

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS 217 CEDAR ST #288 SANDPOINT, ID 83864



Wible Explorations Aewsletter

August 2025 Issue

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Hello, Everyone! August is already here! The year is certainly going by quickly! We are still finalizing the details for the retreat for the Feast of Tabernacles near Sandpoint, Idaho (October 7-14)! So, start preparing and stay tuned! We will keep you updated! Watch out for the emails and also on our facebook group — Bible Explorations-BETV (BibleExplorationsMinistry).

In addition to having speakers live and on Zoom, one exciting thing we are planning for Tabernacles is starting each day with the videos from Elder VanDenburgh's New Discoveries from Old Manuscripts (1-9). Brent Meikle will then follow with a series on how these messages are still relevant and apply to us today (2025).

FAITH AND WORKS: ELLEN WHITE CLARIFIES THE ISSUES

Said the apostle Paul, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? ... And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but

ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The absence of devotion, piety, and sanctification of the outer man comes through denying Jesus Christ our righteousness. The love of God needs to be constantly cultivated....

While one class pervert the doctrine of justification by faith and neglect to comply with the conditions laid down in the Word of God—"If ye love Me, keep My commandments"—there is fully as great an error on the part of those who claim to believe and obey the commandments of God but who place themselves in opposition to the precious rays of light—new to them—reflected from the cross of Calvary. The first class do not see the wondrous things in the law of God for all who are doers of His Word. The others cavil over trivialities and neglect the weightier matters, mercy and the love of God.

Many have lost very much in that they have not opened the eyes of their understanding to discern the wondrous things in the law of God. On the one hand, religionists generally have divorced the law and the gospel, while we have, on the other hand, almost done the same from another standpoint. We have not held up before the people the righteousness of Christ and the full significance of His great plan of redemption. We have left out Christ and His matchless love, brought in theories and reasonings, and preached argumentative discourses.

Unconverted men have stood in the pulpits sermonizing. Their own hearts have never experienced, through a living, clinging, trusting faith, the sweet evidence of the forgiveness of their sins. How, then, can they preach the love, the sympathy, the forgiveness of God for all sins? How can they say, "Look and live"? Looking at the cross of Calvary, you will have a desire to bear the cross. A world's Redeemer hung upon the cross of Calvary. Behold the Saviour of the world, in whom dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Can any look and behold the sacrifice of God's dear Son, and their hearts not be melted and broken, ready to surrender to God heart and soul?

Let this point be fully settled in every mind: If we accept Christ as a Redeemer, we must accept Him as a Ruler. We cannot have the assurance and perfect confiding trust in Christ as our Saviour until we acknowledge Him as our King and are obedient to

for God.

His commandments. Thus we Obedience evidence our allegiance to God. to God is an We have then the genuine ring in **Expression** our faith, for it is a working faith. of our Love It works by love. Speak it from your heart: "Lord, I believe Thou hast died to redeem my soul. If

Thou hast placed such a value upon the soul as to give Thy life for mine, I will respond. I give my life and all its possibilities, in all my weakness, into Thy keeping."

The will must be brought into complete harmony with the will of God. When this is done, no ray of light that shines into the heart and chambers of the mind will be resisted. The soul will not be barricaded with prejudice, calling light darkness and darkness light. The light from heaven is welcomed, as light filling all the chambers of the soul. This is making melody to God. Ellen G. White

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

(Elder John VanDenburgh)

This is the feast that all the saints were to look forward to. Not only commanded, but joyfully acceptable between heaven and earth. A vital part of the covenant.

Among other things, it was a feast of victory and conclusion. That would mean that during the last Feast of Tabernacles Satan could no longer harass earth's heavenly family. Talk about relief! Talk about reason for joy! To say nothing of the fact that they had plenty of harvest from their previous year of labor.

Many years later, Paul the apostle, kept the feast at various locations showing that it is the heart that counts the most, and besides, the sanctuary had been destroyed by Rome: To his flock at Corinth Paul wrote: Let us therefore keep the feast, not with malice and wickedness, but instead with sincerity and truth. From 1st Cor. 5:7

And yes, the true sanctuary is still standing today. John the Revelator saw it there, both apartments and the furniture. Well intact. "As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in heaven, he beheld there 'seven lamps of fire burning before the throne.' He saw an angel having a golden censor, and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden throne which was before the throne." Rev. 4:5; 8:3

Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary in heaven; and see there the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary, "seven lamps burning before the throne."

So, the message is clear. Though the sanctuary was in heaven "where robbers can't break in," they continued to pray toward the new Jerusalem wherein are those whom Paul deemed "the church of the firstborn." What the early church did, and what today's "Christian" and their leaders say they did are two different things. They took the feast seriously wherever they were, and we would do well to follow the true original leaders. There is a sanctuary and there are folk who know it to be so, and they meet to honor the Feast of Tabernacles and He that is represented there. We thus connect ourselves to heaven, the sanctuary, and its Creator.

Nothing between my soul and my Savior, so that His blessed face may be seen. Nothing preventing the least of His favor: Keep the way clear! Let nothing between.

BELIEF AND UNBELIEF-WHERE ARE YOU?

How much do we believe from the heart? Draw nigh to God, and God will draw nigh to you. This means to be much with the Lord in prayer. When those who

have educated themselves in skepticism and have cherished unbelief, weaving questioning doubts into their experience, are under conviction of the



Spirit of God, they see it to be their personal duty to confess their unbelief. They open their hearts to accept the light sent them and throw themselves by faith over the line from sin to righteousness, from doubt to faith. They consecrate themselves unreservedly to God, to follow His light in the place of the sparks of their own kindling. As they maintain their consecration, they will see increased light and the light will continue to grow brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

The unbelief which is cherished in the soul has a bewitching power. The seeds of doubt that they have been sowing will produce their harvest but they must continue to dig up every root of unbelief. When these poisonous plants are pulled up, they cease to grow for want of nourishment in word and action. The soul must have the precious plants of faith and love put in the soil of the heart and enthroned there. *Ellen G. White*

FROM THE PEN OF ELLEN G. WHITE

The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Another angel, ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah. Review and Herald Extra, Dec. 11, 1888.

I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads. Early Writings, p. 38.

My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure. Early Writings, p. 58

With all the "record" weather scenes in the news daily, the increasing violence in the world, the immorality that is being shown everywhere on television and in the streets, with so many people saying "It is okay, don't worry, it is normal, God will not judge you, He is all love," we must remember He is love, and has mercy, but with that love and mercy are His judgments. God means what He says:

Isaiah 26:21 - For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Ezekiel 25:17 - And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

Nahum 1:2-6 - God [is] jealous, and the LORD revengeth the LORD revengeth, and [is] furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth [wrath] for his enemies.

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This day is soon to come:

Rev 19:2 - For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

PP 429.2 - Like the men before the Flood, the Canaanites lived only to blaspheme Heaven and defile the earth. And both love and justice demanded the prompt execution of these rebels against God and foes to man.

Don't be discouraged by the words above. Let God be your Guide every day. He knows you and me and holds us precious to Himself.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 21:36 - Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Desire of Ages, Ellen White: "The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord "telleth the number of the stars;" and yet "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Ps. 147:4, 3. "Come unto Me," is His invitation. Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer. The rest that Christ offers depends upon conditions, but these conditions are plainly specified. They are those with which all can

comply. He tells us just how His rest is to be found. "Take My yoke upon you,"

Jesus says. The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. By this illustration Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last. We are to take upon us His yoke, that we may be co-workers with Him.

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Ps. 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt."

Remember: He is coming soon! Let's continue to study and learn what He desires for us as His children. Let's continue to get our lives in order so



that we may each BE ready when that Great Day comes and we see Him in the clouds! What a wonderful day that will be!

[From Elder John in 2018, things in the world have changed even more since then!]

INCREDIBLE TREASURES

by Lynn Hoag

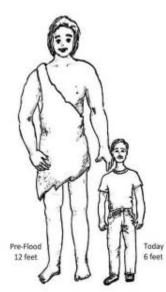
"In the days of Noah, man, animals, and trees, many times larger than now exist, were buried..." (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 112). These are much larger than any that have existed for thousands of

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years, and there was no disease, only incredible vigor and health.

What made this tremendous change? "God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters, to separate water from water.' So God made the vault, and separated the waters under the vault from the waters above it, and so it was: and God called the vault Heaven (sky)" (Gen. 1:6, 7, NEB).

The water layer above the sky is what made the difference. Today, most people have no adequate conception of the size of men, animals, and trees before the Flood, or of the great changes which then took place. Adam was more than twice the height of men today and well proportioned (see Patriarchs and



Prophets, "After the Flood"). The largest complete skeleton we have today of a man who lived before the Flood is in a tomb on the side of Mt. Ararat. The Turkish government calls "Noah's tomb." The skeleton is of a man 12 feet tall and well proportioned. That means a 2,000-pound man— about 10 times the size of a large man today (see illustration).

There are millions of examples in the fossil and frozen record, all evidence that the Genesis record is correct. Adam and his descendants, for 10 generations, lived an average of more than 900 years, while today, if we reach 90, it's quite an accomplishment.

So what caused this difference?

Here are some conditions that the antediluvians had that we don't have today:

• Water above the air. This filters out cosmic radiation coming from all directions in outer space, 24 hours per day. It filters out x-rays, gamma rays, and ultraviolet radiation. It is this radiation that causes aging and shortens life. It also kills microbial

life in the soil. The x-rays and gamma rays go right through roofing materials, including concrete and steel, but a layer of water filters these damaging rays out.

- Hyperbaric pressure. The whole earth was enveloped in a hyperbaric atmosphere. Today, air pressure is 14.7 pounds per square inch at sea level, compared to 2 atmospheres, or 30 lbs./psi before the Flood.
- Oxygen. The pre-Flood atmosphere had 30% oxygen, compared to 20–21% today (much lower in smoggy, polluted air). The more dense atmosphere, with its higher oxygen level, heals wounds in 14 hours that would normally take 14 days.
- Earth's magnetic field has a half-life of 1,400 years. That means 6,000 years ago, it was 10 times stronger than today. This protects from radiation and extends life 25% (which you can do artificially by placing a magnetic mat under the growing and/or living area).
- **Perfectly balanced** soil with all major and trace minerals in proper proportion. Today, the soil is out of balance with too much of some minerals and a lack of others. The mineral content of the soil varies drastically from place to place.

In experiments, creating a water layer above the greenhouse, so that all the sunlight shines through the water, through the glass or plastic holding the water, and into the greenhouse, results in plants growing as much as 10 times faster and more vigorous than the same plants growing outside in the same soil, water, weather, and fertilizer. The only difference is the water shield filtering out harmful radiation.

FANCIFUL OR SPECULATIVE TEACHINGS Ellen G. White

No Compromise

I must bear a decided message to our brethren. Let there be no compromise with evil. Meet boldly the dangerous influences that arise. Do not fear for the results of resisting the powers of the enemy.

In these days many deceptions are being taught as truth. Some of our brethren have taught views which we cannot endorse. Fanciful ideas, strained and peculiar interpretations of the Scripture are coming in. Some of these teachings may seem to be but jots

and tittles now, but they will grow and become snares to the inexperienced.

We have a decided work to do. Let not the enemy cause us to swerve from the proclamation of the definite truth for this time, and turn our attention to fanciful ideas.

Unless we are individually wide awake to discern the workings of the Holy Spirit, we shall certainly stumble and fall into Satan's pitfalls of unbelief. I call upon our brethren to watch as faithful shepherds and guardians over the inexperienced, who are exposed to the wiles of seductive influences. Keep a continual lookout for rocks and quicksands that threaten to destroy faith in the messages that God has given for us at this time. Watch for souls as they that must give account....

We need to search the Scriptures daily, that we may know the way of the Lord, and that we be not deceived by religious fallacies. The world is full of false theories and seductive spiritualistic ideas, which tend to destroy clear spiritual perception, and to lead away from truth and holiness. Especially at this time do we need to heed the warning, "Let no man deceive you with vain words" (Ephesians 5:6).

We must be careful lest we misinterpret the Scriptures. The plain teachings of the Word of God are not to be so spiritualized that the reality is lost sight of. Do not overstrain the meaning of sentences in the Bible in an effort to bring forth something odd in order to please the fancy. Take the Scriptures as they read. Avoid idle speculation concerning what will be in the kingdom of heaven.—Manuscript 30, 1904.

A Life and Death Question

Letters have come to me, asking in regard to the teaching of some who say that nothing that has life should be killed, not even insects, however annoying or distressing they may be. Is it possible that anyone claims that God has given him this message to give to the people? The Lord has never given any human being such a message. God has told no one that it is a sin to kill the insects which destroy our peace and rest. In all His teaching, Christ gave no message of this character, and His disciples are to teach only what He commanded them.

There are those who are always seeking to engage in controversy. This is the sum of their religion. They are filled with a desire to produce something new and strange. They dwell upon matters of the smallest consequence, exercising upon these their sharp, controversial talents.

Idle tales are brought in as important truths, and by some they are actually set up as tests. Thus controversy is created, and minds are diverted from present truth. Satan knows that if he can get men and women absorbed in trifling details, greater questions will be left unheeded. He will furnish plenty of material for the attention of those who are willing to think upon trifling, unimportant subjects. The minds of the Pharisees were absorbed with questions of no moment. They passed by the precious truths of God's Word to discuss the traditionary lore handed down from generation to generation, which in no way concerned their salvation. And so today, while precious moments are passing into eternity, the great questions of salvation are overlooked for some idle tale.

I would say to my brethren and sisters, Keep close to the instruction found in the Word of God. Dwell upon the rich truths of the Scriptures. Thus only can you become one in Christ. You have no time to engage in controversy regarding the killing of insects. Jesus has not placed this burden upon you. "What is the chaff to the wheat?" (Jeremiah 23:28). These side issues which arise are as hay, wood, and stubble compared with the truth for these last days. Those who leave the great truths of God's Word to speak of such matters are not preaching the gospel. They are dealing with the idle sophistry which the enemy brings forward to divert minds from the truths that concern their eternal welfare. They have no word from Christ to vindicate their suppositions.

Do not spend your time in the discussion of such matters. If you have any question as to what you should teach, any question as to the subjects upon which you should dwell, go right to the discourses of the Great Teacher, and follow His instructions....

Do not allow anything to draw your attention from the question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (<u>Luke 10:25</u>). This is a life and death question, which we must each settle for eternity. Let the mind be

weighted with the importance of the solemn truth which we possess. Those who allow the mind to wander in search of cheap, unimportant theories need to be converted....

Erroneous theories, with no authority from the Word of God, will come in on the right hand and the left, and to weaklings these theories will appear as truth which makes wise. But they are as nothingness. And yet many church members have become so well satisfied with cheap food that they have dyspeptic religion. Why will men and women belittle their experience by gathering up idle tales and presenting them as matters worthy of attention? The people of God have no time to dwell on the indefinite, frivolous questions which have no bearing on God's requirements.

God desires men and women to think soberly and candidly. They are to ascend to a higher and still higher grade, commanding a wider and still wider horizon. Looking unto Jesus, they are to be changed into His image. They are to spend their time in searching for the deep, everlasting truths of heaven. Then there will be nothing frivolous in their religious experience. As they study the grand truths of God's Word, they endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. They see that the most uplifting, ennobling truths are those most closely connected with the Source of all truth. And as they learn of Him, their motives and sympathies become firm and unchanging; for the impressions made by the All-wise are substantial and enduring. The living water, which Christ gives, is not like a surface spring, which babbles for a short time, and then dries up. The living water springs up unto everlasting life.

Let us follow the revealed will of God. Then we shall know that the light we receive comes from the divine Source of all true light. Those who cooperate with Christ are on safe ground. God richly blesses them as they consecrate their energies to the work of rescuing the world from corruption. Christ is our example. By beholding Him we are to be changed into His image, from glory to glory, from character to character. This is our work. God help us rightly to represent the Saviour to the world.—<u>The Review and Herald</u>, August 13, 1901.

Conjectures Regarding the Future Life

There are men today who express their belief that there will be marriages and births in the new earth; but those who believe the Scriptures cannot accept such doctrines. The doctrine that children will be born in the new earth is not a part of the "sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19). The words of Christ are too plain to be misunderstood. They should forever settle the question of marriages and births in the new earth. Neither those who shall be raised from the dead, nor those who shall be translated without seeing death, will marry or be given in marriage. They will be as the angels of God, members of the royal family. I would say to those who hold views contrary to this plain declaration of Christ, Upon such matters silence is eloquence. It is presumption to indulge in suppositions and theories regarding matters that God has not made known to us in His Word. We need not enter into speculation regarding our future state.

To my ministering brethren I would say, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2). Do not bring to the foundation wood, and hay, and stubble—your own surmisings and speculations, which can benefit no one.

Christ withheld no truths essential to our salvation. Those things that are revealed are for us and our children, but we are not to allow our imagination to frame doctrines concerning things not revealed.

The Lord has made every provision for our happiness in the future life, but He has made no revelations regarding these plans, and we are not to speculate concerning them. Neither are we to measure the conditions of the future life by the conditions of this life.

Matters of vital importance have been plainly revealed in the Word of God. These subjects are worthy of our deepest thought. But we are not to search into matters on which God has been silent. Some have put forth the speculation that the redeemed will not have gray hair. Other foolish suppositions have been put forward, as though these were matters of importance. May God help His people to think rationally. When questions arise upon which we are uncertain, we should ask, "What saith the Scripture?"

Let those who wish for something new seek for that newness of life resulting from the new birth. Let them purify their souls by obeying the truth, and act in harmony with the instruction Christ gave to the lawyer who asked what he must do in order to inherit eternal life.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.... This do, and thou shalt live" (<u>Luke 10:27, 28</u>). All who will conform their lives to the plain requirements of God's Word will inherit eternal life.—<u>Manuscript</u> 28, 1904.

Subjects Difficult to Understand

In this work there is danger of bringing before the people theories which, while they may be all truth, will create controversy, and will not lead men to the great supper prepared for them. We want the love of God formed within to subdue and soften our human nature and to bring us into conformity to His holy character. Then we shall spread before the people the unsearchable riches of Christ in all their abundance. The invitation is given by Christ Himself, and it is the work of all His followers to call attention to the board of provisions that has been made accessible to all. Then let not subjects difficult to be understood come first. Christ is calling men to the banquet, and let all who will, come.—Letter 89, 1898.



We will continue to keep you updated on all that Bible Explorations is doing! Thank you! With Yahweh we will prevail.

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Don't hide nor hoard, but help in His work, so much the more as ye see the day approaching. — "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay

up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:19-21

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FEAST OF TABERNACLES for 2025 is October 7 through 14, 2025. Trumpets is September 23, 2025 & Day of Atonement is October 2, 2025. We will keep you updated on what is happening and where! Join us on our Facebook Group: Bible Explorations – BETV!



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

A person whose mind is quiet and satisfied in God is in the pathway to health. E.G. White A Christian reveals true humility by showing the gentleness of Christ, by being always ready to help others, by speaking kind words and performing unselfish acts, which elevate and ennoble the most sacred message that has come to our world.

E.G. White