

We know the principle that the enemy goes first although line upon line they are actually at the same time.

In 1 Kings 18 the Prophets of Baal are marked as crying aloud from noon until the time of the evening sacrifice (verses 27–29) which we know is the 6th till the 9th hour marking the binding off. Then you see Elijah repairing the altar which I am suggesting is a repeat beginning at Midnight. Why do I say this? Well the number 12 is made up during the Binding off and it is marked by water being poured upon the altar three times taking you up to the 9th hour in verse 36 (evening sacrifice is marked again) where a doubling is marked in verse 37. Once we have this structure in place and we go to Daniel 2 it is easy to see the same structure there.

Nebuchadnezzar's sleep breaks from him marking him waking at Midnight where we see the number four (magicians) marking the rebellion taking place (1 Sam 15:23). We then have the Magicians speaking syriack (a false message/decreed Ezra 4:4-7) where they are challenged three times by Nebuchadnezzar taking us up to the 9th hour prophetically.

It is then repeated beginning with a decree that is paralleled by the decree of Haman in Esther 3:12 and the decree given by False Smerdis where God's people are accused of sedition (Ezra 4:15).

At this point Daniel is given "time" where he is revealed the secret things (Isa 45:3) where he is told what shall happen in the latter days, and gives a message about the rise and fall of Kingdoms beginning with himself, (head of Gold) leading up to the close of probation which finishes (verse 49) with Daniel being marked sitting in the gate (judgment).

In recent presentations you stated that the three baskets on the bakers head represent the Pope's Triple Crown and the bakemeats in the top-most basket represent confections (junk food or false doctrine). In my personal study of this account I do see that the baker represents the foolish virgins. But the identification of the three baskets with the pope's Triple Crown did not sit well with me because there wasn't much evidence given to back it up. Below is how I have come to understand the symbols in connection with the baker.

The three baskets represent the three angel's messages identifying that the baker is carried through the same testing process as that of the butler. When I looked up the Hebrew word translated as bakemeats I did not find 'confections' (junk food). What I found was this word simply refers to food.

mah-ak-awl'—From H398; an eatable (including provender, flesh and fruit): - food, fruit, ([bake-]) meat (-s), victual.

aw-kal'—A primitive root; to eat (literally or figuratively): - X at all, burn up, consume, devour (-er, up), dine, eat (-er, up), feed (with), food, X freely, X in . . . wise (-deed, plenty), (lay) meat, X quite.

My thought is this food (message) in the baker's basket is the same food symbolized by the latter rain that caused the branches in the butler's dream to bud. The latter rain message is eaten out of the basket by birds. I connected this to the parable of the sower. The seed sown by the wayside was eaten by the fowls of the air.

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

SOP describes this as follows:

“The seed sown by the wayside represents the word of God as it falls upon the heart of an **inattentive hearer**. Like the hard-beaten path, trodden down by the feet of men and beasts, is the heart that becomes a highway for the world’s traffic, its pleasures and sins. Absorbed in selfish aims and sinful indulgences, the soul is ‘hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.’ Hebrews 3:13. The spiritual faculties are paralyzed. Men hear the word, but **understand it not**. They do not discern that it applies to themselves. They do not realize their need or their danger. They do not perceive the love of Christ, and they pass by the message of His grace as something that does not concern them.

“As the birds are ready to catch up the seed from the wayside, so Satan is ready to catch away the seeds of divine truth from the soul. He fears that the word of God may awaken the careless, and take effect upon the hardened heart.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 45.

The baker thus represents the inattentive hearers who will not understand the present truth message. They are the wicked who will not understand as stated in Daniel 12. I think we are saying the same thing ultimately. But maybe this is a more accurate exposition of the prophetic symbols?

I see your point. I picked up the Triple Crown from someone in the audience when I shared it in Europe. I see how it fits in the sense that the foolish virgins are all developing a character for the mark of the beast, and therefore the characteristics may also infer Roman characteristics.

I agree and did not mean to disregard the number three as the three-fold testing process, or the three angel’s message.

I get your word study, but somewhere we did find confections, but I would need to back trace that out. (Perhaps it was esword?) I have since found that I got confections from my marginal reference in the EGW Study Bible.

But I don’t see how the idea actually contradicts yours, for the foolish virgins that go through the same testing process as the wise, do create their own counterfeit message. That false message is a counterfeit food.

I appreciate your thoughts but would ask you to consider the following:

It states plainly that the 3 baskets represent 3 days which we know and understand represent the everlasting gospel representing a three step testing process which at the third step will be demonstrated if you have a character prepared for heaven by the first two steps. We also know and understand that the third message arrives at the Midnight Cry. So in essence the two dreams are demonstrating two types of character formed at the time of the Midnight Cry. The Butler formed a character that produced fruit which enabled him to distribute the new wine (Latter rain) to Pharaoh. The Baker produced a character fir for the Mark of the beast which cannot be reversed:

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Luke 16:25, 26

According to Miller's rule No 10 a symbol can have more than one meaning. The seal of God is placed upon our foreheads as we understand this is the place where we make our decisions. The baker has three baskets on his head to symbolize that he has indeed gone through the same three step process but has produced a character demonstrated by the three baskets on his head. These baskets are stacked one on top of the other, for it is the uppermost basket that contains the food. I agree with your representation of the parable of the sower, but the interpretation tells us that after 3 days the birds would eat his flesh. The Bible interprets and explains this as pertaining to Babylon and all those associated with her:

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. Revelation 19:17, 18.

Therefore, the baker has a character prepared to receive the Mark of the beast which we know is 666, which we also know is symbolized by the triple crown worn by the Pope. It doesn't take much stretch of a sanctified imagination to place these symbols together. The only point I may or may not agree with you in regards to the food is that I likewise did not find the food to mean junk food. However if we study all the information in regards to the foolish virgins we know and understand that they do not like God's food Exodus 16:3, instead they prefer Egyptian food which was represented by those dying with the flesh between their teeth Numbers 11:33. This is the whole controversy at the end of the world, it is about what food we are eating. Therefore the Bakers food is not just food, it is certainly food not fit for human consumption.