

THE AUTHORITY OF ELLEN WHITE

1

REUNION # 6

PARMINDER BIANI

3.24.2019

From the study yesterday I mentioned just in passing at the very basic level the Sabbath is a seal of God. So I was asked to explain that and we spent a little bit of time going through the explanation of that. I have a follow up question and it says, the Bible says that the seal of God is the Holy Spirit and not the Sabbath. Ellen white says that the seal is equal to the sign but this is not coming from the scriptures. So there are two issues here. One of them is dealing with the authority of Ellen white. We come to a point in the history of the church where people use this argument to try to not have to deal with problematic difficult Ellen white quotes.

it's not for me to tell you what to believe but I think I have the mandate to tell you what I believe. My understanding is Ellen white writings have equal authority to the Bible. In fact there's information in the spirit of prophecy that is not even given in the Bible. Information that she has glean directly from God or from other sources and she has set her authority and seal upon those statements and I hold them to be equal with the word of God, there are many Adventists that don't.

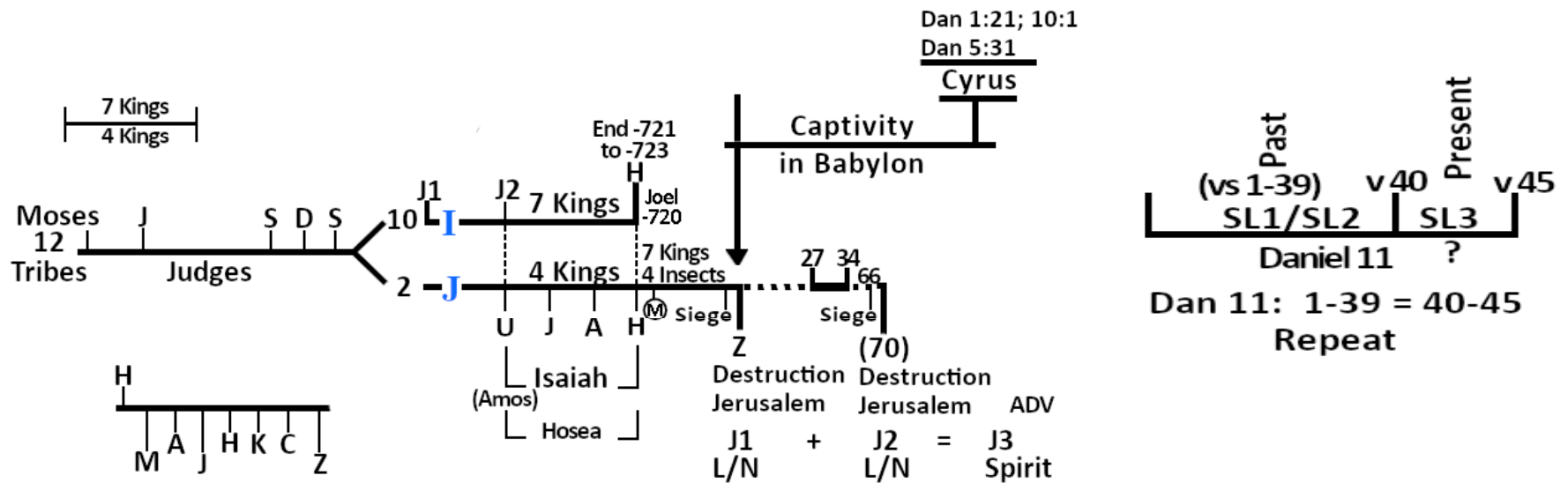
So if you're one of them because that's what the question seems to infer and I have no argument against you, but I'm just going to state my position. Every man needs to be persuaded in his own mind whether or not they're going to approach the spirit of prophecy as being without error and equal authority to the scriptures. So if I quote a spirit of prophecy passage it has equal weight to the scriptures because I am a Seventh - day Adventist. This argument about Ellen White's authority it's nothing new it's the very argument that Jesus had to deal with in fact all the prophets had to deal with this issue.



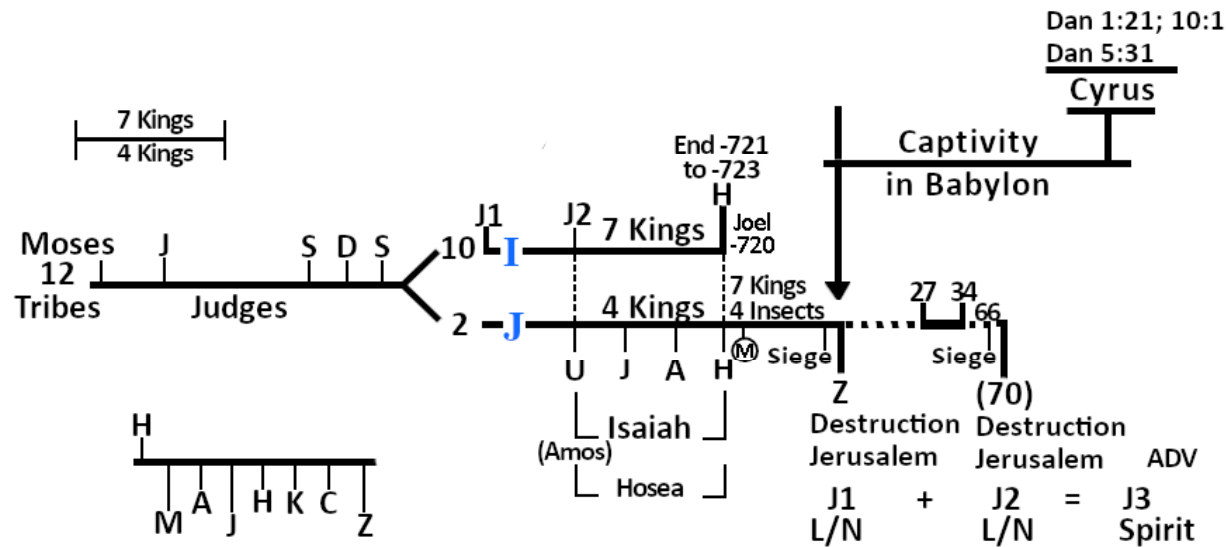
You go to Manasseh he would have accepted the authority of Moses but he kills Isaiah which is the only reason Isaiah's ministry ends with Hezekiah because Hezekiah's son kills him. The common problem with God's church has been to reject the present day present truth prophet. If you go back to Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah all the kings have problems with the prophet Jeremiah.



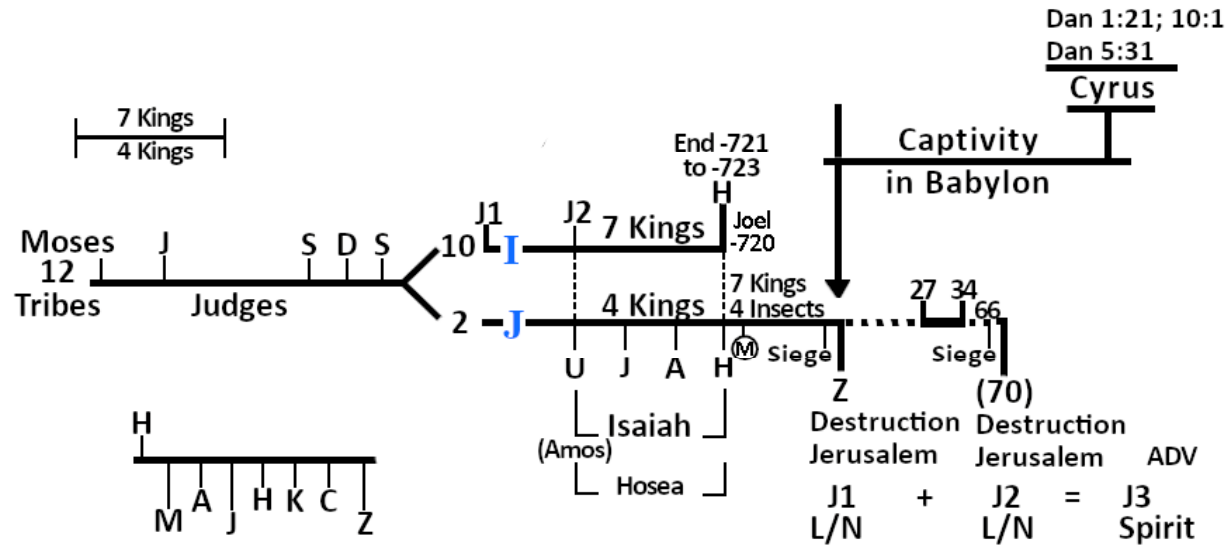
You can show that Jeremiah was ministry under the reign of these kings in fact the book of Jeremiah that we have in the Bible is not the original Jeremiah not the original book because original book that Jeremiah wrote was destroyed by King Jehoiakim. He cut the book up and burnt it. Ellen white calls the writings of Jeremiah the testimonies of God, and after Jehoiakim cut and burnt them they had to write a new version and a new version is what we have in our Bible.



So this idea that people don't expect the present day prophet is not a new idea in fact if you take this principle that we've been learning that the past will be repeated in the present. I've shown that the history of the progressive destruction which brings you to the destruction of Jerusalem followed by the 2nd destruction typifying the end of the world then you know in this history there's rejection of the present day prophet.



So if you take that history which is attached to the destruction of Jerusalem and you bring it to the present we should not be surprised in fact expect in God's church there has to be a rejection of the ministry of Ellen white prophesied. But for those who reject her writings ask yourselves one question all of those men in this history that stood against Jeremiah one by one they were cut down by God destroyed eternally and history repeats. Those who reject the present day prophet what fate will they meet?

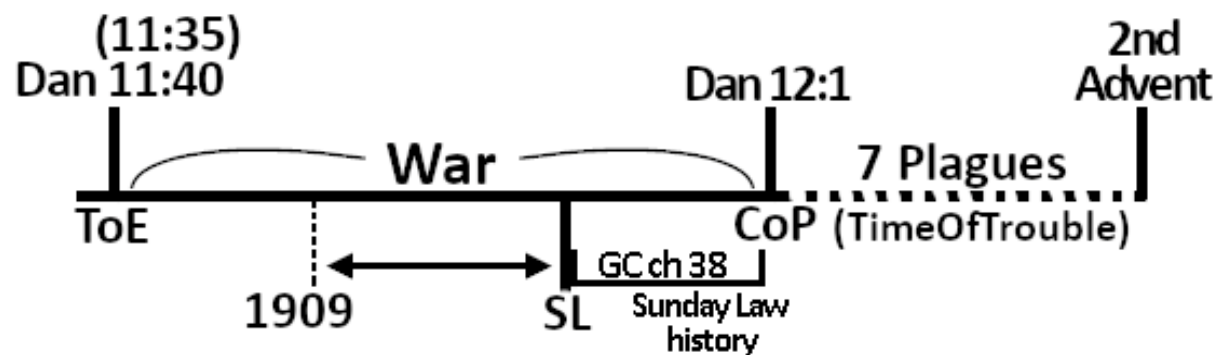


God says he won't be mocked. So that's my initial response to this question but to address what the question was really addressing it says in the scriptures that the seal of God is called or is equal to the Holy Spirit. Now if you take what I said yesterday I'm not saying that the Sabbath itself is the seal, the Sabbath is a marker, it's the evidence that you are a child of God. And what makes a person a child of God? The Holy Spirit. Hebrews 8 verse 10 A new heart will I give you the Lord says. John chapter 3 you must be born again.

Revelation 9 : 4

Ezekiel 9 : 4

Hebrews 8 verse 10, A new heart will I give you the Lord says. John chapter 3 you must be born again. So we know it's a Holy Spirit that is a marker or the evidence that we are children of God, we know that. But when it comes to the issue of this seal or the sign and the question asked said that it is only Ellen white that interchange sign and seal. But we saw in Revelation 9:4 he uses the word seal and we saw that was a parallel passage to Ezekiel the same chapter the same verse. And in Ezekiel he doesn't call it a seal he calls it a mark.



So it's not only Ellen white that interchanges these terms. The Bible also interchanges these words seal mark but I don't think that is the main issue. To summarize I am saying the Sabbath the keeping of Sabbath is an outward sign that you have the Holy Spirit. If you go and check the Greek of the word seal it has a number of definitions but a simple one is evidence. So the evidence that a person has the Holy Spirit is that they keep the Sabbath. And the reason we discussed this because it's not the keeping of the Sabbath in this history it's keeping at the Sabbath in this history the Sunday law.

There are many Adventist who are not born again and they don't have Holy Spirit but keep the Sabbath. The Sabbath is not the sign the evidence the seal that we have the Holy Spirit it isn't that today but in the future it will be. That's why the Sabbath becomes the sign, the sign that we have the Holy Spirit. I think we all know the words, the symbols can have different meanings or refer to different things. A simple one is the word lion, the word lion represents at least four different things, it can represent Christ Revelation 5, it can represent Satan first Peter chapter 5, it can represent Babylon Daniel 7, it can represent Judah or God's people Genesis 49.

So when we start dealing with the word itself seal we need to understand its context. So let's go to the Spirit of Prophecy quotes: the first one is Acts of the Apostles page 30 paragraph two. So this is a passage from the same book we read yesterday it says the Holy Spirit was given to the church seeing them for their works. Desire of Ages 656 paragraph 3, all the Spirit of Prophecy quotes are going to connect the word seal with the Holy Spirit not with the Sabbath. But if you were to read the context the first passage that I gave you was Pentecost, and how do you know the people had the Holy Spirit at Pentecost how do you know that? Because they had the ability to do something, you see an outward sign which is speaking in tongues.

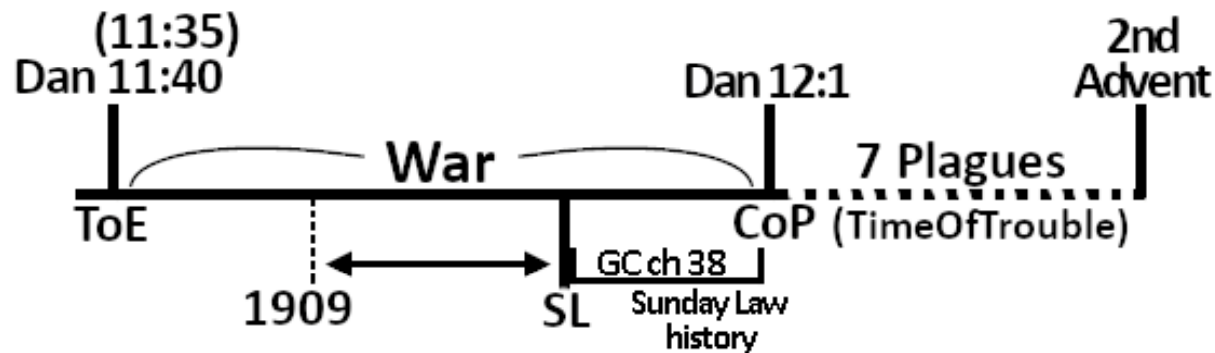
So the seal of the Holy Spirit in Acts of the Apostles was not Sabbath keeping. Sabbath was not the seal but a sign the word seal means evidence. At Pentecost what is the evidence that you had the Holy Spirit? You can speak in a foreign language. This one the Desire of Ages: "The Holy Spirit sent his seal", we read to this ordinance this is the Last Supper. So what this passage is teaching is that the Last Supper the ordinance of the bread and wine, we call it communion today. The Holy Spirit has giving evidence that we are supposed to do this partake of this ordinance.

Every single passage that you see always connects the work of the Holy Spirit to some external work. Second Selected Messages page 103. So here we see that the Holy Spirit is going to set his seal His mark of authority upon what? The truths that our church developed in its early history. Once again as the question was correctly stating the seal is connected to the Holy Spirit. But just like the seal is not the Sabbath it is neither the Holy Spirit. Let me explain when I say it's not the Sabbath I mean it's not only the Sabbath.

Here's a person and we have a heart and in our heart which is Stony, callous, and hard not a fit place for God to reside. He takes our heart away and gives us a new heart and then the Holy Spirit resides.



This Holy Spirit that lives inside us is a hidden glory, this is a new birth experience Paul speaks about this frequently, John speaks about this. This new heart experience is inside us this is the Kingdom of heaven which no one can see because it's inside us. However this glory that's inside us cannot be left hidden there is evidence for it we might call it the fruit of the spirit. So this hidden glory and even though it's hidden inside us it leaks through our body it escapes. It's not some light or spiritual thing we can see it escapes through our fingers, our eyes, and especially our tongue.



Our fingers, the things that you touch, the things that you eat or think, the direction you're going, what you watch, what you listen to and particularly what you say that's how this glory escapes out of us. So the seal which means the evidence but you have this experience is multi faceted one of them is the Sabbath but it's not the Sabbath that we're keeping today because there are many sinners in Zion.

When the state forbids us from keeping the Sabbath we read this yesterday the sinners in Zion will be shifted out and only the pure will remain. And then the Sabbath will be the sign it will be evidence that we're born again it's not that today. In the New Testament there were different circumstances, the one that we gave was speaking in tongues, then we went to the Millerite history, then Ellen white was just after the Millerite history, and the seal wasn't the Sabbath, wasn't speaking in tongues, it was the truths that we developed in the church. The Holy Spirit had sealed these truths.

I'll give one more, 6 Bible commentary page 1055 paragraph 7, it says here “Those who believed in Christ we're sealed by the Holy Spirit”. Now this reference connects to Ephesians chapter 4 verse 30 let's go to Ephesians 4 verse 30. It says we're sealed by the Holy Spirit, and Ephesians 4 is connected to Ephesians 1. So let's go to Ephesians 1 versus 13 and 14. **“ In whom ye also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, the praise of his glory”**.

So this passage is teaching us the way will receive the Holy Spirit which we were sealed by that this is the earliest the word earliest is the beginning of the down payment of the promise, the promise of eternal redemption. Now when we start dealing with the sealing of this Holy Spirit there are other passages that we would go to if you're taking notes I will read them to you. John chapter 3 verse 33, John chapter 6 verse 27, and Second Corinthians chapter one verse 22. All these passages or connecting the sealing with the Holy Spirit. So we want to agree with the questioner that the Holy Spirit is connected to the sealing. I want to give you an example of how this was working.

Let's go to the book of Acts chapter 10 this is not the only place this happens but it is a good example I think. In Acts chapter 10 Peter is in joppa and he has a vision about unclean animals God tells him to eat these animals and he says no. He doesn't fully understand what this vision is about. But then he gets sent on a mission to go to a man's house, this man is a unclean gentile his name is Cornelius. So now Peter starts to understand the meaning of the vision. He goes to his home which is illegal it's against the law to go to a gentile's home and eat there, he does it anyway and while he's giving the word of life we get to verse 44. **“ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word”**.

The Holy Spirit has come that's this a new heart those gentiles had this experience. How do you know the Holy Spirit has come upon them? What is the sign are the seal are the evidence are the mark that they have the Holy Spirit that they are sealed with the Holy Spirit which is this phrase used in Ephesians 1 verse 13. How do you know they had the Holy Spirit that He has sealed them? Acts 10:45, **“And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost”**. In verse 45 the Jews those who are circumcised they know that the gentiles have been sealed with the Holy Spirit.



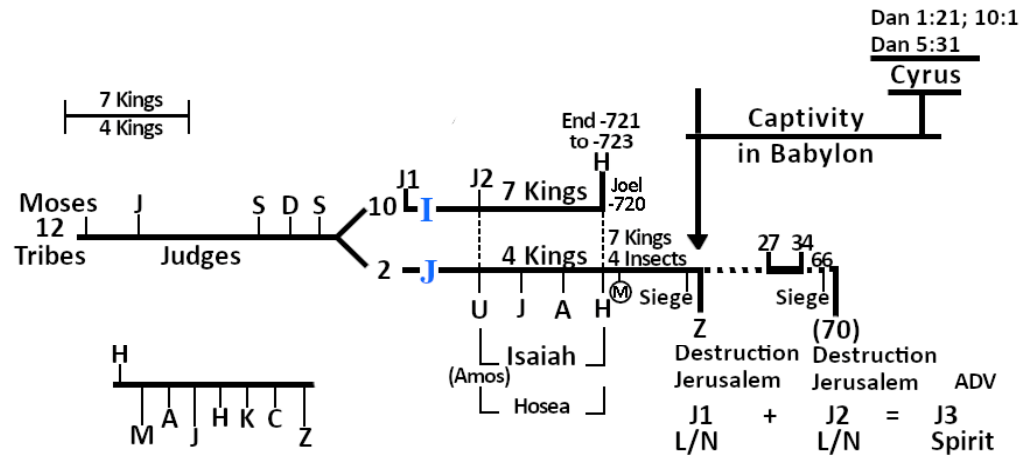
How did they know, verse 46 reads “**For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God**”. This is the evidence the seal that the gentiles had been sealed with the Holy Spirit. So they knew they had the seal of the Holy Spirit they knew they had been sealed with the Holy Spirit because the people speaking in tongues that was the New Testament evidence. In our early church experience Ellen white and her brotheren were not speaking in tongues. What was the evidence that the Holy Spirit was with them, that he had sealed them? It was the truths that they were discovering from the scriptures. But at the end of the world what will be the evidence that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit? It will be the Sabbath those who keep the Sabbath and those who don't.

So that's my understanding of Ephesians 1 verse 13. It's not that the Holy Spirit is the seal but we are certainly sealed with the Holy Spirit. And as I say go to the Greek word the seal it means evidence. So you need to show evidence. The Bible speaks as being fruit but it's not fruit because you are a nice person, there are many nice people who hate God. You if you are a parent how often do you have to become stern to your children, to admonish them to correct them sometimes we have righteous indignation. So it's not evidence that just because we smile and or kind that we had the Holy Spirit. These are not good markers they're not good signs you need to have different seals.

I've given you 3 : Speaking in tongues, the truths that God taught us, Sabbath keeping . One point you seen how evangelical Christians manipulate the scriptures because they take the seal of the Spirit speaking in tongues and they build it into the end of the world and they use that as evidence that someone has the Holy Spirit. And while they're doing that they actually manipulate the seal itself the evidence. And as Adventist we know that's not correct we know that speaking in tongues is speaking in a foreign language it's not just static garbled words that they don't even understand themselves.

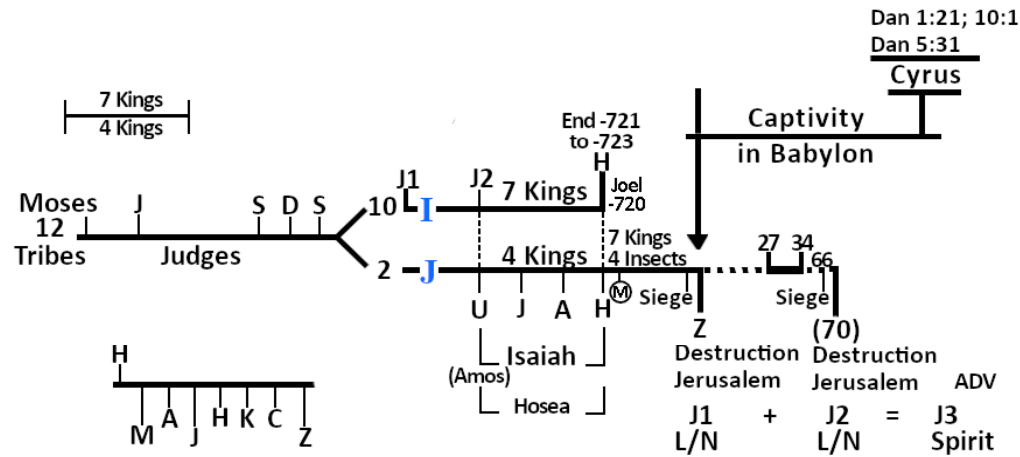
So I spent a bit of time looking at this subject because I think people were interested in it and of course I want to remind us that the word seal is used differently as running in the scriptures. It's used like if we had a book and you put a clasp or a lock on that book, or in the olden days you put a tape across the book or a ribbon and you get some wax you'd melt the wax and you would put your seal on it. So the people could not open the document and that concept is used extensively in the Bible about sealing. But that type of seal is not the type of seal that's in Ephesians 1:13, "**We are sealed with the Holy Spirit**". And what we want to know is what the evidence of that was, not just speaking in tongues in the New Testament there's other evidences that people were sealed.

They wanted us to see that it was not just the Sabbath is a seal. There's many seals that we have to deal with, many evidences and one of them today for Adventists is not the Sabbath but it's the truths that our church that had dug out of the Bible and sat sure and sat firm. And if we want to know whether or not we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit the evidence are the markers of that its whether or not we will accept the Sabbath it's whether or not we will accept the truths that God gave to his church. Just as we read in that Ellen white quote where she said that God let them step by step to understand these truths and I hope that answers that question.

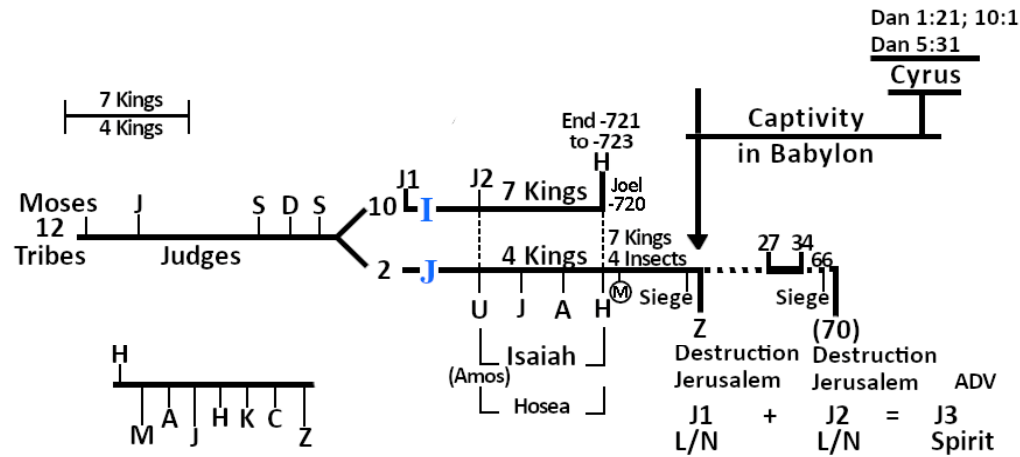


I want to go back to Isaiah, go back to Isaiah 46 as you're turning there I want to remind us Isaiah is here and he is predicting are speaking about the destruction of Jerusalem. His ministry is from Uzziah to Hezekiah. This is Isaiah 46 verses 9 and 10 and will you remember that this chapter is between 45 and 47. The chapter itself from verses 1 to 8 is God speaking to his people and he says there's two types of God in this world, there's Gods like me and there's gods like the ones you serve.

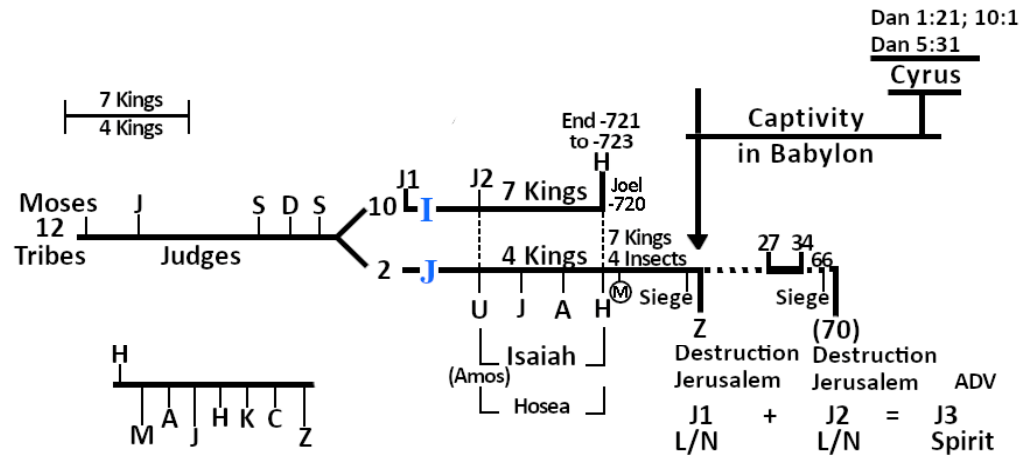
Isaiah 46 verse one he names them Bell, Nebo he says that's one type of gods, and the other one it's me and what's the difference between this God and those idols. Remember we went through these verses read verse 5, Isaiah 46 verse 5 reads: **“To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me that we may be like”**? Verse 4 he tells you what kind of God he is the last part of the verse **“I carry you, I made you, I will bear you even I will carry”**. So this God the true God is a God that carries human beings, he said compare me to the gods that you are worshipping .



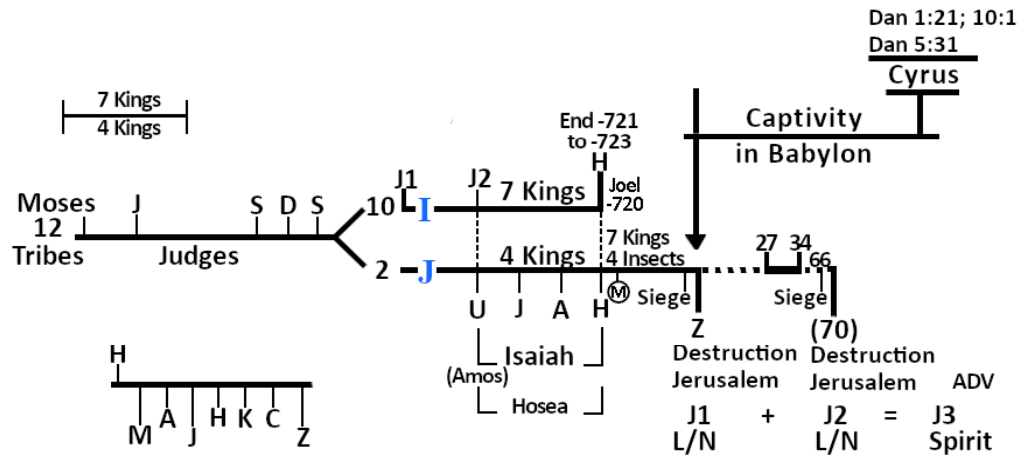
We're in this history here even though Isaiah's ministry was during the reign of Hezekiah he lives past Hezekiah and as I said he was killed by Hezekiah's son Manasseh. Chapter 46 is at the end of the book the end of Hezekiah's reign or the beginning of Manasseh. I'm suggesting from the context because Hezekiah was a good king he put away idolatry which is son reintroduced. Isaiah 46 is under the reign of Manasseh the early part of his reign just before he murdered Isaiah.



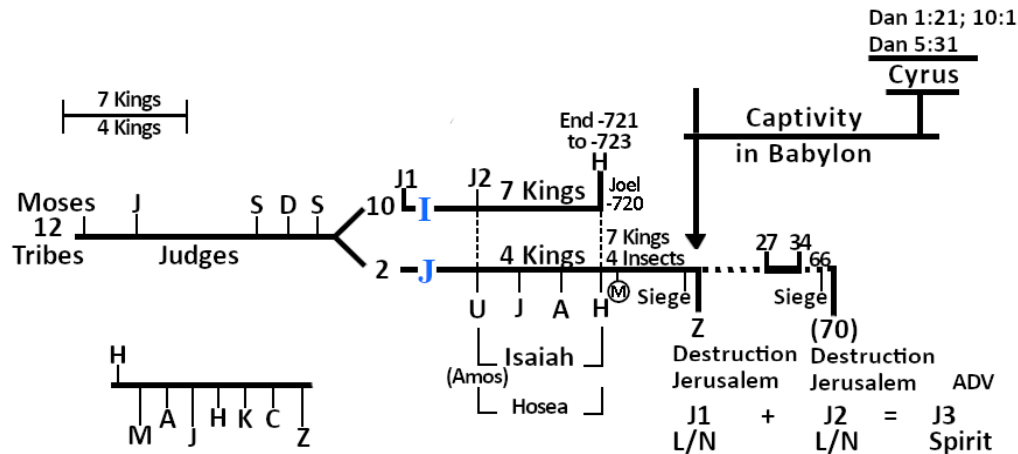
God's people are committing idolatry. Verse 3 let's read verse 3. **"Hearken unto me, oh House of Jacob, and all the remnant of the House of Israel, which are born by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb"**. It mentions two groups I don't know if you noticed that the House of Jacob this is the House of Jacob the two tribes. And what does it say? It just doesn't say Israel. What does it say? It says the remnant of Israel. This is Judea and this is Israel. We are here, What just happened to Israel?



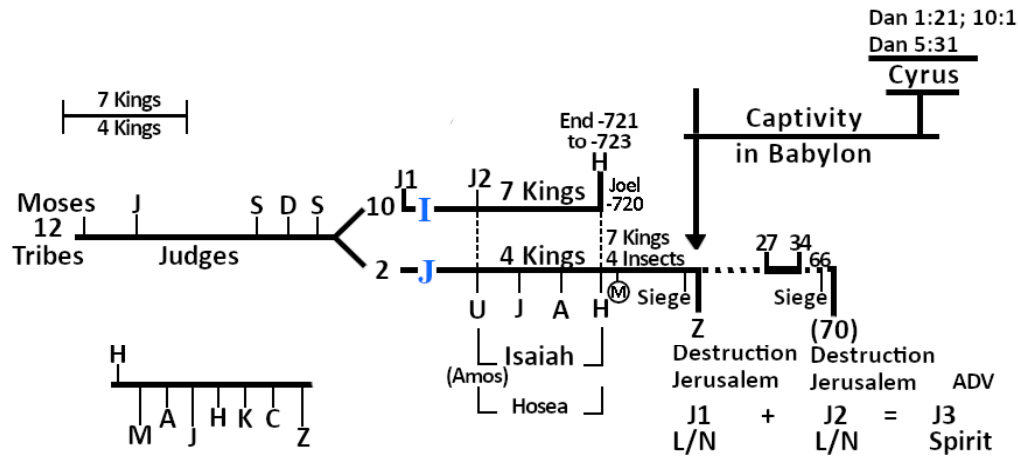
They were destroyed and Manassas father Hezekiah in second chronicles chapter 30, Just before this destruction he sent messages to these people, he says that destruction is happening is about to come this is your final warning to flee before the siege at 723 followed by the destruction of 721. There was a destruction here this was Samaria not Jerusalem but has all the same characteristics seven and four seven and four. The destruction of the northern tribes and the destruction of the southern tribes.



I've already told us before the destruction of Jerusalem there was a warning Isaiah 6 verse 13 that there would be a remnant before this destruction a remnant is saved there's a remnant saved, there's remnant saved. Hezekiah saves a remnant and that remnant is identified in Isaiah 46. The House of Judah and the remnant of Israel that are left here there's always a remnant. What are we expecting from the church here at the end of the world? Adventism will be destroyed as we currently understand it and only a remnant will be saved.



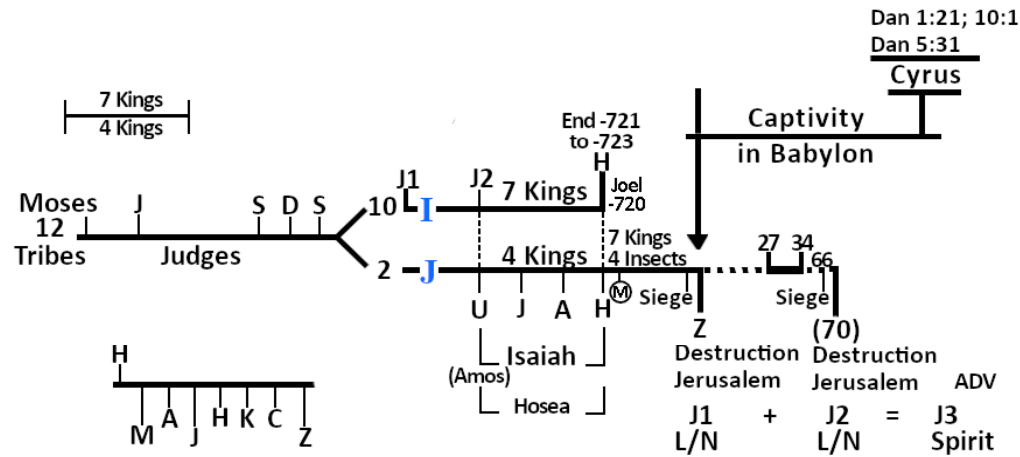
What qualifies you to be the remnant what's the qualifications? First of all someone has to call you, someone has to call you and warn you that you're in danger, they have to give you a message this is not in the world this is in the church. If you're here you have to heed the message of Hezekiah and you have to come out, you have to move your home from the north to the South. Here you have to obey Jeremiah you have to listen to what he tells you. Here you have to take heed to Jesus's warnings you have to accept the prophecy that he gives you not days before but years before the event.



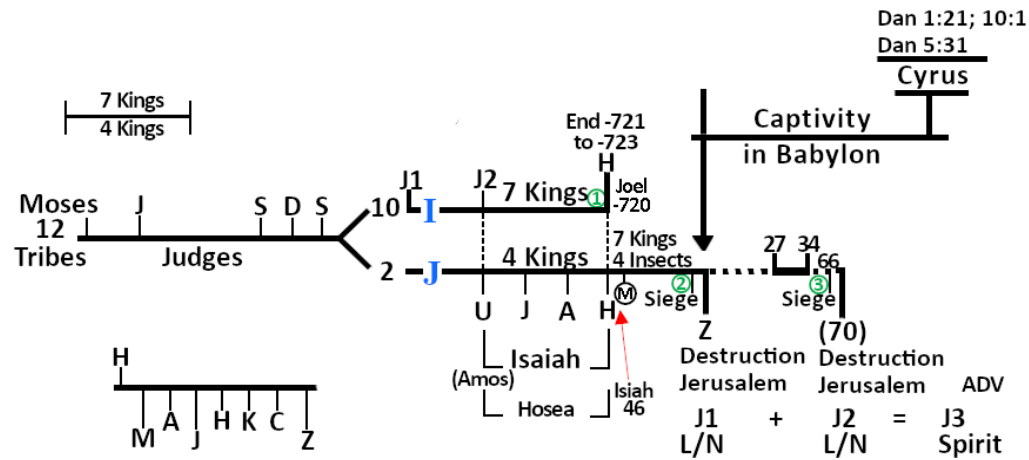
When you see the event you have to believe it and you have to flee. Physical what we would call the natural. We today we too have to flee from Jerusalem if we were this group from Samaria. Jerusalem is Adventist church, we do not preach or advocate separation from the Adventist church it's not literal but we understand what where teaching we have to come out of the mindset the erroneous mindset the laodicean mindset of Adventism. When you come out of that experience you have to enter into a new experience.

I'm laying that out in the most systematic fashion this week so you can understand conceptually what it means to come out of Adventism. This is not a message that we should stop going to a conference church however I recognize by precept, example, and experience that once you start to preach the truth and you begin to call God's church out of the laodicean condition guess what will happen? People become upset they become upset when you preach the truth to them, when you tell them that their experience is not in agreement with the word of God.

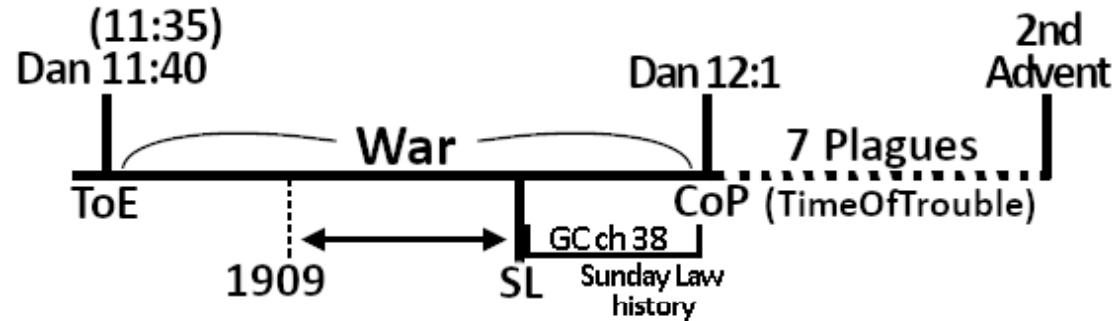
The phrase that Ellen White uses which we read yesterday in a different context it produces a shaking this shaking causes a separation and that's why people like Parmender find themselves separate from the conference structure not by personal choice but by circumstance, by people in leadership positions rejecting the truths that we teach. So in Isaiah 46 just the simple phrase where it says” **the remnant of Israel**”



If you're not familiar with their history if you don't know where Isaiah's ministry is if you don't know he's killed by Hezekiah's son that chapter 46 is in the reign of Manasseh and Israel has just been destroyed this is Joel chapter one verses 1 to 3 then that phrase doesn't make any sense. Remember yesterday I said if you don't know your Natural History you can't make a correct application at the end of the world. You need to understand the natural before you can understand the spiritual.



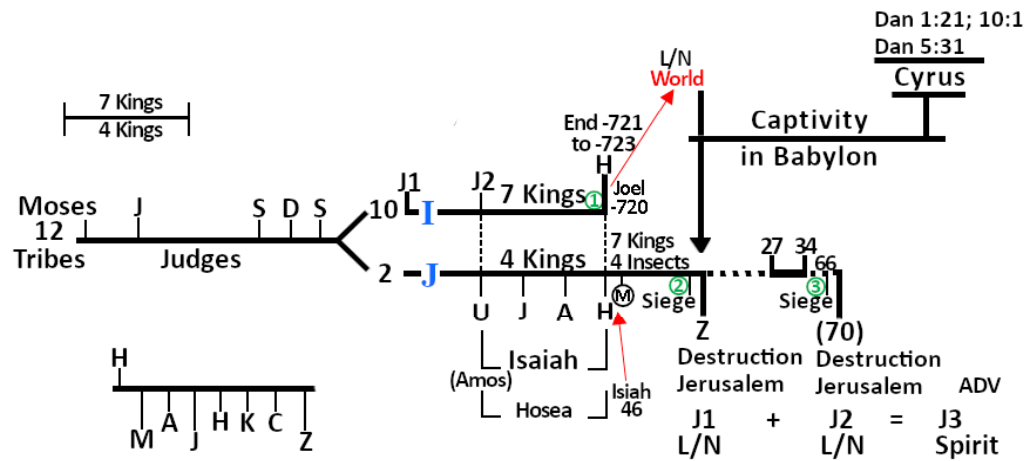
In the natural there's a remnant that is called out and I've given you three testimonies of this and this is the 4th. So these three show us that there will be a fourth remnant. This is how I believe how we should teach end time prophecy. You and I all know that this work is going to happen in the world. We call the remnant out of the world. I gave you the passage yesterday from Prophets and Kings page 280. We could go to Revelation 18 verse 4, come out of Babylon my people. How many people do you think will come out of Babylon? A few only a remnant.



Another verse Daniel Chapter 11, now we've already started our studies and showed between verse 40 and verse one of the next chapter, and these six verses contain the history at the end of the world which called the present here. Go to verse 41, what we're going to see is that there are people who are going to come out in this history, this history gives us the Sunday Law.

We will read verse 41. **“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon”**. So Edom, Moab, and Ammon three groups. Babylon is composed of how many groups? Three groups there’s a relationship. These groups where are they going to escape from? From something good or from something bad. Who wants to escape from something good? No one does, you escape from your enemies someone who is doing you harm there’s only two groups at the end of the world God’s Kingdom, Satan’s Kingdom, God church, and Babylon, Jerusalem ,Babylon. Babylon is where these people are escaping from.

So you know you can tie up Revelation 18 verse 4 and Daniel 11 verse 41. Here it says in Daniel 11 verse 41 that people will escape it doesn't tell you who they are escaping from. We know the only place to escape from is Babylon. Revelation 18 verse 4 it says that people will come out of her Babylon, the people that come out in Revelation 18 are God's people .How did God's people get into Babylon? How did they get into the world?



Remember we studied that yesterday when the Syrians destroyed the city, took the Kingdom. These people are taking captivity into the world they are going to come back and join Gods church they don't make this mistake that evangelical Christians make. It starts off literal, natural and it ends spiritual, symbolic. They're not natural Jews that are joining it's the people of the world identified in Daniel as Edom Moab and Ammon, identified as my people in Revelation 18.

Go to Zachariah chapter 2:6, this is the fourth remnant that we're going to see. When God's people are taken to Babylon Jerusalem was destroyed, there was a remnant that was left. Jeremiah, Baruch his scribe Jechoniah the captain of the people they're all physical names that we can identify that were saved the remnant that go into Babylonian in captivity. And what should we expect during Babylon, someone has to call you out. Zachariah 2:6, **“Ho, ho, come forth, and free from the land of the north, saith the Lord: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of heaven, saith the Lord”**.

God scattered you as what? The four winds, number 4 destruction they were scattered but now there's a calling together them back. This concept of scattering and gathering it's an important Bible model or principle. So this call out of Babylon in Revelation 18 or Daniel 11 which is us Seventh-Day Adventist the remnant who go to the world and say come out of her my people. That is not just a New Testament phenomenon it's a repeat of history a repeat is found in Zachariah 2. There's a call to come out of Babylon and if you want to understand how it works at the end of the world you need to go back into those Old Testament stories and understand them.

And unfortunately many Adventist today they don't understand or know their Old Testament history. And because we don't understand our Old Testament history when we read books like the great controversy that deal with the end of the world, when we deal with the Sunday law issue, or the mark of the beast, the image of the beast we have no clear understanding of how those things are operating we have no idea had to go back into the beginning of Daniel 11.

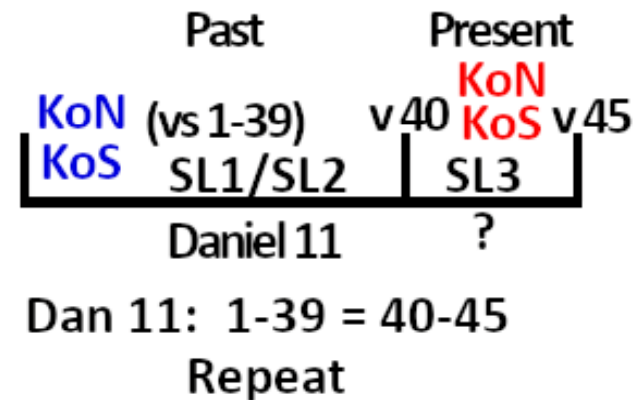
And if you ever read those verses you know that they're dealing with a struggle between the King of the North and the King of the South.

Past		Present	
KoN (vs 1-39)	v 40	KoN v 45	
KoS SL1/SL2		KoS SL3	
Daniel 11		?	
Dan 11: 1-39 = 40-45			
Repeat			

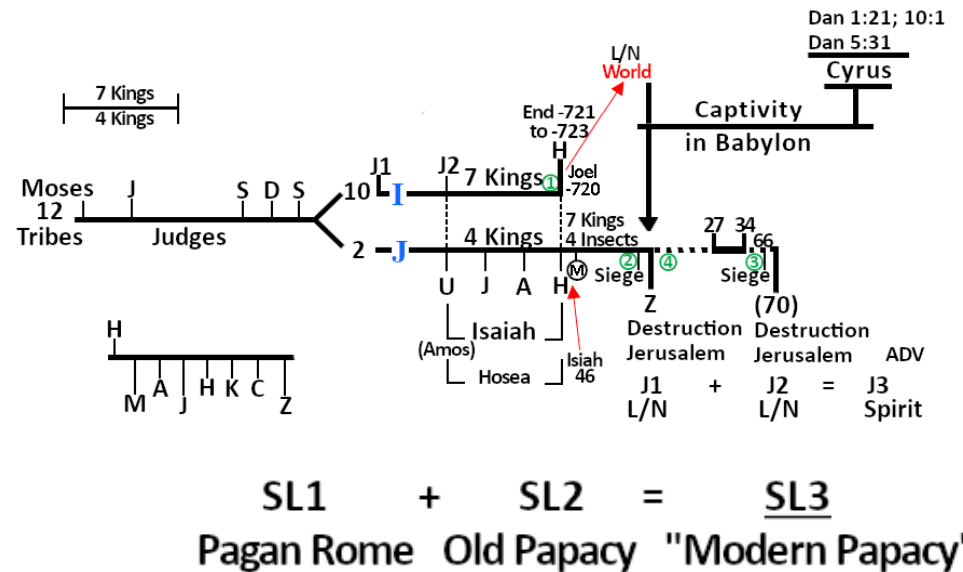
And this war goes all the way through in fact if you read verse 40 which we didn't read it says that the time of the end there's going to be a fight between who? The King of the North and the King of the South. So the King of the North and the King of the South if you want to understand them at the end of the world you need to go back to their history and to see where they came from.

I don't know how many of you had read Uriah Smith's work he deals with these issues and while we agree with him if we had time we probably wouldn't this week.

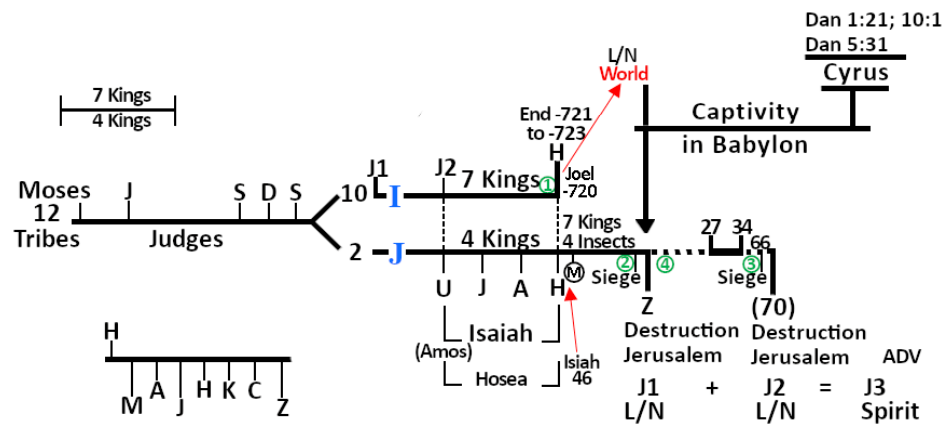
Unless someone who has a good understanding of Uriah Smith's methodology and logic suffice to say his understanding was correct but its limited and he doesn't have a full understanding of verse 40 and we can demonstrate why? If you want to know how things are going to happen or workout at the end of the world, and we're already here we need to go back into history, we need to take these characters see who they were and what they were doing to understand how to apply them at the end of the world.



You need to see Rome in its two phases how they typify the end of the world, you need to see that Jerusalem God's people when they were destroyed three times. In each of those histories there was a remnant that was saved.



So we're clear today that Adventism it's going to collapse going to be destroyed and what the final destruction of our church looks like.



It's not some fire or earthquake it's not the death of men it's not that kind of a judgment their role as God's servants is going to be stripped away from them and handed to others which is the remnant. They're showing you one 2 3 and I showed you a fourth one which is those people who escaped out of Babylonian captivity.

THE END

THANK YOU