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Bible Explorations Newsletter

January, 2010 Issue

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The Leopard-Like Beast

If you slipped up behind him would you stomp on his tail? Would he roar? A lion's roar produces such fear that his prey sometimes stands trembling in submission, but what kind of roar would it be if there were seven

heads roaring? No need to run -- can't out-run a leopard. No sense in climbing a tree -- can't out-climb a leopard. In fact, leopards are known to take a carcass high in a tree and wedge it between the trunk and branch for a later snack! Leopards can be ferocious animals. One famous man-eater in India is said to have killed at least 125 persons over a period of eight years.

If you saw one coming, and you hid motionless under a bush, then peered from under the low hanging branches of your bush and saw a leopard's paws walk by, and then his two and a half foot tail with its tip almost touching the ground what would you do? Probably remain motionless.; or would you slip out behind him and step on his tail? What do you think might happen? The leopard-like beast would probably whirl around in "great fury to destroy."

In Terra Bella we have enjoyed several presentations of Daniel 11. We have heard the usual Conference view; we have also listened to the views of Ron Nauman, Marion Berry, Dr. Frank Fowler, and others. But recently Dr. Plata sent by e-mail someone else's view. In this view the papal power is the king of the north. In Revelation 13 that same power is portrayed as the final head, the seventh head, of the leopard-like beast. It is that seventh head that received the deadly wound that was healed. After the head was healed it says:

"And it was given to him to *make war* with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

The question is: What brings on this ferocious warring behavior of the king (lion head) of the north? In other words, who steps on the tail of the leopard with the lion heads? What is applied? What might it all mean?

According to Daniel the prophet, it is certain “tidings out of the east and out of the north” that troubles him and “therefore he shall go forth with great fury.”

In the past we have seen that the sealing message comes from the heavenly thrown in the north, but approaches the earth from the east. (see Isaiah 14:13; Rev. 7:2, 3.)

This recent article sent to me includes the three angels’ messages in the “tidings out of the east and out of the north,” for all intents and purposes this is what steps on the tail of the leopard. In other words, this angers him.

Ian Jones is the man who wrote the article and simply wonders, when Shawn Boonstra holds his evangelistic thrust in Rome next month under the nose of the pope, if this will not begin a retaliation that will build in momentum until the saints are sealed, and then continue on until the day that the king of the north shall “plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him.” And Michael “stands up” for His people.

The idea being that if Elder Boonstra actually preaches the three angels’ messages, and does include all the ramifications of the third angel with the mark of the beast, and the seal of God, the unpardonable sin etc., and it therefore changes the thinking and belief system of a goodly number of the precious Catholic folk in Rome, then someone of great authority could logically become very unhappy. He could take it as though an organization gave him a gold medal one day and smears him the next.

But then of course, the primary religious leaders all over the area might not notice Elder Boonstra at all. As some say today, Yea, right!

I understand that the gospel is to go around the world before Christ comes, and I do not judge anyone wrong in trying to accomplish that holy task but, because of Mr. Jones’ article, I wonder if what happens next month in Rome might not be a step on the tail of a beast that now has international recognition, world-wide sympathies, and strong influence with Protestants and Islamic bodies might not become very ferocious toward any “hate crime” group if it chooses to do so.

The original article includes six pages. The author begins at verse thirty of Daniel 11. You can read it at http://www.newreformation.com/library/Daniel_11_40-45.pdf.



Some of the Torah students in Nevada.

MEETINGS IN NEVADA

A cottage-type setting at the home of David and Theresa Wilson in Fernley Nevada will begin on Friday evening, January 22nd. John will be presenting the New Discovery Series regarding the relevancy of the statutes, including the feasts, for the final generation saints. I have been assured that there are motels available for those coming long distances. The meetings will take place from Friday night through Sunday. Other subjects may be presented such as “What about the New Moons,” and “Beyond Unclean vs. Clean Meats” according to the statutes. If you are anywhere in the area you can plan on a good fellowship, inspiration, and a closer walk with Yashua.

Address: 820 Winnie’s Lane, Fernley NV

Phone # 775-575-5779

Schedule: Friday 5:00 PM soup potluck

Meetings: 6:30 PM Friday; all day Sabbath and all day Sunday until 5:00 PM. (Last meeting starts at 3:30 PM.)

Food: Friday evening soup potluck; Sabbath noon potluck; and Sunday noon potluck. Potlucks vegetarian. Otherwise provide for your own meals.

Directions: From I-80 take Exit 48; go south about ½ mile to “Round about.” Take the Farm District Road exit off of the “Round about” to the south. Go about 1 1/2 miles to Winnie’s Lane; turn left (north) onto Winnie’s Lane. Go all the way to the end of the dirt road (1/2 mile). David and Theresa Wilson’s home is at the end of the lane. Motels are available in Fernley.

NEWS FROM HOLLAND

Rene Heeren has contacted us from Holland and tells of several small SDA churches now contemplating the feasts. Rene wrote:

“I find the studies (statutes with feasts) fantastic and a blessing. I'm studying them carefully and up to now it looks indeed that we must keep them.”

I do not believe the SDA churches he mentions are a part of General Conference any more. In conversation with Rene I think their problem with Conference leadership had more to do with their rejection of the trinity doctrine. If this is the case, they believe all SDA basic doctrines except that one.

It will be interesting, and in some cases traumatic, to watch our heavenly Father pull all the groups together that are currently moving ahead with their study of the statutes.

There are those who believe Pentecost is always on a Sunday, and those who believe Christ died on Wednesday and rose on Sabbath evening, and those who date the year according to the spring harvest, and those who believe the Seventh-day Sabbath is set by the travels of the moon rather than the travels of the sun, and some see no light in the Trinity doctrine; but all of the above agree that the commandments, statutes, and judgments contain the details

and/or principles of the holy law given by the King of the Universe to guide and identify His people.

Here at the Terra Bella feasts we have generally made everyone welcome regardless of differences, and have provided for everyone's needs and comfort equally so far as possible and practical. However, on occasion, someone becomes a bit annoying and pushy over his pet doctrine and this we consider rude. Let's worship together in the spirit of love twice each year and give our bodies a chance to relax in the spiritual comfort of the holy feast. That's the way it is here that all have a rich worship service together and in the end, people go home refreshed.

GREAT IDEA FOR FLYERS

Nita Dove and Marilyn Myers are placing these refrigerator magnet stick-ons in Holy History books to give to friends and fellow church members, especially those who have shown some interest in the feasts.



The colors of the small one provide a blue outline, pink inner outline, logo from our newsletter, monthly calendar squares are cut out from our 2010 calendar of events, and the black lettered part is on yellow. It looks very feminine and kitcheny. The larger one has a green border, yellow inner border, pink background, and yellow square with black writing. The black writing on yellow reads the same on both designs

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS

**Streaming Internet Channel
and chatroom**

www.bibleexplorations.com

Available with programming

24 hours daily, 7 days a week

(Yes, Dave Clark projects that we will be putting out the message 24 hours a day on the worldwide web starting January 1st.)

Nita Dove writes this about the flyers. "Inspired by 'What you can do on the Sabbath days' in the 'New Discoveries from Old Manuscripts Series,' Marilyn and I decided on making these flyers as something we can do on a Sabbath afternoon. I started by typing the information about the Streaming Internet Channel, added colored construction paper, and the four angels logo.

Then Marilyn and I put our heads together, planning our flyer.

"Marilyn went home and made a flyer on which she added a small calendar. Then she proceeded to try and find small 2010 calendars, but couldn't find any at the local craft stores.

"When I received Marilyn's flyer in the mail, I liked the idea of the added calendar. Then I wondered if the calendar we get each fall at Tabernacle would fit.

"When I cut out the small calendar months and stapled them together, it all fit perfectly! And . . . it complements the other information on the flier.

"We will be adding this small practical gift in all of the Holy History books we send or give away. We feel God had His hand in helping us make this flyer because it flowed together so easily." Then Nita adds, "Why don't you try making Bible Exploration flyers, or Bible markers, and see where God leads you . . . IT'S FUN!"

These stick-ons are what the ladies here at BE call "really cute." The color of them helps attract attention. Pictures like this cause us to long for the day when we can print newsletters in color. That is all the pictures in color as we do now on the front page. We are working in that direction.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

December 1st, 2009, marks a historic day in Germany in more ways than one! By Ron Fraser:



Members of the German Constitutional Court ruled on December 1 that Berlin must abide by the law instituting Sunday as a day of rest. (Sascha Shuemann/APF)

"Coincident with the enacting of the Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution on December 1, Germany's Constitutional Court has ruled that the nation's capital must, *akin to the rest of the country*, abide by the law instituting Sunday as a day "of rest from work and of spiritual improvement."

The actual law establishing Sunday as Germany's weekly day of worship is enshrined in an appendix to the Basic Law in "extracts From the German Constitution." There we find, under the subheading "Religion and Religious Societies," article 139 which reads "Sunday

and holidays recognized by the state shall remain protected by law as days of rest from work and of spiritual improvement.”

I can remember when such an event as this one on December 1st would have been repeated throughout our churches with a call for a day of fasting and prayer. It would have been seen as a yellow light of warning of things to come. We would have seen it as a possible attack against God’s holy law, and therefore eventually help influence the world to wonder after the beast.

Of course we know the two-horned beast will really get that program rolling, but some of us who are aware of the history of the old Holy Roman Empire see this move by Germany’s highest court as one step further toward enforcing Rome’s law, not only over the state religion of Germany, but on the entire European Economy, enacted by this treaty of Dec. 1, 2009.

“Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action. Let the members of the church have increased faith, gaining zeal from their unseen, heavenly allies, from a knowledge of their exhaustless resources, from the greatness of the enterprise in which they are engaged, and from the power of their Leader. 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. Inspired with the Spirit of him who gave his life for the life of the world, they will no longer stand still in impotency, pointing to what they cannot do. Putting on the armor of heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that his omnipotence will supply their need.” {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 5}

Perhaps this recent move by Germany’s highest court is one of the events among the “steady tread of events” that will lead His true church into a higher state of expectancy, and an encouragement to do what can be done to spread the message of the four angels.



Connie Dahlke sent an interesting thought from the pen of Ellen White. She copied it from the “General Conference Daily Bulletin, Feb. 27, 1893. It is used as a lead into Psalms 119:4-7 that mentions the statutes, etc.

“Satan has a large confederacy . . . Christ calls them the synagogue of Satan because the members are the children of sin.” Then she goes on to say “There are clear, decided distinctions *to be restored and exemplified* to the world . . . If in defiance of God’s arrangements *the world* be allowed to influence our decisions or our actions, the purpose of God is defeated. However specious the pretext, if the church wavers here, there is

written against her in the books of heaven a betrayal of the most sacred trusts, and treachery to the kingdom of Christ.”

In the next paragraph, she quotes the above Psalm, mentioning “Thou has commanded us to keep thy precepts . . . Thy statutes . . . Thy commandments . . . Thy righteous judgments.”

It would be good to read the verses she suggests. For example:

PSALM 119:4 - 8

“Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all Thy commandments.”

(None of us wants to hang our heads in shame when we receive our judgment.)

The Scripture continues: “I will praise Thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned Thy righteous judgments. I will keep Thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.”

The final generation saints will come to every point. They will keep His statutes, and they will not be forsaken.

The truth is “The people must go to God *for themselves*, and pray that all wrong impressions may be removed from their hearts -- pray that the word of God may not be clouded by men’s interpretations.” RH 3/18/89.

At one time she was writing to a prominent SDA minister who was rejecting the 1888 message:

“God will have His light come to the people, and you cannot prevent it. You may misrepresent it, you may misinterpret it, you may interpose yourself as you have done between God’s working and the people.” EGW 1888 Materials, p. 437.

The principle is clear enough. I could expound greatly on the above quotes and how they might well be in play today, but I choose not to. Perhaps you can do your own private expounding of the texts. However, for more on the 1888 controversy you should examine the material in the New Discovery Series DVD entitled: “The Third Witness.”

DEAD IN THE WATER

I recently read an article too long to reprint, but it was designed to do away with Yahweh’s feasts. It quoted from Ellen White and Daniel 9:27. The Daniel text says only that the Sacrifice and oblation was to cease. The text says nothing of the days on which these sacrifices were made. To answer this fact the paper concluded – “Yet it was at the yearly feasts that the vast majority of the crucial, ritual, blood sacrifices occurred.” Then he adds, “After the death of Christ, the offering of blood sacrifices would be an insult to Jehovah .and a renunciation by the professed believers of Christ’s atonement.” We agree. Then he quotes a few passages

from Ellen White that the ceremonial laws of sacrifices were eliminated at the cross. Again, we agree.

All of these thoughts agree with the Ellen White statement that the ritual blood sacrifices were done away. But the author then continues to suggest that because the sacrifices were done away, so also was the importance of the days on which they were sacrificed.

That is where the problem lies. For example, at least three animals were sacrificed every seventh-day Sabbath, whereas only two were offered on the day of the Passover. The Bible says that the sacrifice and oblation part of worship is no longer to be observed, and so we don't do sacrificing of animals, but we still keep the Sabbath and the Passover on which animals used to be offered.

Let's take a look at how many animals were sacrificed and on which day from the Scriptures referred to in the fall SS quarterly 2009. These will be taken from the book of Numbers, chapters twenty-eight and twenty-nine. They begin in **Numbers 28:9** and conclude in **Numbers 29:38**. Since the annual feasts were only once a year we will compute the number of blood sacrifices that were made annually: We will list them from the most sacrifices made in the year to the least sacrifices made in the year. You might enjoy checking my figures by reading these two chapters again. In the list you will see the number of sacrifices to the left and the name of the feast on the right:

106 blood sacrifices offered on the Feast of Tabernacles.

156 blood sacrifices offered on the 7th-day Sabbath.

132 blood sacrifices made on the New Moons.

84 blood sacrifices made during Unleavened Bread.

12 blood sacrifices made during Pentecost.

12 blood sacrifices made during Trumpets.

11 blood sacrifices made during the Day of Atonement.

If someone was to eliminate holy days because of the number of sacrifices made, they would first eliminate the Feast of Tabernacles; next they would eliminate the 7th-day Sabbath; third they would eliminate the importance of the New Moons, fourth they would eliminate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, then Pentecost, then Trumpets, and of course they should eliminate the importance of the Day of Atonement, and as a natural result of that, eliminate any importance to the Day of Atonement in 1844. It was either an important day or it wasn't. For a lot of folk in 1844 it was an important day. For a lot of us today it still is.

Verse 39 in Numbers 29 summarizes **“These things ye shall do unto the Lord in your set feasts . . .”**

This is another place beside Leviticus 23:2, 3 where the Sabbath is included in His family of holy feasts. This one came to view when studying this last SS quarterly based on the book of Numbers.

CLARA WAS OVERWHELMED

Clara has gone to the extreme many times to make everyone feel loved and appreciated over the years because that's just the way it is. But for more than forty of you to remember her with greeting cards and visits at a special time in her life was very unexpected. Sometimes little things make a life happy and bright, and she wishes to thank all of you who contributed to her happiness.

STRANGERS IN THE LAND

By Louise A. Vernon

A new continued story transcribed by Sandy

The peal of church bells shattered the noonday stillness of La Rochelle, a seaport town in France. Townspeople listened with astonishment. Some frowned and looked frightened. Others smiled and nodded their heads in satisfaction.

In the bakery shop the baker shook his head and crossed himself before he put the swelling loaves in the ovens to bake. Next door the cobbler sat openmouthed, his hammer raised over the upturned shoe on his shoemaker's last. Across the town square the tax collector straightened up from his account books, chuckled, and rubbed his palms together. In a stone building not far away the Huguenot pastor turned pale and dropped to his knees in prayer.

The bells kept pealing.

At the port, where a ship had just arrived, the longshoremen stopped their unloading to listen. Surprise and alarm showed on their faces.

Inside a walled garden on the outskirts of La Rochelle, Pierre Le Brun and his 7-year-old brother Henri heard the bells and stopped building their mud fort. Their mother, Madame Le Brun, ran from the house, and clasped Henri to her.

Frightened by her strained look, Pierre whispered, “Is there danger?”

His mother silenced him with pursed lips.

“Mother,” Pierre's little brother asked, “why are the bells ringing at this time of day?”

A tear rolled down Madame Le Brun's face. Henri, with a puzzled look, brushed it off with his forefinger.

“Mother, don't cry. What is there to cry about? I haven't been naughty, have I?”

“No, no. Of course not, my darling.” Madame Le Brun took a deep breath.

Little Henri stared at her. “Why do the bells keep ringing?”

“I'm not exactly sure.”

His mother's tone pierced Pierre with a nameless dread. What could the bells mean? (to be continued...)

Make plans for Passover, April 29 – May 6.