

*Study for the Month of September, 2009*

## **Spiritual Lessons from Numbers 4 and 40**

By Nathaniel Fajardo

*A Laymen Ministry Promoting the Pioneer View of the Pillars of Adventism*

PO Box 1764 Loma Linda, CA 92354 Email:natfajardo777@yahoo.com

---

### ***I. Number Four***

The Supplement Section of The Exhaustive E.G. White Commentary on Daniel, Vol. 1, quoting Louis H. Were says:

“As is well known to Bible students, the number four is employed throughout the Scriptures where it is designed to emphasize the *world-wide scope* of the prophecy. In the Book of Daniel there are *four worldly [earthly] ‘universal’ kingdoms* brought to view: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. These four kingdoms are represented as ‘four great beasts’ rising as ‘the four winds of heaven strove upon the great sea.’ Four world rulers are specifically named: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus. Four great lines of prophecy stretch from the days of the prophets to the end of worldly kingdoms: Daniel 2, 7, 8, 11. If papal Rome were not mentioned in the closing verses of Daniel 11, that prophecy would not for the fourth time cover the same course of history already mentioned three times. In the record of the sermon of the Savior delivered respecting the destruction of Jerusalem and the book of Daniel, see Matt. 24: 15, etc., we are explicitly informed of the names of *only four of His disciples* who were then present: ‘Peter and James and John and Andrew.’ (Mark 13: 3).

“Each of Daniel’s *four lines of prophecy* ends with world-wide events; In chapter two, the Stone, representing the establishment of the Savior’s kingdom at His second advent, destroys all the kingdoms of the world; in chapter 7, the Savior destroys the worldwide power of spiritual Rome; in chapter 8 and 9 the same fact is repeated, and in chapter 12: 1, 2, it will not be denied, world-wide events are outlined to occur at that time when the king of the north comes to his end. ‘At that time shall Michael stand up,’ ‘there shall be a time of trouble,’ ‘at that time Thy people shall be delivered’---these are to be worldwide in scope. Surely logic demands that as each of Daniel’s outlines ends with world-wide events, so the ending of the king of the north, as well as the other events mentioned to occur when he comes to his end, should also refer to something worldwide.” --Taken from the book ‘*The King of the North at Jerusalem*’ by Louis Were, pp. 11-15 (Used by Permission).

“Interpreting Dan. 11: 45 to mean the ending of Turkey magnifies a comparatively small national event to disproportionate significance, and only introduces something not only totally incongruous to all that is revealed in the terminals of the other prophecies, but also something totally incongruous to the other world events to transpire at the time when the king of north comes to his end.” . . . --- *Supplement Section, The Exhaustive E.G. White Commentary on Daniel, Vol. 1, p. 352, Taken from the book ‘The King of the North at Jerusalem’ by Louis Were, pp. 11-15 (Used by Permission).*

On the Significance of the Number Four in Scripture the Bible scholar L. H. Ware points out in *The Certainty of the Third Angel's Message*. pp. 237-9 the following:

“The number four is used throughout the Scripture the number for the world: ---

- There are 4 kingdoms in the world---mineral, vegetable, animal, spiritual.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> day the material world was created---on the 5<sup>th</sup> day God began the creation of animal life.
- There are 4 regions of earth---4 main points of the compass---north, south, east and west.
- There are 4 seasons of the year---spring, summer, autumn, winter.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> book the Bible---Numbers---gives the history of Israel in the wilderness, and is a type of the Christian in the world, marching to the evergreen Canaan.
- Gen. 13: 14---North, south, east, and west are interpreted in Rom. 4: 13 to be the world.
- 1 Cor. 15:39--- There are 4 kinds of flesh in the world---man, beast, fish, birds.
- Rev. 7: 1---Four angels, 4 corners, 4 winds mean the whole world---therefore, those who limit the sealing of the 12 tribes of Israel [to the literal Israel in Palestine created in 1948 by the U.N.], brought to view in Rev. 7, are out of harmony with the use the Holy Spirit makes of the number 4 as the symbol number for the whole world. The troubles to come, represented by the 4 winds coming from the 4 corners of the earth, are not Palestinian troubles, but worldwide disasters.
- Gen. 9:13, 14; Eze. 1: 28 --- The rain ‘bow’ sign which God gave to Noah---and to us---that He would never again destroy the world by water is found 4 times in the Old Testament.
- Matt. 13: 4---There are 4 kinds of soil---wayside, stony, thorny, good---in the field, which is the world, V. 38. [Note: E.G. White says: “But we must understand this (the field) as signifying the *church* of Christ in the world.” COL 70.].
- Daniel’s book has 4 Gentile kings mentioned therein---Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Darius.
- Daniel 2---Four world empires---and only 4---would rule the earth.
- Daniel 7---Four winds, 4 beasts---only 4 universal empires to rule the world.
- Rev. 1:1---God’s last message, which is for the whole world---and not, as Futurists affirm, merely for the literal Jews In Palestine---comes from *God, Jesus Christ, His angel, to John*.
- Four rivers emanated from Eden to water the earth, and there are 4 avenues through which the waters of life flow to the world.

- Matt. 1: 3, 5, 6---Four women come into Christ's genealogy---He is the Savior of the world.
- John 14: 16, 26; 15:25; 16:7---Four times, in His last discourse, Christ spoke of the coming of the Comforter---the Paraclete---who would have charge of the *world-wide* work of the church.
- Four Gospels explain to the world about God's love and Christ's life, work, death, and resurrection. They also depict 4 sides of Christ's life.
- Rev. 1: 4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6---Four times the 7 Spirits of God are mentioned in Revelation.
- Rev. 5: 11, 12---When the *heavenly angels give ascription of praise to the Deity*, it is seven-fold---power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. Rev. 5: 13---But when earthly beings give an ascription of praise, it is four-fold---blessing, honor, glory, and power.
- Rev. 5: 8-10----The "four and twenty elders" were redeemed from the earth [meaning, they are human beings, not angels].
- Rev. 2 and 3---In each of the messages to the churches, the Word says,---"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches," but in 4 of them the promise of the reward comes *before* this injunction to "hear." In the other 3 the injunction ["to hear"] comes before the promise of the reward. For the 3 with the injunction preceding the promise of reward, see Rev. 2:7, 11, 17. For the 4 in reverse, see Rev. 2: 26-29; 3: 5, 6; 3:12, 13, 21, 22. A close study of the churches will reveal that 4 of them---the last 4--- are presented as yielding to the world. While Philadelphia does not appear to be blamed, yet she has on "a little power." In the messages to the last 4 churches, the second coming of Christ is brought to view. Rev. 2: 25; 3: 3, 11, 20.
- Often in the Apocalypse, the number 4 is conspicuous in such prophecies as the 4 horsemen of Revelation 6, the 4 trumpets and the 3 woe trumpets, etc.
- In the Lord's Prayer, there are 7 factors---three pertaining to God, and *four concerning man on earth*.
 

1. Hallowed be Thy name.	1. Our daily bread.
2. Thy kingdom come.	2. Forgive us our trespasses.
3. Thy will be done	3. Lead us not into temptation.
	4. But, deliver us from evil.
- The bottomless pit is mentioned 7 times in Revelation---3 times in reference to the Arabian desert---Rev. 9: 1, 2, 11---and 4 times in reference to the arsenal of Satan---the world---Rev. 11: 7; 17:8; 20: 1, 3. From the numeric measure we can see that the bottomless pit is this earth.

**Note:** some pioneers commented however, that while the bottomless pit refers to the world, it is not only the world that we can see and know with our senses; it refers to the invisible world that surrounds us, the world of the demons, the abode of Satan. In

response to an individual who wanted to mesmerize or hypnotize her, E. G. White's response was: "I told him that the Lord has shown me in vision that mesmerism was from the devil, *the bottomless pit*" (Early Writings, p. 210). In *Maranatha*, p. 138, she writes about "*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 in secret societies." Thus, we can see that anything in Scripture depicted as "rising out of the bottomless pit," is either a being, a philosophy or power, that is making a transition from the unseen world to the seen world.

- Rev. 20: 2---When Satan is chained to this earth, called here the "bottomless pit", he is given a four-fold description---dragon, serpent, devil, Satan.
- Mark 13: 35---When Christ spoke of the unknown hour of His second advent to the earth, He gave 4 times---even, midnight, cockcrowing, morning.
- Mark 1: 3, 3---When Christ gave His sermon concerning His coming to earth again, there were 4 disciples present, Peter, James, John, and Andrew.
- Acts 1: 8---When Christ commanded His Church to take the Gospel to the world, He used 4 places---Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth.
- Rev. 19: 1, 3, 4, 6---In their triumph over the world, the redeemed say "Alleluia" 4 times.
- Rev. 19: 1---The redeemed use a four-fold ascription of praise to God---Salvation, Glory, Honor, and Power unto the Lord our God.
- Rev. 20: 8---Gog and Magog come from the 4 corners of the earth. This in itself shows that the invasion of the land of Israel (Eze 38-39) by Gog's army (which is supposed, by some, to refer to Russia) cannot possibly be restricted to Palestine. Only a world-wide application will meet the requirement of the numeric system which operates throughout Scripture.

**Note:** the 4th clause in the Lord's Prayer is one which mentions the "earth."

- Rev. 5: 9; 7: 9; 10: 11; 11: 9, 14: 6; 17: 15---The Revelation uses the same four-fold description as given in Genesis. Nothing but a world-wide application of the things in the Apocalypse pertaining to Israel will fit the numeric standards of the Scripture."

**Thus, the fourth commandment, by the numeric system of the Bible, is definitely a command which is for the whole world---not merely for the Jews or Palestine, as many among the Sunday-keeping Protestant (Christian mainstream churches) have taught!**

Comment: There are those, particularly among the fanatical fringe in the remnant church, who subscribe in the super conspiratorial theory of the "New World Order" (also referred to as the "One World Order") global government, allegedly masterminded by the secret confederacy of the Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations, the cabbalistic orders of the Jews, Jesuits, Bilderbergers, Council of Foreign Relations, etc. as soon to take over

Global control. This One World Order, they say, will take the form of a one world system of economics, one world banking system, one political system, and one world religion. There are variations on this theory, predictably being re-adjusted as past predictions that it would happen even as early 1991 have failed such as that Pope John Paul, Gorbachev of Russia, and Ronald Reagan of America were allegedly going to be the triumvirate that would bring it about---are already dead—and nothing has happened, etc.

Such Christians would do well to carefully consider the clear prophetic outline given above. As has been clearly demonstrated in the numeric system and standard of the Scripture, there are only 4 earthly governments that will rule the earth shown as an image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2) and the vision of Daniel in ch. 7. All four world or universal empires are all symbolized and presented to us as solid metals and vicious beasts. The last world government shown in the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is not symbolized by any metal or wild beast, as the four previous were, but by "a stone uncut by any man's hand" that strikes the foot of the image, and breaks the whole image into pieces," and "grows into a large mountain that covers the whole earth" (ch. 2). This "stone" represents the coming kingdom of God that will be ushered in at His glorious Second Coming; it is established on earth, in fact, *after* the millennium as the New Earth, elsewhere referred to as "the earth made new." The so-called "New World Order" or "One World Order" as succeeding the Roman Empire as a universal empire is nowhere even remotely suggested in any of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. It is a counterfeit, a deception.

- **The four angels and the four winds of Revelation 7**

Revelation 7 is a break in the sequence of opening of the seven seals, and is a parenthetical chapter that seeks to the question in Revelation 6:16 of the sixth seal, "For the great day of His wrath is come; *and who shall be able to stand?*" The Foot Note, p. 712 says:

"Compare Nahum 1:6; Mal. 3:2; Luke 21; 36. With this searching question the present scene comes to a close. Each of the six seals that have been opened shows a different phase of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, and each helps to demonstrate before the onlooking universe the righteousness of God (see on Rev. 5:13). Now there is a pause in the opening of the seals, for a question must be answered. Thus far in the portrayal of the terrible events that precede the second advent, no indication has been given that anyone survives them. Hence the dramatic question, 'Who shall be able to stand?' Chapter 7 breaks the sequence of the seals in order to present an answer." – p. 712.

*The four angels.* --Even as the "three angels" of Revelation 14 represent all those who receive these warning messages and proclaim them to the world, in their given order, the four angels of Revelation 7 represent the divine agencies in the world that God uses to hold back the forces of evil until the last work for the salvation of man under the latter rain-powered loud cry of the fourth angel of Revelation 18 is accomplished, and the servants of God numbering 144,000 are sealed in their foreheads.

*The four corners of the earth.*—The four corners of our round earth are north, south, east and west, and thus signifies the whole earth. The threat of the devastating work of the four angels is worldwide. See Isa. 11: 12; Eze. 7:2.

*The four winds.* --- Similar to the four corners, these four winds frequently are used to represent the four directions of the compass (Dan. 8:8; Mark 13:27). These are evidently

destructive forces. Compare this to Dan. 7: 2 that describe the forces of strife and military violence out of which the great empires and nations have emerged and ruled the earth. “Winds are a symbol of strife. The winds of heaven striving upon the great sea, represents the terrible scenes of conquest and revolutions by which kingdoms have attained to power.” – *Great Controversy*, p. 440.

The Footnote on p. 715 says:

“It has been suggested that inasmuch as Revelation 7 appears to be an answer to the final question of chapter 6, this withholding of the 4 winds is a temporary withholding of the terrors depicted in chapter 6, until those who are to stand firm in the tempest have made preparation for it.

Viewed in the light of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, these destructive forces represent the efforts of Satan to spread ruin and destruction everywhere. In symbolic vision John saw four angels; actually, many angels are employed in the task of holding in check the designs of the enemy. These angels ‘belt the world. . . . They are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God’s people are accomplished. . . . They are given the work of keeping back the raging power of him who has come down like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.’ (EGW Supplementary Material on ch. 5:11). When the work of sealing is completed, then God will say to the angels, ‘No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full.’ (EGW RH Sept 17, 1901); cf. 6T 408.”

When the 4 angels finally let go and cease holding in check the malicious design of Satan and the ‘fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.’ (GC 614).” - p. 716.

The following quotes are additional E. G White’s inspired statements as to who and what the “four winds of strife” refer to (emphasis mine):

“John sees **the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife**—represented as being held by 4 angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. *There is the safety of God’s church*. The angel’s of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth. . . .” TM 444.

“The Lord wishes all to understand His providential dealings now, just now, in the time in which we live. There must be no long discussions, no presenting of new theories in regard to the prophecies that God has already made plain. The great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal standing in the sight of God. Are our feet on the Rock of Ages? Are we hiding ourselves from the only refuge? **The storm is coming, relentless in its fury**. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in co-partnership with our Savior?” RH Nov. 7, 1900/p. 716.

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues.” – *Early Writings*, p. 63

See Rev. 13: 18: “**The time is coming when we cannot sell at any price. The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man save he that hath the mark of the beast**. We came near having this realized in California a short time since; but this was only the threatening of the blowing of the four winds. As yet they are held by the four angels. We are not just ready. There is a work yet to be done, and then the angels will be bidden to let go, that the four winds may blow upon the earth.

That will be a decisive time for God's children, as time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Now is our opportunity to work." 5T 152.

**What is this mark?** Footnote, EGW on Revelation, p, 879: The Greek *charagma*, 'an impress,' 'a stamp,' 'a mark.' This is evidently some badge of loyalty to the beast, some special feature that denotes that the one displaying such a mark worships the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed [see on Rev. 13: 8]. Adventist interpreters understand this mark to be not a literal brand but some sign of allegiance that identifies the bearer as loyal to the power represented by the beast. The controversy at that time will center on the law of God, and particularly on *the fourth command* (see on ch. 4: 12). Hence the observance of Sunday will constitute such a sign, but only at the time when the beast's power will be revived and Sunday observance becomes a matter of compliance with *civil law*. Adventists hold that simultaneously the third angel's message will warn against the reception of the mark (ch. 14: 9-11). This message, swelling into a loud cry (ch. 18:1-4), will enlighten men as to the issues involved. When the issues are thus clearly before them, and men nevertheless choose to support an institution of the beast, knowing it to be in direct opposition to the command of God, they thereby show their allegiance to the power and receive the mark of the beast."

"There is a time coming when *commandment-keepers* can neither buy nor sell." HS 292/Maranatha 183.

"Religious powers, allied to heaven by profession, and claiming to have the characteristics of a lamb, will show by their acts that they have the heart of a dragon and that they are instigated and controlled by Satan. *The time is coming when God's people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day.*" 9T 209.

"In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. *Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell.* It will be finally decreed that they shall be put to *death*. See Rev. 13: 11-17. But to the obedient is given the promise, [Isa. 33: 16 quoted]." – DA 121, 122.

"EGW on Revelation, p. 887; "Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; *for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.* We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into the rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies." AH 141.

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. *The mark of the beast will be urged upon us.* Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. **The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men.** [During] this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their nakedness." 5T 81.

*Comment:* The theory of the New World Order did not originate from established SDA landmarks interpretations of prophecies. None of the pioneers of the Advent movement

ever suggested this. This theory also teaches that a time is coming when only those who have the “mark or name or number of the beast” will be allowed “to buy or sell.” Since those teaching this view are currently Sunday-keeping, militant Christians who do not know or refuse to accept that the beast of prophecy is the Papacy but have adopted the Jesuit-masterminded literalistic, futuristic view, they claim that the number of the beast is either the “UPC” barcode in products, or a “national ID number” assigned to all citizens, etc. They say that the “mark of the beast on the forehead” will be a “tattoo mark,” and in the hand, will be a tiny computer chip embedded underneath the skin, etc., But students of prophecy know for a certainty that the “mark of the beast” will be Sunday-keeping as the “Christian sabbath” when it is enacted and enforced by law, beginning in America.

“Time is very short, and all that is to be done, must be done quickly. The angels are holding the 4 winds, and *Satan is taking advantage of everyone who is not fully established in the truth.* Every soul is to be tested. **Every defect in the character, unless it is overcome by the help of God’s Spirit, will become a sure means of destruction.** I feel as never before the necessity for our people to be energized by the spirit of truth, for Satan’s devices will ensnare every soul who has not made God his strength. The Lord has much work to be done; and if we do what he has appointed for us to do, He will work with our efforts.” 5T 573.

7BC 968 EGW Commentary, p, 716:

“*Already kingdom is rising against kingdom* (since the 1900s). [But] there is *not* now a determined engagement. As yet the 4 winds are held until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation.” RH, Nov. 27, 1900.

Speaking in her capacity as a prophet of God, thus, placing herself at the very time of its fulfillment in the future, though she cannot be physically part of them for she has since passed away and rests in her grave, Sis. White wrote:

“Just before we entered it [the time of trouble, in the original], we all received the seal of the living God. Then I saw 4 angels cease to hold the 4 winds. And I saw famine, pestilence, and sword, nation arose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion.” *Day-Star*, March 14, 1846.

This clearly shows that the 4 winds also refer to the 7 last plagues during the “time of trouble such as never was” (Dan. 12: 1) for these final events do not take place (a) till after the latter rain has done its work (b) all who are to be sealed under the latter rain are sealed (b) probation has already closed on earth for the Holy Spirit has been fully withdrawn, and (c) Christ has already ended His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary. At this point the mysterious “wrath of the Lamb” (Rev. 6: 16) is fully manifested upon all finally impenitent sinners in the outpouring of the 7 last plagues.

**The 1888 Crisis:** As early as the year 1888 when Senator H.W. Blair of New Hampshire introduced a Sunday Law Bill into the U.S. Congress in behalf of the Lord’s Day Alliance (formerly the American Sabbath Union), it seemed that the precipitating final events were soon to take place, prompting E.G. White to write:

“**It seems that the breaking loose of the 4 winds is about to take place.** . . . Here was a work to be done before the angels should let go the 4 winds; and if we shall awake to what is

transpiring around us, we must admit that we are not ready for the contest and the perplexities which are to be brought upon us, after the decree [Sunday law] shall go forth.

### **The Four Horses of Revelation**

L.H. Were says, referring to Rev. 6: 1-8: “The *four horses* of the Apocalypse symbolize the work of the professed church of Christ in spreading the gospel story to the world. In these symbols we can read the struggle the true church had, and still has, with spiritual Babylon. The basis of this vision is found in Zech. 1: 8-12; 6: 1-8, where Zechariah had a vision of colored horses. Israel had been taken into Babylon, and had not been delivered from bondage or hindrance of the latter. God encouraged His people to look to Him to lead them on to final and complete victory from Babylon. Those things which pertained to *literal Israel and literal Babylon* are employed in the Revelation in connection with the worldwide struggle between *spiritual Israel and spiritual Babylon*.” The Certainty of the Third Angel’s Message, p. 91.

## ***II. The Number Forty***

As is well known to Bible students, the number 40 is employed throughout the Scriptures where it is designed to emphasize the duration or time of testing, whether figuratively or literally.

- **Moses had three forty-year chapters in his illustrious, amazing life. He died in full strength and health at the age of 120, Deut. 34-5-7.**

The first 40 years was from his birth to his education in Egypt, to his flight from Egypt after killing an Egyptian. The second 40 was spent in Midian, where he married Zipporah, became his father-in-law’s (Jethro) shepherd, and fathered two sons, Gershom and Eliezer (Exo. 2: 22; 4: 20; 18: 3, 4; Acts 7:29). After this second 40 year has passed, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flaming bush (Acts 7: 30) and gave him his commission to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage. His last 40 years were spent leading Israel throughout their wilderness wanderings up to the end of his life.

“For nearly 40 years the children of Israel are lost to view in the obscurity of the desert. ‘The space,’ says Moses, ‘in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was 38 years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord sware unto them. For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy from among the host, until they were consumed.’ Deut. 2: 14, 15. During these years the people were constantly reminded that they were under the divine rebuke. . . . Yet the continuance of the tabernacle service testified that God had not utterly forsaken His people.” – *Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 406.

*Comment:* It was during the 40 years in the Wilderness that the principal literary work of Moses was done. He kept a record of the encampments (Num. 33), made a note of the events such as the battle with Amalek (Exo. 17: 14), committed the statutes founded on the covenant law to writing (24: 4-7), preserved a copy of his farewell address (Deut. 31: 24), etc.

He was the first organizer of the nation of Israel, under the guidance of God, providing Israel with the needed civil and religious institutions.

After his death the greatness of Moses was universally recognized (Jer. 14:1; Heb. 3: 2). Moreover, he had the distinguished honor of representing the saints who will come up by resurrection, with Elijah, representing those who will translated to heaven in the last days without tasting death, in the Mount of Transfiguration, Matt. 17: 3, 4.

“The Israelites deeply mourned for their departed leader, and 30 days were devoted to special services in honor of his memory. Never till he was taken from them, had they so fully realized the value of his wise counsels, his parental tenderness, and his unswerving faith. With a new and deeper appreciation, they recalled the precious lessons he had given while he was till with them. Moses was dead, but his influence did not die with him. It was to live on, reproducing itself in the hearts of his people. The memory of that holy, unselfish life would long be cherished, with silent, persuasive power molding the lives even of those who had neglected his living words. As the glow of the descending sun lights up the mountain peaks long after the sun itself has sunk behind the hills, so the works of the pure, the holy, and the good, shed light upon the world long after the actors themselves have passed away. Their words, their works, their example, will forever live. ‘The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.’ Ps. 12: 6.” –*Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 481.

- **Christ’s 40 day and night fast in the Wilderness of Temptation**

“After the Savior has fasted 40 days and 40 nights, ‘He as afterwards an hungered’. Then it was that Satan appeared to Him. He came [not as a beautiful serpent as in Eden] but as a beautiful angel from heaven, claiming that he had a commission from God to declare the Savior’s fast at an end. ‘If Thou be the Son of God,’ he said to Christ, ‘command that these stones be made into bread.’ (Matt. 4: 3). But Satan’s insinuation of distrust [“if Thou be the Son of God’], Christ recognized the enemy whose power He had come to the earth to resist. He would not accept the challenge, nor be moved by the temptation. He stood firmly to the affirmative, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God’ (verse 4).” –Man. 99a, Aug.9, 1908, “Called to Glory and Virtue,” sermon preached at Loma Linda, CA.’ UL 255.

*Comment:* To Satan, timing is everything. He knew that Jesus, in His perfect, sinless humanity that was subject to the basic needs of human nature—food and water---had reached the most extreme end of His fasting from food and water. Anything beyond this and His humanity would have died of starvation. It was at this most vulnerable time that Satan appeared to Christ, not as a serpent, then the most beautiful animal before the fall, when he tempted Eve in Eden but as a dazzlingly beautiful angel of light. The tempter came as a deceiver, bringing a message carefully calculated to provide yet another need of the fallen human nature---comfort, assurance, and relief from suffering---yet skillfully mingling it with his main agenda---to cast doubts into mind of Christ, in His now weakened human nature, as to how could the Son of God could be in such a wretched condition! Hence, his question: “If Thou be the Son of God.” Christ was tempted to disprove Satan’s cruel temptation, like no one ever will, because He knew that He could change the stones into bread and satisfy His terrible hunger. But in doing so for what could be argued as a legitimate need, He would have actually yielded to Satan’s temptation. Some believers say that it would be alright to eat swine’s flesh or any of the forbidden flesh, or even resort to cannibalism if only to survive in certain given situations. What they seem to forget is that God fed Elijah by the brook of Cherith using ravens to bring him food. He provided manna from heaven and water from a dry rock for at least a million Israelites during their nearly 40- year wilderness wanderings.

“There came to the Savior, as if in answer to His prayers, one in the guise of an angel from heaven. He claimed to have a commission from God to declare that Christ’s fast was at an end. As God had sent an angel to stay the hand of Abraham from offering Isaac, so, satisfied with Christ’s willingness to enter the blood-stained path, the Father had sent an angel to deliver Him; this was the message brought to Jesus. [Unlike Moses on the mount] Jesus was faint from hunger, He was craving for food, when Satan came suddenly upon Him. Pointing to the stones which strewed the desert, and which had the appearance of loaves, the tempter said, “If Thou be the Son of God, command these stones be made bread.”

Though he appears as an angel of light, these first words betray his character. ‘If Thou be the Son of God.’ *Here is the insinuation of distrust.* Should Jesus do what Satan suggests, it would be an acceptance of the doubt. The tempter plans to overthrow Christ by the same means that were successful with the human race in the beginning. How artfully had Satan approached Eve in Eden! ‘Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ Thus far the tempter’s words were truth; but in his manner of speaking them there was a disguised contempt for the words of God. *There was a covert negative,* a doubt of the divine truthfulness. Satan sought to instill into the mind of Eve the thought that God would not do as He had said; that the withholding of such beautiful fruit was a contradiction of His love and compassion for man. So now the tempter seeks to inspire Christ with his own sentiments. ‘If Thou be the Son of God.’ The words rankle with bitterness in his mind. In the *tones* of his voice in an expression of utter incredulity. Would God treat His own Son thus? Would He leave Him in the desert with wild beasts, without food, without companions, without comfort? He *insinuates* that God never meant His Son to be in such a state as this. ‘If Thou be the Son of God,’ show Thy powers by relieving Thyself of this pressing hunger. Command that the stone be made bread.” *Desire of Ages*, pp. 118-119.

*Comment:* God’s faithful witnesses in the ages past have been subjected to privation, persecution, tortures of the most heinous nature, and martyrdom. Those yet in the near future will be subjected to the same for standing stiffly for the truth. Then the same questions in the mind will arise during these times: “If I am the son or daughter of God, why is He allowing me to be persecuted and tortured for being faithful to Him? Why does He not perform a miracle? Where are His angels that He promised will deliver His people from danger, and from their enemies?” If and when this terrible forms of the final sifting becomes your lot, remember (a) Christ’s specific experience in the wilderness (b) the promise that He “will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able but with the temptation make a way of escape that we may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10: 13) (c) the angels are there to minister and “to keep us in all our ways” (Ps. 91: 11).

- **Noah’s flood 40 days and 40 nights – Gen. 7: 17-21.**

Gen. 7: 17, 18, 21, “Now the flood was on the earth *forty days*. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. . . .And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man, all in whose nostrils was the breath of spirit of life, all that was in the dry land died.”

“As the time of the probation was closing [towards the end of the 120 years], the antediluvians gave themselves up to exciting amusements and festivities. Those who possessed of power and influence were bent on keeping the minds of the people engrossed with mirth and pleasure, lest any should be impressed by the last solemn warning [of Noah]. Do we not see the same repeated in our day? While God’s servants are giving the message that the end of all things is at hand, the world is absorbed in amusements and pleasure-seeking. There is a constant round of excitement that causes indifference to God, and prevents the people from being impressed by the truths which alone can save them from the coming destruction.

*“In Noah’s day, philosophers declared that it was impossible for the world to be destroyed by water; so now there are men of science who endeavor to show that the world cannot be destroyed by fire,--- that it would be inconsistent with the laws of nature. But the God of nature, the Maker and Controller of her laws, can use the works of His hands to serve His own purposes.*

When the great and wise men has proved to their satisfaction that it was impossible for the world to be destroyed by water, when the fears of the people were quieted, when all regarded Noah’s prophecy a delusion, and looked upon him as a fanatic, ---then it was that God’s time had come. [Gen. 7: 11 quoted], and the scoffers were overwhelmed in the waters of the flood. With all their boasted philosophy, men found too late that their wisdom was foolishness [1 Cor. 3:19; cf. 1: 25; 2: 14], that the Lawgiver is greater than the laws of nature, and that Omnipotence is at no loss for means to accomplish His purposes. [Luke 17: 26, 30; 2 Pet. 3: 10 quoted]. When the reasoning of philosophy has banished the fear of God’s judgments; when the religious leaders are pointing forward to long ages of peace and prosperity, and the world are absorbed in their rounds of business and pleasure, planting and building, feasting and merry-making, rejecting God’s warnings and mocking His messengers, ---then it is that sudden destruction cometh upon them, and they shall not escape.’ 1 Thess. 5: 3.” – *Patriarchs & Prophets*, pp. 103-4.

- **Israel’s (Jacob’s) embalming- Gen. 50:2, 3**

The *SDA Dictionary* says, embalming, a method for preserving dead bodies was not generally practiced by the Hebrews but was a general custom in Egypt. Jacob and Joseph, both of whom died in Egypt, were embalmed according to Egyptian methods (Gen. 50: 2, 3, 26). Whether King Asa of Judah was embalmed before his burial is not certain (2 Chron. 16: 14). It is evident that friends of Christ planned to preserve His body by some sort of embalming (Luke 23: 56; 24:1; John 19: 39, 40). Dr. Davies says in *A Dictionary of the Bible*, p. 207 says: “The (Egyptian) embalmers were a numerous guild, who dwelt at the cemeteries. They were divided into three classes---the first made the incision in the body, the second handled the spices, and the third conducted the religious ceremonies when the body was placed in the tomb. By the time of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty, shortly before the time of Moses, they had brought their art to great perfection. . . . According to the Sicilian historian Diodorus, the interment of a rich man cost the relatives the equivalent of about \$1200. A second-rate embalment cost about \$400, and there was a much cheaper kind for the common people.”

- **Moses on Mt. Sinai – Exo. 24:18**

“The Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mt. Sinai, and the cloud covered it 6 days. And on the 7<sup>th</sup> day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was in the mountain *forty days and forty nights.*” Exo. 24: 15-18, N.K.J.V.

“The 40 days’ tarry in the mount did not include the 6 days of preparation. During the 6 days, Joshua was with Moses, and together they ate of the manna, and drank of ‘the brook that descended out of the mount.’ But Joshua did not enter with Moses into the cloud. He remained without, and continued to eat and drink daily while awaiting the return of Moses; *but Moses fasted during the entire 40 days.* During his stay in the mount, Moses received directions for the building of the sanctuary in which the divine

presence would be specially manifested. 'Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them' (Exo 25:8), was the command of God." – *Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 313.

Question: How was it possible for a mortal like Moses to last 40 days and nights without food? "Forty days and nights, Moses remained in the mount; and during all this time, as the first, *he miraculously sustained*. . . . During that long time spent with God, the face of Moses had reflected the glory of the divine presence; unknown to himself, his face shown with dazzling light when he descended from the mountain." – *Ibid*, p. 329. (see also 1BC 1109; 5BC 1079; 1 SM 269).

- **The number of days the 12 spies surveyed Canaan** – Num. 13: 1-33

God instructed Moses to select one man from each of the 12 tribes and dispatched to spy out the land of Canaan to make an actual assessment of the land and its people, and to bring back proof of its fertility since it was the time of the "first ripe grapes." Vs. 17-20 They returned 40 days after and "came to Moses and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of Israel. . . and brought back word unto them and unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land." Num. 13: 25, 26. But while they confirmed that "the land was flowing with milk and honey" and brought proof of it with immense cluster of grapes, they were also fearful of its giant children of Anak and its walled cities: "the Amalekites dwelling in the land of the south, the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites dwell in the mountains, and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and by the coast of Jordan." Vs. 27-29. It was only Caleb and Joshua who confidently said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Vs. 30. The rest of the 12 spies said, "We are not able to go against the people for they are stronger than we. . . and there we saw the sons of Anak who are giants and we were like grasshoppers in their sight." Vs. 31, 33.

*Comment:* In the last days, just before God's redeemed will finally enter and inherit the heavenly Promised Land, they must be similarly tested. The enemies of truth will be overwhelmingly superior in numbers and strength compared to their painfully few numbers and limited resources. The "beast and his image," and all "the kings of the earth," that is, church, state, and worldlings alike will all be temporarily united against the faithful remnant. See Revelation 17. But the antitypical Calebs and Joshuas will also fearlessly yet meekly declare, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are able to overcome the "beast (the revived Papacy), the false prophet (apostate Protestantism), and the dragon (the political governments of the world) by grace of God. May we be numbered among them if we are still living by that time. In the meantime we must be overcoming our sins "by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony."

### **The Philistines' arrogance -1 Sam. 17: 1- 58 (16).**

The Philistines, under the leadership of the giant, Goliath, challenged Israel for 40 days (vs. 16). "During the time of Saul of Israel, the Philistines again exerted their control over the hinterland of Palestine. They held Israel in subjection in denying them iron tools and weapons (1 Sam. 13: 19-21), and by spreading Philistine garrisons throughout the country (chs 10:5; 13:3). Frequent hostilities broke out between the 2 nations (ch. 14: 52). Despite Jonathan's local victories of over the Philistines at Geba and Michmash (I Sam 13: 3 to 14: 31), they returned and challenged Israel under the leader Goliath for 40 days." This time they were defeated when David killed Goliath.

*Comment:* There are many lessons to be gained here---one of them being how to deal with our numerous weaknesses and sins. We often become overwhelmed with the

amount of things we need to be overcome in the short time left of our lives when the truth suddenly comes to us that “only they that overcome shall inherit all things.” We need not despair but we must determine our priorities. David did not confront the whole Philistine army. That would have been foolhardy. He dealt with Goliath—the giant of them all. When Goliath fell and was killed by David in God’s power, the whole army fled and was soon defeated. So it is in our lives. We must first deal with our “Goliath sins” – sins that have become formidable giants, controlling us through presumptuous repetition. We can and must overcome them by the blood of the Lamb. Then the rest will become easier to overcome—all by God’s grace.

- **Elijah’s 40-day fast – 1 Kings 19: 2-8.**

It is strange indeed that the fearless Elijah who alone faced the 450 Baal priests of Jezebel at Mount Carmel and miraculously defeated them, and killed them by God’s orders, would flee for fear of his life at Jezebel’s threat to kill him. 1 Kings 18 20-46. He runs for his life to Beersheba, leaves all his servants there, and travels a day’s journey into the wilderness fastness. There he finds a broom tree, sits under it, and in deep despair and discouragement prayed that he “might die.” As he lay and slept, the angel of the Lord touched him and said, “Arise and eat.” Beside him was a baked cake and a jar of water prepared for him by the angel. This happened the second and third time. On the last the angel told him. “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.” This meager fare sustained him with strength for forty days and nights as he journeyed towards Mount Horeb. Here in one of its caves God spoke directly with him. See 1 Kings 9-18.

*Comment:* Never should anyone when even doing God’s work, ever think that he is immune to Satan’s temptations. There is absolutely no room for self-confidence. But thank God, even if we fail, He will still sustain us if we humble ourselves. Elijah was restored, and even translated to heaven without tasting death—only the second man on earth to go to heaven in this manner after Enoch.

- **Nineveh’s probation – Jonah 3: 4**

The book of Jonah is the one book specifically written on city evangelism. *Patriarchs & Prophets*, pp. 270-1 says: “As Jonah entered the wicked city, he began at once to “cry against” it the message, “Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.” Jonah 3: 4. From street to street he went, sounding the warning. The message was not in vain. The cry that rang through the streets of the godless city was passed from lip to lip, until all the inhabitants heard the startling announcement. The Spirit of God pressed the message home to every heart, and cause multitudes to tremble because of their sins, and to repent with deep humiliation [See Jonah 3: 5-9]. As kings and nobles, with the common people, the high and low, “repented at the preaching of Jonas” (Matt. 12: 41) and united in crying to the God of heaven, His mercy was granted them. . . Their doom was averted; the God of Israel was exalted and honored throughout the heathen world, and His law was revered. Not until many years later was Nineveh to fall a prey to the surrounding nations through forgetfulness of God and through boastful pride. [See chapter 30 of Jonah for the humiliation and fall of the Assyrian realm].”

*Comment:* It is sad but not surprising that Jonah, the prophet God displayed weakness of character when he learned that God would spare Nineveh when they repented in sackcloth and ashes. He should have been the first to rejoice. Instead, he imagined he would be thought of as false prophet. “Jealous of his reputation, he lost

sight of the infinitely greater value of the souls in that wretched city. The compassion shown by God toward the repentant Ninevites ‘displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.’ Once more he yielded to his inclination to question and doubt, and once more he was overwhelmed with discouragement [like Elijah]. Losing sight of the interests of others, and feeling as if he would rather die than live to see the city spared, in his dissatisfaction he exclaimed, ‘Now, O Lord, take, I beseech Thee, my life from me; for it would be better for me to die than to live.’ Read the rest of the chapter to see how God dealt with Jonah and taught by an object lesson.

The final reapplication of the work and message of Jonah for these last days, especially for the proud, godless, morally decadent, and wealth-crazed great cities of the earth is:

“God allows a period of probation; but there is a point beyond which divine patience is exhausted, and the judgments of God are sure to follow. The Lord bears long with men, and cities, mercifully giving warnings to save them from divine wrath; but a time will come when pleadings for mercy will no longer be heard, and the rebellious element that continues to reject the light of truth will be blotted out, in mercy to themselves, and to those who would otherwise be influenced by their example.

The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How quickly we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these outbreaks are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of [“Mother”] nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purposes may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger. . . .

God’s message for the inhabitants of earth to-day is, ‘Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh’ (Matt. 24: 44). The conditions prevailing in society, and *especially in the great cities of the nations*, proclaim in thunder tones that the hour of judgment is come, and that the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,--- fire and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.

‘Behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain’ (Isa. 26: 21). The storm of God’s wrath is gathering; and those only will stand who respond to invitation of mercy, as did the inhabitants of Nineveh under the preaching of Jonah, and become sanctified through obedience to the laws of the divine Ruler. The righteous alone shall be hid with Christ in God till the desolation be overpast.”- *Ibid*, pp. 277, 278.

God’s messengers to the great cities identified as part of the “three angels” of Revelation 14 must not become discouraged over the terrible wickedness, injustice, and depravity they encounter as they present the last merciful warning messages. “In every city, filled though it may be with violence and crime, there are many who with proper teaching may learn to become followers of Jesus. Thousands may thus be reached with saving truth, and be led to receive Christ as a personal Savior.”

- **Christ’s last work after His resurrection – Acts 1: 1-3**

Jesus, after His resurrection “presented Himself alive after His sufferings by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during *forty days* and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” v. 3. Apostle Paul says that: “He was seen by Cephas [Peter], than by the 12 (disciples). After that He was seen by over 500 brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present [at the time Paul wrote this epistle], but some have fallen asleep [died]. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles [that is, the 120]. The last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” 1 Cor. 15: 3-9.

*Comment:* Christ returned to earth to give all His final instructions, including telling apostles not to leave Jerusalem they had received the promised Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit—which they prepared for in 10 days of soul-searching and confessing to one another until they were of “one accord.” He also returned in person to cement the understanding and faith of His disciples and apostles that He had complete power over Satan, death, and the grave. With these they were prepared to go to be witnesses for Him in all languages to “Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to end of the earth.” Such will be the scope of the final work and message of the third angel to “every nation, kindred, tongue, and people” under the power of the latter rain of the loud cry of Revelation 18.

There are other forty-year references in the Bible such as Israel’s preparatory diet of manna and water during 40 years in the wilderness before inheriting earthly Canaan (Exodus 16; Numbers 11). Their 40-year wanderings (Num. 32:14); the same clothes and shoes they wore for 40 years (Deut. 29: 5). The number of years Israel “rested” after being sold into the hands of Cusham-Rishathim for their serving the Baals and Aheraths. When Israel repented and cried to God, He raised up Othniel, son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother, to deliver them. Egypt’s desolation in the time of Ezekiel. He declared to the prophet: “Behold, therefore I am against thee, and thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syrene even unto the border of Ethiopia. No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited 40 years.” See Eze. 29: 10-16.

David’s reign was forty years: 7 years reigning in Hebron, and 33 years reigning in Jerusalem (1 Kings 2: 11). Solomon reigned for 40 years in his throne in Jerusalem (1 Kings 11: 42). It is sad that both father and son stumbled and fell in wickedness towards the end of their respective reigns. Although they bitterly repented and were forgiven, they lost their thrones, amazing kingly power, and earthly glory. This is a terrible lesson that all the great men of the earth—whether civil or religious---should constantly remember: that He alone “removeth kings and kingdoms and setteth up kings and kingdoms.” Dan. 2: 21. He will bring down the proud if they obstinately refuse to repent, and exalt the meek and lowly.

Thus, God’s true followers on earth, though vastly outnumbered and without the wealth, political and military power and might of the empires and great nations and apostate churches of the earth, have nothing to fear as long as they strive do follow God’s biddings and preserve the knowledge of His the immutability and perpetuity of His law, particularly the fourth commandment! The antitypical, symbolical 40-year test of the earth and the churches is soon to end. Probation will soon close. Earth must be warned. The latter rain is soon to be poured out! Are you preparing for it?

