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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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Inside This Issue

1	Reform or Fanaticism? (Continued)
2	The New Covenant; Paul Makes It Clear.
3	The Torah and the New Covenant.
4	The Covenant Extended to Israel.
5	Who's Who Among the Fanatics?
6-7	Appeals by Bible Exploration Speakers.
8	Appeal by Elder John VanDenburgh.

Reform or Fanaticism (continued)

By Ted Schultz

This first part of the letter is a continuation of Ted's previous work written in the previous news letter.

We ended our last study by posing the questions, did the holy convocations cease being holy at the cross, and on what basis is this claim made? The basis provided for making this claim is by the simple addition of one word—ceremonial. This one word has been appended to the words “annual Sabbaths” and thereby the necessity of keeping the “holy convocations” instantly disappears. The necessity of keeping the feasts and observing the annual Sabbaths did not actually disappear, but in the minds of

the people it has. The addition of the word “ceremonial” to the statutes is in direct violation of God’s command not to add to the statutes. “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the **statutes** and unto the **judgments**, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. **Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it**, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” Deut. 4:1, 2.

THE ULTIMATE PARADOX

Just by adding the one word “ceremonial” to the feasts and annual Sabbaths, they have been diminished almost out of existence in the minds of the people. Nowhere in scripture do we find the phrase “annual ceremonial Sabbaths” or anything that expresses such a meaning nor do we find the word “ceremonial” put in connection with the annual Sabbaths in the Spirit of Prophecy. Quite on the contrary, we find this council instead. “In the days of Christ these feasts were attended by vast multitudes of people from all lands; and had they been kept as God intended, in the spirit of true worship the light of truth might through them have been given to all the nations of the world. [Isn’t that what the work of the three angel’s messages is—to give the light of truth to all the nations of the earth?] With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance upon these holy convocations.

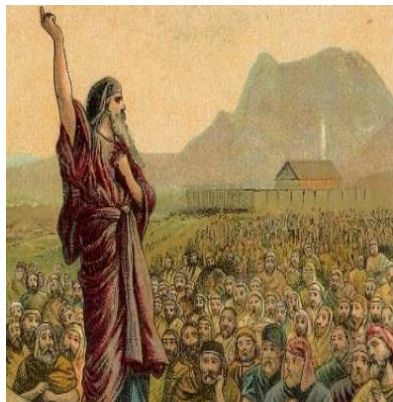
The Lord saw that these gatherings were necessary for the spiritual life of His people. They needed to turn away

from their worldly cares, to commune with God, and to contemplate unseen realities. If the children of Israel needed the benefit of **these holy convocations in their time, how much more do we need them in these last days of peril and conflict!** And if the people of the world needed the light which God had committed to His church, how much more do they need it now!” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 40.

But what is the prevailing attitude toward the feast day statutes today? Since those statutes are considered ceremonial and nailed to the cross it is looked upon as a denial of Christ to observe them. It is not only these statutes that are now considered nailed to the cross but others as well. We know that according to Daniel 9:27 that the sacrifices ceased from having legitimacy at the cross and of course the various regulations that governed the whole sacrificial system came to an end at that time as well. But there were no other statutes specified to come to an end at that time. The confusion that has come in has called into question the part that the law of Moses has to play in the experience of God’s end-time covenant people. Perhaps this is why God’s people have exhibited a complete lack of interest in the significance of such prophecies as Malachi 4. As we discussed in a previous study what was ceremonial and what was not was a controverted issue at the time of the 1888 General Conference. The confusion in regards to the law of Moses and what is ceremonial and what is not profoundly affects our understanding of the confirmation of the new and everlasting covenant. Most today believe that the law of Moses was the basis of the old covenant and that the new covenant is based upon the ten commandments only, and that no other part of the law of Moses is included in the new covenant. But what does the Bible say upon this most important matter?

THE NEW COVENANT

“Behold the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:” **“I will put my law** [Torah—the law of Moses] in their inward parts, and write it **in their hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Jer. 31:31, 33. According to this prophecy the law of Moses would *not* be abolished at the cross, but would be the basis of the new and everlasting covenant that God would make with His people. Someone may say, “Yes, but this is an Old Testament prophecy that applied only to the Jews.”



PAUL SAYS...

“But now hath he [Christ] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. **For finding fault with them**, he saith, Behold the days come, saith the LORD when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the LORD; I will put my laws [the Greek word is *nomos*] into their mind, and write them in their hearts.” Heb. 8:6-10. Paul is here quoting Jeremiah 31:31-34.

PAUL MAKES IT CLEAR



The apostle Paul speaking of the covenant ratified by Christ’s own blood describes it as “a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” Heb. 8:6. In describing this better covenant Paul quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34. It is important to note the Greek word that Paul

uses for the Hebrew word law as he quotes this Old Testament prophecy. The Hebrew word for law is Torah. The Greek word that Paul uses is *nomos*. We therefore have an anchor point that confirms that the word *nomos* can refer to the Torah in general and not just to the Ten Commandments only. Jesus said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law [*nomos*, the same word that is used when Paul quotes Jer. 31:33 in Heb. 8:10] or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill.” Matt. 5:17. Of course the Torah includes the Ten Commandments. These scripture confirm that the basis of the new covenant is the Torah.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY ON JER. 31:34

“Thus will be realized the complete fulfillment of the new covenant promise: ‘I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.’” “The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sins is to be accomplished before the second advent of the LORD.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 485. (Thus a better understanding is now required of us.)

THE TORAH AND THE NEW COVENANT



I will cause you to walk in My statutes...and ye shall do them

This law which God promises to write upon the heart is the Torah which of course not only includes the Ten Commandments but also includes His statutes and judgments. Ezekiel verifies this point when he speaks also of the new heart experience that comes to those who enter into the new covenant with Jesus. “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, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them.**” Eze. 36:26, 27. Then the prophet sets forth another prophecy applying to the time when Christ establishes His everlasting kingdom. “And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have **one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them**...And my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them. Eze. 37:24-26.

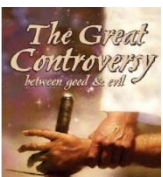
GABRIEL CONFIRMS EZEKIEL

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” Luke 1:31-33. (Friends, now is the hour getting late to enter into Christ’s kingdom.)

JESUS CONFIRMS EZEKIEL

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, **and they shall hear my voice:** and there shall be one fold and **one shepherd.**” John 10:16.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY CONFIRMS EZEKIEL AND GABRIEL



“Not now ‘upon the throne of His glory;’ the kingdom of glory has not yet been ushered in. Not until His work as a mediator shall be ended will God ‘give unto Him the throne of His father David,’

a kingdom of which ‘there will be no end.’ Luke 1:32, 33.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 416. The scriptures states that those who are part of Christ’s kingdom of glory will have heard the voice of Jesus and will be walking in His judgments and observing His statutes. Ancient Israel heard the voice of Jesus as He gave the Ten Commandments and Moses heard His voice as He gave him the statutes and judgments. “Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, and good statutes and commandments: And makest known unto them thy holy Sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant.” Neh. 9:13, 14. The Lord had repeatedly instructed Israel to “keep”, “do”, “observe”, and “hearken” to His commandments, statutes, and judgments, Deut. 6 and 7, but they were disobedient and rebelled against Him and cast His law behind their backs. Neh. 9:26. The faithful members of God’s kingdom of glory however will not repeat that shameful history. They too will have heard the voice of Jesus but instead of being disobedient and rebellious like ancient Israel was, they will, as the more sure word of prophecy declares—“they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.” Eze. 37:24. Far from the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments being abolished at the cross, it is the basis of the **everlasting covenant** (Eze. 37:24-26). It is part of the **everlasting gospel** (Rev. 14:6) to be preached to all the world which in turn when accepted by God’s covenant people through the power God will bring in **everlasting righteousness** (Dan. 9:24) which Christ’s **everlasting kingdom** (Dan. 7:27) shall possess for ever and ever.

THE ANNUAL FEASTS AND THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT SUPPER

In the parable of the great supper Jesus sought to teach the people the blessings that were to be theirs’ through the proper observation and keeping of the feasts that He had given Israel centuries before. “The lesson of warning and instruction which Christ desired to give [through the institution of the annual feasts] He now illustrated by the parable of a great supper. The blessings of God, both for the present **and for the future life**, the Jews thought to shut up to themselves...Christ was here repeating the instruction He had given to Israel through Moses. The spiritual blessings given to Israel were not for themselves alone. God had given the bread of life to them, that they might break it to the world.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 220-221. The annual feasts and Sabbaths were designed to be a means of outreach to those in material and spiritual need both in their own midst as well as the nations around them. Those needs did not end at the cross and neither did the special means that God gave to meet those needs. These gatherings that were “to be as object lessons to Israel” are the same object lessons that the church needs to learn today. That is why Jesus gave the parable of the great supper. In the parable of the great supper Christ was

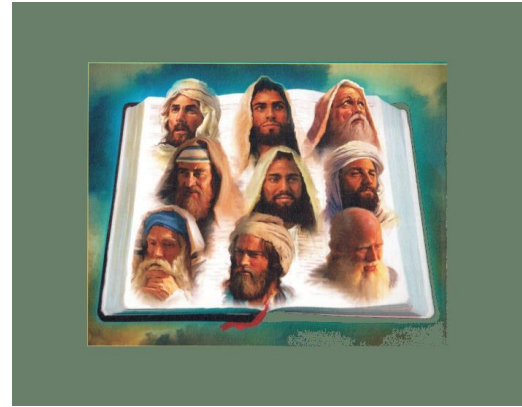
repeating the instruction He had given to Moses at the time He gave the annual feasts to Israel. “By the great supper, Christ represents the blessing offered through the gospel.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 223. This is what the annual feasts are all about—Christ. Christ was the great center to which all meaning of the feasts centered. No wonder that the feasts were to be proclaimed as **holy** convocations, because the presence of Christ Himself was there! It is significant that the seventh-day Sabbath is called a feast of the Lord and a holy convocation just as the annual feasts and annual Sabbaths are called feasts of the Lord and holy convocations. Lev. 23:1-6. The Saviour yielding up His life for all man-kind on the cross did not diminish the sacredness of those divine appointments in the slightest degree nor did it lessen in any measure the obligation to keep and observe those sacred feasts. Christ by His own example not only kept the feasts but invited others to those feasts as well. “Jesus traveled up and down the breadth of the land, giving his invitation to the feast...He took the opportunity of presenting himself to the people during the feast-days [Feast of Tabernacles], when they gathered at Jerusalem.” *Review and Herald*, July 7, 1896. Both by His life and by His death He confirmed those sacred events. Jesus declared, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law [the Torah] or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill.” Mat. 5:17. “By the great supper [which Christ was using to illustrate the purpose of the sacred feasts], Christ represents the blessings offered through the gospel. The provision is nothing less than Christ Himself.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 222. Indeed, we find in the life of Christ the fulfilling of every detail of the law. His life was a manifestation of what our lives are to be. Just as Jesus magnified the law and made it honorable so are we to do.

CHRIST’S DEATH RATIFIED THE COVENANT MADE TO ADAM AND ABRAHAM

“As the Bible presents two laws, one changeless and eternal, the other provisional and temporary, so there are two covenants. The covenant of grace was the first made with man in Eden, when after the Fall there was given a divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent’s head. To all men this covenant offered pardon and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. It also promised them eternal life on condition of fidelity to God’s law. Thus the patriarchs received the hope of salvation. This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise ‘In thy seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.’ Genesis 22:18.... **Though the covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, it could not be ratified until the death of Christ.** It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a *new* covenant. **The law of God was the basis of this covenant....The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ**, and it is called the ‘second,’ or ‘new,’

covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. That the new covenant was valid in the days of Abraham is evident from the fact that it was then confirmed both **by the promise and by the oath of God**— ‘two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.’ Hebrews 6:18.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 370, 371.

THE COVENANT EXTENDED TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL



Both by promise and by oath the Lord extended the same covenant that was given to Adam and Abraham to Israel in the following words. “Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, **if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep them, and do them** [the condition], **that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy** [the promise] **which he sware unto thy fathers** [the oath].” Deut. 7:12. This same covenant extended to Adam, Abraham, and the children of Israel, and now ratified by the blood of Christ is at this very moment the same covenant extended to every kindred tongue and people at the end of time. The condition of the Lord keeping His covenant with us is that we obey His commandments, statutes, and judgments. The Lord makes it clear that if His people do not keep His commandments, statutes, and judgments that they would be breaking the covenant. “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:” Deut. 14, 15. Is it any wonder then that during the proclamation of the everlasting gospel during the time of the latter rain that a call is made to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments. Mal. 4:4, 5. The time of the loud cry and the latter rain is also the sealing time of God’s people. Then is the final fulfillment of the prophecy “Bind up the testimony, seal the law [Torah] among my disciples.” Isaiah 8:16. That time is now. Sense the power of God moving in you heart. Become a more faithful disciple Let the power of God be binding you to His Torah.)

CHRIST IS THE GOSPEL EMBODIED

“The Gospel is Christ unfolded, and Christ is the Gospel embodied. We are not to worship the Gospel, but Christ, the Lord of the Gospel. The Gospel is glorious because it is made up of Christ’s righteousness.” *Signs of the Times*, November 24, 1898. Christ in the parable of the great supper was showing that the Jews had not kept Christ at the center of the feasts and though they “observed” the feasts they had lost their vital union with Christ and as a consequence the Gospel was not unfolded to them. They had put themselves outside of the “covenant of grace.” This was Paul’s great concern with the Corinthian believers. They had put the leaven out of their homes in observance of Passover as they ought to have done, but they were still leavened with the sin of “such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles” I Cor. 5:1. This was the kind of thing that caused the Lord to say to Israel, “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.” Amos 5:21. The situation called forth an admonition from Paul. “**Therefore let us keep the feast**, not with the old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” I Cor. 5:8. Far from Paul chiding them for observing the Passover, he encouraged them to continue doing so but to do it in sincerity and truth. Of course if it is done sincerely it will be done from the heart and not be the mere fulfilling of a religious form or duty. The *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* informs us that the Greek means “let us continue keeping.” Vol. 6, p. 691. The words “let us keep” indicates that Paul with apostolic authority was inviting the members of the church at Corinth to unite with him in something he was already doing—keeping the feasts in sincerity and truth. The keeping of these statutes by the apostles is a good indicator that they were keeping the other statutes as well. But as with any requirement of God, Paul was encouraging the people to follow the Lord in sincerity and truth. Indeed if we love God we will follow Him sincerely and according to all the truth He has revealed to us. “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” I John 2:4. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” I John 5:3.

WHOSE WHO AMONG THE FANATICS? AND WHAT MIGHT THEIR WORK BE TODAY?



Part one of this study opened with recounting the devastation that fanaticism had brought to the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century. The results of that fanaticism were then charged upon the Reformers themselves. *The Great Controversy*, p. 192, 397. Down through the ages fanatics have been involved in nearly every area of human interest. Sports, politics, religion, science, food and drink, etc. have had fanatical adherents. Fans will curse, get drunk, destroy property, and even kill if things don’t go their way. True religion has always suffered from the work of fanatics. “Christians were required, on pain of death, to avow their faith in this horrible, Heaven-insulting heresy [the Eucharist]. Multitudes who refused were given to the flames.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 59. What a picture this is, those who were willing to suffer and die because they steadfastly refused to compromise on the one hand, and those on the other hand who were quite willing to torture those who would not yield their faith. Who were the fanatics in this instance, the multitudes who refused the Eucharist, or the torturers? The answer one would get to that question would depend on who you ask. Noah was called a crazy fanatic (*I SDABC*, p. 1090), but was he? John the Baptist was declared to be a fanatic (*Desire of Ages*, p. 275), but was he? Again it depends on who you ask. William Miller was sneeringly denounced as a fanatic (*The Great Controversy*, p. 336), but was he? It is now declared that observance of the annual holy convocations is a last-days fanaticism, but is it? No doubt certain fanatics have attached themselves to the growing interest in the statutes, but does that mean the observance of the annual holy convocations is fanaticism? Paul and the other apostles and early Christians including the Waldenses observed the feasts, were they fanatics for doing so? Jesus kept the feasts, is he not our example? Are we fanatics for following these examples? It depends on who you ask, but then are we to live by what men think or by “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matt. 4:4. “The fact that a few fanatics worked their way into the ranks of Adventism is no reason to decide that the movement was not of God than was the presence of fanatics and deceivers in the church in Paul’s or Luther’s day a sufficient excuse for condemning their work.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 398.

The refusal to enjoy the observance of the annual holy convocations because certain fanatics have become associated with those who observe them may be compared to those who refused the King’s invitation to the marriage feast of His son. Finite man has almost an infinite capacity in the making of excuses why he will not do that which God commands. If we love God and His truth we will find the least of His commands (Matt. 5:19) to be our instant desire to fulfill.

“The call to the feast is a king’s invitation. It proceeds from one who is vested with power to command. It confers high honor.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 307.

“Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” Rev. 19:9. To be called to the marriage feast is a high honor and is one of the greatest blessings that humanity could ever experience. To be the recipient of the King’s invitation to the wedding rehearsal (the miqrah) should be seen as a high honor and blessing as well. The soul searching question is...is it? Inspiration attests to the fact that being called to the miqrah (the rehearsal of the wedding) is a high honor bestowed by the King, others say it is a last-days fanaticism. What say you?

In our next study we will take a closer look at the relationship between the wedding rehearsal (the miqrah) and the wedding itself.

Ted Shultz is known for his courageous stand for Scriptural integrity. Although his studies are a bit deep they are indeed thorough and to be respected.



This next session

Was written and sent from their hearts. They are concerned about the satellite ministry. They are made up from some of your favorite speakers - - - those closest to Bible Explorations. We have never expressed their thoughts in this manner and we hope you will respect these men for what and who they are. You will never get such a letter from us again. Blessings on you as they reach into your hearts.

APPEALS

Bible Explorations has been such a blessing. I'm not aware of any other ministry with such a broad range of topics presented by speakers from around the globe. John VanDenburgh is constantly seeking 'new light' in this ministry, but never neglecting history and the pillars of our faith. **David Baxter**



David has spoken at the retreats and is numbered among our most dedicated weekly speakers here at BE. His life and caring ministry have been vital to us all and I thank him for his words along with those of others.



Many of us have been blessed by the ministry of John VanDenburgh and Bible Explorations, and for most of us it is our desire that this ministry would continue to bless and reach more people. We know that Satan would rejoice to have this ministry which has been a blessing to many to be cut down. Many tough times have come to BETV, however it has continued to stand throughout it all.

Lately it has become particularly tough and in order to continue on, a realization of dependence upon your help to keep it going is needed more than ever. It is understood that it is the Father in heaven who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and probably more than enough gold and silver to make it continue on. But we also understand that He has left it in our hands to bring an offering that would help BETV to continue broadcasting for another year.

Without our help we've come to understand that BETV will not be able to continue this time around. But knowing that all things are possible with God, and that we as co-workers with God can work together to continue the satellite work, and that there have been miracles in the past that have kept BETV on the air, now is a time where your help is desperately needed. Let's all work together with our Father realizing the blessings that we have received to try to give something better this month to keep BETV on the air. And my prayer is that each of us would prove God and His promises so that He can give a blessing to all who truly are willing to give so that the windows of heaven are opened so that there is not room enough to receive it.

Let us all put our prayers, offerings, and our faith into the work in this time of need. **David Barron**



I'd like to share a little holy history with you and make an appeal that we may do a parallel work. Just prior to His ascension, our Messiah Acts 1:4,8 "... commanded [His disciples], ... that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, ... 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

A reading of Acts 7 thru 15 reveals, how the Jewish Apostles from Jerusalem, did take the gift of the Gospel to the Gentile world. Over time, Unfriendly elements made it very difficult on those who were first in proclaiming the light of God's word to those in darkness

Paul saw this, and made it known to those who were receiving the rich blessings of the Gospel. The new believers in Galatia, Corinth responded with a liberal offering to relieve those who in Judea & Jerusalem which sent them light that made it possible to know their Redeemer. {Acts of the Apostles 389} "Paul greatly desired to reach Jerusalem before the Passover as he would thus have an opportunity to meet those who should come from all parts of the world to attend the feast. ... He also desired to meet the church at Jerusalem and bear to them the gifts sent by the Gentile churches to the poor brethren in Judea. And by this visit he hoped to bring about a firmer union between the Jewish and the Gentile converts to the faith."

I parallel John VanDenburgh, Bible Explorations, Holy Histories, and Satellite presentations promoting the Restoration of Yehovah's Divine Appointments, that have gone around the world, with the first wave of Evangelists sent from Jerusalem.

How many of you, or people you know, have tasted and seen that the Lord and His Feasts are good, through the ministry of Bible Explorations? It surely was the instrument used to reach Blanca and I, and through it we've met you. Please be as Paul and the Churches and bear a generous gift back to Bible Explorations, that this work may expand. **Thank you from Dean and Blanca Ferrell**



Money was hard to be obtained in the winter of 1857-58. The previous season had been most favorable for crops, and consequently they were abundant, but the prices were correspondingly low. It was for this reason that our laborers in the various States were obliged to be more

economical than ever in order to get through the winter in a comfortable manner.

"It was during this winter that I [J.N. Loughborough] had the use of Elder White's team in visiting the churches in Michigan, as he was detained in the office most of the time. By this means my traveling expenses were considerably diminished. For the labor performed that winter I received three ten-pound cakes of maple sugar, ten bushels of wheat, five bushels of apples, five bushels of potatoes, one peck of beans, one ham, half of one hog, and \$4 in money. [Light had not yet been given on health reform.]

"In Saline, Washtenaw Co., Elder Waggoner had the use of a house and his wood free, the society there supplying most of the necessary provisions for the family. But he received very little money to expend for needed articles of clothing. On returning home after an absence of a few weeks, he called upon a brother in Parma, who had in his

barn quite a good supply of wheat, oats, etc. As elder Waggoner's boots were badly worn and his clothing threadbare, this brother in the faith said to Elder Hutchins, who was also stopping at his house, 'It is too bad for Brother Waggoner to go dressed like that.' 'Well,' said Elder Hutchins, 'I have no doubt he would appear better dressed if he had any money.' 'Well,' said the brother, 'I am sorry for him.' Elder Hutchins inquired, 'Are you sorry enough to sell some of your wheat or oats to get money to help him?' 'Well,' said the man, 'wheat is only sixty-five cents per bushel, and it never ought to be sold for that. Oats are only thirty-five cents. I do not want to sell any at that price; it would be too much sacrifice.' Elder Hutchins then said, 'Brother, don't you think that in those days when the Lord told the people to take a lamb of the first year and burn it up, that they thought it was too bad, and that they would rather keep it a year or two and get a fleece from it before making an offering of it?' 'Well,' the brother replied, 'I do feel real sorry for Elder Waggoner, but I do not see how I can sell any of my grain to help him.' Still pressing the case, Elder Hutchins said, 'How much would you like to help him if you had the money?' 'Well,' continued the man, 'I would let him have seven or eight dollars.' 'I will loan you the money,' replied Elder Hutchins, 'as I happen to have a little, and when I need it, I will ask you for it.' So the brother took the money, and gave it to Elder Waggoner. . . .

"The straitened circumstances of the ministers during the close times of that winter led to the formation of a Bible class, which was held in Battle Creek, Mich., in the month of April, 1858, conducted by Elder J. N. Andrews, and its object was to learn what the Scriptures teach concerning the support of the ministry. This effort resulted in the suggestion to our people of the plan called 'Systematic Benevolence,' on the tithing principle, and introduced a very different state of things in the manner of supporting laborers in the field."

This brief account from Loughborough's book *Rise and Progress of Seventh-Day Adventists* helps us appreciate the spirit of sacrifice our early pioneers had for the work. May we each be inspired with that same spirit to get the vital testing truths of the angels messages out to this perishing world. Bible Explorations is an instrument God has raised up to do just that. The work of proclaiming the final messages of warning to the world will take no less a sacrifice on our part than it did at the opening of the work in the mid-nineteenth century. What amazing times we live in to see the very things predicted by the prophets now transpiring before our very eyes. We can know of a certainty that we are at the very end of all things in this world. Dear supporters of Bible Explorations, will you hold up our hands and support us as we endeavor to carry forward the presentation of the very messages we are to be giving at this time?" Babylon is fallen, come out of her My people."

We do not take your financial support for granted. Perhaps some, maybe many who receive the monthly news letter do not give regularly because they cannot give large sums regularly, and therefore time goes by without giving at all to support the work, all the while the needs of the ministry continue on. While the larger gifts to this work are so vital and so very appreciated we want to encourage those with the smallest of gifts to know they are appreciated as well. We at Bible Explorations envision the raising up of an army of small contributors sending in their support, each one giving as they are able on a monthly basis. This army includes our young people, even our children who by example learn what it means to lay up treasure in heaven. Will you become part of this army dear ones? We need your help? Without your support we do not exist. We would love to hear from you. No, we will not number the children of Israel to determine our strength for our strength is in God, but it would be nice to hear from everyone as they lay plans for their future support of Bible Explorations going forward. That will in turn assist us in our plans in managing the sacred funds that come into the Lord's work here at Bible Explorations. Meanwhile, be faithful, be strong, and see that no man takes thy crown. **Ted Schultz**



Lem Ramirez: Each time that my wife and I go to Terra Bella, CA, we come back happy and joyful for the many blessings that we received. So much so that even weeks later we find ourselves talking about it. This is why we like to obtain all of the presentations (DVDs) from each camp meeting, so as to share them with our neighbors, friends, and family.

We also like to go prepared to financially assist BETV with the cost of hosting a camp meeting and also with other ministry projects. Recently we have been under the impression that this time we will not wait until Spring of 2018 to give our donation. Instead, we will send it now being that one does not know what can happen between now and then. After talking with some of the other presenters at Terra Bella, and hearing or watching the news, and studying the Word of God, many of us are aware that events that are prophetic in nature, that precede Jesus Christ's second coming, are starting to develop with precision to the foot of the letter. I ask myself, Will this year 2018 bring surprises? Not in the sense that we are not aware of what is coming but in the sense of timing? What if this were to be the last year that BETV would be able to proclaim this message via satellite? If this were to be the case, wouldn't you like to have supported BETV one last time?

We still need to raise over \$200,000 to cover the three satellite areas as we did last year (excluding N. Africa). Would you like to be the means by which God can reach one more person with this message by satellite? I invite

you to unite with us in prayer to ask our Creator how you might be able to help this ministry financially and with whatever other means He impresses you with. I have personally experienced that immeasurable blessings await the faithful and joyful giver. This is simply the fulfillment of Malachi 3:10 and 11. Yehovah has signed this promise!

If you are reading this newsletter, it may be because in one way or another you have been blessed by this ministry's message, either by hearing it through satellite or DVD, reading it from one of the books or pamphlets, or even attending one of the camp meetings and experiencing the joy of one of Yehovah's divine appointments. This is why, one more time, I invite you to financially support this means, Bible Explorations, by which Yehovah has blessed you. Someone else is waiting to be blessed as you have been blessed. **Your fellow laborer in His work, Lem Ramirez**

A message from John



Please continue to support BETV so we may continue on satellite to share God's Commandments, Statutes and Judgments to the world!

Today we have already taken steps to discontinue the North African satellite from our ministry.. We are waiting for the last minute, but for some of these satellites that time has about come, and for others it is coming fast.

Yes, we can carry on with the three that are left: South Africa, Australia-New Zealand, and the USA/Canada. However, the next one soon to be dropped may be Australia-New Zealand. The other two can be carried on for a few months with the money we have right now, then we will be out of money for all satellite projects. This truly makes us weep. And to think Viewsat just had an offer to give their better customers free service for 3 months to India with a request that we sign a contract for that satellite for the following year. Wow! That would be tremendous. Can we do it?



Is our house falling? Are we too near the end and it will be too dangerous to continue in the things we have been doing? OR is God sending us another challenge – a challenge to us all? Me thinks the last two are more correct. We will not compromise any truth for the sake of money, honor, or fame. Please dig very deep as you return the pink envelopes. May His blessing fall on each of you!

