

THE SDA CHURCH 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS



THE 430 YEARS PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL 4 EXPLAINED

“Prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD”. Someone is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah. And when he appears, men may say: “You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.”

Testimonies to ministers, p. 475.

Well informed Seventh-day Adventists know of the so called 1888 message, that was given to the leaders of the church during the General conference meeting in Minneapolis. The messages presented during this session by br. Alonzo T. Jones and br. Elliot J. Waggoner, were rejected by the church leaders. Besides the subject of ‘righteousness by faith’, the subject of the law in Galatians was also addressed. Sister White wrote that the messages of brothers Jones and Waggoner **came directly from God:**

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. **It presented justification through faith in the Surety.** It invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to **all the commandments of God.**” *Testimonies to ministers, blz. 91, 92.*

After God had shown the truth regarding the law to sr. EGW, she wrote the following: “I am asked concerning the law in Galatians; What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: **Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments.** Christ was the foundation of **the whole Jewish economy.**” *1 Selected Messages 1, blz. 232.*

Sister White wrote that the brothers Waggoner and Jones were anti-types of Joshua and Caleb, two faithful men of God who had a similar experience during the times of ancient Israel. You can read below what sister white wrote regarding this experience:

“I saw that Jones and Waggoner had their counterpart in Joshua and Caleb. As the children of Israel stoned the spies with literal stones, you have stoned these brethern with stones of sarcasm and ridicule. **I saw that you willfully rejected what you knew to be the Truth.** Just because it was too humiliating to your dignity. **I also saw that if you had accepted their message, we would have been in the kingdom two years from that date, but now we have to go back into the wilderness and stay forty years.**” *Written from Melbourne, 9 mei 1892.*

“If the people of God had gone to work as they should have gone to work right after the Minneapolis meeting in 1888, **the world could have been warned in two years and the Lord would have come.**” *General conference bulletin 1892.*

As you have read, sister White wrote that if the message was accepted in **1888**, the Advent church would have been in the promised land two years later, in **1890**, but because the message was rejected, the church had to go **back into the wilderness for forty years.**

The Bible teaches us that ‘**wilderness**’ is the same as ‘**desert**’. In Isaiah **40:3** we can read the following: “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Now read chapter 14 in the book of Numbers thoroughly..

As you may have read in verses 33 and 34 [in Numbers 14], ancient Israel (type) had to go back into the wilderness aswell(!) for **forty years**, just as sister White said what happened with modern Israel, the SDA church (anti type) in 1890. Try to remember this, because further on in this study we will come back to this principle of the forty years.

Now that we have discussed this important introduction, we can go to the main subject of this small study, which is the explanation and the meaning of the 430 years prophecy of Ezekiel 4.

Now read the fourth book of Ezekiel thoroughly and attentively..

In Ezekiel 4:6 you can read that during 390 days Ezekiel had to lie down on his left side. During this time he was told to eat and to drink. In the following 40 days he had to fast.

We can also read the following: “Ezekiel 4:6 (..) I have appointed thee each day for a year.” This is the same day-for-a-year principle as in Numbers 14:34. If we take this principle, then it means that the total time period in Ezekiel 4 includes 430 years. Somewhere else in the Bible we can read about another 430 years prophecy. In Exodus 12:40 we can read: “Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was **four hundred and thirty years.**”

Now is the vision that Ezekiel had, mentioning this experience that ancient Israel had? **No! Why not (you must be wondering)?**

Clue #1 → In Genesis 15:13 we read about the period of oppression of **400** years. The prophecy given to Abraham consists of two parts; a period of **400** years and a period of **30** years.

In Galatians 3:16-17 Paul writes about the period consisting of the promise to Abraham to the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made (...).

17 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.

IN THIS PASSAGE, PAUL DOESN'T ADD TIME (LIKE IN GENESIS 15:13) FROM ABRAMS SEED UNTIL THE EXODUS. NO, IN GALATIANS 3, THE COUNTING ALREADY STARTS THIRTY YEARS EARLIER, TO BE EXACT, FROM THE MOMENT THAT ABRAM WAS GIVEN THE PROMISES. AT THE EXODUS OF EGYPT, A PERIOD CLOSED BETWEEN THIRTY AND FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. "THIRTY YEARS" REFERS TO THE TIME FROM THE PROMISE TO ABRAM TO THE BIRTH OF ISAAC AND "FOUR HUNDRED YEARS" REFERS TO THE TIME AFTER THAT UNTIL THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT..

The prophecy given to Ezekiel speaks about two different parts as well, it's speaking of a period of **390 and 40 years**, compared to the **400 and 30 years** prophecy given to Abraham. In conclusion we can see that this prophecy given to Ezekiel must be speaking about a **different time period**.

Clue #2 → Ezekiel says in Ez. 4:13: “And the LORD said, Even thus **shall** the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles (..).” This means that Ezekiel placed this prophecy in the future, not in the past. The 430 years prophecy given to Abraham ended in 1491 B.C. That prophecy ended 896 years before Ezekiel was given a vision of this prophecy given in Ezekiel 4!

CONCLUSION: This 430 years period has never before been used on any other time or people in the past and therefore has never before been explained, just as many other prophecies that were never before been understood until they came to their fulfillment. The prophecy of Ezekiel 4 refers to spiritual Israel (the SDA church) and not to ancient Israel.
The prophecy of Ezekiel 4 finds its fulfillment in our days!

“Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us.”

Selected messages 3, p. 338.’



What takes place in the 390 days?

Ezekiel consumes **food**. **6** different types of (**spiritual**) **food; wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet and spelt to be exact**. What does food symbolize in the Bible?

Matthew 4:4 (..) "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

By also looking at Matthew 24:45 and Revelation 10:10 we can conclude that Gods word is compared to food.

The different types of food symbolize spiritual food (doctrines). These different doctrines have to be consumed by man to sustain the spiritual life. The purpose of the revelation of these truths through the centuries **is to reform the church (to her state of pureness and cleanliness)**.

In Ezekiel 4:10-11 we can read that Ezekiel had to consume the food by weight and from time to time, so with moderation. This means that Gods light that he shines on His word is increasing with every time period.

Besides eating the different types of grain, Ezekiel also had to drink water. In verse 11 we can read: "Thou shalt drink also water by measure, the sixth part of an hin: from time to time shalt thou drink."

John 4:14 explains that water gives life! Souls will therefore be saved by every new truth (the Spirit of life).



In Ezekiel 4 we have read that the food had to be 'consumed' on appointed times. We therefore also have to keep pace with the advancing light that shines on God's Word.

Matthew 24:45 also talks about food on the appointed times, or put differently "meat in due season" (KJV). In this passage it says: "*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whos his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*"

This Bible verse is directly related to Malachi 3:10 (KJV): "*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house (..).*"

Looking at history, we can conclude that during the Dark ages, there was a lack of spiritual food. But thanks to God and his appointed reformers, the spiritual food was given back to the people, little by little, or as God puts it: "in due season"..

THE STARTING SIGNAL (OR REVIVAL) OF THE REFORMATION PERIOD STARTED WITH LUTHER IN 1500, WHEN HE FOUND THE VULGATE (LATIN BIBLE) IN A LIBRARY IN ERFURT AT THE AGE OF 16 OR 17.

*"This work of reform started with the reformation of the 16th century and will continue until the end of time." *The Great conflict 1988, p. 148.**

Luther is therefore the ancestor of spiritual Israel (Protestantism), where Abraham is the ancestor of ancient Israel.

Looking at the Reformation (restoration) period and looking at what the different types of food mean in the Bible, we can now start looking for answers regarding the different types of food mentioned in Ezekiel 4.

What is the (antitypical) meaning of the types of food?

1. **Wheat** is a symbol of **faith**, brought by **Martin Luther** in 1500. Why is wheat used? *Everyone knows / eats it. Likewise, without faith, it is impossible to serve God. Just as wheat is a prerequisite for preparing all kinds of dishes, so is faith a prerequisite for knowing God (Hebrews 11:6).*
2. **Barley** is a symbol of **the Holy Spirit**, brought by **John Knox (1514-1572)**. Why barley? *Barley is - in general- rarely eaten. Many do not know what the truth of the Holy Spirit is, just like many do not know what barley is.*
3. **Beans** are a symbol of **grace**, brought by **John Wesley (1703-1791)**. *There are many different types of beans, and (unfortunately) there are also many different interpretations of grace. People even believe in grace so much that they no longer fear God, and his law is declared null and void. See also Testimonies for the church volume 5, p. 173.*
4. **Lentils** are a symbol of **baptism through immersion**, brought by **Alexander Campbell (1788-1866)**. *Just as there are different types of lentils, there is also a variety of baptism. True baptism is by immersion.*
5. **Millet** is a symbol of **the 2300 days prophecy**, brought by **William Miller (1782-1849)**. *Millet is an unknown grain and they who are familiar with it say that it is of little value. Nevertheless it is a good grain, just like the doctrine itself.*
6. **Spelt** is a symbol of **the Sabbath** in reference to the sanctuary, brought by **Ellen G. White (1827-1915)** (*Early Writings chapter 3*). *Spelt was the staple grain of ancient Egypt. This grain symbolizes an old truth that has been restored. After all, the Sabbath was already kept in Eden.*

“Through types and symbols ... God has spoken to the world.”

The Desire of Ages, p.34.

Where there is an antitype, there must also be a type!

- (1) **Abraham** is the symbol of **faith** (wheat). *His faith was accounted to him for righteousness. Galatians 3:6*
- (2) **Isaac** is a symbol of **the Holy Spirit** (barley). *He was born after the Spirit (Galatians 4:29).*
- (3) **Jacob** is a symbol of **grace** (beans). *Jacob means deceiver in Hebrew and after the wrestle during the night with the Angel of God, he found Grace and afterward he was named Israel.*
- (4) **The Exodus movement** is a symbol of **the baptism by immersion** (lentils). *Read 1 Corinthians 10:2*
- (5) **The journey in the desert** is a symbol of the sanctuary at the end of **the 2300 days prophecy** (millet). *In the desert, the heavenly sanctuary was described in the earthly tabernacle service.*
- (6) **The promised land** is a symbol of the **Sabbath rest** (spelt). *Because of pride and unbelief ancient Israel fell short of receiving true rest.*

The disobedience of Israel in the promised land is a symbol of spiritual Israel falling short to obey God in the present time. We can read about this matter in Ezekiel 4:12, 14-15. The fact that bread (the Word) will be eaten unclean, means that the truth will be contaminated and that the church will no longer keep (all) commandments of God.



NEW LIGHT

“Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it?” *The great controversy, chapter 38.*

We have concluded that every type of grain stands for new light shining on the Word of God. Ellen White said in the quote above that every new truth was rejected by an earlier movement (church). Necessity therefore continually and gradually gave birth to new movements. We know that Laodicea is the last (true) church. In this last church, a principled separation takes place between wheat and tares, also called 'the shaking' (Amos 9:9), after which a remnant will remain. This separation is symbolized in the prophecy of Ezekiel 4 by the iron pan that brings a parting or separation. Ellen White speaks in this context about two influences in the church. She says the following about this matter:

“There are **two opposing influences** continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God.”
Testimonies to Ministers, blz. 46.

God confirms to Ezekiel in Ezekiel 4:8 that he would “put ropes upon him.” The ropes prevent Ezekiel from turning on his right side. God sees to it that every truth will endure until He places it in the vessel.

The following startling statements from the Spirit of Prophecy show that - in the last days - more light will shine on God's Word and that receiving and then walking in the present truth is **a salvation issue.**

"Let no man come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed." Testimonies on Sabbath School work, p. 53.

"Precious light **is to shine** forth from the Word of God, and let no one presume to dictate what **shall** or what **shall** not be brought before the people in the messages of enlightenment that He shall send, and so quench the Spirit of God. Whatever may be his position of authority, no one has a right to shut away the light from the people. When a message comes in the name of the Lord to His people, **no one may excuse himself from an investigation of its claims.** No one can afford to stand back in an attitude of indifference and self-confidence, and say: "I know what is truth. I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it can not be truth."

Testimonies on Sabbath School Work, p.65.

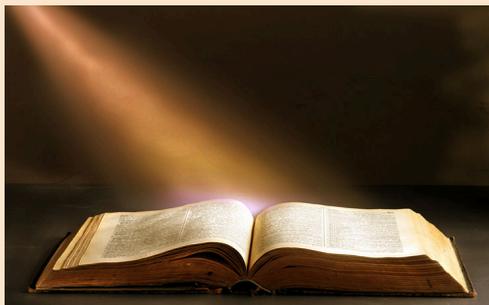
"(..) the light which **will** lighten the earth with its glory **will** be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its **advancing** glory."

Review and Herald, 27th of may 1890.

“What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption. The angel with the writer's ink horn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel... it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already (..).”

Manuscript Releases 173, 1902/SDA Bible commentary vol.4, chp.12.

The question that remains now is whether we harden ourselves against (accepting) new light or whether we “prove all things” and “hold fast that which is good” like Paul says about the Bereans in 1 Thess. 5:12.



THE SIEGE

We have seen 6 different grains or 6 teachings so far. These teachings have been revealed over a period of 390 years. In the 390 years, Ezekiel had to consume 6 different types of grain or 6 different types of doctrines. The number 6 represents incompleteness. The number 7 on the other hand, stands for **completeness [the perfect Biblical number]**. So there must be more **truth!**

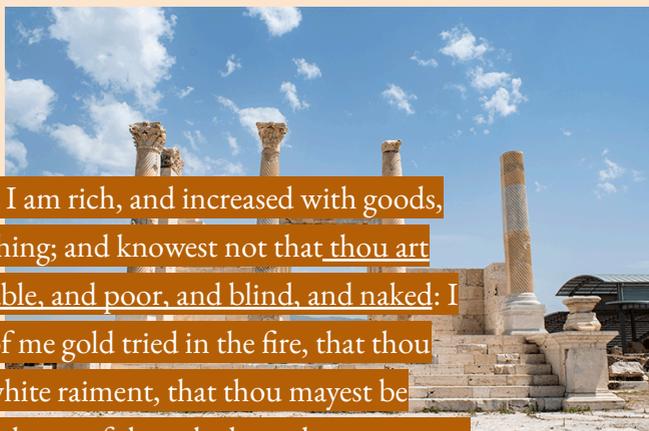
Now we will look at the 40 days or 40 years (day-for-a-year principle). Ezekiel had to change his position. During the 390 years period he lay on his left side and during the 40 years he lay on his right side. During the 390 years he had to eat and during the 40 years he had to fast. He didn't eat anything. Anatomically speaking, lying on the right side offers the stomach the opportunity to empty itself. Since he did not eat any food and his stomach was emptied, he naturally became hungry. **So prophetically, he suffered spiritual hunger for 40 years. The church had to go into the wilderness for 40 years as sister White stated and was given no new light in that period to nourish itself..**

We read in Ezekiel 4:12, 14-15, that Ezekiel had to bake bread on dung and that the children of Israel would eat their bread unclean among the Gentiles, whither God will drive them out. This means that every part of the truth that has unfolded thus far has been contaminated by the church, despite the instructions God gives us.

How have we contaminated or polluted God's Truth? For example, by neglecting new light, by trading/selling in the church, by desecrating the Sabbath and by violating sacred house rules. Verses 16 and 17 also refer to the period in which Ezekiel suffered spiritual hunger. God himself says that He causes bread to cease in Jerusalem. They will eat the (old) bread in measured quantities and full of concern. The spiritual food was thus eaten sparingly over the 40-year period until the bread supply ran out and the water became depleted and people became hungry and thirsty. God's people (the SDA church) are dismayed and eat 'as if in need' (for want of more). The church claims it has the truth, but is really "wasting away in their unrighteousness."

Revelation 3:17-18

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."



In Ezekiel 4:12 we read that Ezekiel [after the 40-year fasting period] had to eat a **barley cake**. This barley cake therefore constitutes the seventh type of food that Ezekiel consumes. Why a cake made from barley? Because this **7th truth is revealed by the power of the Holy Spirit**[*barley*] and not by the help of human hands. This truth is presented by the sealing message in Revelation 7.

We read in Ezekiel 4:1-3 that the city of Jerusalem [**the SDA church**] will be engraved on a stone and will be **besieged**. The meaning of this is that the prophecy will not be erased and **the entire church will need to hear this clear, cutting and convincing present truth**. No one can escape [this Truth], for the city is besieged, fortified and secured. The siege is a sign [or seal] for the house of Israel. So the proclamation of this present truth, which was revealed after the 40 years in the wilderness, **is directly related to the sealing of God's servants as revealed in Ezekiel 9**. The proclamation of this truth is carried out by the battering rams around (ram, male sheep). This is a type of God's men, and women of course.

“The day of God's vengeance is just upon us. **The seal of God** will be placed upon the foreheads of **those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.**”

Testimonies to the Church vol.5, p.212.3

So, as I said earlier on in this study on page 4, we would come back on the principle of the forty years. We will now look at what it means in regards to the Reformation, and the SDA church going back to the wilderness for forty years as sister White herself mentioned.

**STARTING POINT OF THE REFORMATION IN REGARDS
TO THE PROPHECY = THE YEAR 1500. LUTHER FOUND THE
VULGATE (THE LATIN BIBLE) IN A LIBRARY IN ERFURT, GERMANY, IN 1500.**

**EZEKIEL HAD TO CONSUME SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR 390 YEARS
FROM THIS STARTING POINT ONWARDS..**

$$1500 + 390 = \underline{1890}$$

"I SAW THAT JONES AND WAGGONER HAD THEIR COUNTERPART IN JOSHUA AND CALEB. AS THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL STONED THE SPIES WITH LITERAL STONES, YOU HAVE STONED THESE BRETHERN WITH STONES OF SARCASM AND RIDICULE. I SAW THAT YOU WILLFULLY REJECTED WHAT YOU KNEW TO BE THE TRUTH. JUST BECAUSE IT WAS TOO HUMILIATING TO YOUR DIGNITY. I ALSO SAW THAT IF YOU HAD ACCEPTED THEIR MESSAGE, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE KINGDOM TWO YEARS [1890] FROM THAT DATE [1888], BUT NOW WE HAVE TO GO BACK INTO THE WILDERNESS AND STAY FORTY YEARS [1890-1930]."

WRITTEN FROM MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, MAY 9, 1892.

“IF THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAD GONE TO WORK AS THEY SHOULD HAVE GONE TO WORK RIGHT AFTER THE MINNEAPOLIS MEETING IN 1888, THE WORLD COULD HAVE BEEN WARNED IN TWO YEARS AND THE LORD WOULD HAVE COME.”

GENERAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN, 1892.

So if we heed the message that sister White gave us in regards of what happened in 1888, it says that from 1890 the church had to go back into the (spiritual) wilderness for forty years.

1890 + 40 = 1930

In 1930, Ezekiel (the church) was allowed to eat again. This time a barley cake. In other words, something so nutritious, doctrine-wise, that Ezekiel (the church) could regain its strength again. And keep in mind that it is a barley cake, so the main ingredient is the Holy Spirit, or in other words the Spirit of Prophecy. Also keep in mind that sister White had died fifteen years prior to this date. And this is where the first quote of sister White on the front page of this study comes into play, where sister White said that “someone”, a he, would be her “successor”. One thing to note aswell is that during the time period of 1890 to her death in 1915, sister White didn’t write for the church. She wrote ‘The Great Conflict’ for example, which is written to inform and warn the world, and not the church.

SO DID THE CHURCH IN FACT RECEIVE NEW LIGHT IN 1930?

We know that sister White has a ‘prophetic birth certificate’ (Daniel 8:14, Revelation 14:9), but does this person who was given new light by God to the church also have a ‘prophetic birth certificate’? Lets find out. When we look at the history of the church we can see that the church did in fact receive new light in 1930, and it went exactly as sister White said it would happen:

“Prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD”. **Someone** is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah. **And when he appears, men may say: “You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.”**

Testimonies to ministers, p.475.3

They ridiculed this messenger of God, and they even used physical force to remove him out of the church.

Micah 6:9 (KJV) The Lord’s voice crieth unto the city [Jerusalem, the church], and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye **the rod**, and who [the Spirit of Prophecy] hath appointed it.

It was the year 1930 that the fourth angels message [Revelation 14:15] was given to the SDA church by Gods providence, and it came in the form of a book called “The Shepherds Rod Vol.1; The 144.000, a call for reformation”. Be like the Bereans that Paul spoke highly of. Prove it yourself to see if it has truth in it. Always go directly to the source itself, God will never allow a true seeker to be deceived.

“The word of the Lord, spoken through His servants, is received by many with questionings and fears. And many will defer their obedience to the warning and reproofs given, waiting till every shadow of uncertainty is removed from their minds. **The unbelief that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to the evidence that God is pleased to give. He requires of His people faith that rests upon the weight of evidence, not upon perfect knowledge.** Those followers of Christ who accept the light that God sends them must obey the voice of God speaking to them when there are many other voices crying out against it. It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God.” *Testimonies for the Church Vol.3, p.258.2*

“There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is **“present truth”** that the flock needs now.”
Early Writings, p.63.1

For more study material and / or questions or comments regarding this study or anything SDA church related, I would kindly direct you to our website;

www.presenttruth.eu