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Bible Explorations Newsletter

March/April 2021 Issue

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PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD 2021

In California we are still not fully able to gather in indoor groups, but that won't stop us from our camp meeting! We will once again have our camp meeting via zoom. It has worked for the last two, hopefully this spring will be the last one and we will be open for the fall!

We will begin April 27 and go through May 3, 2021. Passover is April 26 and we will have pre-recorded videos on our program with Christian Passover by my dad, Elder VanDenburgh and maybe a couple live zoom talks, too. Our speakers this time will include Lem Ramirez, Wayne Wright, Keith Bond, Abel Camacho, Hein de Wit, David Baxter, Donnie Ramey, Cheri Hall, Julie Muff, Karren Brehms, Charmaine Vierra, Ted Schultz, Yolanda Zahn, and more, with a special one I believe will be able to come back! So it will be another packed week of great speakers with lots to study and learn. Please join us either on our zoom by going to www.BibleExplorations.com/zoom or you can watch

live on Roku, our website, or YouTube, www.BibleExplorations.com/yt. Please call or email if you need more information.

We don't have the exact schedule when each speaker will be yet, but we will have it on the website and facebook when it's complete. We will begin April 27 at 8 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) and have 4 or 5 each day.

DON'T COME EMPTY? Elder John VanDenburgh

The Passover/Unleavened bread offering is one that our Lord notices. It is an offering given to maintain the sanctuary, its operations, and the priests as well as hope for the poor. Bible Explorations has helped the poor at times when we could, and the expenses go on and on. Deut. 16:16 "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty." Here is an opportunity to give abundantly to the sanctuary and the messages that it gives. (Deu 16:17) "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee." Have you been blest this past year? Accordingly, we are to give, and obviously the faithful are noted by our God. This is truly a high honor.

More words from Elder John worth repeating: Have you ever had to face this comment, "Why don't I keep the feasts of Yahweh"? Because they were attached to animal sacrifices, and the sacrificial system, and everything (meaning every day) attached to animal sacrificing had its spiritual significance nailed to the cross!!! How pathetic: What they fail to realize, or make excuses for, is that the Israelites had animal sacrifices on every single day, and if their premise is true than there are no days to be considered holy. To carry this a little further, some who say this, including teachers, choose to forget, or excuse Yahweh, for having more animal sacrifices on the 7th-day Sabbath than most any other feast day. So don't be buffalooed. It's an old argument that never did hold water.

THE DISCIPLINE OF TRIAL

Elder John VanDenburgh

To live such a life, to exert such an influence, costs at every step, effort, self-sacrifice, discipline. It is because they don't understand this that many are so easily discouraged in the Christian life. Many who sincerely consecrate their lives themselves, as never before, are confronted by obstacles and beset by trials and perplexities. They pray for Christ-likeness of character, for fitness for the Lord's work, and they are placed in circumstances that seem to call forth all the evil of their nature. Faults are revealed, of which they did not even suspect their existence. Like Israel of old, they question, "If God is leading us why do all these things come upon us?" It is because God is leading them that these things come upon them. Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. . . . In His providence He brings these persons into different positions and varied circumstances that they may discover in their character the effects which have been concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects, and to fit themselves for His service. MH 470,471.

Continuing on with the same ideology:

We do not always consider that the sanctification we so earnestly desire and for which we pray earnestly is brought about through the truth and, by the providence of God, in a manner we least expect.

When we look for joy, behold there is sorrow. When we expect peace, we frequently have distrust and doubt, because we find ourselves plunged into trials we cannot avoid. In these trials we are having the answers to our prayers. In order for us to be purified, the fire of affliction must kindle upon us and our will must be brought into conformity to the will of God. God sees it best to put us under a course of discipline which is essential for us before we are fit for the blessing we crave. Perfection of character can be attained only through labor, conflict, and self-denial. . . . He brings us into positions which are the most trying to reveal to us what is in hearts. To further the development of Christian graces He will place us in circumstances which will demand increased exertion on our part to keep our faith in lively exercise. OHC 313

These principles seen above are both encouraging and discouraging. Discouraging because no one likes trials, especially difficult trials, myself included.

Encouraging because it gives a reason to maintain our faith no matter what the trial and then to walk closer with our Saviour.

Of course every trial does not come from the same source, but many of them do and I would pray my way through them, handle them with His grace and become all He wants me to be.

TIME TO REMEMBER, TIME TO DECIDE, WHICH DEALS WITH MALACHI 4:4, 5

By Ted Schultz

HOW THE JEWS DEPARTED FROM GOD

"As the Jews departed from God, and failed to make the righteousness of Christ their own by faith, the Sabbath lost its significance to them." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 283. Abundant evidence is given in Scripture that the first step in their departure from God was in departing from the law of Moses which includes the Decalogue, statutes, and judgments. "As they refused to comply with the conditions, His promises were not fulfilled to them." *The Great Controversy*, p. 316. The prophet Daniel in his prayer reveals why they had been scattered and taken into Babylonian captivity. "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments. Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law [torah], even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath

that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.” Daniel 9:5, 11. Daniel says that Israel did not obey God’s voice. What was it that God voiced to Israel? “But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I gave them to possess it.” Deuteronomy 5:31. Is it not expressed in one way or another nowadays that that which was spoken was of secondary importance to that which was written by God’s own finger. That which was spoken is quite often devalued and even demerited in one manner or another. But God’s dealings with His people anciently does not so regard that which was spoken. That which God voiced was put into the book of the law of Moses. Because Israel did not obey that law they went into Babylonian captivity. Israel’s sin was not an inadvertent slip. Israel knew what the commandments, statutes and judgments were, but set themselves in persistent rebellion against God’s laws.

THE STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS GUARD THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

“The Lord did not leave his people with the precepts of the Decalogue alone. Moses was commanded to write, as God should bid him, judgments and laws giving minute directions in regard to their duty, thereby guarding the commandments engraved on the tables of stone. Thus did the Lord seek to lead erring man to a strict obedience to that holy law which he is prone to transgress...Moses wrote these judgments and statutes from the mouth of God while he was with Him in the mount. The definite directions in regard to the duty of His people to one another, and to the stranger, are the principles of the ten commandments simplified and given in a definite manner, that they need not err...” *Signs of the Times*, June 17, 1880.

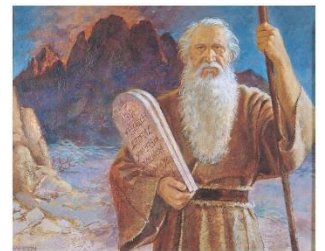
PARTIAL IN THE LAW

The prophet Malachi reveals that the priests who were to be keepers and teachers of the law had become “partial in the law.” “But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law [torah]; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi; saith the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 2:7-9. Are not many spiritual leaders within the household of faith causing “many to stumble at the law [torah]” today? Partial in the law indeed! If breaking the commandments, statutes, and judgments was the cause for the scattering of God’s people anciently and receiving the curse spoken of in the law of Moses,

what will be of supreme importance to their gathering and the returning of God’s blessings? Will the people not have to turn from disobeying the commandments, statutes, and judgments, and begin obeying them? Or does God now bless that which He once cursed and curse that which He once blessed?

THE FOUNDATION OF ALL REFORM AND TRUE REVIVAL

The sacred record bears its infallible testimony that whenever God brought revival and reformation to His people He set the law of Moses front and center before them. Thus it was when the people came out of Babylon. “And all the people gathered themselves as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.” Nehemiah 8:1, 2, 8. We see by this example that “the book of the law of Moses” was established as the basis for the reforms that took place under Nehemiah. We see also that the book of the law of Moses is also called “**the law of God**.” “The work of restoration and reform carried on by the returned exiles, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, presents a picture of a work of spiritual restoration that is to be wrought in the closing days of this earth’s history. In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired. God’s remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God.” *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 677, 678.



Through the revival leadership of Nehemiah the people were brought into covenant relationship with God. “They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God’s law [torah], which was given to Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the

commandments of the LORD our LORD, and his judgments and his statutes.” Nehemiah 10:29.

THE VISION OF JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW

While at the 1903 General Conference session Ellen White had a vision which she was instructed to relate to the people assembled at the conference. The vision was about the reform work that was carried forward by Josiah when the book of the law was discovered. She put a question directly to the people. “Brethren, have any of you lost the book of the Law?” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 1, 1903. “The reading of the book of the law, so long forgotten, made a deep impression upon the king’s mind. He realized that something must be done to bring this law to the attention of the people and to lead them to conform their lives to its teachings. By his own course of action, he designed to show his respect for the law. He humbled himself before God rending his clothes...In the book of the law itself he found a treasure of knowledge, a powerful ally in the work of reform. Josiah did not say, ‘I knew nothing about this book. These are ancient precepts, and times have changed.’ He appointed men to investigate the matter. In Josiah’s day the Word of the Lord was as binding, and should have been as strictly enforced, as at the time it was spoken. And to-day it is as binding as it was then...The king, on his part, left undone nothing that might bring about a reformation.” *Ibid*.

Then the servant of the Lord brought it straight home to the people as to why she had been given that vision of Josiah and his reform based upon the book of the law. “To-day God is watching His people. We should seek to find out what He means when He sweeps away our sanitarium and our publishing house. **Let us not move along as if there were nothing wrong.** King Josiah rent his robe and rent his heart. He wept and mourned because he had not had the book of the law, and knew not of the punishments that it threatened. God wants us to come to our senses. He wants us to seek for the meaning of the calamities that have overtaken us, that we may not tread in the footsteps of Israel, and say, ‘The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord are we,’ when we are not this at all. When we reach the mark of our high calling in Christ, the protecting arm of God will be with us. We shall have a covert from the storm.” *Ibid*. Indeed a storm is coming and can we honestly say that we have allowed the book of the law to instruct us that we may have a covering over us when that storm comes? Can

we rightfully expect God to provide a covering for the church when we have been transgressing the law? God swept away the sanitarium then, what will He do now? Our medical institutions are places where the blood of innocents has been shed by the multiplied thousands. And this even to the amazement of the secular world. For fifty years the world has looked on those who profess to be commandment keepers and yet carry on the abomination of abortion in direct violation of the law of God. Will God judge for this? Does God change? Where has there been confession and repentance for all this that has been done before the whole world? “And also for the innocent blood that he [Jehoiakim king of Judah] filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.” 2 Kings 24:4. One of seven things that the Lord hates are “hands that shed innocent blood.” Proverbs 6:17. *Ministry* published a most telling article that demonstrates that for at least fifty years there has been a complete violation of the book of the law. “In effect, the church has simultaneously held two positions regarding abortion. The unpublished May 13, 1970, abortion guidelines have presented to Adventist clergy and laity, and to the general public as well, the appearance of a restrictive stance. And the unpublished Interruption of Pregnancy Guide lines have permitted its hospitals a free hand in this economically significant practice. So what is the truth about Adventism and abortion? Is abortion on demand the norm for Adventist health



institutions? On this question M. C. Midkiff [the administrator of Castle Memorial Hospital] said, ‘I believe if you do a bit of research you will find that the majority of Adventist hospitals permit abortion on request.’”

Ministry, August, 1991. (Article by George B. Gainer, Abortion: History of Adventist Guidelines.) *Ministry* is an official publication of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists that goes out to approximately 62,000 pastors of other denominations according to *Ministry*’s website.

What of the works of Romanists, Jesuits, pantheists, spiritualists, new agers, and higher critics that are being promoted from high places within the household of faith? Especially is this abomination carried out in our educational institutions as per the directive of the IBMTE (International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education) which is a governing body of the General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists. It was mandated by the IBMTE to teach spiritual formation in all thirteen divisions of the world church. Does not the book of the law raise up a standard against such abominations? Yet it is denied that eastern forms of spiritual formation are being promulgated. (See the booklet *The Spiritualistic Subversion of Adventism* for documentation of the very things being denied). Again we ask, does not the book of the law raise up a standard against these abominations? (Deut. 13 and 17). The *Adventist Review* has promoted spiritual formation books. Our presses have published books that promote other books containing Romanism, pantheism, spiritualism, etc. “Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD, And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked withal.” 2 Kings 23:24-26.**To be continued.**

FAITHFULNESS IN THE END TIMES

Elder John VanDenburgh
(Continued from last newsletter)

Protestants and Popery Unite

“The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.” G.C.B. April 13, 1891 7BC975

READ Revelation 13:11-14 KJV

“Here the great crisis is coming up on the world. The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world. G.G.B. April 13, 1891, 7BC975

READ Revelation 13:14-17 KJV and Revelation 17:5.

Here is pictured a gigantic confederacy. The feminine gender is used because the church powers are the main focus. Not only (1) Babylon of the seven hills is

mentioned, but (2) the apostates that came out of her along with (3) all other abominable religious “isms” of the world.

What are we recognizing that Ellen White predicted regarding differences between papal supremacy during the dark ages and what is developing today?

“Satan’s masterpiece of deception is popery; and while it has been demonstrated that a day of great intellectual darkness was favorable to Romanism, it will also be demonstrated that a day of great intellectual light is also favorable to its power.” ST Feb 19, 1894; 3STA100

More comparisons between the past and the future. First, the past:

“Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months, and, says the prophet, I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death, and again, He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity. He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword (Rev. 13:5, 3, 10). The forty and two months are the same as the times and times and the dividing of time, three years and a half or 1260 days of Daniel 7. The time during which the papal power was to oppress God’s people. This period as stated in preceding chapters, began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798. At that time, the pope was made captive by the French army. The papal power received its deadly wound, and the prediction was fulfilled: ‘He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity.’” G.G. 439

Second, the future:

“The persecutions of protestants by Romanism, by which the religion of Jesus Christ was almost annihilated, will be more than rivaled when Protestantism and popery are combined.” MS30, 1889, 3SM387

“The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. This *entire* chapter is a revelation of what *will* surely take place.” (Rev. 13 quoted) MS88 1897

Ellen White saw the present developing confederacy:

“The time is at hand when a fearful confederacy will be formed, a brotherhood inaugurated by Satan. Unholy human agencies will combine with demon forces, and the whole world will be imbued with Satanic impulses.” MS154, 1899

“Satan is at work from beneath to stir up the hellish powers of his confederacy against the just.” Letter 30a, 1892 page 1. (LD92L030a)

READ Revelation 9:1-2 KJV and Revelation 13: 8, 9, 15-17 KJV

Once the confederacy is in place, we must not expect honest courtesy from others:

“He (Satan) imbues human agencies with his own attributes. Efforts will be put forth by evil angels, united with evil men, to harass, persecute, and destroy.” Letter 30a 1892 page 1

READ Revelation 9:11

Soon we will be reading quotations which give some credence to those who believe ten major protestant countries and/or protestant denominations are represented by the 10 horns supporting the papacy during the final rise of the antichrist. However, first we will read about the 10 horns from the Bible:

READ Revelation 17:12-13 KJV

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be *united*, in opposition to God’s people, *all* corrupt powers that *have apostatized* from allegiance to the law of Jehovah.” MS 24 1891, 7BC983

“Why do world leaders want to get into bed with the Vatican? The heads of state in today’s world all recognize that the Pope wields a power which in many ways is even greater than their own. It is not only Catholicism’s 900 million subjects and enormous wealth that causes the world’s most powerful governments to cultivate friendly relations with Roman Catholic Church, it is because Vatican City’s citizens are found in great numbers in nearly every country. They constitute an international network that reaches into the inside circles of the world’s power centers.” Dave Hunt: *Global Peace and the Rise of Antichrist*, 116

“The future of American politics lies in the growing strength of Evangelicals and their Roman Catholic allies. If these two core constituencies – Evangelicals composing the swing vote in the South, Catholics holding sway in the North – can cooperate on issues and support like-minded candidates, they can determine the outcome of almost any election in the nation.” Ralph Reed, *Politically Incorrect*, p. 16.

“The wall of separation between church and state that was erected by secular humanists and other enemies of religious freedom has to come down. That wall is more of a threat to society than the Berlin wall ever was.” Keith Fournier, *Tear Down the Wall, Law and Justice*, Winter 1992 (legal aid for the Christian Coalition)

“It is high time that all of us who are Christians to come

together regardless of the differences of our confessions and our traditions and make common cause to bring Christian values to bear in our society.” Keith Fournier, *Evangelical Catholics*

“The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.” G.C.B. April 13, 2891; 7BC975

“The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance.” GC592

“I have a divine mandate to go right into the halls of Congress and fight for laws that will save America.” Jerry Falwell; *The Saginaw News*

“They are working in blindness. They do not see that if a Protestant government sacrifices the principles that have made them a free independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution, principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages.” RH Extra, Dec. 11, 1888, p4; RH Articles, Vol. 2 p 266

“In the 17th of Revelation is foretold the destruction of *all the churches* who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy, those who have drunk the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Letter 2323, 1899. 7BC983

READ Revelation 17:2,5 KJV.

“What is it that gives its kingdom to this power? Protestantism, a power which, while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb, and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath.” Letter 232, 1899; 7BC983

“The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.” G.C.B. April 13, 1891, 7BC975

Now, notice the worldwide result:

“... As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” 6T18

“These have one mind, and shall give their power and

strength unto the beast.” Revelation 17:13 KJV

“‘These have one mind’ – there will be one universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. ‘And shall give power and strength unto the beast.’” MS24, 1891 pg 2

READ Rev. 13-8-9 KJV and Rev. 17:13-17 KJV

“The sun came up, and the moon stood still. The streams ceased to flow. Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, which shook the heavens and the earth. The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind, and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land.

“And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus’ coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peels of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at the end of every sentence the saints shouted, “Glory! Alleluia!” Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on these who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over the image. Then commenced the Jubilee, when the land should rest.” EW35

READ Rev. 19:11-13, Psalms 58:3-6 and 1 Thess. 4:16-18 KJV

WORDS FROM ELLEN WHITE

Angels are Holding the Winds

The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Another angel, ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah.--*Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 11, 1888.

I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads.--*Early Writings*, p. 38.

My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.--*Early Writings*, p. 58.

We Must Improve the Time

As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation!

Minds that have been given up to loose thought need to change. . . . The thoughts must be centered upon God. Now is the time to put forth earnest effort to overcome the natural tendencies of the carnal heart.--*Maranatha*, p. 243.

We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven--events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hasting greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the

servants of God are sealed in their foreheads--
Selected Messages, book 1, pp. 221, 222.

This is the work that the Lord would have every soul prepared to do at this time, when the four angels are holding the four winds, that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. There is no time now for self-pleasing. The lamps of the soul must be trimmed. They must be supplied with the oil of grace. Every precaution must be taken to prevent spiritual declension, lest the great day of the Lord overtake us as a thief in the night. Every witness for God is now to work intelligently in the lines which God has appointed. We should daily obtain a deep and living experience in the work of perfecting Christian character. We should daily receive the holy oil, that we may impart to others. All may be light bearers to the world if they will. We are to sink self out of sight in Jesus. We are to receive the word of the Lord in counsel and instruction, and gladly communicate it. There is now need of much prayer. Christ commands, "Pray without ceasing;" that is, keep the mind uplifted to God, the source of all power and efficiency.--*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 510, 511.

Summer is Near!

This life at best is but the Christian's winter; and the bleak winds of winter-- disappointments, losses, pain, and anguish--are our lot here; but our hopes are reaching forward to the Christian's summer, when we shall change climate, leave all the wintry blasts and fierce tempests behind, and be taken to those mansions Jesus has gone to prepare for those that love Him.--*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, pp. 239, 240.

There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar--worlds

that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation--suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed.

And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise.

"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Revelation 5:13.

The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.--*The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.



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