

**Great Controversy Series**  
**Are You ROOTED & GROUNDED?**  
**Chapter 22 - Prophecies Fulfilled**  
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

**What does the seed represent spiritually based on the parable of the four soils (wayside, rocky, thorny, & good)?**

Luke 8:11

11 **Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.**

**What must come from the seed in order for it grow a plant and give it life to fulfill its purpose?**  
 ROOTS!

**What is the main purpose of the roots of a plant or tree?**

- 1) Absorption of water and nutrients
- 2) Storage of food and nutrients
- 3) **Anchoring** of the plant body to **the ground**, and **supporting it**

In order for a plant to grow to its full potential it must be rooted in soil that has the enough depth for the roots to grow and proper nutrients. Without the good ground of soil to support the life of the plant and the root, the anchor, the plan cannot GROW. It WILL die.

Remember in the parable of the soils, seeds did not grow or the plants died in the wayside, rocky, and thorny soils. In the wayside soil there was no depth and no penetration in the soil. The birds ate those seeds. The seeds in the rocky soil was able to produce a root, but it was not able to go deep enough to get water, nutrients and anchor itself to the ground. The seeds in the thorny soil was able to grow some deep roots in the ground but was soon choked out by the thorny plants and weeds.

**What is the key spiritual lesson that Jesus was teaching of the parable of the four soils?**

**Matthew 13:8**

8 **But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.**

The seeds that fell on good ground was able to produce a fruitful plant because it was properly rooted and grounded in order to fulfill its purpose.

**Spiritual lesson**

**Matthew 13:23**

23 **But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also bearth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**

In general, the soil in the parable represent a person's "spiritual heart." Those who receive the Word of God not only hear the word, but they understand it by studying it and applying it in their lives, daily. This allows them to grow roots and receive the proper nutrients to grow spiritually in the likeness of Christ. How often does a plant receive water and nutrients from the ground? Daily. All the other soils in the parable represent those who were "hearers" only. Some were excited about the prospects of the eternal life but refused to fully give up sin and worldliness out their hearts.

**Luke 8:15**

15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an **honest and good heart**, having heard the word, **keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**

The reason why the good ground hearers have an “honest and good heart” is because they have accepted the conviction of the Holy Spirit that moved them to study and take heed to the Word of God. All the other hearers rejected the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Like the wayside soil they allowed Satan to take away their conviction. Like the rock soil they allowed trials and opposition take away their conviction. Like the thorny soil they allowed worldliness and the cares this life to choke out their conviction and the Word of God. They “seek ye first self, the kingdom of this world, and unrighteousness!”

**In Summary:** NO GOOD GROUND > SEED > NO ROOT = DEATH

GOOD GROUND > SEED > ROOT = LIFE

Again, you must be rooted and ground spiritually in order to grow up in Christ and produce His character.

Let’s take our understanding even deeper into the ground “spiritually.”

**Who makes the us the good ground? And what are we to be rooted and grounded in?**

**Ephesians 3:17-19**

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being **rooted and grounded in love**,  
 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
 19 And to **know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

**Rooted:** From [G4491](#); to *root* (figuratively *become stable*): - root. -Strong's Definition

**Stable:** “2. Steady in purpose...not fickle or wavering...” -Webster's 1828 Dictionary

**Grounded:** From [G2310](#); to *lay a basis* for, that is, (literally) *erect*, or (figuratively) *consolidate*: - (lay the) found (-ation), ground, settle. -Strong's Definition

When you accept the conviction of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus by faith, it is Jesus who takes your stony heart and make it good ground to grow His Word that was implanted in your heart.

Don’t miss this. It is the love of Christ that gives water, nutrients, and anchors your spiritual plant as you grow in the fullness of Christ. Love is in the soil! The nutrients and water of Love will produce a plant of LOVE that is ROOTED and GROUND IN the LOVE OF CHRIST!

When you are rooted and grounded in the LOVE of CHRIST there is a lot of room to grow! You can spread your roots wide and deep.

**Deeper and Wider ROOTS:** As the root grows so does the plant. As the root gets deeper and wider, it is hard to uproot.

**What and who will grow your roots deeper and wider, spiritually, so it will NOT be UPROOTED?**

**Colossians 2:6-7**

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 **Rooted and built up in him**, and **stablished in the faith**, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

**John 15:4, 5**

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ...for without me ye can do nothing.

As you abide in Christ and Christ His Word abide in you your plant that produces the fruits of the Spirit will be ROOTED and GROUNDED IN LOVE of CHRIST!

**Colossians 1:20-23**

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the **faith grounded and settled**, and **be not moved away from the hope of the gospel**, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

**Settled:** From a derivative of ἕζομαι hezomai (to sit); *sedentary*, that is, (by implication) *immovable*: - settled, steadfast.

Studying and taking heed to the word of God will allow you to grow deeper, become grounded and settled in the hope of the everlasting gospel by faith! You will be immovable and steadfast in the truth!

**What is the different between those who are rooted and grounded in the truth compared to others who reject Bible truth?**

**Psalms 1:1-6**

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his **delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and **whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

**Jeremiah 17:5-8**

5 Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed be the man that trusteth in man**, and **maketh flesh his arm**, and whose **heart departeth from the LORD [lip service and profession only]**.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed is the man that **trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.**

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when **heat cometh**, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

**What is the “heat” that does not affect those who are “rooted and grounded” to withering?**

What did Jesus say killed the stony ground hearer’s plant?

**Mark 4:5, 6, 16 & 17**

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

**The heat is affliction and persecution.**

“The hot summer sun, that strengthens and ripens the hardy grain, destroys that which **has no depth of root**. So he who 'hath not root in himself,' 'dureth for a while'; but 'when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.'...” {COL 47.2}

If you are rooted and grounded in the Word of truth, trials and persecution will strengthen and purify you.

**1 Peter 5:10**

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**

**What is else withers the plant of the stony hearer? Don't miss this lesson****Luke 8:6, 13**

6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up [Greek: germinated], it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

**Sprung up:** A primary verb; probably originally to “puff” or *blow*, that is, to *swell* up; but only used in the implied sense, to *germinate* or *grow* (*sprout, produce*), literally or figuratively: - spring (up). -Strong's Definition

The seed on the stony soil was able to germinate but unable to grow because it lacked water. Jesus is the living water. Stony hearers don't allow Jesus to soften their hearts so they can grow their roots to drink from living water of Jesus Christ.

**When in heat of affliction trial or drought of truth being taught in the land, the faithful will still grow because they are rooted and grounded in the living water of Jesus Christ.**

**Revelation 21:6**

6 And he said unto me, **It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

**Psalms 36:7-9**

7 How excellent *is* thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

9 For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

**What is a plant's worst enemy?** TOTAL herbicides! It is poison designed to kill the entire plant starting at the root, like "Round Up."

DON'T "ROUND UP" your plant!

**What kills a plant spiritually that is supposed to be growing in Christ?**

**The herbicide of doubt... the herbicide of sin and worldliness... the herbicide of unconfessed sins... the herbicide of fear... the herbicide of neglected prayer and Bible study will kill your plant! Netflix, Hollywood, amusement parks, NBA, NFL, the standard American diet, pharmaceutical drugs, the "wine" of Babylon are all herbicides that will kill your spiritual plant. This is the reason why you cannot mix one drop into your plant or soil!**

**October 22, 1844**

We learned from our previous studies that the time prophecy of Daniel 8:14, 2300 days the "sanctuary shall be cleansed" and Revelation 14:7 is referring to the investigative phase of judgment. William Miller and many others thought that the cleansing of the sanctuary and the hour of judgment was pointing to the executive phase of judgment in which they concluded was the end of the world and cleansing by fire. Based on the interpretation of Daniel 8:14 in Daniel 9:24 – 27, they believed that the coming of Jesus was going to take place on October 22, 1844. It was not until October 22, 1844 came and went did others realize their mistake that they got the right date but the wrong phase of judgment.

**What kept the faithful Adventist after the great disappointment "rooted and grounded" in truth and hope?**

"When the time passed at which the Lord's coming was first expected,--in the spring of 1844,--those who had looked in faith for His appearing were for a season involved in doubt and uncertainty. While the world regarded them as having been utterly defeated and proved to have been cherishing a delusion, their source of consolation was still the word of God. **Many continued to search the Scriptures, examining anew the evidences of their faith and carefully studying the prophecies to obtain further light. The Bible testimony in support of their position seemed clear and conclusive.** Signs which could not be mistaken pointed to the coming of Christ as near. The special blessing of the Lord, both in the conversion of sinners and the revival of spiritual life among Christians, had testified that the message was of Heaven. And though the believers could not explain their disappointment, they felt assured that God had led them in their past experience." GC – 391

They did not let go of the hope set before them. Those who already had a personal relation with Christ—who already was searching the Bible for themselves found scriptures they needed in this trying time.

"The world had been looking on, expecting that if the time passed and Christ did not appear, the whole system of Adventism would be given up. But while many, under strong temptation, yielded their faith, there were some who stood firm. The fruits of the advent movement, the spirit of humility and heart searching, of renouncing of the world and reformation of life, which had attended the work, testified that it was of God. They dared not deny that the power of the Holy Spirit had witnessed to the preaching of the second advent, and they could detect no error in their reckoning of the prophetic periods. The ablest of their opponents had not succeeded in overthrowing their system of prophetic interpretation. They could not consent, without Bible evidence, to renounce positions which had been reached through earnest, prayerful study of the Scriptures, by minds enlightened by the Spirit of God and hearts burning with its living power; positions which had withstood the most searching criticisms and the most bitter opposition of popular religious teachers and worldly-wise men, and which had stood firm against the combined forces of learning and eloquence, and the taunts and revilings alike of the honorable and the base.

True, there had been a failure as to the expected event, but even this could not shake their faith in the word of God.” {GC 405}

### **What scripture gave them hope in the prophetic timeline that pointed to the second coming of Jesus Christ?**

Habakkuk 2:1-4

1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and **make it plain upon tables**, that he may run that readeth it.

3 For the vision is yet for an **appointed time**, but at the **end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it**; because it **will surely come**, it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Like those who preached Daniel 8:14 in the past like Charles Fitch, made the prophetic vision plain upon tables, by putting together charts and graphics to give the people better understanding of the timeline.

### **Tarrying Time**

The tarrying time on the prophetic timeline of Daniel 8:14 began at the beginning of the investigative judgment, October 22, 1844. Miller and his associates missed this part of the text at their time, but we know without a doubt of God’s prophetic word that we are living at the very end of that tarry time!

### **What does God tell those who doubt that Jesus is coming extremely soon, but are words of encouragement for those who are rooted and grounded in present truth?**

**Ezekiel 12:25 - 28**

25 For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.

26 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

**27 Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off.**

**28 Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.**

### **How did William Miller and his associates come to the conclusion of October 22, 1844?**

Review: (Show 2300 Chart)

Initially Miller and associates thought Christ was coming in the summer of 1844. When that time came and went they continued to dig and discovered that the decree of Artaxerxes was issued in the autumn of 457 BC. So that gave them a clue that the “cleansing of the sanctuary” will also be in the autumn. But when in the autumn?

The feast days presented in the Old Testament were types that pointed to the prophetic fulfillment of Jesus Christ. Each feast day was fulfilled by **on the EXACT day of its celebration**. For example:

1) Type: **Passover** [1<sup>st</sup> Month (Abib), 14<sup>th</sup> day (approx. our March/April)]

**Fulfillment:** Jesus the “passover” Lamb died on passover.

2) Type: **Feast of Unleaven Bread** [1<sup>st</sup> Month (Abib), 15<sup>th</sup> day (Day after Passover)]

**Fulfillment:** Christ was crucified on a Friday. The next day, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, fell on the weekly 7<sup>th</sup>-day Sabbath that year, making it a High Sabbath. Christ the bread of life who lived sinless (no leaven) rested in His tomb during the Sabbath. He rested from His work of redemption that He completed.

3) **Type: Feast of Firstfruits (Wave Sheaf)** [1<sup>st</sup> Month (Abib), 16<sup>th</sup> day (2<sup>nd</sup> day of the feast of Unleavened Bread)]

**Fulfillment:** Sunday after Passover, the day of the Offering of Firstfruits, Christ rose from the dead. “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.” And as the priest waved a handful of grain before the Lord, not just one kernel, so there were others resurrected as part of firstfruits (See Matt. 27:52,53)

If these types were fulfilled on the EXACT day, it was believed the same had to be true with the second coming of Jesus, that He will come on the EXACT day of a feast day. Since Daniel 8:14 pointed to the “cleansing of the sanctuary” it was concluded that the second coming of Jesus connected to the Day of Atonement, because it was known in a day of the “cleansing of the sanctuary” in the Old Testament. It was a day in which the high priest made an atonement for the sins of people of Israel, thus “cleansing the sanctuary.” The Day of Atonement was on the tenth day of the seventh month according to Leviticus 16:29

“So it was believed that Christ, our great High Priest, would appear to purify the earth by the destruction of sin and sinners, and to bless His waiting people with immortality. The tenth day of the seventh month, the great Day of Atonement, the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary, which in the year 1844 fell upon the twenty-second of October, was regarded as the time of the Lord's coming. **This was in harmony with the proofs already presented that the 2300 days would terminate in the autumn**, and the conclusion seemed irresistible.” GC - 400

It would not be until after October 22, 1844 that faithful Adventists who were rooted and grounded in the Word saw their error got a better understanding about the sanctuary in heaven. (See that in more detail next study)

Prophetic timeline fulfilled

**When does the major timeline of prophecy that points to the second coming of Jesus Christ begin?**

**Daniel 2:28-29**

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

“Hereafter” = From this point forward

When did Babylon Empire begin? 606 BC

Major line of prophecy

606 BC-----→Jesus Coming!

Timeline faith builder! Look at ALL the things that have been fulfilled on the timeline as we get closer to the coming of Jesus

**From 606 BC – Prophetic Events Fulfilled**

- 1) 606 BC to 476 AD Rise and fall of Babylon, Mede Persia, Greece and Rome
- 2) 2300 Timeline Begins with fulfilled anchor prophecies (Daniel 8:14 and 9:24 – 27)
  - a- 457 BC – Artaxerxes decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Media and Persian Empire)
  - b- 27 AD – Jesus Anointed – Messiah (Rome Empire)
  - c- 31 AD – Jesus crucified
  - d- 34 AD – Stephen stone – end of Israel 490 year probation to make an end of sin
- 3) 538 AD to 1798 AD (1260 years fulfilled) Papal Rome Empire
- 4) November 1, 1755 - Great Earthquake
- 5) May 19, 1780 - Dark Day – Moon as Blood
- 6) November 13, 1833 Fall of Stars – beginning of the “Great Awakening”
- 7) October 22, 1844 2300 Timeline Ends “Cleansing of Sanctuary”
- 8) Papal Rome’s “wounded” head completely healed
- 9) Formation Image of Beast almost completed
- 10) Loud Cry – Come out of Babylon!
- 11) Mark of the Beast Crisis – soon to take place
- 12) Seven Last Plagues (one year)
- 13) Second Coming of Jesus

Daniel 12 - 1260, 1290, and 1335 days are end-time timelines for the faithful that does not give the exact day and hour of the second coming of Jesus but it reveals the fulfillment that His coming is “even at the doors.”

**What are the two categories of believers that profess present truth and the second coming of Jesus Christ?**

Wise Virgins or Foolish Virgins

“In this parable, as in that of Matthew 24, two classes are represented. All had taken their lamps, the Bible, and by its light had gone forth to meet the Bridegroom. But while "they that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them," "the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."” - GC 394

**Wise Virgins**

Based on the parable of Jesus Christ, the wise were rooted and grounded in the word because they studied the word of God for themselves and had their faith experiences that grew their faith. As a result they were filled completely with the power of Holy Spirit to take them through until the coming of the Bridegroom.

The [Wise Virgins] “had received the grace of God, the regenerating, enlightening power of the Holy Spirit, which renders His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. In the fear of God they had studied the Scriptures to learn the truth, and had earnestly sought for purity of heart and life. These had a personal experience, a faith in God and in His word, which could not be overthrown by disappointment and delay.” GC - 394

**Foolish Virgins**

The foolish believed in present truth and the second coming of Jesus but they did not study for themselves and have a their own faith experience. They love being around the truth and talk about the coming of Jesus, but depended on others faith and knowledge of the scriptures. They love hearing the testimonies of faith of others but they feared to stretch their faith in doing the things of God. In the end they were not prepared for the crisis and missed the Bridegroom!

“Others "took their lamps, and took no oil with them." They had moved from impulse. Their fears had been excited by the solemn message, but they had depended upon the faith of their brethren, satisfied with the flickering light of good emotions, without a thorough understanding of the truth or a genuine work of grace in the heart. These had gone forth to meet the Lord, full of hope in the prospect of immediate reward; but they were not prepared for delay and disappointment. When trials came, their faith failed, and their lights burned dim.” GC – 394

In time of trial and testing the faithful few Adventist after October 22, 1844 were like the wise who pressed forward to understand and apply truth. Those who did not remain faithful to the second advent message were like the foolish virgins. In time of trial and tarrying it revealed that they did not prepare.

**Are you rooted and grounded in the present truth? Being around it, watching, and depending on the faith and experiences of others will not make you wise. You must have your own personal faith experience in the truth!**

**How much do you really believe in the extreme soon return of Jesus? Your lifestyle choice today and how you spend your time tells the truth!**

**Do you think you have to be a professional trained at the institutions to do this end time work? NO!**

**Who gave the Advent message from 1833 to 1844?**

“The work did not stand in the wisdom and learning of men, but in the power of God. It was not the most talented, but the most humble and devoted, who were the first to hear and obey the call. Farmers left their crops standing in the fields, mechanics laid down their tools, and with tears and rejoicing went out to give the warning.” GC 402

**Who will give the last warning call today? Will it be you? Are you rooted and grounded?**

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.” GC - 606