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Bible Explorations Newsletter

May/June 2021 Issue

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PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD 2021

Our Week of Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread was wonderful. The speakers were all great with a lot of good study and information. You can find all of them on our YouTube channel, too. www.BibleExplorations.com/YT Continue to pray for Bible Explorations that we will be able to have Feast of Tabernacles here on the camp grounds again this fall of 2021! Our Father is in control! Bible Explorations is continuing and appreciates all the prayers and support you give us.

FUTURE OF BIBLE EXPLORATIONS

We continue to hear many rumors going around about the ministry. Many want to know the future and you have a right to know what we know to help clarify the rumors. Elder John's desire in his written Will was that Bible Explorations ministry would continue as long as we could, and those of us here have kept that promise to him. Many asked once he passed (it's hard

to believe June 1 marks 3 years) what will we do? Well, just what he wanted, continue and reach many, many people. Clara is in a home and the property is in her name in a trust. God is in control and knows what He wants for us. We need to pray His will be done and we will be able to hear Him and know what He wants. He knows the timing of all. If something happens with Clara, to continue Bible Explorations here in Terra Bella may take a large amount of funds. We could possibly move it, too. This is up to our Father and we are asking that you pray about this and let His Spirit guide you in your support of this ministry. Either way we go, it will take funds. We just wanted you to know we are not planning on leaving Terra Bella unless it is a clear message from our Father that is His will.



ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT ROAD?

“No stronger delusion can possess the human mind than that which makes men believe they are on the right foundation, and that God accepts their works, when they are sinning against him. When placed in the furnace fire to be tried by the great Refiner, much that has been esteemed fine gold will be consumed as dross. Can Christ say of his professed followers, ‘These are my peculiar people; I gave myself for

them, to redeem them from all iniquity, that they should show forth my praise, who have called them out of darkness into my marvelous light.' Would not the Lord say, rather, 'How is the beautiful city become a harlot, and my Father's house a place of merchandise. Because of your unbelief, I cannot do many mighty works among you.'" **RH November 7, 1882, par. 12**

WRATH OF GOD

Ellen G. White

MR No. 413 - The Wrath of God. It is time for the message of God's forbearance to be proclaimed, to win men to repentance; and it is just as verily time for men to be warned that there are limits to God's forbearance. Men may advance, as did Belshazzar, in presumption and defiance, until they pass the boundary. Blasphemy may be so developed as to exhaust the patience of the longsuffering God. . . . In the midst of mirth, feasting, and forgetfulness of God, the command will go forth for the sword of the Lord to be unsheathed, that an end may be put to the insolence and disobedience of men. The prayers of God's people have ascended, It is time, O Lord, for thee to work; for they have made void thy law. These prayers will ere long be answered.

When men pass the limit of grace, God must let the world see that He is God.

The time has nearly come when transgression will no longer be tolerated, when God will interfere to repress the overflowing tide of iniquity. A crisis has arrived in the government of God on earth. Divine compassion has been flowing to the people, notwithstanding that the heavenly current has been beaten back by stubborn hearts. But the time has come when a vast number are passing the boundaries, and a terrible alternative is to be realized; for Omnipotence keepeth a reckoning of the sum of guiltiness of every nation upon the globe. "The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet." The forbearance of the Lord is wonderful; He putteth constraint upon His own attributes. Omnipotence exerted over Omnipotence. Why hath God kept silence? Why hath He forbore so long in looking for centuries upon a people who despised His goodness and forbearance and patience. He sees His holy law prostrated, broken, trampled underfoot, by a rebellious confederate people, who give themselves to work evil, cooperating with evil angels. The whole apostasy of evil angels has conspired with evil men, and gathered in strong armies to destroy the champions of God



and the truth. The Lord will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and no more cover her slain. The hostility to heaven will go on to still greater lengths. War, bloodshed, rebellion against God's law, will reach an aggravating pass that many do not think possible. So deep and increasingly strong is the infernal enmity and hatred to God, which has struck deep its roots into human depraved hearts throughout the mass of humanity, that anyone who shall show any inclination to return to God and keep His commandments, will be denounced as treacherous to the governments of earth. The first turning away from this impious, rebellious warfare against the law of Jehovah, will be detected by a sharp, wakeful, intense impiety. The accused will be dealt with as a traitor in the camp. Vice will be concentrated in all its forms. Men have turned away from God, and accepted satanic attributes. The only tie which will keep man in union and harmony with his fellow-men is the trampling down of the law of God.

This is the principle--hatred to God, and it is the only bond of affinity in the great mass of transgressors. The hearts of the sons of men are fully set in them to do evil, exactly as was revealed in the inhabitants of the old world. What can we say to make the wicked, the transgressors of the law of God, understand that they are at enmity to the forbearance of God? How shall we make them hear that they are surely presuming on His mercy, and that to exhaust it. The Psalmist marks the time in which he lived as that of great depravity, but what has it reached now? Centuries have been ripening up the harvest of the world for the sickle. "They have made void Thy law." They refuse to respect God's law, while they make human laws supreme. A more than common contempt is placed upon the holy law of Jehovah. **Men are fast exceeding the bounds prescribed by God. His interference must come, when He will vindicate His honor.** Men are rushing on, to outrun the limits of His grace. God will not long delay. The swellings of unrighteousness have come to such a fearful pass that all the plagues that are prepared as revealed in Revelation, will come upon a godless world. . . . Let all who love and fear God call upon Him in sincerity of soul that He will work in behalf of His people, and He will not be solicited in vain. Ways and means will certainly be provided whereby His people shall have a place where they can worship Him. Let not Satan depress any of you. Watch unto prayer. Oh, has not our Lord made us the repository of sacred truth? Will He not open the way that it shall come to the people?--*Letter 52, 1895, pp. 3-5. (To Elder S. McCullagh, December 6, 1895.)*

MR No. 963 As they reasoned in Noah's day they reason today, when the warning message is proclaimed to fear God and keep His commandments. **The wrath of God is soon to fall on all the sinful and disobedient, and they will perish in the general conflagration.** Professed servants of Christ who are unfaithful, who do not

reverence God and with fear prepare for the terrible future event, will lull themselves to carnal security with their fallacious reasoning, as they did in Noah's day. "God is too good and too merciful [they reason] to save just a few who keep the Sabbath and believe the message of warning. The great men and the good men, the philosophers and men of wisdom would see the Sabbath and the shortness of time, if it were true." **They do not believe a merciful God who made men will consume them with fire because they do not believe the warnings given. This, they reason, is not in accordance with God.** . . . God's love is represented in our day as being of such a character as would forbid His destroying the sinner. Men reason from their own low standard of right and justice. "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself" (Ps. 50:21). They measure God by themselves. They reason as to how they would act under the circumstances and decide God would do as they imagine they would do. God's goodness and long forbearance, **His patience and mercy exercised to His subjects, will not hinder Him from punishing the sinner who refused to be obedient to His requirements. It is not for a man**--a criminal against God's holy law, pardoned only through the great sacrifice He made in giving His Son to die for the guilty because His law was changeless--**to dictate to God.** After all this effort on the part of God to preserve the sacred and exalted **character of His law, if men, through the sophistry of the devil, turn the mercy and condescension of God into a curse, they must suffer the penalty.** Because Christ died they consider they have liberty to transgress God's holy law that condemns the transgressor, and would complain of its strictness and its penalty as severe and unlike God. **They are uttering the words Satan utters to millions, to quiet their conscience in rebellion against God. In no kingdom or government is it left to the lawbreakers to say what punishment is to be executed against those who have broken the law.** All we have, all the bounties of His grace which we possess, we owe to God. The aggravating character of sin against such a God cannot be estimated any more than the heavens can be measured with a span. God is a moral governor as well as a Father. He is the Lawgiver. **He makes and executes His laws.** Law that has no penalty is of no force. **The plea may be made that a loving Father would not see His children suffering the punishment of God by fire while He had the power to relieve them. But God would, for the good of His subjects and for their safety, punish the transgressor. God does not work on the plan of man. He can do infinite justice that man has no right to do before his fellow man. Noah would have displeased God to have drowned one of the scoffers and mockers that harassed him, but God drowned the vast world. Lot would have had no right to inflict punishment on his sons-in-law, but God would do it in strict justice.** WHO WILL SAY GOD WILL NOT DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO? Let God be true and every man a liar...--*Ms 5, 1876, pp. 1-3.*

In consequence of Adam's sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves. "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust;" "for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:22. But a distinction is made between the two classes that are brought forth. "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29. They who have been "accounted worthy" of the resurrection of life are "blessed and holy." "On such the second death hath no power." Revelation 20:6. But those who have not, through repentance and faith, secured pardon, must receive the penalty of transgression--"the wages of sin." **They suffer punishment varying in duration and intensity, according to their works," but finally ending in the second death.** Since it is impossible for God, consistently with His justice and mercy, to save the sinner in his sins, He deprives him of the existence which his transgressions have forfeited and of which he has proved himself unworthy. Says an inspired writer: "Yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." And another declares: "They shall be as though they had not been." Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 16. Covered with infamy, they sink into hopeless, eternal oblivion. {GC 544.2}



The world was in its infancy; yet iniquity had become so deep and widespread that God could no longer bear with it; and **He said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth."** ... "By the word of God... The world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:5-7. Another storm is coming. **The earth will again be swept by the desolating wrath of God, and sin and sinners will be destroyed.** ... As the violence of the storm increased, trees, buildings, rocks, and earth were hurled in every direction. The terror of man and beast was beyond description. Above the roar of the

tempest was heard the wailing of a people that had despised the authority of God. **Satan himself, who was compelled to remain in the midst of the warring elements, feared for his own existence.** He had delighted to control so powerful a race, and desired them to live to practice their abominations and continue their rebellion against the Ruler of heaven. **He now uttered imprecations against God, charging Him with injustice and cruelty.**
Patriarchs and Prophets, Ch. 7

Note by Elder VanDenburgh: Please note how the devil charged God with injustice and cruelty (and has many times). The devil did not say God did not do this. The devil's lie was and is to say God was and is cruel and unjust. God is a very fair, loving and just God and He warned (and continues to warn) the wicked time and again before He destroys them.

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

By Ted Schultz

“I Have a Testimony From the Lord.”

The subjects being promoted in the books that are recommended for reading are an abomination in the sight of God. In the book of the law God warned ancient Israel against the things now taking place in the church. “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.” Duet. 18:9-12. Just a little over a year before the Lord sent His judgment upon the Review and Herald by burning it to ashes, He sent a testimony which was read to the Review and Herald Board. “I feel a terror of soul as I see to what a pass our publishing house has come. The presses in the Lord’s institution have been printing the soul-destroying theories of Romanism and other mysteries of iniquity. The office must be purged of this objectionable matter. I have a testimony from the Lord for those who have placed such matter in the hands of the workers. God holds you accountable for presenting to young men and young women the fruit of the forbidden tree of knowledge...God will not hold

guiltless those who have done this thing. He has a controversy with the managers of the publishing house. I have been almost afraid to open the *Review*, fearing to see that God has cleansed the publishing house by fire...it is high time that we understand what spirit has for years been controlling matters at the Review and Herald office. I am horrified to think that the most subtle phase of spiritualism should be placed before the workers, and that in a way calculated to confuse and perplex the mind. Be assured that Satan will follow up the advantage thus given him...The Review and Herald office has been defiled as the temple was defiled, only the result has been tenfold more disastrous...Unless there is a reformation, calamity will overtake the publishing house, and the world will know the reason.”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, pp. 91-96.

And what of the use of the sacred tithe for non-tithe purposes? Quite literally billions of dollars of the sacred tithe have been used for non-tithe purposes from the General Conference level down through the division and conference levels. We have not only the book of the law to guide us on this matter, but the testimonies as well. “But you are robbing God every time that you put your hands into the treasury for funds to meet the running expenses of the church.”
Special Testimony to the Battle Creek Church, p. 6. (See the booklet *The Sacred Tithe* for more on this subject). For years testimonies came to the church in regard to the faithful return and usage of the tithe. Those testimonies so disregarded then are testifying to the church still. Are we any less accountable today because many years have passed while continuing to disregard the testimonies against “robbing God?” “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” 1 Samuel 15:22, 23. As modern Israel has stubbornly refused to listen to and obey the voice of the Lord in not robbing the tithe through misuse, the sin of witchcraft has come among us! Well may the question be asked of the church today as was asked of those gathered at the 1903 General Conference session. “Brethren, have any of you lost the book of the law?”



Dare we mention the issue of women's ordination that has been a controversial issue in the church? This issue threatens to completely divide the church. Indeed it already has divided the church. But, the Lord gave one law to Israel. Numbers 15:16; Leviticus 24:22. How then is the church divided? It is because we have not been judging matters according "to the law (torah) and the testimony." We know well the instruction of Isaiah 8:20, but have not actually been following it. What is the church to do when a controversy arises? The instruction is clear. "And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths." Ezekiel 44:24. The book of the law says, "According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall show thee, to the right hand, nor to the left." Deuteronomy 17:11. When a controversy arose at the time of the feast of tabernacles Jesus said, "Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." John 7:19, 24. Jesus charged the Jews for not keeping the law of Moses because they would not judge according to the judgments contained in it. It was during the feast of tabernacles that the law was to be read.(Deut. 31:9-12). Yet it was at that time Jesus accused them of not keeping the law they were reading. James warned, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:22-25.

The Righteous Judgments of the Law

The Spirit of Prophecy explains what the judgments of the law were and why they were given. "That the obligations of the Decalogue might be more fully understand and enforced, additional precepts were given, illustrating and applying the principles of the Ten Commandments. These laws were called judgments, both because they were framed in infinite wisdom and equity and because the magistrates were to give judgment according to them. Unlike the Ten

Commandments, they were delivered privately to Moses, who was to communicate them to the people." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 310.

So we see then that these judgments by which the church is to judge are found in the book of the law. Because Israel would not judge according to the judgments of the book of the law the Lord took them into Babylonian captivity. But God did not want His people to stay in Babylonian captivity. So He called them to come out. He entered into covenant with them once again and reestablished the book of the law as the law of the nation. So He now sends a message to His people. "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. Remember, it is at this time that God calls upon His people to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments. **..To be continued.**

GARDENING WITH YOUR CHILDREN!



Even before his or her second birthday, your toddler can interact with, be inspired by, and make discoveries in the garden, along with older children! All it takes is a

patch of dirt, a few seeds, and some patience, and before long you'll find a gardener growing alongside your tomatoes. Here are some ideas for getting started.

Materials List:

- A tilled garden site or a large container filled with sterilized potting soil
- Seeds for easy to grow plants (e.g., radishes, peas, beans, cherry tomatoes, carrots, pumpkins, and sunflowers)
- Lightweight tools suited to small hands & small watering can or spray bottle

Hunt and Gather: If you plan to start seeds indoors, go on a scavenger hunt with your child to search for fun containers you can use. Most will work, as long as they're at least 2 to 3 inches deep and have drainage holes. Some examples include: cardboard egg cartons, empty yogurt containers, and pots made out of newspaper.

The Right Stuff: Provide your kids with tools they can safely use. If you don't want to buy kid's tools, adult hand tools will work. Teach him how to use the tools properly and be clear about which tools are okay for him to use. Demonstrate how to sow seeds or plant starts and then let him do it. Remind him you are there to help if it is needed, but otherwise try not to intervene. Using a small watering

can or spray bottle, your child can water their seeds and plants. Be prepared though, the only thing better than digging in the dirt is splashing in the mud!

Peek-a-Boo: Visit the garden together as much as possible and take time to stop and look. Pick up insects. Catch a worm or watch it wriggle. Peek through the leaves for produce. Count the tomatoes. Pull a weed or two.

Ready or Not, Here I Come! Toddlers live in the here and now. Cultivating patience can be challenging. Help your young one identify ripe radishes, seasoned snow peas, and plump pumpkins by cutting out magazine clips of ripe produce. Glue these onto index cards or create a little book so your little one can consult and compare before picking. This won't eliminate the need to ripen hastily picked green tomatoes on your windowsill, but have heart, there's more where these came from. One of the best rewards of gardening is eating produce right from the plant. Allow toddlers to munch freely on produce that's growing aboveground, but be sure to carefully wash any root vegetables before eating.

Yummy in My Tummy: Following a plant from seed to table is not only satisfying, it sets the stage for a lifetime of healthy eating. Invite your children to help you wash tomatoes before adding them to a salad or to sprinkle fresh basil onto pasta.

Enjoy God's handiwork! While planting seeds and weeding the garden, you can share parables and stories from the Bible with them as they tend to their little gardens.

Preoccupy the Garden of the Heart

By Ellen White

Parents as Gardeners—The Lord has entrusted to parents a solemn, sacred work. They are to cultivate carefully the soil of the heart. Thus they may be laborers together with God. He expects them to guard and tend carefully the garden of their children's hearts. They are to sow the good seed, weeding out every unsightly weed. Every defect in character, every fault in disposition, needs to be cut away; for if allowed to remain, these will mar the beauty of the character.

Parents, your own home is the first field in which you are called to labor. The precious plants in the home garden demand your first care. To you it is appointed to watch for souls as they that must give account. Carefully consider your work, its nature, its bearing, and its results.

You have before your own door a little plot of ground to care for, and God will hold you responsible for this work which He has left in your hands.

Tending the Garden—The prevailing influence in the world is to suffer the youth to follow the natural turn of their own minds. And if very wild in youth, parents say they will come right after a while and, when sixteen or eighteen years of age, will reason for themselves and leave off their wrong habits and become at last useful men and women. What a mistake! For years they permit an enemy to sow the garden of the heart; they suffer wrong principles to grow, and in many cases all the labor afterward bestowed on that soil will avail nothing.

Some parents have suffered their children to form wrong habits, the marks of which may be seen all through life. Upon the parents lies this sin. These children may profess to be Christians; yet without a special work of grace upon the heart and a thorough reform in life, their past habits will be seen in all their experience, and they will exhibit just the character which their parents allowed them to form.

The young should not be suffered to learn good and evil indiscriminately, with the idea that at some future time the good will predominate and the evil lose its influence. The evil will increase faster than the good. It is possible that after many years the evil they have learned may be eradicated; but who will venture this? Time is short. It is easier and much safer to sow clean, good seed in the hearts of your children than to pluck up the weeds afterward. Impressions made upon the minds of the young are hard to efface. How important, then, that these impressions be of the right sort, that the elastic faculties of youth be bent in the right direction.

Seed Sowing, Weeding—In the earliest years of the child's life the soil of the heart should be carefully prepared for the showers of God's grace. Then the seeds of truth are to be carefully sown and diligently tended. And God, who rewards every effort made in His name, will put life into the seed sown; and there will appear first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.

Too often, because of the wicked neglect of parents, Satan sows his seeds in the hearts of children, and a harvest of shame and sorrow is borne. The world today is destitute of true goodness because parents have failed to gather their children to themselves in the home. They have not kept them from association with the careless and reckless. Therefore the children have gone forth into the world to sow the seeds of death.

The great work of instruction, of weeding out worthless and poisonous weeds, is a most important one. For if left to themselves, these weeds will grow until they choke out the precious plants of moral principle and truth.

If a field is left uncultivated, a crop of noxious weeds is sure to appear which will be very difficult to exterminate.

Then the soil must be worked and the weeds subdued before the precious plants can grow. Before these valuable plants can grow, the seed must first be carefully sown. If mothers neglect the sowing of the precious seed and then expect a harvest of precious grain, they will be disappointed; for they will reap briars and thorns. Satan is ever watching, prepared to sow seeds which will spring up and bear a plentiful harvest after his own satanic character.



Eternal vigilance must be manifested with regard to our children. With his manifold devices Satan begins to work with their tempers and their wills as soon as they are born. Their safety depends upon the wisdom and the vigilant care of the parents. They must strive in the love and fear of God to preoccupy the garden of the heart, sowing the good seeds of a right spirit, correct habits, and the love and fear of God.

Unfolding Natural Beauty—Parents and teachers should seek most earnestly for that wisdom which Jesus is ever ready to give; for they are dealing with human minds at the most interesting and impressive period of their development. They should aim so to cultivate the tendencies of the youth that at each stage of their life they may represent the natural beauty appropriate to that period, unfolding gradually, as do the plants and flowers in the garden.

STORIES OF MY GRANDMOTHER

The Handsome Young Preacher

Would you like to know how Ellen Harmon, my grandmother, met James White, her husband? Here is the story:

One day William Jordan and his sister invited Ellen on a trip to Orrington, a town 150 miles to the northeast. "We're returning a borrowed horse and sleigh to a young Adventist minister named James White. He's having trouble with some fanatics. If you come with us, you might be able to help straighten them out."

This was a hard decision for Ellen. Was it really her duty to go? She dreaded meeting those fanatics. Yet she had promised to go wherever the Lord wanted her. She prayed, and the answer came that if she would go, trusting in God, He would send an angel to show her what to do and to protect her from harm.

Soon the three were gliding over the snow to the rhythm of sleigh bells and the beat of horses' hoofs. After a ride that must have required nearly two days, they reached their destination late one afternoon. Weary from the long journey, Ellen took little notice of the young minister to whom she was introduced that evening.

The next morning after praying together, the three decided to go with James White, the young minister, to call on a family living near town. James would take them with the horse and sleigh they had returned to him. When they reached the place, they noticed several sleighs in the yard and asked, "Are you having a meeting here today?"

"No," they were told. "These people have come on various errands. They just happened to arrive about the same time." Ellen remembered the promise that an angel would go with her. Had the angel gathered these people so that they might hear God's message?

Everyone was invited into the front room, and Ellen was asked to tell them about her visions. She stood up and began to speak, but was interrupted by a loud shout of "Glory, Alleluia!" Some of the people began clapping their hands, jumping up and down, and shouting. Ellen stopped telling her story and spoke to them seriously:

"Is this the way for Christians to act? I do not read in the Bible that Christ and His disciples ever behaved in such an unbecoming manner. Is He not our example?"

James White then opened his Bible and read to them that God is a God of order, not of confusion; that the Holy Spirit speaks to hearts by a "still small voice." He said, "Satan is leading you to act in this way, so as to cause your neighbors to hate the name of Adventists and never again want to hear you talk about the coming of Jesus." After a while the noise subsided, and Ellen continued her story.

From this home the visiting party called on other families, and during the weeks that followed they held meetings in several towns nearby. Sometimes they met people with strange ideas. One man was preaching that Jesus had returned to the earth, raised the dead, and taken them to heaven.

"Do you not know," Ellen asked, "that when Jesus comes in power and glory, the trumpet of God will be heard all the way around the world, the sleeping saints will be raised to life, and those who are living will be changed and 'caught up ... with them ... to meet the Lord in the air'? Has this taken place? You have not yet seen Christ coming with power and glory."

Some people believed it their duty to make long journeys on foot in order to earn salvation. Others fasted, refusing to eat anything for days at a time, and they insisted that their friends do the same. Some accepted every idea that entered their minds as coming from the Lord. As soon as they got a notion that they should do a certain thing, they would rush off and do it, without stopping to question whether they were pleasing Jesus and obeying the instruction He had given them in the Bible.

At one home a meeting was already in progress when

James White and Ellen and her friends arrived. Someone inside saw them coming and quickly locked the door. "In the name of the Lord" Ellen opened that locked door, and they entered. What a strange sight they saw! A woman was lying on the floor, crying pitifully and warning the others not to listen to Ellen Harmon. Ellen knelt by her side and in the name of Jesus rebuked the evil spirit that possessed her. The woman arose and quietly took her seat with the others. She made no further disturbance while Ellen spoke to the company about Jesus, who makes His followers good, pure, and sensible.

Day after day the visiting group went from home to home delivering God's messages and rebuking fanatics. In many places they found the believers troubled by these noisy religionists. A few people had given the impression by their shouting that Adventists were a rowdy crowd. Some of their neighbors had even complained of them to the police.

At the entrance to one town sentinels were posted to turn back any preacher coming to hold meetings. But the sleigh bearing the messengers of Heaven slipped quietly past the guards. Ellen was again reminded of the promise that an angel would go with her, and she thanked God that the angel had closed the eyes of those sentinels.

The last meetings they held were happy ones. The troublemakers had been subdued, and the meek followers of Jesus thanked Ellen Harmon and the Jordans for coming so far to help them and their young preacher bring proper order into their meetings.

At the last meeting in Orrington, Ellen was informed in a short vision that her work there was finished and that she must return to Portland at once. Otherwise she would be in danger. Two spies had been seen peeking through the windows; but as the windows were high and the worshipers were kneeling in prayer, the men went away and reported that no one was in the house.

Early the next morning James White, Ellen, and the Jordans got into a rowboat with a friend of James's and paddled down the river to Belfast. There Ellen and the Jordans boarded a steamer for home, while James and his friend rowed the boat back to Orrington. There they were told that officers had been at the house where the preacher lived, searching for him. James and his friend were arrested, whipped, and thrown into jail. But they were released when the officers learned that they were in no way responsible for the disturbances of which the people had complained.

James couldn't help feeling anxious about Ellen. She was so young and so frail, and surrounded by many dangers! How much she needed someone to go with her and protect her! But it is not likely that the thought entered his mind

that sometime he would be that lawful protector, for he has written that neither of them thought of marriage at that time.

Yet it does not seem strange that on a later day he asked her to be his life companion. He would be glad to share her trials and dangers. He felt they needed each other, that they could accomplish more for the Lord together than separately.

"And besides, Ellen, I—I love you. I've been praying about this."

Ellen respected and admired this handsome young man who was such an earnest Christian. But before giving her consent to marry him, she wanted to be sure that it was God's will. She answered, "James, I also will pray that the Lord may make His will known to us."

And to her delight, as she prayed, she felt more and more that God did want them to work together. The answer did not come by vision. The Holy Spirit spoke quietly to her heart, just as He speaks to all of God's children who pray sincerely for guidance in choosing a life companion.

Not until James and Ellen were certain that it was God's will were they married.



Among the records of the White family is a small but precious document, the marriage certificate of James and Ellen White. No mention has ever been found of printed invitations, of presents, of bridesmaids, of corsages; nor even of a filmy white bridal gown, nor of a honeymoon. Evidently James and Ellen were too poor. Besides, important work awaited them. Every possible moment and every available penny must be put to work heralding the good news of Jesus' coming.

James was happy, for he truly loved Ellen; and Ellen was happy, for she loved James; and they both loved God.

We can rest assured if we pray to the Father, He will guide and protect us in all we do.



BE READY!!
He IS coming soon! Thank you for your continued support of Bible Explorations.

