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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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BIBLE EXPLORATIONS THANKS YOU!

We are at the end of yet another year! What will 2021 hold for us? We hope we will be able to continue on spreading His message to the hungry world. We continue to get calls and emails from people just now hearing of us, or seeing a phone number in a book and wanting more information. Many watching on YouTube or Roku stations want more information. People are hungry for truth and hearing of God’s love and His soon coming; the great hope we all have! We want to thank each and everyone of you who continue to support this ministry financially and also through prayer.

My dad wanted Bible Explorations to continue, and his wish is being fulfilled. Mom is still in the home, seemingly without pain, but due to this “lockdown” where I cannot go in and actually see her or hug her, the inability of her to be outside much or do much inside, she has gone even further down. It is very sad to see her, where her eyes move, but no expression, no smile left. It breaks my heart. I continue to visit outside, looking at her from 8 feet away, telling her how we love her, what’s going on, hoping there is possibly something inside her that can know she is loved

and we haven’t “left” her. I pray that God gives her comfort if she has any sadness inside. I can’t wait until He returns and both John and Clara will rise up whole and strong, smiling with joy and excitement, at the great reunion. Let’s all plan and strive to be there at that time and not be left behind because we chose our own way, and not His way.

Time is short! Lots to be done! Please continue to help support us. We may not have had camp meetings here in 2020 (hopefully we will in 2021!), but we continue to have monthly and yearly bills. Thank you all! At this time we are planning on having Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread here live, April 26-May 3. Pray for God’s will for 2021. Watch us at: BibleExplorations.com/zoom; BibleExplorations.com/YT, BibleExplorations.com; and/or Roku.

REVELATION 4

By Elder John VanDenburgh with Ellen White

It was the lion of the tribe of Judah who unsealed the book and gave to John the revelation of what should be in these last days.” TM115

In the context, Ellen White is referring to past history. Later, in another writing she says past history will be repeated. In the above paragraph she adds: “The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward (not backward) to the last scenes of this earth’s history.

REVELATION 6

“The same spirit is seen today that is represented in Revelation 6:6-8. History is to be reenacted. That which

has been will be again. This spirit works to confuse and perplex. Dissension will be seen in every nation, kindred, tongue, and people...” Letter 65, August 23, 1898

The spirit of dissension and confusion seen in the church under the third and fourth seals will be repeated among those who refuse to follow the light given in the living oracles:

“The same spirit is seen today that is represented in Revelation 6:6-8. History is to be reenacted. That which has been will be again. This spirit works to confuse and to perplex. Dissension will be seen in every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and those who have not had a spirit to follow the light that God has given through His living oracles, through His appointed agencies, will become confused. Their judgment will reveal weakness. Disorder and strife and confusion will be seen in the church.” 4MR152

“The prophet Isaiah brings to view the fearful deception which will come upon the wicked, causing them to count themselves secure from the judgments of God: ‘We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come upon us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.’” (Isa. 28:15) But still more emphatically are those making a covenant with death and an agreement with hell, who renounce the truths which Heaven had provided as a defense for the righteous in the day of trouble, and accept the refuge of lies offered by Satan in its stead, -- the delusive pretensions of Spiritualism.” GC560, 561.

Notice in this next quote, she seems to equate the National Sunday Law with the 5th Trumpet. This she says is followed by intolerance toward those who keep God’s law.

Rev. 6:9 and 2Thess 2: (5th seal) -- ...Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin. The protest of Bible truth will be no longer tolerated by those who have not made the law of God their rule of life. THEN will the voice be heard from the graves of martyrs, represented by the souls that John saw slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ which they held; then the prayer will ascend from every true child of God ‘It is time for Thee, Lord, to work, for they have made void Thy law’.” RH June 15, 1897

“As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God’s

forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation’s iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob’s trouble. The cries of the faithful persecuted ones ascend to heaven. And, as the blood of Abel cried from the ground, there are voices also crying out to God from martyr’s graves, from the sepulchers of the sea, from mountain caverns, from convent vaults: ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth’.” 5T451

REVELATION 18 WITH THE 5th SEAL

“When the fifth seal was opened, John the Revelator in vision saw beneath the altar the company that were slain for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. After this came the scenes described in the eighteenth of Revelation, when those who are faithful and true are called out from Babylon. MS 39, 1906; 7BC968

NOTE: In the above reading, the astute student will recognize the fifth seal will be followed by the loud cry of Revelation 18 (“Come out of her my people that ye be not partakers of her plagues”). Also, that there will be a persecution while the loud cry is given.

“The forces of darkness will unite with human agents who have given themselves into the control of Satan, and the same scenes that were exhibited at the trial, rejection, and crucifixion of Christ will be revived. Through yielding to satanic influences, men will be transformed into fiends; and those who were created in the image of God, who were formed to honor and glorify their Creator, will become the habitation of dragons, and Satan will see in an apostate race his masterpiece of evil – men who reflect his own image.” RH April 14, 1896, 7BC974

NOTE: Notice the forces of darkness uniting with human agents. This is a strong indication that the 4th trumpet and the loud cry are happening together. According to Revelation 10:7 salvation’s door is still open until the 7th trumpet sounds.

REVELATION 7

This sealing of the servants of God is the same as that shown to Ezekiel.” TM445

“Study the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled;...” Letter 1-6, September 25, 1909

“Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those ‘that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be

done? in the church...read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel.” 3T267

STUDY OF REVELATION 13 SPECIFICALLY

“In the last days Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the Lord of the whole earth. He will declare that the Sabbath had been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week, and, as lord of the first day of the week, he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy. ‘They worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast saying, Who is like unto the beast, who is able to make war with him. And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; (Rev. 13:4) and power was given him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and power was given unto him over all kindred and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.’” MS 153, 1902.

NOTE: Today, some play with semantics between the words “fulfillment” and “application.” One word applying to one period of time, the other to another. But in the above case, as well as in the case of Daniel 11, and very likely other cases, she uses the word “fulfillment” and applies it to both past and future. In the above case she added the word “final” before fulfillment to clarify which fulfillment is being explained. Actually, any fulfillment is prophecy applied. It seems that as all fulfillments are proper applications, so all true applications are fulfillments, either past or final.

REVELATION 14

“Prophecy” will be repeated.

“In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. Those things which have been, will be repeated. Old controversies will be revived, and new theories will be continually arising. But God’s people, who in their belief and fulfillment of prophecy have acted a part in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages, know where they stand. They have an experience that is more precious than fine gold. They are to stand firm as a rock, holding the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end.” 2SM109

NOTE: Why is their experience presenting the three angels’ messages in the past as fine gold? Because they know they are standing on the very threshold of the things they’ve been teaching being repeated and they know they

are on the very threshold of their fulfillment. Then, as they see these things repeated, they will hold their confidence steadfast unto the end.

“Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated: old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God’s people on every side.” TM116 “The prophecies recorded in the Old Testament are the word of the Lord for the last days, and will be fulfilled.” Letter 154, 1906

“In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end, as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed.” GC Introduction p. XI

“The Lord has set before me matters which are of urgent importance for the present time, and which reach into the future. The words have been spoken in a charge to me ‘write in a book the things which thou hast seen and heard, and let it go to all people; for the time is at hand when past history will be repeated. I have been aroused at one, two, or three o’clock in the morning with some point forcibly impressed upon my mind, as if spoken by the voice of God...” Letter 1, 1890 – REPRINT: Notes and Papers concerning Ellen G. White and the Spirit of Prophecy, 137, 138.

NOTE: The message regarding the repetition of past history was received as if spoken by the voice of God. Evidently this is very important information.

The following paragraph is about the 2nd Angel’s Message:

“This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelations 14 is to be repeated; with the additional mention of the corruptions which has been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given in the summer of 1844.” GC605

NOTE: The phrase “This scripture points forward” indicates a more complete and final fulfillment in the future. There is no suggestion that it did not have a fulfillment in 1844. To the contrary, past prophetic history is a qualification for repetition.



“We see before us a special work to be done...the fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This Scripture will soon be understood in all its

bearing, and the messages given to John the Revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance.” Reprint in RH July 12, 1945.

“But these churches which have drunk deeply of the wine of Babylon are to hear a startling message of truth which will reveal to them their true position. The loud cry, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, has been and will again be given.” MS 163 Dec. 17, 1897 “But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844.” GC389

“The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844.

“The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that “Babylon is fallen,... because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” She has not yet made ALL nations do this. The spirit of world conforming and indifference to the testing truths for our time exists and has been gaining ground in churches of the Protestant faith in all the countries of Christendom; and these churches are included in the solemn and terrible denunciation of the second angel. But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.” GC389

The next paragraph tells of a repetition of ALL 3 angels' messages:

“In 1904 Sister White said: ‘We see before us a special work to be done... The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This Scripture will soon be understood in all its bearing, and the messages given to John the Revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance.’ (Reprint in the FH, July 12, 1945.

“...when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us,... then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord.” 6T401

“...I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry.” EW278

“God has given the messages of Revelation 14 their place in the line of prophecy, and their work is not to cease till

the close of this earth's history. The first and second angel's messages are still truth for this time, and are to run parallel with this which follows.

“The third angel proclaims his warning with a loud voice. ‘After these things’ said John, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory.’ (Rev. 18:1) In this illumination, the light of all the three messages is combined.” MS31, 1890

“The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. MS 24, 1891; 7BC949

REVELATION 18

“The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth.” “...what terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly this earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled. The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth.” RH July 5, 1906, RH Articles Vol. 5, p. 253

“The prophecies of the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel's message ‘another angel’ is to ‘come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth is to be lighted with his glory.’” RH Oct. 13, 1904; RH Articles Vol. 5, p. 83

“When the 5th seal was opened, John the Revelator in vision saw beneath the altar the company that were slain for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. After this came the scenes described in the eighteenth chapter of Revelation, when those who are faithful and true are called out from Babylon.” Revelation 18:1-5 quoted...MS39, 1906; 7BC68 (loud cry)

Who is she referring to in the next statement?

“...Those who stray from a plain ‘thus saith the Lord’ will be blinded in a superstitious faith in every kind of apostasy, and will be lead into that terrible iniquity which God's word represents as being ‘drunken with the blood of the saints.’” RH Aug. 31, 1897; RHA, Vol 3, p. 495

“The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved... (Rev. 18:3-7 quoted.)”

ADDITIONAL QUOTES ON HISTORY BEING REPEATED

An apparent contradiction:

“This time, which the angel declares with a solemn oath, is not the end of this world’s history, neither of probationary time, but of prophetic time, which should precede the advent of our Lord. That is, the people will not have another message upon definite time. After this period of time, reaching from 1842 to 1844, there can be no definite tracing of the prophetic time. The longest reckoning reaches to the autumn of 1844.” MS59, 1900, 7BC971



1. “Then we cried day and night for deliverance, until we began to hear the bells of Jesus’ garment. And I saw Jesus rise up in the holiest, and as He came out we heard the tinkling of the bells and knew our High Priest was coming out. Then we heard the voice of God which shook the heavens and the earth, and gave the 144,000 the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. Then the saints were free, united and full of the glory of God, for He has turned their captivity.” To the Little Remnant Scattered Abroad 4/6/1886

Two dates will be clear: The date we receive His word, and the latter date of His actual coming.

2. “In the last days Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the Lord of the whole earth...Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy. ‘They worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast saying who is like unto the beast. Who is able to make war with him. And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacles, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and power was given unto him over ALL kindred and tongues and nations. And ALL that dwell upon the earth shall worship him whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.’” MS 153 1902

Two times are clear: The time Satan arrives to make war with the final generation church, and the time he will be allotted to do it – forth and two months. (After which I suggest we will flee to the mountains.)

3. The millennium. One thousand year prophesied period of time to begin in the near future.

All three of these prophecies have certain things in common. They are all in the future; they are all literal time (not day for a year); and they are not traceable. In other words, we cannot, at the present time, trace the date of their beginnings to the date of their endings.

Therefore I do not make her out to be a false prophet, as some others seem to do. Many are wondering if other prophecies regarding time given in Daniel and Revelation might not fit into the same category as the above three? Notice, for example, how Daniel’s 1290 day time prophecy dovetails with Jesus’ prophecy in Matthew 24:

“...The prophecy which he uttered was two fold in its meaning: while foreshadowing the destruction of Jerusalem, it prefigured also the terrors of the last great day.” GC 25

“...and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.” Matthew 24:14-15

“And from the time that the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Daniel 12:11

Speaking of Jesus’ words in Matthew 24, Ellen White wrote: “...this entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last scenes of this earth’s history.” DA628

NOTE: For those that should live – not for those that have died!

“...Those who place themselves under God’s control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place.” 7T14 “Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated...We with all our religious advantages ought to know far more today than we do know.” TM116

NOTE: The suggestion in the above statement truly implies: we do not know near enough today because we have not studied Revelation believing its history will be repeated.

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament Scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ, through his servant John, has here declared what shall be in the last days; and He says “Blessed is he that

readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” TM116

The inference is that the Book of Revelation is full of truths pertinent to these last days. Ordinarily, we have applied less than half of the book to events near the close of this world’s history. And, practically none of Daniel. You and I have been told to study Daniel in connection with Revelation, for history will be repeated.

“The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message.” TM118

Obviously we do not realize which events are near, because the above reformation is still not seen. It appears something is missing in our understanding of the prophecies in this book!

“There is great need to search the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation, and learn the texts thoroughly, that we may know what is written.” Undated Manuscript 148, Evangelism pp. 363-4

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

By Ted Schultz

The Holy Spirit does not supersede the Bible

The Holy Spirit will never be given to supersede the Bible. “The Spirit was not given—nor can it ever be bestowed—to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. Says the apostle John, ‘Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.’ 1 John 4:1. And Isaiah declares, ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’ Isaiah 8:20.” The Great Controversy, p. vii. It becomes apparent by that statement that if the church had tested the spirits according to the torah they would have known that the “most precious message” that was being given was truly heaven-sent. There were a number of people, even among ministers and leaders, however, who rejected the message, and attributed the working of the Holy Spirit to fanaticism. By their unbelief they turned back the blessing that God had in store for the church at

that time. We do not want to repeat that failure. The Lord is bringing His church around to the same test again and how shall we avoid failure of that same test? The means



for testing the spirits according to Isaiah was the torah and the testimony. The torah, of course, is the law of Moses which includes the ten commandments and the statutes and judgments. But would they have used the law of Moses as a means of judging the message or judging their own spirit and attitude toward that message if the belief at that very time was increasing that the law of Moses was ceremonial and abolished at the cross? This was the view of General Conference president G. I. Butler. Butler stated that “at the present time [1886] at least two thirds of our ministers hold the latter position [his view point that the law of Moses was abolished at the cross].” The Law in Galatians, pp. 3, 40, 41. Butler, however, conceded that in the early history of our church the majority of the leaders did not hold his position. Those early leaders held that the law in Galatians was the moral and the ceremonial law. Ellen White was one of that persuasion. Selected Messages, Book One, p. 234.

In 1888 Jones, Waggoner, and Ellen White were saying that the law in Galatians was the moral and ceremonial law while Butler and a majority of the ministers were teaching that it was the ceremonial law and that the law of Moses (the torah) was abolished at the cross. There was also a rejection of the testimonies among many of the top leaders at that time. Strange things were afoot at the time while heaven was working to bless the church with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the loud cry and the latter rain. A concept was coming in at that time that there were differences of degrees of inspiration. The effects of this idea were absolutely devastating. It introduced doubts into the minds of the people as to the authority of Scripture and served to diminish its power. This concept of inspiration carried over also into how Ellen White’s testimonies were viewed. In 1889 Ellen White sounded a warning. “Both in the [Battle Creek] Tabernacle and in the college the subject of inspiration has been taught, and finite men have taken it upon themselves to say that some things in the Scriptures were inspired and some were not. I was shown that the Lord did not inspire the articles on inspiration published in the Review, neither did He approve their endorsement before our youth in the college. When men venture to criticize the Word of God, they venture on sacred, holy ground, and had better fear and tremble and hide their wisdom as foolishness. God sets no man to pronounce judgment on His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as uninspired. The testimonies have been treated in the same way; but God is not in this.” Selected Messages, Book One, p. 23. It may be important to know that G. I. Butler was the author of those articles in the Review and Uriah Smith was the editor.

The testimonies considered a thing of the past

In 1890 the servant of the Lord wrote, “She [Mrs. Law] stated their family did not place any particular faith now in Sister White’s testimony. She said Elder Smith, Elder

Butler, Elder Canright, and mentioned other names of the elders, did not any longer regard the testimonies as they once did but they considered Sister White's work and influence was a thing of the past. We had got beyond the need of the testimonies...This statement is what I meet everywhere in regard to Brother Smith, Elder Butler, Wm. Gage, and several others whose names I cannot remember." The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, Vol. 2, p. 684.

It is interesting to note that as certain ones came to regard the law of Moses as ceremonial and a thing of the past they also came to regard the testimonies as a thing of the past as well. Uriah Smith, editor of the Review and Herald, like Butler held that the law of Moses was the ceremonial law. Smith said, "We believe there is better ground on which to rest [the prohibition on pork] than the ceremonial law of the former dispensation, if we take the position that that law is still binding, we must accept it all, and then we shall have more on our hands than we can easily dispose of." Manuscript Releases, #852, p. 3. (This manuscript is not in the published volumes of the Manuscript Releases. This manuscript was obtained directly from the White Estate at Loma Linda). Was this advice that Uriah Smith was giving according to the law (the torah) and the testimony? Do we see here how one's thinking is dramatically affected by how we view the law of Moses? If the law of Moses is ceremonial and consequently abolished and nailed to the cross then one's view of what present truth and duty is in the sight of God is profoundly altered. Consequently, our view of what is involved in the end-time prophecy of Malachi 4:4, 5 during the loud cry and the latter rain is likewise dramatically affected. In fact, it may be impossible to even interest or engage certain ones on this matter because it is settled in their minds that the law of Moses is a thing of the past. Sadly, it may be that there is a certain class within the household of faith that the call to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments will find no responsive chord. They will rather want to "easily dispose" of the statutes. Obedience, however, to all of God's commandments, statutes, and judgments has always brought the blessings of the Lord and disobedience has brought the curses "written in the law of Moses." Daniel 9:11. Just as was in 1888, there now will be those who consider the working of the Holy Spirit in connection with sounding the messages out of the law of Moses as nothing more than fanaticism and a delusion. Our own history as a denominated people powerfully demonstrates that it is possible to pick and choose what portions of the law of Moses we shall feel obliged to keep. Those parts we do not wish to be convicted on can simply be easily disposed of by stating it is part of the old ceremonial law. Perhaps we may not even articulate a statement on the matter. It simply has become a way of thinking. There may be no antipathy toward the law of Moses. It is a default position that is the result of a lack of careful consideration.

In the early years of our church we did not even draw from the law of Moses to formulate the doctrine of tithing because our pioneers "were not sure that it was not one of those ceremonial obligations that ceased at the cross." Arthur L. White, *The Early Years*, p. 389.



These folk were as sincere in their relationship with the Lord as anyone could be, but they were sincerely wrong. They had nothing against the law of Moses. It was simply where they were in their understanding at that time. Undoubtedly those studious pioneers were aware of such texts as Deuteronomy 12:5, 6 which mingles the returning of tithes and offerings with offerings for the sacrificial services. "But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and flocks." From our vantage point in time we may feel that their learning curve was longer and more drawn out than was needed. But in many ways perhaps we are as they were, slow to learn that there may be some things—perhaps many things—that have not ceased at the cross as we have thought in the past.

What ceased at the cross?

Daniel is clear, however, as to what was abolished at the cross. "He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease." Daniel 9:27. The prophet was precise in his prediction of what was slated to come to an end with the Saviour's sacrifice upon the cross. The servant of the Lord is also precise. "This ritual law, with its sacrifices and ordinances, was to be performed by the Hebrews until type met antitype in the death of Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Then all the sacrificial offerings were to cease. It is this law that Christ "took...out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Colossians 2:14" Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 365. (Ellipsis in the original). So what was it that was to cease at the cross? "In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." In A. D. 31, three and a half years after His baptism, our Lord was crucified. With the great sacrifice offered upon Calvary, ended that system of offerings which for four thousand years had pointed forward to the Lamb of God. Type had met antitype, and all the sacrifices and oblations of the ceremonial system were there to cease." *The Great Controversy*, pp. 327, 328.

The law of Moses and the loud cry

The Spirit of Prophecy applies the prophecy of Ezekiel 36:25-27 to the time of the loud cry of Revelation 18. "The prophecies in the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel's

message, ‘another angel’ is to ‘come down from heaven, having great power,’ and the earth is to be ‘lighted with his glory.’ ... During the loud cry, the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town....the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere. The saving knowledge of God will accomplish its purifying work on the mind and heart of every believer. The Word declares: ‘Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes.’ This is the descent of the Holy Spirit, sent from God to do its office work.....As men, women, and children proclaim the gospel, the Lord will open the eyes of the blind to see his statutes, and will write upon the hearts of the truly penitent his law.” E. G. White, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 13, 1904. Emphasis supplied.

Then a warning was penned for the remnant of the dangers that will prevail at the time of the loud cry. “In the future, Satan’s deceptions will assume new forms. False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God’s people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Our watchword is to be, ‘To the law [torah] and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Ibid. Will we use the torah as our watchword if we believe it has been abolished at the cross? Ezekiel 36:27 says “And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Where are these statutes and judgments to which the Lord directs us in this verse? It is the torah—the law of Moses where the statutes and judgments are found. It is the statutes and judgments that the Holy Spirit will enable us to walk in and to keep when the Lord gives us a new heart. The prophecy of Ezekiel 36 has its parallel in Jeremiah 31 where God writes His law (torah) upon the hearts of those who enter into the new covenant with Christ. When He is finished writing His law upon the hearts of His people the law (torah) will be sealed among His disciples. Isaiah 8:16. It is the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments that is to be the watchword of the remnant at the very end of time to preserve them from every species of deception and delusion that Satan will try to bring upon the remnant. Yet it was this very means that God has provided to keep us from the many delusions of Satan that was declared by many to be a delusion in 1888. Series A, No. 6, p. 20. That was getting perilously close to sinning against the Holy Spirit.

It is the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments that we are called to remember during the loud cry and the

latter rain. And at the end of it all it is the torah—the law of Moses—that is sealed among God’s people. “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.” Isaiah 8:16.

.....*To be continued.*

ENCOURAGEMENT

From Ellen White

We are to look to Jesus; sinful, erring, weak, unworthy, we are to take the Word of God, the invitation of Christ, “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”..You place yourself in positions and in the society of those who bring temptations upon you, and you do not



always resist temptation; but the first decided resistance would bring angels to your side to strengthen you. When you present your petitions to God for help, an angel lifts up a standard for you against the enemy in order that you may not be overcome. You should look by faith to Jesus, saying, “Lord, save me or I perish.” When this petition is sincerely offered, the heavenly standard is raised, and One stronger than your enemy shields you from his assaults. Do not fix your eyes upon the discouraging features of your religious experience. Look to Jesus. Seek for a new heart, and never rest until you can say, “I know that my Redeemer liveth.” Acknowledge every ray of light that Jesus in His matchless love and mercy gives to you. Do not think that because you have made mistakes you must always be under condemnation; for this is not necessary. Do not permit the truth to be depreciated before your mind, because those who profess it do not live consistent lives. Cherish faith in the truth of the third angel's message. If you do not cultivate faith, its importance will gradually lose its place in your mind and heart. You will have an experience like that of the foolish virgins, who did not supply oil for their lamps, and their light went out. Faith should be cultivated. If it has become weak, it is like a sickly plant that should be placed in the sunshine and carefully watered and tended. The Lord would have every one who has had light and evidence cherish that light, and walk in its brightness. God has blessed us with reasoning powers so that we may trace from cause to effect. If we would have light, we must come to the light. Instead of looking to see if we have not made some mistakes in believing, we should look for evidences by which to strengthen and confirm faith.... God's promises have been given for our encouragement. 4MR 158.3-159.3

