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Bible Explorations Newsletter

January/February 2023 Issue

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WHAT WILL 2023 BRING?

This Spring, Bible Explorations will be hosting Passover/Unleavened Bread here in Overton, Nevada from April 5th through April 12th. After several years apart, we are excited to be able to fellowship together in person! Similar to Terra Bella, there will be RV/camper sites and tent camping available nearby. Also, we have access to some houses where individuals or groups can rent rooms with a donation to help cover the cost of utilities. There will be more than one family in a house, which will allow for more time to connect with one another. Please help us prepare for you by informing us of your intent to come as well as your anticipated arrangements. If you are willing and able, we also welcome extra donations marked "Passover" to help cover some of the expenses of those unable to contribute much. This property does not belong to Bible Explorations, therefore, we have increased expenses compared to Terra Bella. Thank you and we are so grateful for any way you can help Bible Explorations spread the good news!

This will be a first here in Overton and I am looking forward to seeing you! Of those coming here, a few will be speakers which will present live as well as on Zoom, and the remaining speakers will be on Zoom as usual. There are several nice, large areas here for communing together. The schedule for the Feast will involve morning messages, followed by afternoon fellowship and exploring. Valley of Fire State Park, which also has campsites, is not far and very interesting to visit. There is also a museum in town showcasing the indigent people of this region- a fascinating educational experience for both kids and adults!

We cannot wait to hear from you! This world is getting colder and darker every day. So much evil abounds. We know His coming is soon, but we also all need encouragement to keep up the good fight! Join us this Spring!

THE TIME OF TROUBLE
 Ellen White

When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (Revelation 14:9, 10), will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people. Says the revelator, in describing those terrific scourges: "A foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who

worshiped his image.” The sea “became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.” And “the rivers and springs of water ... became blood.” Terrible as these inflictions are, God’s justice stands fully vindicated. The angel of God declares: “You are righteous, O Lord, ... because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.” Revelation 16:2-6. By condemning the people of God to death, they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood as if it had been shed by their hands. In like manner Christ declared the Jews of His time guilty of all the blood of holy men which had been shed since the days of Abel; for they possessed the same spirit and were seeking to do the same work with these murderers of the prophets.

In the plague that follows, power is given to the sun “to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat.” Verses 8, 9. [See also Joel 1:10-12, 17-20; Amos 8:3.]

These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.

The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation and suffer for want of food they will not be left to perish. That God who cared for Elijah will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who numbers the hairs of their head will care for them, and in time of famine they shall be satisfied. While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous and supply their wants. To him that “walks righteously” is the promise: “Bread will be given him, his water will be sure.” Isaiah 33:15, 16. *The Great Controversy*, p. 627-9

When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time

appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.

The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Saith the Lord, “You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart as when one goes ... to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel. The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and show the descent of His arm, with the indignation of His anger and the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, tempest, and hailstones.” Isaiah 30:29, 30.

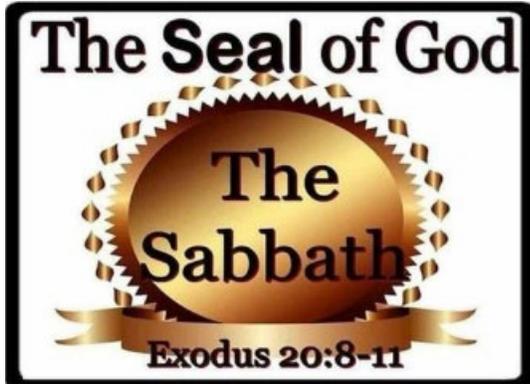
With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God’s covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness. *The Great Controversy*, p. 635-636



Things may soon (or even now for some) look scary and hopeless but they are not! Our Father is with us all the way. Have faith, obey,

trust in Him and we will soon be in that glorious heaven with all our friends and loved ones, meeting new friends, and most of all, meeting the One who sent His Son to die for us, and His Son, our heavenly

family! What a wonderful time that will be. When things get rough, please think on these words above and know He sees all and He is in control!



THE SABBATH

By Ted Schultz

JESUS AND THE SABBATH

It was the custom of Jesus to worship in the synagogue on the Sabbath. "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." "And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days." Luke 4:16, 31.

One of the last things Jesus said to His disciples was: "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day." Matthew 24:20. This flight of which Jesus spoke was in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem soon to come in A.D. 70 and the flight of God's people at the end of the world. Matthew 24:3. "When ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." Luke 21:20. Those would be days of great hardship as God's people would flee at the appointed time. If any day could have been observed as a Sabbath, there would have been no need to pray that their flight be *not on the* Sabbath day. For forty years they were to pray that their flight would not be on the Sabbath day. Christ's tender plea to pray about the matter suggests very strongly His regard for the Sabbath as He spoke those words. It also shows this high regard for the Sabbath would carry on in an unbroken continuum into the Christian era. The very cause of the destruction of Jerusalem which Jesus predicted was given by the prophet Jeremiah. If the people were faithful in keeping the Sabbath holy the city would

remain forever. If they were unfaithful in keeping the Sabbath holy, fire would consume the palaces of Jerusalem. "Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.... And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein....this city shall remain forever....But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." Jeremiah 17:21-27.

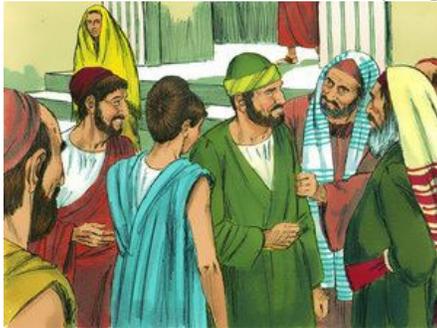
This prophecy about the coming destruction of Jerusalem was given over six hundred years before Christ spoke the words of Matthew 24 to His disciples. At the time of Christ's first advent, the Jews had already suffered a great destruction and dispersion at the hands of the Babylonians. When God, by great miracles, brought His people out of their Babylonian captivity, they were still in need of reform in regard to keeping the Sabbath. Nehemiah, who led out in reforms at the time of the return from exile, said: "In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day: wherein they sold victuals. There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath." Nehemiah 13:15-18. Oh, how quickly God's instruction is forgotten! No wonder God began the fourth commandment with the word "Remember." Almost the whole world has forgotten the seventh day Sabbath of creation.

CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS KEPT THE SABBATH

It would be reasonable to think that the followers of Christ had been traumatized by the events of the day of the crucifixion to the point of complete distraction. Nevertheless, they kept the Sabbath. "And that day [Friday] was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.... And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them." Luke 23:54, 56; 24:1.

PAUL WORSHIPED ON THE SABBATH

"Now when they [Paul and Silas] had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews;



And Paul, as his manner was went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures." Acts 17:1, 2. This

took place on Paul's second missionary tour about twenty years after Christ's crucifixion. On Paul's first missionary tour (about 45 A.D.) he preached to both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue at Antioch on the Sabbath. "But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.... And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.... And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Acts 13:14, 42, 44.

It was Paul's "manner" to go into the synagogue on the Sabbath just as it was Christ's "custom" to go into the synagogue on the Sabbath. The same Greek word is used for both "manner" and "custom." The word *ethos* is the word from which we have the word *ethos* that is used today. *Ethos* means a usage prescribed by habit, conventionality, or law. Webster describes it as

"the distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature, or guiding beliefs of a person, group or institution." The Sabbath, above all other institutions, was the distinguishing character that set the Jews apart from every other people group. We find in the testimony of Scripture that Christ and His followers adhered closely to this distinguishing characteristic.

The Sabbath will be one of the distinguishing characteristics of God's people at the end of time. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12. The faithful will be keeping God's commandments, not man's replacement of the commandments. Further, we are warned that Satan will make war against those "which keep the commandments of God." Revelation 12:17.

THE SABBATH AND THE CHURCH

When God brought His people out of Egyptian bondage, He re-established the seventh day Sabbath among them. Because many had forgotten the Sabbath the Lord gave special instructions to Moses to give to the people. "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings." Leviticus 23:1-3. The underlying word for "convocation" means a public meeting, an assembly, something called out. The children of Israel were called out. The ten commandments begin with the words, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Exodus 20:2. This vast assembly, brought out of Egypt, was to be a holy convocation. He gave them His holy Sabbath because He wanted them to be a "holy nation." Exodus 19:6. God's plan for the church today is the same as it was for ancient Israel. The apostle Peter said, "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 1:16; 2:9. Notice how the New Testament

church is made up of those called out just as it was with ancient Israel. The holy Sabbath of creation, then as well as now, is the distinguishing characteristic of His people.

God is calling His people out of spiritual Babylon today just as He called them out of literal Babylon anciently. "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4. This is God's last love call to His people. Yes, most of God's people are in the communion of what the Bible symbolically portrays as Babylon. The Lord sees their love for Him; He sees their true sincerity and integrity. So He calls them out of Babylon so they can stand completely free in Him and Him alone. They will keep all of God's commandments and will be marked by keeping the seventh-day Sabbath of creation which, again, is the distinguishing characteristic of His people at the close of earth's history.

But what has happened to this distinctive characteristic? The seventh-day Sabbath has gone from being proclaimed a feast day to being proclaimed a fast day and the first day of the week is now considered the feast of the Lord. How did this happen? Nearly all the professed Christian world today assembles for worship on the first day of the week, not the seventh day. How did this come to be? This is a very important question and deserves a substantive answer. The words of those involved in making this change will be quoted. The testimony of popes, cardinals, archbishops, priests, catechisms, church councils, and papal encyclicals will be given to show how this change has come about. **(To be continued...)**

EDUCATION
BIBLE TEACHING & STUDY
Ellen White

"Incline thine ear unto wisdom" "Search for her as for hid treasures."

In childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus studied the Scriptures. As a little child He was daily at His mother's knee taught from the scrolls of the prophets. In His youth the early morning and the evening twilight often found Him alone on the mountainside

or among the trees of the forest, spending a quiet hour in prayer and the study of God's word. During His ministry His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures testifies to His diligence in their study. And since He gained knowledge as we may gain it, His wonderful power, both mental and spiritual, is a testimony to the value of the Bible as a means of education.

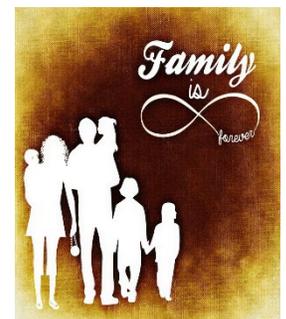


Our heavenly Father, in giving His word, did not overlook the children. In all that men have written, where can be found anything that has such a hold upon the heart, anything so well adapted to awaken the interest of the little ones, as the stories of the Bible?

In these simple stories may be made plain the great principles of the law of God. Thus by illustrations best suited to the child's comprehension, parents and teachers may begin very early to fulfill the Lord's injunction concerning His precepts: "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." [Deuteronomy 6:7](#).

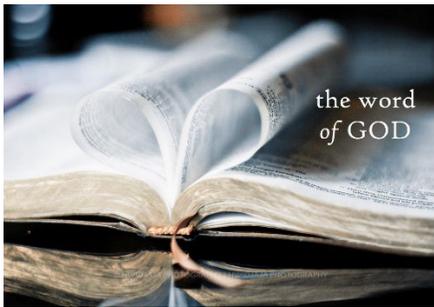
The use of object lessons, blackboards, maps, and pictures, will be an aid in explaining these lessons, and fixing them in the memory. Parents and teachers should constantly seek for improved methods. The teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort.

In arousing and strengthening a love for Bible study, much depends on the use of the hour of worship. The hours of morning and evening worship should be the sweetest and most helpful of the day. Let it be understood that into these hours no troubled, unkind thoughts are to intrude; that parents and children assemble to meet with Jesus, and to invite into the home the presence of holy angels. Let the services be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time. Let all join in the Bible



reading and learn and often repeat God's law. It will add to the interest of the children if they are sometimes permitted to select the reading. Question them upon it, and let them ask questions. Mention anything that will serve to illustrate its meaning. When the service is not thus made too lengthy, let the little ones take part in prayer, and let them join in song, if it be but a single verse.

To make such a service what it should be, thought should be given to preparation. And parents should take time daily for Bible study with their children. No doubt it will require effort and planning and some sacrifice to accomplish this; but the effort will be richly repaid.



As a preparation for teaching His precepts, God commands that they be hidden in the hearts of the parents. "These words, which I command thee

this day, shall be in thine heart," He says; "and thou shalt teach them diligently." [Deuteronomy 6:6, 7](#). In order to interest our children in the Bible, we ourselves must be interested in it. To awaken in them a love for its study, we must love it. Our instruction to them will have only the weight of influence given it by our own example and spirit. *Ed. 185.1-187.1*

These are very good words for parents, however, aren't they also good for all of us so we can go preach His word to the world? We need to show Christ's love through our actions and words. Teach others how to find Him and the wonderful hope we have for our future. The world is needing this. People are sad and trying to find answers. They feel afraid and hopeless. The violence in the world, the ugliness, the financial situations, so much. We need to share what we know and continue to study to find more truth! We need to BE ready and pray for His help to find those who need Him! Let's be doers of His will! ***Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves, James 1:22.***



MORE YUMMY VEGAN RECIPES!



EASY VEGAN EGGPLANT CURRY

Ingredients

2 eggplants, sliced into 1-inch-thick half-moon shapes
 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 Salt and pepper, to taste
 1 onion, minced
 4 cloves garlic, minced
 1 2-inch piece ginger, grated
 1 chili pepper, deseeded and minced (omit for a less spicy curry)
 1 tsp. turmeric
 2 tsp. curry powder
 1 14-oz. can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
 1 14-oz. can [coconut milk](#) (full- or low-fat)
 1 14-oz. can chopped tomatoes
 1 Tbsp. tamarind paste
 maple syrup

Instructions

Put the eggplant in a large bowl. Add the vegetable oil and toss until evenly coated. Season with the salt and pepper.

In a large sauté pan over medium heat, cook the eggplant in two batches until soft and browned, about 3 to 5 minutes per side. Add more oil if needed. Remove from the pan and transfer to a paper towel-lined plate.

Sauté the onion for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic, ginger, and chili pepper (if using) and sauté for 1 minute. Add the turmeric and curry powder and sauté for 30 seconds.

Add the chickpeas to the pan and toss.

Pour in the coconut milk and chopped tomatoes. Stir in the tamarind paste and maple syrup.

Add the eggplant and simmer over low heat for 20 minutes. *Makes 6 servings*

Jesus IS Coming Soon! Let's Be Ready!

