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon**. And **he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him**, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And **he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast**; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And **he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed**. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” (Revelation 13:11-17)

Sister White explains that the USA (Civil Horn) will seek the aid of the Catholics for support, against those who refuse to bow down, or be deceived by the false miracles that come through the False Prophet. The Catholics will give their power and unite with the Protestants to put them to death. The civil power will then enforce the decree to put them to death.

“**I saw that the two-horned beast had a dragon's mouth**, and that his power was in his head, and that **the decree would go out of his mouth**. Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; **that the mother**

was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints. I saw that as the mother has been declining in power, the daughters had been growing, and soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother.

“I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.

“Then the Catholics bid the Protestants to go forward, and issue a decree that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be slain. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the Protestants will work as their mother worked before them to destroy the saints. But before their decree bring or bear fruit, the saints will be delivered by the Voice of God...” {Spalding and Magan, P. 1, 2}

To summarize and bring all these thoughts together. When we go back to the garden of Eden, it is easy now to see, that the tree in the Midst of the Garden, that the Holy pair were warned not to partake of, is a representation of the two horned power that deceives all the other nations of the world at the Sunday law. This power is first typified by Gog (The leader of Russia), which is Pharaoh, representing the Dragon, or civil powers, that under the influence of the Papacy, the serpent that sits in branches of the tree, will persecute God’s people. So, before we go any further in our studies, the question we need to ask ourselves, is does modern day Russia represent itself as a confederacy of countries that would be able to symbolize the whole world?

“The Federation of Russia is divided into 85 constituent units known as federal subjects. Of the 85 federal subjects, 21 are republics (22 if Crimea is included). The republics of Russia differ from other federal subjects in that they operate under their own constitution and **have a right to establish own language**. The republics are also granted extensive autonomy, though the level of the autonomy varies. **Before 2010, the chief executives were being referred to as presidents**. However, the federal laws were amended which **reserved the title exclusively to the head of state**. The republics also have their own assemblies that have often passed laws that are at odds with the federal laws.”
WorldAtlas.com <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-republics-of-russia.html>

The answer is yes, the Federation of Russia is a mini representation of the world under the last world dictator, who amended the laws so that only he could be called president. This work of a last world dictator, is being typified by Putin.

The next question we have to ask ourselves, is do we see Putin in an Illicit relationship with someone who typifies the Pope of Rome? Before we look at that let us remember that in History there was a division in the Church of Rome, where the church was split between East and West, ending up with two opposing leaders.

“East-West Schism, also called Schism of 1054, event that precipitated the final separation between the Eastern Christian churches (led by the patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius) and the Western church (led by Pope Leo IX). The mutual excommunications by the pope and the patriarch in 1054 became a watershed in church history. The excommunications were not lifted until 1965, when Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I, following their historic meeting in Jerusalem in 1964, presided over simultaneous ceremonies that revoked the excommunication decrees.”
Brittanica.com

So, the question is, do we see a relationship between the dictator Putin and the Patriarch of the East, and does this Patriarch encourage Putin to war against Ukraine?

“Russia's war in Ukraine is also something of a holy war. Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has long been a key ideological ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and at least tacit supporter of his military adventures. But his public support for Putin's bloody war in Ukraine has proved too much for many Orthodox Christians, especially the Ukrainians who fall under the authority of Kirill's Moscow Patriarchate.

“Ukraine's Orthodox Christians were under the episcopal authority of Moscow from 1686 until 2019, when Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople — the first among equals of the 15 Eastern Orthodox patriarchs — granted Kyiv's request for independence. ‘More than half Ukraine's parishes rejected the decision and stayed under Moscow's jurisdiction,’ The New York Times reports, but Putin's invasion — and Kirill's support for it — changed that.

“About half of Ukraine's 45 Orthodox dioceses have stopped mentioning Patriarch Kirill during prayers, a ‘de facto’ cleaving from Moscow's authority, according to Russian religious scholar Sergei Chapnin at Fordham University. ‘How can you accept prayers for the patriarch who is blessing the soldiers trying to kill your son?’ asked Andreas Loudaros, editor of Athens-based Orthodoxy.info.

“Hundreds of Ukrainian Orthodox clergy have signed a petition from Archpriest Andriy Pinchuk accusing Kirill of committing ‘moral crimes by blessing the war against Ukraine’ and

asking global Orthodox leaders to sanction their Russian colleague for ‘heresy’ in a rare church tribunal.” theweek.com

As we can see, the symbols of Gog and Magog, representing Putin and Russia as a type for the Sunday law crisis, fulfill all the points perfectly. However, what we need to prove now, is how does Ukraine represent God’s people? In order to do this, let us first go back in history and look at another type that symbolizes the same illustration.

The North and South

In the book of Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar is the tool that is used to punish, both Tyre and Pharaoh. Symbols are to be determined by context and depending upon which writer is using that symbol, it may have a different meaning to how another illustrates it. As we have seen, in the book of Ezekiel, Pharaoh is the King of the North and as we will read, Tyre is a symbol for the Papacy.

“**The mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.** And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.’ **Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus,** Thus saith the Lord God; **Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God,** though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:.... therefore thus saith the Lord God; **Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God,** in the hand of him that slayeth thee. Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God.’

“**The time is fast approaching when this scripture will be fulfilled.** The world and the professedly Protestant churches are in this our day taking sides with the man of sin; and to those who have the light of the commandments of God is the message given, ‘Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.... For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.’ **The great issue that is coming will be on the seventh-day Sabbath.** This day God would have us reverence. ‘I am the Lord your God,’ he declared; ‘walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.’” {The Review and Herald, April 19, 1898, par. 4, 5}

When we understand this, we can then also see that in the book of Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar represents the work of the true King of the North (Christ).

“Son of man, **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service against Tyrus**: every head was made bald, and every shoulder was peeled: yet had he no wages, nor his army, for Tyrus, for the service that he had served against it: **Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon**; and he shall take her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and **it shall be the wages for his army.**” (Ezekiel 29:18-19)

In the above verses Nebuchadnezzar symbolises the work of Christ against the Papacy and Pharaoh, the state power. Hence the wages Nebuchadnezzar is given is the land of Egypt, represented by ten cities, which are for his army. That army is referring to God’s people, who according to the promise given to Abraham, will inherit the earth, symbolised by ten nations.

“In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, **Unto thy seed have I given this land**, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: **The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.**” (Genesis 15:18-21)

As we can read, they are given the land which also marks the time where they will bud forth, symbolising the birth.

“**I have given him the land of Egypt for his labour** wherewith he served against it, because they wrought for me, saith the Lord GOD. **In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth**, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 29:20-21)

“**For as the rain cometh down**, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, **and maketh it bring forth and bud**, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:” (Isaiah 55:10)

Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Ezekiel, is a representation of the true King of the North (Christ) and Pharaoh represents the King of the South (Egypt, or the world), who counterfeits the work of Christ in his relationship with Tyre (The Papacy), who is Antichrist. When Nebuchadnezzar punishes Tyre and Pharaoh, it is an illustration of the punishment upon Gog for coming up against God’s people, when he counterfeits the work of the true King of the North.

In history, we have another kingdom that consisted of a confederacy of countries. That country is the USA. In that history, just like in the book of Ezekiel, there was a war between the North (Christ's Army) and the South (Satan's Army), who were slave-masters just like Pharaoh was towards God's people. Sister White tells us very clearly that Pharaoh, enslaving the Jews was a representation of the Sunday law.

“This is the work now to be done on earth. Those who are living in transgression of the holy law of God will not find the truth palatable. **When it is made plain that Sunday is a spurious Sabbath, founded in the power of the man of sin, they will say in language too plain to be misunderstood, ‘We want not a knowledge of thy ways, O Lord.’ Others will say as did Pharaoh, ‘Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?’** But in the face of all opposition we must hold aloft the banner of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. It takes both of these to make up the burden of the message to be given to the world.” {The Review and Herald, February 7, 1893 Par. 10}

“**The Lord commanded Moses to go and speak unto Pharaoh**, bidding him to allow Israel to leave Egypt. For four hundred years they had been in Egypt, and **had been in slavery to the Egyptians**. They had been corrupted by idolatry, and the time came when **God called them forth from Egypt, in order that they might obey His laws and keep His Sabbath**, which He had instituted in Eden. He spoke the ten commandments to them in awful grandeur from Mount Sinai, that they might understand the sacred and enduring character of the law, and build up the foundation of many generations, by teaching their children the binding claims of God's holy precepts.” {Fundamentals of Christian Education, P. 287, par. 1}

Sister White parallels this work of Pharaoh, to the Southern states afflicting the black slaves.

“**This scene was presented before me to illustrate the selfish love of slavery, and the desperate measures which the South would adopt to cherish the institution**, and the dreadful lengths to which they would go before they would yield. The system of slavery has reduced and degraded human beings to the level of the brutes, and **the majority of slave masters regard them as such. The consciences of these masters have become seared and hardened, as was Pharaoh's;** and if compelled to release their slaves, their principles remain unchanged, and they would make the slave feel their oppressive power if possible. **It looked to me like an impossibility now for slavery to be done away. God alone can wrench the slave from the hand of his desperate, relentless oppressor.** All the abuse and cruelty exercised toward the slave is justly chargeable to the upholders of the slave system, whether they be Southern or Northern men.” {Testimonies for The Church, Volume 1, P. 266, par. 1}

Therefore, you have three historical illustrations, where the King of the South (Satan, the slave-master), counterfeits the work of Christ as the King of the North, illustrating the Sunday law crisis. You have Pharaoh enslaving God's people in Egypt, you have the Southern states enslaving the blacks and you have Pharaoh in the book of Ezekiel, representing Gog, who comes from the North.

Now that we have established how the Patriarch Kirill and Putin, the leader of the Russian Federation, are a perfect representation of Gog and Magog, let us now see how the nation of Ukraine can be a type for God's people at the end of the world.

Ukraine, a Type

In our past history, the Lord gave the Seventh-Day Adventists of that time a living parable. What do I mean by that? God's people are the people who are meant to see events coming to pass and understand them. For as is stated in Miller's Rules: "...God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed." (Rule No. 13). History is another way of saying "His story," meaning God's story, for He is the author of all history. He it is, that demonstrates to us things in type, that are prefiguring things to come at the end of the world. Therefore, just as we can look in the Bible at past history and see how those things are pointing forward, so can we look at unfulfilled prophecy, and see it being played out before us. The Lord, through Sister White, has recorded for us a history where a nation of black slaves, through their trying circumstances, can illustrate an event that points forward to God's people at the end of the world. In this particular case, another type, the Hebrews in Egypt fulfilled this in past history. Let us read how the black slaves, that were the focus of a war between North (Christ) and South (Satan), paralleling Nebuchadnezzar (North) coming against Pharaoh (South), are a parallel illustration to the Ukrainian's situation.

"When God called Moses to be his instrument in delivering the Hebrew nation out of cruel bondage, Moses considered the difficulties of the situation, and thought of the obstacles that he would have to encounter in doing this great work. **He knew that the people were in blindness and ignorance**, that their minds had become beclouded in faith, and that they were almost destitute of a knowledge of God. **They had become degraded by associating with a nation of idolaters**, and had corrupted their ways by practicing idolatry. **Yet there were many who were righteous and steadfast among this downtrodden people**. The Lord directed Moses to give them a message from himself. He said: 'Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched-out arm, and with great judgments**; and I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.'

“This nation of slaves was to be taught of God. Jesus Christ, enshrouded in the pillar of cloud and fire, was to be their invisible leader, the ruler over all their tribes. **Moses was to be the mouthpiece of God.** For forty years God ruled over them as they journeyed through the wilderness. **But the Hebrew nation is not the only nation that has been in cruel bondage, and whose groanings have come to the ears of the Lord of hosts. The Lord God of Israel has looked upon the vast number of human beings who were held in slavery in the United States of America.** The United States has been a refuge for the oppressed. It has been spoken of as the bulwark of religious liberty. God has done more for this country than for any other country upon which the sun shines. It has been marvelously preserved from war and bloodshed. **God saw the foul blot of slavery upon this land, he marked the sufferings that were endured by the colored people.** He moved upon the hearts of men to work in behalf of those who were so cruelly oppressed. The Southern States became one terrible battle-field. **The graves of American sons who had enlisted to deliver the oppressed race are thick in its soil. Many fell in death, giving their lives to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that were bound. God spoke concerning the captivity of the colored people as verily as he did concerning the Hebrew captives, and said: ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people, . . . and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them.’** The Lord wrought in freeing the Southern slaves; but he designed to work still further for them as he did for the children of Israel, whom he took forth to educate, to refine, and ennoble. **Christ himself wrought with his appointed leaders, and directed them as to what they should do for his people that had become so terribly degraded. They were to be kept separate from all nations, to be directed and counseled until, through a correct representation of the divine character, they should come to know God, to reverence and obey his commandments.**

“Those who study the history of the Israelites should also consider the history of the slaves in America, who have suffered, who have been educated in crime, degraded, and oppressed, and left in ignorance to perish. **Their physical freedom was obtained at a great loss of life, and Christians generally should have looked with compassion upon the colored race, for which God had a care.** They should have done a work for them that would have uplifted them. They should have worked through the wisdom of God to educate and train them. We have been very neglectful of our colored brethren, and are not yet prepared for the coming of our Lord. **The cries of these neglected people have come up before God. Who has entered into the work since their deliverance from bondage, to teach them the knowledge of God? The condition of the colored people is no more helpless than was the condition of the Hebrew slaves.** The children of Israel were addicted to licentiousness, idolatry, gluttony, and gross vices. This is ever the result of slavery. But the Lord looked upon his people, and after their deliverance, he educated them. They were not left uncared for. Though they had lost in years of bondage the knowledge of the true God and of his holy law, yet God again revealed himself to them. In terrible grandeur and awful majesty he proclaimed to them his holy precepts, and commanded them to obey his law. The ten commandments are a transcript of the divine character, and are as unchangeable as the eternal throne. **But since the slaves of the South**

attained to freedom, what have we as Christians done to bear any comparison to what was done for them by those who poured out their lives on the battle-field? Have we not looked upon the difficulties that presented themselves, and drawn back from the work? Perhaps some of us have felt sad over their wretchedness, but what have we done to save them from the slavery of sin? Who have taken hold of this work intelligently? **Who have taken upon them the burden of presenting to them spiritual freedom that has been purchased for them at an infinite price? Have we not left them beaten, bruised, despised, and forsaken by the way? Is this the example that God has given us in the history of the deliverance of the children of Israel?--By no means.**" {The Review and Herald, December 17, 1895 par. 1-4}

Therefore, when looking at the Ukraine conflict and trying to understand the symbols in the book of Ezekiel, it should not be a problem for us to see a nation of Gentiles (Ukraine), illustrating something that symbolises His people at the end of the world. Coupled with that thought, Gog and Magog represent the whole world in a geographical sense, and are therefore, also giving weight to the fact that it cannot be referring to the literal land of Israel, which is not part of the geographical land of Russia. Miller's rules also help us on this point.

"How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, **if not, figuratively.**" {Rule No 11}

The "land of Israel" according to the laws of Nature, is situated in the land of Palestine, which is not part of the land of Russia. Therefore, when it says "land of Israel" in the book of Ezekiel, it cannot be referring to the literal geographical land of Israel. For this reason, according to Miller's Rules, it can only be referring to something spiritual, that is pointing forward to God's people at the end of the world, in this case the Ukrainian people. When you see this, it also wouldn't be difficult to see President Zelensky and his army, representing Nebuchadnezzar and his army (God's People), fighting against Kirill (Tyre) and Putin (Pharaoh), to free the people of the land that Satan wants to keep in bondage.

"Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service against Tyrus: every head was made bald, and every shoulder was peeled: yet had he no wages, nor his army, for Tyrus, for the service that he had served against it: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and he shall take her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army. I have given him the land of Egypt for his labour wherewith he served against it, because they wrought for me,

saith the Lord GOD. **In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth**, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 29:18-21)

When the Jews came out of bondage, they came out with great substance.

“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also **that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge**: and afterward **shall they come out with great substance.**” (Genesis 15:13-14)

This is a parallel to the Northern Armies of the USA, who fought against the South to free those slaves, many of them dying a terrible death to bring about their freedom. When they eventually received their freedom, they were awarded reparations and given a piece of land, just as the Hebrews were given a land.

“Forty acres and a mule is part of Special Field Orders No. 15, a wartime order proclaimed by Union General William Tecumseh Sherman on January 16, 1865 **during the American Civil War, to allot land to some freed families, in plots of land no larger than 40 acres** (16 ha). Sherman later ordered the army to lend mules for the agrarian reform effort. The field orders followed a series of conversations between Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Radical Republican abolitionists Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens[1] following disruptions to the institution of slavery provoked by the American Civil War. Many freed people believed, after being told by various political figures, that they had a right to own the land they had been forced to work as slaves, and were eager to control their own property. Freed people widely expected to legally claim 40 acres of land (a quarter-quarter section) and a mule after the end of the war. Some freedmen took advantage of the order and took initiatives to acquire land plots along a strip of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida coasts.[2] However, Abraham Lincoln's successor as president, Andrew Johnson, explicitly reversed and annulled proclamations such as Special Field Orders No. 15 and the Freedmen's Bureau bills.” Wikipedia

It is also no accident that the Ukrainians are openly asking that the world hold Russia accountable to pay reparations for this war, which you can be sure will take place, once this comes to its conclusion.

Let us begin by looking to see if president Zelensky fits the characteristics of Christ in his actions during this war. If we go to the book of John, Christ tells us how to determine between a true shepherd and false one.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, **the same is a thief and a robber.**” (John 10:1)

In the book of Ezekiel, Gog, who represents Satan, comes to steal from God’s people.

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and **thou shalt think an evil thought**: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, **To take a spoil, and to take a prey**; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.” (Ezekiel 38:10-12)

This is the same work that the Assyrian was ordained to do.

“O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. **I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey**, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.” (Isaiah 10:5-6)

The book of Daniel also confirms this when speaking about the King of the North (Pagan Rome), when he calls them the Robbers of God’s people.

“... also **the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision**; but they shall fall.” (Daniel 11:14)

The next question we need to ask ourselves, is do we see Russia stealing from the Ukrainians? Well apart from the land that they are trying to grab, they are also instrumental in stealing millions of tons of grain and other crops. They have also been stealing large amounts of artifacts, from museums and art galleries, and many people have been deported to Russia against their will. On top of that, the soldiers themselves have been found with the spoils from the people’s houses, including their cars, all being looted to take back to Russia.

It goes on to say that the thief is come to kill and to destroy, contrasting with the true shepherd, who is prepared to die for his sheep.

“**The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:** I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: **the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.** But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.” (John 10:10-13)

See the contrast, the thief cometh to kill and destroy, which is exactly what Putin and his army have come to do, murdering innocent civilians and purposely attacking civilian infrastructure. Whereas the true shepherd, will not flee when he sees the Wolf coming. At the beginning of the war, President Zelensky had an opportunity to flee, yet he chose to remain with his people, even though there had been several attempts to capture and kill him.

It goes on to say about Putin.

“**Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.**” (John 8:44)

In line with that, the disinformation that the Russians have been feeding their own people and many other people in the world is having its effect. Whereas, if people would only prove all things from God’s word, they would know that anything coming from Russia is mere false propaganda, which is from the father of lies.

Back Into Captivity

The scriptures in several places, gives an account of how God’s people, after being released from their bondage, again fall back into their old sins. Because of this, the Lord permitted them to go back into captivity. The prophet Moses, just before they went into the promised land, warned them of this very thing, prophesying against them of what should happen if they would do this very thing.

“**And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou**

shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. **Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;** (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) **lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.”** (Deuteronomy 6:10-15)

“Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. **When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger:** I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; **ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.** And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.” (Deuteronomy 4:23-28)

In spite of the anger that would be kindled against them for doing this, there was also a promise, that if they would remember their covenant with the Lord and return unto Him, He would remember them.

“**But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him,** if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. **When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days,** if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.” (Deuteronomy 4:29-31)

The story of Gog and Magog is the fulfillment of the promise given to them above, for in that story, Gog was coming up against a people that had been brought back into captivity because of their sin, which takes place in the latter days.

“And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; **it shall be in the latter days,** and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.” (Ezekiel 38:16)

“**And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity:** because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and **gave them into the hand of their enemies:** so fell they all by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; **Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land,** and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; **Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.**” (Ezekiel 39:23-28)

The question we would therefore wish to ask is, can we see the Ukrainians being set free and given their independence, whereupon afterwards they go back into captivity, just like the Hebrews?

“... **At midnight** all the first-born of the Egyptians were slain. Then the king sent to Israel the message, ‘Rise up, and get you forth from among my people; ... and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said.’ Exodus 12:31. **The Hebrews went out from Egypt an independent nation.** The Lord had commanded that the Passover should be yearly kept. ‘It shall come to pass,’ He said, ‘when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? that ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians.’ Thus from generation to generation the story of this wonderful deliverance was to be repeated.” {Desire of Ages, P. 76, par. 2}

“**Ukraine became independent again when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991.** This started a period of transition to a market economy, in which Ukraine suffered an eight-year recession.[12] Subsequently however, the economy experienced a high increase in GDP growth until the economy plunged during the Great Recession.” {Wikipedia}

It was at midnight where they obtained their freedom.

“**On November 9, 1989,** as the Cold War began to thaw across Eastern Europe, the spokesman for East Berlin's Communist Party announced a change in his city's relations with the West. **Starting at midnight that day,** he said, citizens of the GDR were free to cross the country's borders. East and West Berliners flocked to the wall, drinking beer and champagne and chanting ‘Tor auf!’ (‘Open the gate!’). **At midnight, they flooded through the checkpoints.**” History.com

The answer is yes. The Soviet Union was a symbol of the world, a conglomerate of countries untied together, symbolising oppression and slavery. In 1991, when Ukraine received its independence, the fall of the Soviet Union would be a parallel to Nebuchadnezzar (Christ) bringing down Pharaoh (Satan) in the book of Ezekiel. However, in 2014, a type of the Sunday law, the same world power, this time symbolising the North, comes to bring them back into captivity.

“A prolonged political crisis began on 21 November 2013, when president Viktor Yanukovich suspended preparations for the implementation of an association agreement with the European Union, instead choosing to seek closer ties with Russia. **This decision resulted in the Euromaidan protests and later, the Revolution of Dignity.** Yanukovich was then impeached by the Ukrainian parliament in February 2014. **On 20 February, the Russo-Ukrainian War began when Russian forces entered Crimea.** Soon after, pro-Russian unrest enveloped the largely Russophone eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, from where Yanukovich had drawn most of his support. A referendum in the largely ethnic Russian Ukrainian autonomous region of Crimea was held and **Crimea was de facto annexed by Russia on 18 March 2014.** The War in Donbas began in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine involving pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian Ukrainians and Russian mercenaries. **The war stalled until 24 February 2022, when Russia launched a major invasion of much of the country.**” {Wikipedia}

That invasion would mark the type of the seventh plague, where God’s people come face to face with death in the Sunday law crisis.

The Counterfeit Truth

In the time of Christ, He illustrated to us what our condition would be at the end of the world. A corrupt faithless people, that would trust their feelings more than a plain thus saith the Lord. Hence, the condition of the Adventist church, with every wind of doctrine blowing through her, the Lord gives us this living illustration, not only to warn us as to what will come upon us, but to strengthen our faith when His people understand His word and see these events come to pass before their eyes. It is no accident that we have another living parable taking place at the same time between Trump and Biden. Trump representing the North (Conservatives) and Biden the South (Liberals), representing the globalists. It is their intention to bring the whole world into slavery through the vaccination, which has all the same DNA characteristics as the Sunday law. This is the next test before us, which the Lord knows we are not ready for. For this reason, He brings this allegory of this war in Ukraine, in order for us to have a corresponding experience, so that we can be ready for the vaccination test, when it comes. Therefore, we should be very grateful of His care for us at this time and understand what is required from us. The Lord never punishes without a warning, and the more I study these deep prophetic stories, line upon line, the more I see this God, that has such a deep love for His people, who will do everything to save them.

<http://treeoflife-ministries.org/>

“**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?” (Isaiah 5:4)

Unfortunately, most Adventists read, watch, and listen to far too many conspiracy theories, instead of trusting a plain thus saith the Lord. Coupled with the fact that God’s people do not understand spiritual things, it leads them to view everything based upon what they see with their own eyes, rather than see those events through the eyes of God. People forget very quickly that their own hearts are evil.

“**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked:** who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

“**And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**” (Genesis 6:5)

“**He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:** but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.” (Proverbs 28:26)

For these reasons, most Adventists think Putin is illustrating someone saving us from the evil of the Globalists, and in doing so turn the truth upside down on its head. However, let us now look at what these things are meant to illustrate, to those who look at these things in light of God’s word.

NATO And The EU

As we read in Revelation 20, Gog and Magog represented Satan and the whole wicked world, prefigured through Russia, a federation of countries. Through this illustration, we are to see the whole World coming against a people during the Sunday law crisis, who after having previously broken free from their captivity, are now being threatened, to once again be brought under her rule. In this illustration, the rest of the World has no physical part to play. Hence, why no other countries have joined Ukraine to fight against Russia, for it is not written into the narrative. Therefore, we understand that the other countries of the world represent the unfallen worlds, that are looking on to see if God’s people will overcome, and are giving their support to them in their struggle. NATO, for instance, would represent God’s army of angels that are looking on, eager to go and fight for them, yet restrained, so that the people of God drink the cup, He has ordained for them.

“Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress and have heard their prayers. **They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril.** But they must wait yet a little longer. **The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism.** The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work they are led to exercise faith, hope, and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. Yet for the elect's sake the time of trouble will be shortened. ‘Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him? ... I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.’ Luke 18:7, 8. **The end will come more quickly than men expect. The wheat will be gathered and bound in sheaves for the garner of God; the tares will be bound as fagots for the fires of destruction.**” {Great Controversy, P. 630, par. 2}

This is the heavenly host that God’s people are to strive to be a part of, typified by NATO, the very organization that Ukraine wishes to join. To add to this thought, the Ukrainians want to be part of the EU, and because of this very desire, Russia invaded Ukraine. But what does this mean spiritually? In the book of Genesis, the promise given to Abraham is the birth and the land. The birth was fulfilled when God’s people came out of Egypt, or in this case, when Ukraine became independent from Russia in 1991, when they received their own autonomy and borders.

“And Abram said, Behold, **to me thou hast given no seed:** and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.** And he brought him forth abroad, and said, **Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.**” (Genesis 15:3-5)

Abraham was told that his seed would be as the stars of heaven. But before this could take place, they had to go into bondage, illustrating the Sunday law crisis, where the Lord would come to deliver God’s people from their bondage to sin.

“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that **thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;** And also that nation, whom they shall serve, **will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.**” (Genesis 15:13-14)

When we go to the book of Galatians, it explains to us that the seed represents all those who are baptized into Christ.

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.” (Galatians 3:16-18)

To some this would seem like a contradiction, but Moses, who was a type of Christ, was the one chosen to lead God’s people out of Egypt, but in order to do so they had to be baptized into Moses.

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;” (1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

This is what Galatians is referring to, that all who wish to become the seed of Abraham, must be baptized into Christ, just as the Jews were baptized unto Moses.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:27-29)

Just like in the time of Moses, and also in the time of Christ, the Lord sent them a Saviour to deliver God’s people. Therefore, the people of God coming out of Egypt were illustrating this baptism, or new birth, into their Saviour.

The observance of the Passover began with the birth of the Hebrew nation... DA 76.2

Christ, who was typified by Moses, also came out of Egypt to parallel this truth.

“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15)

The death of Herod parallels the death of Pharaoh, both of them representing the Dragon that was persecuting God's people. Matthew took those very words from a prophecy that was referring to Israel coming out of Egypt, which again shows this same parallel.

“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, **and called my son out of Egypt.**” (Hosea 11:1)

As we can read, when Israel came out of Egypt through the Red Sea, it marks the point where they become His Son, just like when Christ was baptized, He became the Son of God, playing the role of the deliverer at the end of the world who the Lord will raise up to bring His people out of bondage.

“And **Jesus, when he was baptized**, went up straightway out of the water: and, **lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove**, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)

In the book of Ezekiel, there is also an allegory about God's people, when they came out of Egypt, marking the point where they became the Lord's.

“And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. And as for thy nativity, **in the day thou wast born** thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, **in the day that thou wast born**. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, **Live**; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, **Live**. I have caused thee **to multiply as the bud of the field**, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare. **Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness**: yea, I sware unto thee, and **entered into a covenant with thee**, saith the Lord GOD, and **thou becamest mine**. Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and **I anointed thee with oil**. I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and **a beautiful crown upon thine head**. Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and **thou didst prosper into a kingdom**. And **thy renown went**

forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 16:3-14)

This is a parallel to when Christ was baptized and became the anointed one, where He was now to go forth as a light to the world.

“He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.** He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:8-12)

Unless we understand the role play that has been laid out in scripture, and that this was what Christ was doing, we will not be saved. He was following a script that had already been typified for Him in the Old Testament, and all he had to do was to follow it. This is what He is illustrating to us, and teaching us to follow Him in the same roleplay. The Jews, when they came out of Egypt; were to be a light to the Gentiles, and this is what Christ was paralleling when He was born, when He came out of Egypt, or when He was baptized. They are all an illustration for us at the end of the world, marking the point where we are delivered from our sin and can now go forward to be a light to the whole world. Let us go to the book of Galatians and we can see Him playing that role, until the exact time in scripture marks when He is to be baptized.

“Now I say, **That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;** But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, **when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:** But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons.** And **because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**” (Galatians 4:1-7)

Abraham had asked for an heir, which was the promised seed. The promised seed was to be as the stars of heaven for multitude. Yet Galatians 3 tells us, that in order to be that multitude, we must be baptized into Christ. Romans 6 however, tells us that we must be baptized into His death, paralleling the baptism with the cross.

“**Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we

have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. **For he that is dead is freed from sin.**" (Romans 6:3-7)

This baptism of death was fulfilled at the cross, on Passover, marking the point where they come out of Egypt, being delivered from their sin. In the verses above in Galatians 4, it explains to us, that Christ from a child, was learning the scriptures until the time appointed, or fulness of the time. This is being paralleled to the time, when Paul and the Gentiles were in bondage in the world, but how at that appointed time, they were baptized, as was Christ, crying "Abba Father." Hence, why the Father sends the Holy Spirit and announces to everyone that this is His Son. This is merely an allegory for God's people at the end of the world, who will come out of the Sunday law (time of bondage) after being persecuted by the dragon, which will purify them and make them ready to be a light unto the Gentiles. This same illustration is seen in Romans chapter 8, where Paul talks about how the Revelation of Jesus Christ made him realise his true condition, where instead of being holy, as he thought of himself, he was actually in the worst bondage. However, after being brought to confess his sins in deep repentance, he also cried "Abba Father," when he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; **but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, **that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Romans 8:12-17)

In this next quote, Sister White will parallel the coming out of Egypt, with the baptism and the birth of Christ. In the first part of this quote, she points us to Daniel, prophesying of the time appointed, when the savior would come to be baptized. She parallels it with the promise given in Eden, where the Lord would fulfill in our hearts a divine act, giving us a hatred against sin.

"**The Saviour's coming was foretold in Eden.** When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. **They joyfully welcomed their first-born son,** hoping that he might be **the Deliverer.** But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. **The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent,** but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away;

the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.' Ezekiel 12:22." {Desire of Ages, P. 31, par. 2}

If we just break down the points listed in the above quote, it begins by taking us back to Eden where the promise of a Saviour was first given. Why did we need a Saviour? Because as we have seen, the Serpent in the garden had beguiled God's people, representing the threefold union at the end of the world, and God's people needed deliverance from that bondage. That promise pointed to the fulness of time, or time appointed, written in Galatians 4.

"In the statement, **'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed,'** God pledged Himself to introduce into the hearts of human beings a new principle,—a **hatred of sin**, of deception, of pretense, of everything that bears the marks of Satan's guile.

"In the fulness of time Christ came, and in human nature lived on this earth a life unmarred by spot or stain of sin. With His whole being He hated sin of any kind. The emissaries of darkness give Christ the credit for being the one who expelled them from heaven. **They hate Him for His purity**. When He came to this world, His purity was a constant reproach to the proud, sensual generation then living on the earth. **They hated Him, and in the end crucified Him.**" {Special Testimonies, Book 02, P. 7, par. 1}

Therefore, Daniel was prophesying of a point where God's people would be delivered from their sin, after having overcome the Beast and his image.

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem **unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks**: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." (Daniel 9:25)

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and **them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name**, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." (Revelation 15:2)

The 69th week, ended in the fall of 31 B.C, exactly 483 years after the decree went forth in the fall of 457 B.C, when Christ came to the Jordan to be baptized, paralleling the Red Sea crossing where they came out of Egypt. This would also parallel Ukraine receiving its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and will again parallel their freedom when Putin is Punished. Sister White in the same quote from Desire of Ages, parallels this with the birth of Christ.

“But like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay. Through the symbols of the great darkness and the smoking furnace, **God had revealed to Abraham the bondage of Israel in Egypt, and had declared that the time of their sojourning should be four hundred years. “Afterward,” He said, “shall they come out with great substance.”** Genesis 15:14. Against that word, all the power of Pharaoh's proud empire battled in vain. **On “the self-same day” appointed in the divine promise, “it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.”** Exodus 12:41. So in heaven's council the hour for the coming of Christ had been determined. **When the great clock of time pointed to that hour, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.**

“**When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son.**’ Providence had directed the movements of nations, and the tide of human impulse and influence, until the world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer. The nations were united under one government. One language was widely spoken, and was everywhere recognized as the language of literature. From all lands the Jews of the dispersion gathered to Jerusalem to the annual feasts. As these returned to the places of their sojourn, they could spread throughout the world the tidings of the Messiah's coming.” {Desire of Ages, P. 32, par. 2}

Therefore, just like the Bible, Sister White is rightly dividing the prophetic symbols and bringing them together, line upon line, so that we can understand this deliverance from bondage and what it really means. When we go to the scriptures where it marks the birth of Christ, it tells us that this will be a sign to us.

“Therefore **the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son**, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

We will come back to this point of His birth being a sign shortly, but what I would like to focus upon, is what Mary represents. In the above verse it tells us that she is a virgin, which we know represents a pure church. However, what I want us to understand, is that she is teaching us an allegory of how God's people are going to come out of Egypt. If we go back to the book of Genesis, the Lord expressly tells us the experience that is needed for the Saviour to be born.

“Unto the woman he said, **I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children;** and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (Genesis 3:16)

In the book of Matthew, chapter 24, Christ is pointing forward to the end of the world to the Sunday law crisis and tells us that when that event begins, that this is the beginning of our birth experience.

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and **what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for **all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**” (Matthew 24:3-8)

They are asking Him to tell them when He is going to come, which as we have read, His coming is marked by this deliverer coming to bring them out of Egypt. The Jews in their time mixed up the second coming with His first coming, teaching us that God’s people will do the same thing at the end of the world. They will look for a Saviour, to deliver them from the Sunday law crisis, when Rome, Babylon, Egypt, will come to bring them into bondage, yet without understanding, that it is a Saviour from their sin that they need really need. However, He clearly tells them, that when these sorrows begin the end is not yet. Before Christ can come to deliver them from their sin, the people must first face death.

“**Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you:** and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**” (Matthew 24:9-13)

“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, **and his own life also,** he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26)

Let us now bring these thoughts together and show how Mary, this virgin who bears Christ out of her womb, is merely an allegory for the born-again experience. At the time of Christ’s birth, Herod the King wanted to put Christ to death, paralleling Matthew 24, where God’s people have to face death and overcome by faith in order to be born again.

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and **shall kill you:** and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.” (Matthew 24:9)

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found **begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth.** The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9);

he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. **Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.**” {Great Controversy, P. 438, par. 2}

The Dragon is a representation of the civil powers, which Satan uses to persecute.

“... **Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon** who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus. In their enmity against the people of God, they show themselves guilty also of the choice of Barabbas instead of Christ. TM 38.2

In this case and at this time in Earth’s history it was pagan Rome that was the ruling power, which through Herod, wanted to destroy Christ. Hence why Joseph is told to flee into Egypt until the death of Herod, marking the point where the Lord punishes the dragon (civil power) and God’s people come out of Egypt.

“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, **Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt**, and be thou there until I bring thee word: **for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.** When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: **And was there until the death of Herod:** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.**” (Matthew 2:13-15)

It is all an allegory for God’s people at the end of the world. When we go to the book of revelation chapter 12, which Sister White used to point to the work of Herod, we see a virgin travailing in birth that comes out of the belly when Satan is punished.

“And there appeared **a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:** And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared **another wonder in heaven;** and **behold a great red dragon,** having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And **his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:** and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.” (Revelation 12:1-4)

Although there is much we could say of these verses, they are outside the scope of this study. However, what I want you to see, is that both these symbols represent this spiritual war that is going

on between Christ and His heavenly angels, and Satan and his evil angels. Therefore, the woman is a representative of the church triumphant, which is to be on the Earth but not of the Earth, who's hearts are in heaven, who is wrestling now to bring forth her children during a time of persecution, by the Dragon power. This birth was illustrated by Christ at His baptism, who when He came out of the water, fled into the wilderness for three and a half years.

“And **she brought forth a man child**, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And **the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**” (Revelation 12:5-6)

The falling of the stars is marking the punishment upon the Dragon when Christ is to come out of the belly, which we read was to be a sign. A few verses further on it gives more information of the same event.

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**” (Revelation 12:7-10)

Satan was cast out when he crucified Christ.

“Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. **Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel.** He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing.

“**Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed.** Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. ‘**And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**’ Revelation 12:10.” {Desire of Ages, P. 761, par. 1}

Christ was crucified on Passover, by the Dragon power (Rome), marking the point where the same Dragon power (Pharaoh) sets them free from their bondage in Egypt. Christ took upon

Himself the curse paralleled for Pharaoh, so that He could set all those, who trust in Him by faith, free. Sister White parallels this with the baptism of Christ, where the promised seed pass through the Red Sea, which marks the birth of the Hebrew nation, or the sign where Christ was born, when He came out of the belly. Hence, through Christ's death, we are set free. These are all allegories of how Christ will deliver His people at the end of the world and shows the trials that they must endure to be freed from their sin. Hence, why Christ said that the only sign that he was going to give was the sign of Jonah, paralleling His birth when He came out of His mother's womb.

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, **Master, we would see a sign from thee.** But he answered and said unto them, **An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:** For as Jonas was three days and three nights **in the whale's belly;** so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights **in the heart of the earth.**” (Matthew 12:38-40)

The Lord had said to Moses that He would raise up a prophet like unto him, referring to Christ, the true Saviour, which Moses typified.

“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and **will put my words in his mouth;** and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.” (Deuteronomy 18:18)

That was also typified by the raising up of Jeremiah. See the language used is illustrating the same belly experience Christ refers to about the grave.

“**Before I formed thee in the belly** I knew thee; and **before thou camest forth out of the womb** I sanctified thee, and I **ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.** Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, **I cannot speak: for I am a child.** But the LORD said unto me, **Say not, I am a child:** for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and **whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.**” (Jeremiah 1:5-7)

“Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, **Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.**” (Jeremiah 1:9)

Jeremiah said that he was a child, referring to the Galatians 4 experience, where we are in bondage in Egypt. However, Christ told him that he was no longer a child, marking the point where he has now come out of the belly, or out of bondage, and is now a son.

“Now I say, **That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant,** though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. **Even so**

we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons.** And **because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts,** crying, Abba, Father. **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son;** and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” (Galatians 4:1-7)

Hence, when Jonah comes out of the belly, he is ordained a prophet unto the nations like Jeremiah. This is the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham, who was told that the seed would come out of his own bowels.

“And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.** And he brought him forth abroad, and said, **Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars,** if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**” (Genesis 15:4-5)

Abraham is a type of the Father, bearing His Son in His bosom.

“No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father,** he hath declared him.” (John 1:18)

When we have this experience and become the Sons of God, Christ becomes our Father, just like the Father son relationship that is illustrated to us by God.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father,** The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Therefore, Moses, at Passover in Egypt, typifies the Saviour, Christ, who has gone to the cross and has taken upon Himself the curse of the grave, where He rests for three days. During those three days, His seed that is in His bosom, are waiting to be delivered. Three days later, when they get to the Red Sea, the Lord delivers them from the Dragon (Pharaoh), where Moses (Christ) now sees His seed as the stars of heaven for multitude, marking the day of first fruits, the day where Christ came out of the tomb and brought His trophies with Him. This is a parallel to Jeremiah and Jonah coming out of the belly and going to the nations to preach.

“And **the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves** after his resurrection, and **went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.**” (Matthew 27:52-53)

Hence the woman in Revelation 12, which is about to give birth represents Christ, the church triumphant, who when persecuted by the dragon is in travail to bring forth her children as the stars of heaven, who also represent Christ, going forth to preach to the whole world. This is why Christ said the following to the Jews, when they asked Him for a sign.

“Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.** Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **But he spake of the temple of his body.** When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.” (John 2:19-22)

For during those three days that He is in the grave, He is giving birth to His true temple which He is rebuilding, representing the Sons of God. Therefore, let us come to the conclusive point to which I would like us to see upon this point. The woman in Revelation 12, has 12 stars upon her head.

“And there appeared a great wonder **in heaven**; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and **upon her head a crown of twelve stars:**” (Revelation 12:1)

She is this church in heaven, also known as the Church Triumphant, whom Christ illustrated when he went to the cross. The Ukrainians are illustrating a people that are seeking to break free from the dragon, just as Jonah was swallowed up by a whale. That whale is a symbol of the Dragon.

“Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon** that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.” (Ezekiel 29:3)

“Son of man, **take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt**, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and **thou art as a whale in the seas**: and thou camest forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers.” (Ezekiel 32:2)

The Ukrainians who are seeking to break free from Gog, which is Pharaoh, are trapped in his belly, yet if they trust in Christ, they are His seed that He will protect and bring forth out of His womb.

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, **she was delivered of a man child.** Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring

forth in one day? **or shall a nation be born at once?** for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. **Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.**” (Isaiah 66:7-9)

When the Lord punishes Putin for this evil work that he is doing, at the same time He will bring forth His children as the stars of heaven.

“**Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?** or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?” (Job 38:32)

Mazzaroth, is a word for the twelve constellations of heaven, which are a symbol of the twelve tribes of Israel, the seed that came out of Egypt. It is no accident then that the EU, which is what Ukraine wishes to be a part of, has twelve stars upon its flag, representing the church triumphant that is at present helping Ukraine to conquer its enemies. Here is a statement from the University of Luxembourg, speaking about the EU flag.

“**The number of stars is fixed and was set at 12** in 1955.

“Twelve is also a number in Judaeo-Christian symbolism. The tree of life has 12 fruits; there are 12 sons of Jacob, 12 patriarchs, 12 tribes of Israel and 12 gates of the New Jerusalem. Moses sent 12 explorers to the lands of Canaan, the bread multiplied by Jesus was placed in 12 baskets and Jesus speaks of 12 legions of angels after the kiss of Judas; lastly, there are 12 apostles. The number 12 is also the product of multiplying three, always a divine number (the trinity), by four, the number of the earth with its four cardinal points; 12 is therefore the symbol ‘of the union between the divine and the terrestrial world’, which, as we know, embodies the central mystery of Christianity.

“**The number twelve together with stars, the crown of stars, reflects the vision of the Virgin Mary of the Book of Revelation (12:1) and is the symbol par excellence of popular Marian iconography.**

“**Lastly, the colours.** The colours have their own expressive and symbolic value.

“The rectangle of the flag is blue, the colour of the sky and the universe. Blue is also traditionally the colour of the European continent. Many parliamentarians referred to this symbolism when the Council of Europe was preparing to adopt the flag. **Lastly, blue is the colour of the Virgin. Mary’s stone is the blue sapphire which, again in the Book of Revelation (21:19), adorns the foundation of the walls of the New Jerusalem; blue is the colour of Mary’s mantle.**”

<https://www.cvce.eu/en/education/unit-content/-/unit/eeacde09-add1-4ba1-ba5b-dcd2597a81d0/2b4e569f-9aa3-48dd-b877-13d0d5f1d177>

...**The members of the church triumphant—the church in heaven**—will be permitted to draw near to the members of **the church militant, to aid them in their necessity**... 18LtMs, Lt 106, 1903, par. 30

Can we see the EU drawing near to the Ukrainians, to assist them? Yes! Therefore, as you can see, the symbols that are represented in the book of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, which are in harmony with the rest of the Bible, are helping us to have confidence as to what is happening, and what will happen shortly.

Write the Vision and Make it Plain

When we return now to the book of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, we can see that it is a prophecy that Ezekiel was to give to Gog, and warn him what he was going to do in the latter days.

“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, **set thy face against Gog**, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, **and prophesy against him**,” (Ezekiel 38:1-2)

As we have already studied, these words never had a historical fulfillment until now. What we must also understand, is that Ezekiel represents this church in heaven, who comes to the church militant to give the last warning message. For we understand that every prophet in the Bible must have the same experience as Christ, before they can give that last warning. This is what Adventists fail to grasp, that they are in bondage to sin and they know it not. We as a movement are at present only typifying this work, for we ourselves are also in bondage, striving for the Lord to bring about in us the great work he has promised. At the beginning of the book Ezekiel, the prophet has this revelation of Christ, which is what brought him to be humbled into the dust and made ready for ministry.

“And above the firmament that was over their heads **was the likeness of a throne**, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of **the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain**, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. **This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face**, and I heard a voice of one that spake.” (Ezekiel 1:26-28)

Ezekiel sees Christ upon the throne and the revelation of His glory causes Ezekiel to fall upon his face. Sister White tells us that this illustration of Ezekiel being raised up is a parallel to Isaiah.

“The sixth chapter of Isaiah has a deep and important lesson for every one of God's workmen. Study it with humility and earnest prayer. The first and second chapters of Ezekiel should also be carefully studied. The wheels within wheels represented in this symbol was confusion to the finite eye. But a hand of infinite wisdom was revealed amid the wheels. Perfect order is brought out of the confusion. Every wheel works in its right place, in perfect harmony with every other part of the machinery.” {Christian Leadership, P. 26, par. 4}

Let us look at what Isaiah experienced.

“In the year that king Uzziah died **I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne**, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.** And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. **Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.** Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: **And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **Then said I, Here am I; send me.** And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, **and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.** Then said I, Lord, **how long?** And he answered, **Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,** And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.” (Isaiah 6:1-12)

As we can read, just like Ezekiel, he sees Christ on the throne and is given a revelation of His glory. This leads to his sins being purged, when a hot coal touched his lips. This parallels Christ touching the mouth of Jeremiah, when He put His words in his mouth. Sister White tells us that this is the latter rain.

“John says, **I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.**’ [Revelation 18:1.] Then, **as at the Pentecostal season, the people will**

hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue. God can breathe new life into every soul that sincerely desires to serve him, and **can touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar**, and cause them to become eloquent with his praise. **Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful truths of God's word**. The stammering tongue will be loosed, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth. **May the Lord help his people to cleanse the soul-temple from every defilement, and to maintain so close a connection with him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out.**" {Gospel Workers 1892, P. 383, par. 3}

She also tells us that Isaiah saw Christ on the day of atonement.

"Christ Himself was the Lord of the temple. When He should leave it, its glory would depart—that glory once visible in the holy of holies over the mercy seat, where the high priest entered only once a year, on the great day of atonement, with the blood of the slain victim (typical of the blood of the Son of God shed for the sins of the world), and sprinkled it upon the altar. This was the Shekinah, the visible pavilion of Jehovah.

"It was this glory that was revealed to Isaiah, when he says, 'In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple' [Isaiah 6:1-8 quoted] (Manuscript 71, 1897)." {SDA Bible Commentary, Book 4, P. 1139, par. 5, 6}

Therefore, the vision given to Isaiah represents the time period where the judgment of the living takes place. Hence, when Isaiah confessed his sins, they were blotted out, enabling him to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Once this was completed, filled with the Spirit of Christ, he was to go forward and proclaim a message, until the cities be destroyed, marking the completion of the destruction of Jerusalem. As we will see, all the prophets have this experience before they are sent to labour for Christ. This is the sin of the Adventists Church, we are like this fig tree with pretentious leaves, yet we have no fruit. We fail to realise that this experience is the very experience that we need, before we can be fitted up to be His ambassadors.

"Thomas Munzer, the most active of the fanatics, was a man of considerable ability, which, rightly directed, would have enabled him to do good; **but he had not learned the first principles of true religion**. 'He was possessed with a desire of reforming the world, and forgot, as all enthusiasts do, that the reformation should begin with himself.'—Ibid., b. 9, ch. 8. He was ambitious to obtain position and influence, and was unwilling to be second, even to Luther. He declared that the Reformers, in substituting the authority of Scripture for that of the pope, were only establishing a different form of popery. He himself, he claimed, had been divinely commissioned to introduce the true reform. 'He who possesses this spirit,' said Munzer, 'possesses the true faith, although he

should never see the Scriptures in his life.’—Ibid., b. 10, ch. 10.” {Great Controversy, P. 191, par. 1}

This is the experience that we must all have and the only way it can happen is through a revelation of divine truth, for as John says: “And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**” (John 8:32). Only the truth, received into our hearts, can bring us to repentance.

In the next quote, Peter, a Seventh Day Adventist all his life, finally has an experience that typifies this experience we must have to be sent to work for the Saviour. He has the same experience as Isaiah, when he realizes how sinful he is.

“But Peter was unmindful now of boats or lading. This miracle, above any other he had ever witnessed, **was to him a manifestation of divine power.** In Jesus he saw One who held all nature under His control. **The presence of divinity revealed his own unholiness.** Love for his Master, shame for his own unbelief, gratitude for the condescension of Christ, above all, **the sense of his uncleanness in the presence of infinite purity, overwhelmed him.** While his companions were securing the contents of the net, **Peter fell at the Saviour's feet, exclaiming, ‘Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’**

“It was **the same presence of divine holiness that had caused the prophet Daniel to fall as one dead before the angel of God.** He said, ‘My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.’ **So when Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he exclaimed, ‘Woe is me! for I am undone;** because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’ Daniel 10:8; Isaiah 6:5. **Humanity, with its weakness and sin, was brought in contrast with the perfection of divinity, and he felt altogether deficient and unholy.** Thus it has been with all who have been granted a view of God's greatness and majesty.

“Peter exclaimed, ‘Depart from me; for I am a sinful man;’ yet he clung to the feet of Jesus, feeling that he could not be parted from Him. The Saviour answered, ‘**Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.**’ **It was after Isaiah had beheld the holiness of God and his own unworthiness that he was entrusted with the divine message. It was after Peter had been led to self-renunciation and dependence upon divine power that he received the call to his work for Christ.**” {Desire of Ages, P. 246, par. 2-4}

In the next quotes, Sister White parallels Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John the Revelator, showing us how all these illustrations in Ezekiel, Isaiah and the book of Revelation, are all speaking about the end of the world. Illustrating the point, when God’s people will have to go through the image of the beast test, in order to have their sins blotted out, like Isaiah.

“Such thoughts as these were crowding upon his mind as he stood under the portico of the holy temple. **Suddenly the gate and the inner veil of the temple seemed to be uplifted or withdrawn, and he was permitted to gaze within, upon the holy of holies,** where even the prophet's feet might not enter. There rose up before him a vision of Jehovah sitting upon a throne high and lifted up, while His train filled the temple. On each side the throne hovered the seraphim, two wings bearing them up, two veiling their faces in adoration, and two covering their feet. These angel ministers lifted up their voices in solemn invocation, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory,’ until post and pillar and cedar gate seemed to tremble at the sound, and the house was filled with their praise.

“**Never before had Isaiah realized so fully the greatness of Jehovah or His perfect holiness; and he felt that in his human frailty and unworthiness he must perish in that divine presence.** ‘Woe is me!’ he cried; ‘for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’ **But a seraph came to him to fit him for his great mission. A living coal from the altar was laid upon his lips with the words: ‘Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.’** And when the voice of God was heard saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Isaiah with holy confidence responded, ‘Here am I; send me.’

“What though earthly powers should be arrayed against Judah? What though Isaiah should meet with opposition and resistance in his mission? He had seen the King, the Lord of hosts; he had heard the song of the seraphim, ‘**The whole earth is full of His glory;**’ and the prophet was nerved for the work before him. **The memory of this vision was carried with him throughout his long and arduous mission.**

“**Ezekiel, the mourning exile prophet, in the land of the Chaldeans, was given a vision teaching the same lesson of faith in the mighty God of Israel.** As he was upon the banks of the river Chebar, a whirlwind seemed to come from the north, ‘a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber.’ A number of wheels of strange appearance, intersecting one another, were moved by four living creatures. High above all these was ‘**the likeness of a throne,** as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.’ ‘As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.’ ‘And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings.’”
{Testimonies For The Church, Volume 5, P. 750-751}

A bit further on she continues.

“**In like manner, when God was about to open to the beloved John the history of the church for future ages,** He gave him an assurance of the Saviour's interest and care for His people by

revealing to him ‘One like unto the Son of man,’ walking among the candlesticks, which symbolized the seven churches. While John was shown the last great struggles of the church with earthly powers, he was also permitted to behold the final victory and deliverance of the faithful. He saw the church brought into **deadly conflict with the beast and his image**, and the worship of that beast **enforced on pain of death**. But looking beyond the smoke and din of the battle, he beheld a company upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having, instead of the mark of the beast, the ‘Father’s name written in their foreheads.’ And again he saw ‘**them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God’** and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

“**These lessons are for our benefit**. We need to stay our faith upon God, **for there is just before us a time that will try men’s souls**. Christ, upon the Mount of Olives, rehearsed the fearful judgments that were to precede His second coming: ‘**Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.**’ ‘Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.’ **While these prophecies received a partial fulfillment at the destruction of Jerusalem, they have a more direct application to the last days.**

“**We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecy is fast fulfilling.** The Lord is at the door. There is soon to open before us a period of overwhelming interest to all living. The controversies of the past are to be revived; new controversies will arise. **The scenes to be enacted in our world are not yet even dreamed of. Satan is at work through human agencies.** Those who are making an effort to change the Constitution and secure a law enforcing Sunday observance little realize what will be the result. **A crisis is just upon us.**

“But God’s servants are not to trust to themselves in this great emergency. **In the visions given to Isaiah, to Ezekiel, and to John** we see how closely heaven is connected with the events taking place upon the earth and how great is the care of God for those who are loyal to Him. The world is not without a ruler. **The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord.** The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge.”
{Testimonies For The Church, Volume 5, P. 752-753}

In that vision, given to Ezekiel, he saw this army of Gog, coming from the North to destroy the whole land.

“And I looked, and, **behold, a whirlwind came out of the north**, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.” (Ezekiel 1:4)

This whirlwind is a symbol for the destruction of Jerusalem (God’s people). Because of this, Ezekiel was told to blow the trumpet and warn the people.

“Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and **set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;** Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. **But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.** So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.” (Ezekiel 33:2-7)

This warning comes in the form of a flying roll, as illustrated in the book of Zechariah. That roll is the same message that is given to Ezekiel.

“Zechariah writes, ‘Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold, a flying roll. And he said to me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. Then said he unto me, **This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth; for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it.** I will bring it forth, saith the Lord, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof.’ [Zechariah 5:1-4.]

“**This great roll, twenty cubits in length and ten cubits in breadth was the measurement of the porch of Solomon’s temple.** In this roll is written the name of the wrongdoer unless he repents of his wrong. The Lord’s eye is upon every transaction, and His judgment will come upon those who do wrong. **The ninth chapter of Ezekiel should be studied in connection with (Ezekiel 2:1-10) and the fifth chapter of Revelation.**” {Letters and Manuscripts, No 14, Letter 142, 1899, par. 8, 9}

Ezekiel is told to eat this roll that was opened before him, which was written on both sides, and go tell the people what was coming upon them and why.

“**And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.** But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: **open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.** And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, **lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before**

me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.” (Ezekiel 2:7-10)

When Ezekiel ate the roll, it tasted like honey.

“Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, **eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.** So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, **cause thy belly to eat,** and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and **it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.**” (Ezekiel 3:1-3)

In the book of Jeremiah, which we read, he was also raised up out of the belly to warn God’s people, for the King of the North was coming as a whirlwind to lay all the Cities waste.

“Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, **Blow ye the trumpet in the land:** cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities. Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: **for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.** The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; **and thy cities shall be laid waste,** without an inhabitant.” (Jeremiah 4:5-7)

“Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and **his chariots shall be as a whirlwind:** his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.” (Jeremiah 4:13)

Jeremiah, who was imprisoned, likewise gives instruction to Baruch, the scribe, to write the words that he has been given, upon a roll.

“And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, **Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations,** from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. **It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.** Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and **Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.** And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD: **Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD’S house** upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities. **It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every**

one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people. And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house.” (Jeremiah 36:1-8)

John, in the book of Revelation, who has the same experience as Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah, is having things revealed to him, that are going to shortly come to pass.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Revelation 1:1-3)

Notice that there is a blessing for all those who read the prophecy, “for the time is at hand.” That prophecy, like Ezekiel and Jeremiah, he is told to write and go tell God’s people.

“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;” (Revelation 1:19)

In that roll, was contained all the past histories, which are all pointing to the end of the world. From this we can understand that this is referring to the Bible.

“There in His open hand lay the book, the roll of the history of God’s providences, the prophetic history of nations and the church. Herein was contained the divine utterances, His authority, His commandments, His laws, the whole symbolic counsel of the Eternal, and **the history of all ruling powers in the nations. In symbolic language was contained in that roll the influence of every nation, tongue, and people from the beginning of earth’s history to its close.**” {Letters and Manuscripts No 13, Letter 65, 1898, par. 17}

This roll is what Jesus told us that we are to live by every word.

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” (Luke 4:4)

It is that word, represented by the flying roll, that will judge us.

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48)

Therefore, before John could write what he had seen, he first had to eat the book that was open in the hand of Christ, just like the scroll was opened before Ezekiel.

“As the book was unrolled, all who looked upon it were filled with awe. There were no blanks in the book. There was space for no more writing...” {Letters and Manuscripts No 13, Letter 65, 1898, par. 20}

“And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.” (Ezekiel 2:9-10)

“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.” (Revelation 10:1-3)

“And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.” (Revelation 10:8-10)

Revelation 10, was fulfilled in Millerite History, when the Millerites gave the first angels message. In the next quote, Sister White explains that the first Angel's message is the flying roll.

“The Spirit who asked Zechariah, ‘What seest thou?’ to which he answered, ‘I see a flying roll,’ also caused an angel to fly in the midst of heaven, ‘having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him [let no glory be given to erring, sinful men]; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ Many indeed will not understand, but will stumble at the words contained in the roll.” {Special Testimonies, Book 07, P. 60, par. 2}

Therefore, that little book, which is the flying roll, is a curse that will destroy all those who do not receive the warning. This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Hence why Sister White can say,

that when we understand the book of Revelation, this is what will bring about the revival of God's people.

“Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. **The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains.** “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy,” God declares, “and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” **When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival.** We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it.” {Testimonies to Ministers, P. 113, par. 2}

This is why, at the same time this war is taking place, the Lord opened up unto us the seven thunders, so that we have a clear and firm understanding of the books of Daniel and the Revelation, except for certain portions of Daniel 11. The Lord is giving us the greatest evidence for our faith, yet still some wish to quibble and hold onto folly.

Habakkuk, who was a watchman, just like Ezekiel, was told to write the vision about the King of the North and make it plain upon tables. We understand this to mean, that we are to teach the truths that are revealed upon a white board, line upon line, so that everyone can see and understand, and take a stand for their faith, which for those who are faithful, will bring them to the appointed time, where God's people will be delivered and where the vision can now speak.

“**I will stand upon my watch,** and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. And the LORD answered me, and said, **Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time,** but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (Habakkuk 2:1-3)

I would like you to notice the command given at this time, where Habakkuk is told to write the vision, that it marks the investigative judgment, when Christ is in the temple.

“But the LORD is in his holy temple: **let all the earth keep silence before him.**” (Habakkuk 2:20)

At that time, on the day of atonement, everyone was searching their hearts for unconfessed sin and listening for the bell and pomegranate on the dress of the high priest. Remember, when Isaiah saw Christ, that it was on the day of atonement. The same illustration can be seen in the book of Revelation, where the seventh seal is opened, marking the point where the book, or the roll is

opened and the seven thunders can now be understood. All Heaven, like the Earth, are watching for the events to unfold.

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.” (Revelation 8:1)

The book is opened just before probation is about to close.

“**And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.**” (Revelation 8:5)

Notice in the next quote that Sister White compares the casting down of the censor to the close of probation, where the work of sealing that had been taking place in Ezekiel 9 has come to a close.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. **An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed.** Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, **throw down the censor.** He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, ‘**It is done.**’ And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, ‘**He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.**’

“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, **the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living.** Christ had received His kingdom, **having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins.** The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.” {Early Writings, P. 279-280, par. 1}

That work in Ezekiel 9, was to be studied in conjunction with the flying roll in the quote we read from Early Writings.

“...The ninth chapter of Ezekiel should be studied in connection with (Ezekiel 2:1-10) and the fifth chapter of Revelation.” {Special Testimonies, Book 07, P. 60, par. 2}

In the book of Daniel, when the investigative judgment begins, the books are opened.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: **the judgment was set, and the books were opened.**” (Daniel 7:9-10)

As we know, Daniel and Revelation are one book. In the fifth chapter of Revelation, we see the flying roll, which is written on both sides, being opened, where Christ is about to execute judgment upon those who have rejected the last warning.

“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne **a book written within and on the backside**, sealed with seven seals.” (Revelation 5:1)

Just before that book is opened, in chapter 4, we see the investigative judgment taking place as is marked in Daniel 9. Where the voice like a trumpet is sounding, showing John the things, which must shortly come to pass.

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and **the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet** talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and **I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, **behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**” (Revelation 4:1-2)

Therefore, this war that is taking place in Ukraine, is a living allegory, for us to see and understand, so that we can comprehend the time in which we are living. The Lord wants to lead us to have an experience, marking the point where He will have a people, set free from their bondage, whom He can send forth to give the warning of what is coming upon this earth. Before we can have this experience in the Sunday law and be sealed for eternity, we must have the first birth, marked by Christ at His baptism. This will be the grace, sufficient to help us to live a Holy life, up until our final test, at the Sunday law. In order for them to receive this experience, there is a work ordained for each person to do. Let us now consider this work.

The Work

On the day of atonement, in the book of Leviticus, there is a work that we are instructed to do, and that is to afflict our souls and search our hearts. This work is to ensure that all sin that is revealed to us, like Isaiah and all the prophets, can be confessed and blotted out before Christ says “it is done.” So although we are not in the day of atonement for the living just yet, like the baptism of Christ, it will prepare us for the cross which is ahead of us.

“And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that **in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls**, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you.” (Leviticus 16:29)

Hence, when all the prophets are giving the last warning out of the flying roll, everyone is instructed to humble themselves before the Lord. In the book of Joel, who prophecies about the Northern army, that had come upon the land, they were instructed to do the same work as on the day of atonement.

“Awake, ye drunkards, and **weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine**, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white. **Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.**” (Joel 1:5-8)

“Gird yourselves, and **lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God**: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, **gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD**, Alas for the day! **for the day of the LORD is at hand**, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.” (Joel 1:13-15)

“**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**;” (Joel 2:1)

Jeremiah says the same thing.

“For this **gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl**: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us.” (Jeremiah 4:8)

“**O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved**. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?” (Jeremiah 4:14)

The seal, which for us at this time, would be the seal of promise, that prefigures the actual seal of God, when we go through the image of the Beast test. This is what we will receive if, by faith we are led to have this humbling experience.

“In whom ye also trusted, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,** Which is the **earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Ezekiel tells us, that only those who sigh and cry and partake of that work will receive the seal.

“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.**” (Ezekiel 9:4)

As we can read, that trumpet, warning them of what was about to come, the day of the Lord, was to bring them to humble confession, to sigh and cry, lament for their sin and bring them to repentance. No man can repent of himself, it is only something that the Lord can give you.

“But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and **the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth. The “Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,” illumines the secret chambers of the soul, and the hidden things of darkness are made manifest.** John 1:9. Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart. **The sinner has a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and feels the terror of appearing, in his own guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts.** He sees the love of God, the beauty of holiness, the joy of purity; he longs to be cleansed and to be restored to communion with Heaven.” {Steps to Christ, P. 24, par. 2}

This was the experience of Isaiah. The Lord revealed His glory to him, symbolizing the Revelation of truth being unfolded, which made him realise how sinful he was. His repentance could only be achieved through this Revelation, for without it, Isaiah would have had no real conception of his true condition.

“As the prophet Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he was amazed, and, overwhelmed with a sense of his own weakness and unworthiness, he cried, ‘Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.’

“Isaiah had denounced the sin of others; **but now he sees himself exposed to the same condemnation he had pronounced upon them.** He had been satisfied with a cold, lifeless ceremony in his worship of God. **He had not known this until the vision was given him of the Lord.** How little

now appeared his wisdom and talents as he looked upon the sacredness and majesty of the sanctuary. How unworthy he was! how unfitted for sacred service! His view of himself might be expressed in the language of the apostle Paul, **‘O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?’** {The Review and Herald, December 22, 1896, par. 2, 3}

“The seraphim dwelt in the presence of Jesus, yet they veiled with their wings their faces and their feet. They looked upon the King in His beauty, and covered themselves. **When Isaiah saw the glory of God, his soul was prostrated in the dust. Because of the unclouded vision he was graciously permitted to behold, he was filled with self-abasement.** This will ever be the effect upon the human mind when the beams of the Sun of Righteousness shine gloriously upon the soul. **The light of the glory of God will reveal all the hidden evil, and bring the soul to the place of humble confession.** As the increasing glory of Christ is revealed, the human agent will see no glory in himself; **for the concealed deformity of his soul is laid bare, and self-esteem and self-glorying are extinguished. Self dies, and Christ lives.** {Bible Echo, December 3, 1894, par. 5}

Sister White likens Isaiah’s experience to the experience of Paul at his conversion, showing us clearly the work that must be completed in every one of us, before we are ready to do a work for Christ. The question is, how can we blow the trumpet and warn the people, unless we first have everything clearly revealed to us, enabling us to give the trumpet a certain sound?

“**For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?**” (1 Corinthians 14:8)

Hence, it was a divine revelation, that if received, would do something for them that they were unable to do for themselves.

“**What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.**” {Testimonies to Ministers, P. 456, par. 3}

Hence, why all the prophets in the Bible, are illustrated as having this experience, showing us that without the Revelation men cannot be saved.

“**When Job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind, he exclaimed: ‘I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.’** Job 42:6. It was when Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, and heard the cherubim crying, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts,’ that he cried out, **‘Woe is me! for I am undone.’** Isaiah 6:3, 5. Paul, after he was caught up into the third heaven and heard things which it was not possible for a man to utter, speaks of himself as **‘less than the least of all saints.’** 2

Corinthians 12:2-4, margin; Ephesians 3:8. It was the beloved John, who leaned on Jesus' breast and beheld His glory, **that fell as one dead before the feet of the angel.** Revelation 1:17." {Great Controversy, P. 471, par. 1}

We know from scripture, that Christ illustrates this experience at the beginning of the Christian walk, and is to be maintained all the way to the end, to the cross, at the Sunday law crisis, where the experience will be repeated, in order to be sealed for eternity. Therefore, for His people now, who need to have this true conversion, marking their beginning, it is easy to see how the Lord is using this illustration, to bring about a great revival amongst His people. This can be achieved through testing His people, whether, or not, they will receive the words of instruction that have clearly been made plain. All those who refuse to do this work, will fail their test by faith and go into darkness.

The Judgment

As we have come to understand, Gog and Magog represents the of the King of the North during the Sunday law crisis. Throughout the scriptures "the Day of the Lord," is clearly illustrated as the second coming of Christ, where He comes to punish the wicked. We know that at the end of the Sunday law, for Adventists, that the Lord will punish the false King of the North, symbolized by Babylon, Rome, Egypt etc, typifying the second coming of Christ. At that time, when He is punishing the wicked, He also blesses the faithful, giving them the latter rain.

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. **After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up,** and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and **he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.**" (Hosea 6:1-3)

When God's people are raised up, after three days in the womb, and filled with His Spirit, just like Christ was at the baptism, the whole earth will be filled with the glory of God, paralleling the point where Babylon is punished.

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; **and the earth was lightened with his glory.**" (Revelation 18:1)

"Now comes the word that I have declared that New York is to be swept away by a tidal wave. This I have never said. **I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story: 'What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled.'** The whole of the eighteenth chapter

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of Revelation **is a warning of what is coming on the earth**. But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, **only I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's power**. From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. **One word from the Lord, one touch of His mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.**" {Life Sketches, P. 411, par. 5}

"And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.**" (Isaiah 6:3)

Hence, why Sister White parallels the coming out of Egypt, with the coming out of Babylon.

"**As God called the children of Israel out of Egypt, that they might keep His Sabbath, so He calls His people out of Babylon that they may not worship the beast nor his image.** The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws, has exalted himself above God by presenting this spurious sabbath to the world; the Christian world has accepted this child of the Papacy, and cradled and nourished it, thus defying God by removing His memorial and setting up a rival sabbath." {Selected Messages, Book 3, P. 406, par. 1}

That punishment comes by the true King of the North, when he comes from the East. Hence, the message in Daniel 11:44, is a warning about Christ coming from the East.

"**But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him:** therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." (Daniel 11:44)

"**For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**" (Matthew 24:27)

That event was prefigured by Cyrus, who typified Christ punishing Babylon.

"**Who raised up the righteous man from the east,** called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow." (Isaiah 41:2)

"**That saith of 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." (Isaiah 44:28)

“**Thus saith the LORD to his anointed**, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and **I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;**” (Isaiah 45:1)

Those same tidings, referenced in Daniel 11, were prefigured prior to the destruction of Babylon. The word rumour, is the same Hebrew word for tidings.

“**And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumour** that shall be heard in the land; **a rumour shall both come one year, and after that in another year shall come a rumour, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.** Therefore, behold, the days come, that **I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon:** and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.” (Jeremiah 51:46-47)

This was announcing the Day of the Lord, where Christ was going to come and punish the world, represented by Babylon, setting them against themselves in a civil war. We see that same illustration in the book of Isaiah.

“The burden of Egypt. **Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt:** and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. **And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.**” (Isaiah 19:1-2)

When that day comes, Babylon will experience the same sorrows that they had brought upon God’s people.

“Howl ye; **for the day of the LORD is at hand;** it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and **every man's heart shall melt:** And they shall be afraid: **pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth:** they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and **he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.** For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.” (Isaiah 13:6-11)

“Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.” (Isaiah 13:13)

As well as the Lord stirring them up, one against another, He also brings an external army represented by the Medes. This we will discuss in more detail a bit later.

“Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. **Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.** And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, **shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.**” (Isaiah 13:17-19)

However, God's word states: **“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17)

Therefore, before the Lord can judge Babylon, He must first judge His church. We know that Satan wants to counterfeit everything the Lord does, and that he deceives the whole world into believing that he is Christ.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Satan, through his agent, the Papal power, exalts himself as the son of God. It is the Son of God, the one who died for us all, who has been given the authority to execute judgment.

“And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.” (John 5:27)

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” (Jude 1:14-15)

Therefore, Satan, through the Papacy, the false son, will seek to execute judgment upon the Saints. The problem is, the Pope is a church power and does not have the ability to do this. For this reason, he must unite himself with the civil powers, who just like the Jews, had to use the Romans,

in order to execute judgment. Christ is both King and Priest, so for Satan to counterfeit this, he must unite church and state. The next problem Satan faces, is that the Kings have only been authorised by God to punish the wicked.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. **For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil.** Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: **For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.** Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.” (Romans 13:1-5)

So, in order for him to accomplish his plans, he must deceive the state powers into believing that they are doing a righteous work, to rid the world of a people who only bring trouble upon them. He does this through the false doctrine of the woman, the wine of Babylon. Hence why the Bible warns kings not to drink wine.

“**Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.** It is not for kings, O Lemuel, **it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.**” (Proverbs 31:3-5)

Hence, why the Angel in Revelation 17 shows John the judgment, that will come upon them for drinking her wine and persecuting the saints, when they gave their strength to her.

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, **Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.** So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.** And I saw **the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:** and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” (Revelation 17:1-6)

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. **These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.**” (Revelation 17:12-13)

And as we read earlier, that wine makes them Mad.

“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: **the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.**” (Jeremiah 51:7)

This is why Ezekiel 38 and 39, is a warning upon Gog and Magog and why they are destroyed. This is also why we see Putin like a madman, doing this evil work, thinking that he is righteous, when in fact Kirill, the woman, has poisoned his mind with delusive thoughts of unrighteousness. Therefore, in this sense, Satan deceives people into executing judgment upon the righteous, instead of just the wicked. It is clearly shown in scripture that the kings are ordained by God to punish Jerusalem. He calls Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Jeremiah “His servant.” He also calls the Assyrian “the rod of His anger.”

“Behold, I will send and take all **the families of the north**, saith the LORD, and **Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant**, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.” (Jeremiah 25:9)

“O Assyrian, **the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath** will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.” (Isaiah 10:5-6)

But it is the false Jerusalem, a people that have apostatized from the truth, not those who hold to the truth, that he is ordained to punish. These two Jerusalem's are illustrated in the book of Galatians chapter 4.

“For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. **But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory:** for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. **But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.**” (Galatians 4:22-26)

Hence, the story of Ezekiel, is a story about these two Jerusalem's and how the Lord raises up a prophet to show how they are all this unrighteous Jerusalem in bondage, and gives them a last warning to repent, so that they can adorn His righteousness and be saved. However, because Satan has perverted the minds of the kings through the Woman, they think to kill all, including the righteous and seek to execute judgment upon them.

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. **For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.** They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. **They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.** For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:” (Psalms 83:1-5)

Satan is counterfeiting the judgment that is to come upon him, where root and branch will be destroyed for eternity.

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and **all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.**” (Malachi 4:1)

Sister White explains that this punishment upon Jerusalem illustrates the end of the world.

“The tears which Christ shed upon Olivet as He stood overlooking the chosen city were not for Jerusalem alone. **In the fate of Jerusalem He beheld the destruction of the world.**” {Christ's Object Lessons, P. 302, par. 3}

Therefore, it is easy to see that Satan, in coming against true Jerusalem as well as the false, is perverting the destruction of the world, which is the destruction of the wicked. The false religions of the world are represented by Babylon.

“**The state of corruption and apostasy that in the last days would exist in the religious world, was presented to the prophet John in the vision of Babylon,** ‘that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.’ Revelation 17:18. **Before its destruction the call is to be given from heaven, ‘Come out of her,** My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’ Revelation 18:4. As in the days of Noah and Lot, there must be a marked separation from sin and sinners. There can be no compromise between God and the world, no turning back to secure earthly treasures. ‘Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’ Matthew 6:24.” {Patriarchs and Prophets, P. 167, par. 1}

As we read earlier, the call to come out of Babylon is the same call to come out of Egypt. God's people are to be in Babylon, but not of Babylon and when Christ calls them out they are to leave. Those who refuse, have become like her and will be punished with her. Hence why Sister White states, that the destruction upon Babylon represents the destruction of the world.

“The destruction of Babylon pictures to some degree the final destruction of the world, of which the prophet writes, ‘Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.’ Destruction came upon Babylon while the king and his lords were engaged in feasting and revelry. Cyrus and his army marched up the bed of the river Euphrates; for trenches had been dug, and the river turned from its course, so that there was no obstruction to their entering the city, provided the gates were opened. The guardsmen were indulging in merriment and revelry, and the city was left without defense. Before the officers were aware, the enemy had entered the city, and escape was impossible. Those in one part of the city were slain or captured before those in another part knew that the city was invaded. No alarm was sounded, no cry could be raised to warn the people that the forces of Cyrus were upon them.” {Signs of the Times, December 29, 1890, par. 2}

However, there is an important point that we must also consider. Within God's people there are two groups, represented in history by the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees hated the Romans and only wanted to overthrow them, whereas the Sadducees sought to court the civil powers in order to benefit themselves.

“A deputation of Pharisees had been joined by representatives from the rich and lordly Sadducees, the party of the priests, the skeptics and aristocracy of the nation. The two sects had been at bitter enmity. The Sadducees courted the favor of the ruling power in order to maintain their own position and authority. The Pharisees, on the other hand, fostered the popular hatred against the Romans, longing for the time when they could throw off the yoke of the conqueror...” {Desire of Ages, P. 405, par. 2}

What I would like to suggest, is that the Sadducees represent all those, who when the Sunday law comes, will gladly accept Sunday (the Mark in their forehead), whereas the Pharisees will be those who refuse to accept it and continue to honour the Sabbath. However, doing it in their own strength, they will not be sealed and will in fact receive of her mark (on their right hands), signifying the receiving of the Mark of the Beast by their unrighteous actions, rather than being in agreement. Therefore, the False King of the North comes to punish all those who refuse to keep her Sabbath (Sunday), which would include both the unrighteous Pharisees and God's true people. Whereas the true King of the North comes to punish all those who refused to keep the true Sabbath.

In the literal Seventh plague this is repeated, when the wicked, typified by Gog and Magog, come up to punish the righteous, representing those who refused to accept Sunday. At this point in time, there are no tares left amongst God's people, the 144,000 stand alone. All the tares refused to leave Babylon and are now part of her, to be punished by the true King of the North at His coming, for refusing to keep the Sabbath. This is also the destruction of false Jerusalem, the counterfeit of the true. Hence why Babylon is likened unto a Golden City.

“That thou shalt take up this proverb **against the king of Babylon**, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! **the golden city ceased!**” (Isaiah 14:4)

Babylon put on a cloak of righteousness and pretended to be Jerusalem, yet at the coming of Christ she is exposed.

“**And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:** And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. **Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:11-14)

“**At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth**—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Christ takes His people to the City of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants. ‘Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.’ ‘The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word.’ ‘Because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. **Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned.**’ Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 6.

“**The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness.** The ruins of cities and villages destroyed by the earthquake, uprooted trees, ragged rocks thrown out by the sea or torn out of the earth itself, are scattered over its surface, while vast caverns mark the spot where the mountains have been rent from their foundations.” {Great Controversy, P. 657, par. 2}

It then goes on to show, that because Satan sought to make the 144,000 a scapegoat for the plagues that were falling upon them, the Lord shows who the true scapegoat is and places the sins back upon him.

“**Now the event takes place foreshadowed in the last solemn service of the Day of Atonement.** When the ministration in the holy of holies had been completed, and the sins of Israel

had been removed from the sanctuary by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, **then the scapegoat was presented alive before the Lord**; and in the presence of the congregation the high priest confessed over him “all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, **putting them upon the head of the goat.**” Leviticus 16:21. **In like manner, when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed, then in the presence of God and heavenly angels and the hosts of the redeemed the sins of God's people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit.** And as the scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.” {Great Controversy, P. 658, par. 1}

Now that we understand these principles, in the Sunday law crisis, which typifies the seven last plagues, the false King of the North (Gog and Magog) comes up to punish Jerusalem for refusing to keep Sunday. However, as we know from history, these Pharisees are bigots and are full of murder and hatred, who had crucified their Lord and Saviour, and therefore bring wrath upon themselves, which the civil power is ordained to do.

“Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies **which the LORD shall send against thee**, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and **he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance**, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, **until he have destroyed thee. And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst**, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.” (Deuteronomy 28:48-52)

However, because the kings disobeyed the Lord, by entering into a false marriage with the Woman, drinking her wine and perverting judgment, the Lord will punish them. Instead of punishing the wicked only, they seek to punish the righteous also, making them a scapegoat for the plagues that have been chastising them for their wickedness. However, before the Lord allows this false King of the North to destroy those who oppose him, He sends a last warning message though the righteous, to come out of her before it is too late. We see this with the prophet Joel, who is warning them about this false King of the North, who is coming to execute judgment upon them.

“**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;” (Joel 2:1)

“And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: **for he is strong that executeth his word**: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” (Joel 2:11)

However, if God’s people do the work of humbling themselves, that army will be removed from destroying those that are faithful.

“Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? **Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people**. Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: **But I will remove far off from you the northern army**, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.” (Joel 2:17-20)

This is what we see in the literal seventh plague, the false King of the North comes against the 144,000, who are weeping, sighing and crying for deliverance and the Lord rebukes Satan from touching them. Unlike those who refuse to humble themselves, who through unbelief, are preaching a peace and safety message, either by their words, or their lives. For these we are told, none will escape.

“A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; **yea, and nothing shall escape them.**” (Joel 2:3)

Yet Isaiah foretells of a remnant, that will be few in number, who return unto the Lord and receive the refreshing, line upon line. These will be a holy people and will escape this punishment decreed against His people for their unfaithfulness.

“Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, **Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate**, And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. **But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return**, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: **so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.**” (Isaiah 6:11-13)

“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.” (Isaiah 4:2-4)

Those who receive the latter rain, are those who, like Jeremiah, are no longer children. They have been weaned from the milk and are ready to receive the meat in due season.

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, **This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.”** (Isaiah 28:9-12)

On the flip side to that, there is a woe pronounced upon those who remain on the Milk.

“And woe unto them that are with child, and **to them that give suck in those days!**” (Matthew 24:19)

Therefore, from this we can see why Gog and Magog, who typify the whole wicked world, are punished. First for drinking the wine they were told not to, then for deceiving others, then seeking to destroy them and lastly for also destroying the righteous, represented by the martyrs.

We can see this illustrated in the story of Naboth, the Jezreelite. Ahab, drunk on the wine of Jezebel, covets the vineyard of Naboth. Whereupon Jezebel, using Ahab’s authority, murders Naboth, in order to sieze that which was not his. This all takes place at Jezreel, or Armageddon, marking the seventh plague, where God’s people come face to face with death.

“And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance

of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. **But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him,** Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, **Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal,** and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. And she wrote in the letters, saying, **Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.** And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. And **there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king.** Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. **Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.** And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. **And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.”** (1 Kings 21:1-16)

Because of this evil deed, paralleling those false witnesses who condemned Christ to death, a judgment was pronounced through Elijah, who stood before the king and warned him that the day of the Lord was about to come upon him.

“**And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel,** which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. **And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?** And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, **In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.** And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. **Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall,** and him that is shut up and left in Israel, **And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah,** for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. **And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The**

dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.” (1 Kings 21:17-24)

However, we know that during the Sunday law against the SDA church, the Lord is willing to forgive the ignorance of the King and gives him a chance to repent, paralleling the work of repentance that God’s people must do in this time also.

“And it came to pass, **when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth,** and went softly. And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, **Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me?** because he humbleth himself before me, **I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.”** (1 Kings 21:27-29)

Nebuchadnezzar was guilty of the same sin, when drunk on Jezebels wine, he seeks to punish the righteous.

“**An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura.** And as **Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon,** issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image **should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death.** Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot. But the Lord has declared, ‘Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and write grievousness which they have prescribed’ [Isaiah 10:1]. [Zephaniah 1:14-18; 2:1-3, quoted.]” {Manuscript Release No 14, P. 91, par. 3}

In Daniel chapter 4, the prophet stands before the king and tells him his dream, which is a pronouncement of judgment upon him for persecuting God’s true people.

“**The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;** Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; **under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:** It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, **Hew the tree down, and destroy it;** yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, **till seven times pass over him;** This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee

to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, **till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.**" (Daniel 4:20-25)

Nebuchadnezzar, like the Proud Assyrian, was this great tree in the garden of Eden, representing the civil powers. Yet in whose branches, the Serpent was sitting, controlling his mind, to deceive and persecute the saints. However, when the Sunday law comes for the world, Belshazzar, who had already seen the judgment come upon his grandfather, thought to lift himself up and repeat the sins of his fathers. For him, like Gog, there was no mercy.

"And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. **And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.** This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. **In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.**" (Daniel 5:22-30)

Therefore, once the false king of the North, has counterfeited the work of executing judgment upon the wicked, in the destruction of Jerusalem, the true King of the North (Christ) will come and execute judgment upon him and all those, like the Sadducees who joined with him. Hence, we see in the Sunday law, the destruction of Jerusalem, which is meant to typify the end of the world, be immediately followed by the destruction of Babylon for counterfeiting that work.

"Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and **have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man:** And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, **have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.** Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it

were no wood. **Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.** And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: **and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;**” (Isaiah 10:12-17)

Therefore, once Putin, under the control of Kirill, has completed his work upon Ukraine, destroying all the cities, they will receive of their just rewards.

“**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground,** which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, **Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?** All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. **But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch,** and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, **that go down to the stones of the pit;** as a carcase trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, **because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people:** the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.” (Isaiah 14:12-20)

The question is, what is it that marks the completion of that work? Isaiah had asked the question: “How long?” To which he was told: “Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and **the land be utterly desolate.**”

Whatever it is that he uses to complete this work, the Bible tells us that it will shake the whole world. In the book of Jeremiah, speaking about the destruction of Jerusalem, it states the following...

“And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, **I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle.**” (Jeremiah 19:3)

Putin, is running out of conventional weapons, but what he does have in abundance, are nuclear ones. For me at least, it doesn't take much to work out that he will use one to fulfill this prophecy and which will ultimately lead to his destruction. It is no accident that he has nuclear weapons, which he calls Satan. It was reported recently how his most modern submarine, armed

with nuclear weapons, nicknamed “city destroyers,” went missing. On top of that, the western powers, symbolising the Lord’s kingdom, have been warning him, over and over again, of the consequences of him using a nuclear warhead. These are just my thoughts, for the Bible does not mention this in a way that we could prove this point. However, in spite of this, if we look at all the evidence, what else could it be? This is the question I ask myself. But whatever it is, we will see it very shortly.

Let us look now at the destruction of Jerusalem, so that we can also understand what will happen when the Lord places the sins back upon the head of Putin, marking his destruction. As we have already discussed, Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Ezekiel, or Cyrus in the book of Isaiah, represents the work of the true King of the North, coming to punish this counterfeit kingdom. Let us read now how the Lord describes the destruction of Babylon by Cyrus, when Belshazzar was slain.

“**And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.**” (Isaiah 13:19)

When Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed by fire and brimstone, it typified the destruction of Babylon.

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness **unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them** in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, **are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**” (Jude 1:6-7)

As we read at the beginning of our study, the punishment upon Gog and Magog in the book of Ezekiel, typifies the destruction upon the wicked at the end of the thousand years. In that illustration, they are destroyed by fire.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, **and compassed the camp of the saints about**, and the beloved city: and **fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**” (Revelation 20:7-9)

That fire coming down from heaven is symbolized in the sanctuary, by the burning coals on the altar of incense. When probation closes, Christ cast down His censor, full of burning coals.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. **An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed.** Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, **throw down the censer.** He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, ‘**It is done.**’ And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’” {Early Writings, P. 279, par. 2}

This is illustrated in the book of Revelation, in chapter 8, marking the point where the seven trumpets, which typify the seven plagues are poured out.

“**And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth:** and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. **And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**” (Revelation 8:5-6)

This is a parallel to when Satan and his angels are cast unto the earth.

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and **did cast them to the earth:** and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.” (Revelation 12:4)

What I would like us to see from this, is how these coals of fire from off the altar, are an illustration of Satan and his angels being cast down unto the Earth, where He is allowed to do his work of destruction upon the wicked. If we go to the book of Ezekiel, it gives us some information about Lucifer.

“**Thou art the anointed cherub** that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; **thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.**” (Ezekiel 28:14)

Notice, he is likened to walking up and down in the midst of the stones of fire, which I want you to see, represents the angels in heaven. To show this, in the book of Ezekiel, it likens the cherubim to coals of fire.

“As for the likeness of the living creatures, **their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps:** it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.” (Ezekiel 1:13)

Notice, it also likens them unto lamps. Therefore, if we just go back to the book of Revelation, to the trumpets that are poured out when Christ casts down the censor, we can see the destructive work of Satan upon the Earth.

“And the third angel sounded, and **there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp**, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;” (Revelation 8:10)

These stars falling from heaven, are these burning coals, which are likened unto lamps, representing Satan and his angels being cast down upon the Earth, to do a work of destruction. We can also see this in the destruction of Jerusalem, where Christ is told to cast the burning coals down upon the city, just like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

“And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, **Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire** from between the cherubims, and **scatter them over the city**. And he went in in my sight.” (Ezekiel 10:2)

We already came to understand that the destruction of Jerusalem, is also the destruction of Babylon, illustrating the same punishment at the Day of the Lord.

“**For Jerusalem is ruined**, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and **they declare their sin as Sodom**, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.” (Isaiah 3:8-9)

Also, if we go back to the Trumpets, the Bible tells us clearly that they are likened unto fire and brimstone.

“And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of **fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone**: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued **fire and smoke and brimstone**. By these three was the third part of men killed, **by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone**, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And **the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood**: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:” (Revelation 9:17-20)

Notice, the purpose of this trumpet power, was to be a plague unto those who worship idols of gold and silver and brass and stone and wood, which is exactly the reason why Belshazzar was destroyed.

“Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. **They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.**” (Daniel 5:3-4)

We understand from history that the trumpet powers were a punishment upon Rome. The first four illustrated the nations rising up against her and the last three represent the work of Radical Islam, giving us an understanding of the two powers that will punish Babylon at the end of the world. Therefore, what we should see, after Putin has completed the work of destruction upon Ukraine, is Biden, who is typifying Christ, execute judgment upon Putin and the land of Russia.

Speaking about the Day of the Lord, when Christ will execute judgment, Sister White wrote.

“Twenty-eight years ago, **when many were predicting that nation should never again lift up sword against nation, neither should there be war any more**, looking into the future Sister White made this startling prediction: ‘**The tempest is coming**, and we must get ready for its fury, **by having repentance toward God** and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth.** We shall see troubles on all sides. **Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down**, and human lives will be sacrificed by the millions. **Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human efforts will be able to quench them.** **The palaces of the earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames.** Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. **The end is near, and probation is closing.**” {Pamphlets, No 120, P. 10, par. 3}

It is no accident that the USA has warned Putin, that if he uses a nuclear bomb that they will sink his whole Black Sea naval fleet and destroy all his land army. In Ezekiel 39, it states that the army of Gog will die upon the land of Israel.

“Therefore, thou son of man, **prophesy against Gog**, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and **will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:** And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. **Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou,**

and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.” (Ezekiel 39:1-4)

At the same time, the first four trumpets powers will bring a civil war, erupting from within, where they will burn down the cities.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.” (Revelation 17:16-17)

This will be followed by Radical Islam, attacking them in the middle of the ensuing chaos.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were 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.” (Revelation 11:15)

“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.” (Revelation 11:18)

That wrath was typified at 911, where the destroyer attacked the Twin Towers, symbolising the financial system of the world, and at the same time attacked the Pentagon, the military complex.

“And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.” (Revelation 9:11)

But also marking the point where the Lord will bless His people.

“And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.” (Isaiah 30:25-26)

Conclusion

There is so much more we could say about upon this topic, but I think that there is enough evidence given, to convince the spiritually minded. However, in spite of that, when these things fulfill, as they most surely will, a great fear is going to be brought upon the nations and upon the SDA Church, which by God's grace will arouse them from their slumbers.

The scriptures testify...

“With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: **for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**” (Isaiah 26:9)

The Lord wants to save a perishing world, and the SDA Church, dead in its trespasses and sins, does not know the God they claim to worship. For this reason, just as in the time of Christ and down through the history of God's people, the Lord always has to raise up a movement who are willing to hear and to do His will. Through this movement, the Lord will bring about His purposes. First for the Church and then for the World. May we praise His name for His great mercy upon our souls.