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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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144,000, LAODICEA, AND LAST DAYS

By Ellen White & John L. VanDenburgh

LAODICEA

Good Points: None

Bad Points: Lukewarm, puke, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, but they don't know it.

Counsel: To buy gold 'tried in the fire' and white raiment.

Warning: Anoint thine eyes with eye salve that though mayest see.

NOTE: Some are wondering if no new light regarding prophecy and end time events could have something to do with being blind. As long as Laodicea believes it has had the truth regarding the prophecies all figured out for many years, there is no need to humbly consider any further interpretations. The "anoint thine eyes with eyesalve" would seem to correct the "I have need of nothing" syndrome. Laodicea thinks she has need of nothing because she can't see what's missing.

"He cannot importune in behalf of a people who feel no need of His help, who claim to know and possess everything." HR 6/23/1889; 1SM358.

"The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light." ST709.

"In His Word the Lord declared what He would do for Israel if they would obey His voice. But the leaders of the people yielded to the temptations of Satan, and God could not give them the blessing He designed them to have, because they did not obey His voice but listened to the voice and policy of Lucifer. This experience will be repeated in the last years of the history of the people of God, who have been established by His grace and power. Men whom He has greatly honored will in the closing scenes of this earth's history pattern after ancient Israel." MS5 1/20/1904

PROMISE: A promise is given for those who leave the grasp of the Laodicean (lukewarm) "church" condition:

"If they will 'hear' My voice." This may partially refer to what Mrs. White said about things spoken by God to Daniel (and John) regarding prophecies having a fulfillment in the latter days. Also the 4th Angel.

"The message to the church of the Laodiceans applies especially to the people of God today. (1903) It is a message to professing Christians who have become so much like the world that no difference can be seen." RH 8/20/1903. You used to be able to tell the difference.

“The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time.” 3T252

“To those who are indifferent at this time Christ’s warning is: ‘Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth.’ The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you.” 6T408

NOTE: The idea that such a “church” will enter heaven is presumptuous. There must be a leaving of the “lukewarm” condition. Once the lukewarm condition is gone, so is Laodicea. Why? Because this is her predominant characteristic. God’s remnant, who stand through the horrendous experiences of the time of the end are not going to march into heaven being spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Quite the contrary. The wise will “understand” and be very well dressed. (In white robes.)



“Oh, that every lukewarm profession could realize the clean work that God is about to make among His professed people. Dear friend, do not deceive yourselves concerning

your condition. You cannot deceive God. Says the True Witness; ‘I know thy works.’ The Third angel is leading up a people, step by step, higher and higher. At every step they will be tested.” TT190

“What is it that constitutes the wretchedness, the nakedness of those who feel rich and increased with goods? It is the want of the righteousness of Christ. In their own righteousness they are represented as clothed with filthy rags, and yet in this condition they flatter themselves that they are clothed upon with Christ’s righteousness. Could deception be greater? RH 8/7/1894, 3RHA173

What happens to those who remain in the Laodicea “church” condition?

“God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent to the Lord, until he will refuse to acknowledge them as His children.” RH 2/25/1902. This is happening now.

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour

forth the straight truth. Some ... will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.”

“...our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, and from cold formality to deadness; while they are saying, ‘I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.’” RH 12/23/1890

“If church members do not act the part God has assigned them, the movement of health reform will go on without them and it will be seen that God has removed their candlestick out of its place.” MS 78, 1900. What? Why I thought the church was going through no matter what!?

“Buy of Me gold tried in the fire.” Ellen White refers to this gold in four ways:

1. Truth in distinction to all counterfeits.
2. Faith and
3. Love demonstrated by Jesus.
4. The righteousness of Christ worn by the believer.
Letter 66, 1894, &BC964, DA280.

Laodicea: 7SDA754 determines its period to be from 1844 to the end of time. Let’s not be in this group, let’s not be part of Laodicea.

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand. And let us do all that we can to help others to gain heaven.” *The Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905

INTO THE HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES

By Lyn Wright

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

In the 1990’s, my husband and I were in the long-haul trucking business. For many years we drove as a team, delivering a variety of cargo all over the United States. But our most important and valuable freight we always had with us was INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS!

Thousands of books were scattered all across this land for we never made a stop in which we did not leave a book and a prayer that it would get into the hands of someone who would read it and be blessed.

After our trucking days, I continued with this mission work by keeping a box of a variety of these precious books in my car to share with others in my travels. Sense this was not a daily thing, I soon found that I has become lax in my zeal and was not as faithful as I should have been.

I began to pray that Yeshua would remind me about the books as people need these now during these hard times more than ever. He was faithful to answer my prayer. The

following stories have taken place in just the past few months.

In early April, 2020, I was cleaning out my mother's apartment whom had moved to an Assisted Living home. I was up against the clock to get this job done, so early one Sunday morning I decided to clean everything out my car as to have all the space I needed to haul mother's things to storage. Out went the tool box, jumper cables, and, yes, my box of books. Then I headed to town which was 10 miles away.

The first 5 miles, just to get to the highway, is a gravel road and not that well-traveled, especially early Sunday morning! As I came around the bend, I saw in the meadow down by the river, a pickup with the hood up and a young man standing by it, frantically waving his arms to get my attention. I drove over to see what he needed.

He said he was camping by the river and it got to cold in his tent so he got in his pickup and started it to get warm, but the lights were left on when he fell asleep and the battery was run down. He asked if I had jumper cables with me. I said, "I can't believe this! I just took them out of my car this morning for the first time in years, but that is no problem, it's just a mile back to my house. I'll be back.

As I was driving home a thought came to my mind, "Give him a book." I thought "Oh yes, I will do that." Then I thought about what had just transpired. If I would have taken the box of books out but left the cables in, there would not have been a reason for me to go back after the cables, but God wanted me to give him a book!

I arrived back at the pickup and the young man was so thankful. We got his pickup started and he thanked my profusely. He said, "with this COVID going on, no one would have stopped and picked me up so I was expecting to walk the 10 miles home. Then he said, "God works in mysterious ways." I said, "He sure does!" I then asked him if he liked to read and he said "Yes." I took him over to my car and brought out my box of books and told him a little about each one and he got so excited. He took a couple for himself and his wife. I asked him for his name and he said "Andy." I told him I would be praying her him and his wife. He was grateful and we went on our ways.

In early July I had planned to going to see my mother in the Assisted Living home 70 miles away. I was running late and as I was heading out of town and nearing our turn off, I was having doubts if I should go this late in the day and was thinking of trying again in the morning. I sent a quick prayer to heaven for direction and the answer quickly came back. "Go forward." A wonderful peace came over me and I settled in for the 1.5 hour drive down to the valley.

A half hour later as I was just coming into the little 'one horse town' of Midvale, all of a sudden there was a terrible loud knocking sound coming from under the hood of my car.



My first thought was the engine must be out of oil. I quickly pulled over and turned it off. My husband was 250 miles away on a job and would not be home for a couple of weeks. What was I going to do?

I bowed my head and prayed. "Lord, I know You allow nothing to come to any of your children except it be for good as Scripture says in Romans 8:28. I know You have a plan and will guide me through this."

I got out of the car, lifted the hood and checked the oil. It was still too hot to get a good reading but at least there was a little oil on the dip stick. I checked for anything that might be obvious, lose belts, hanging wires etc., but all looked okay. I then walked down to the corner where there was a mechanic shop. It was locked up with no one in sight. I then walked across the highway to the Mercantile store where I asked the lady there if she knew of any mechanics close by. She mentioned the same one I just tried and I told her he was closed up for the day. She then said there was one in the town 8 miles back which I had just came from. As we were talking, a gentleman walked through the door and overheard our conversation. He said, "there is another mechanic who lives just down the street. You should try him." The kind lady gave me the phone number of both mechanic so I walked out and sat down on the bench by the door and proceeded to call these men. The first man I called who lived down the street said he was at work and would not be home for 2 hours. If I could wait that long, he would be happy to help me. He then said, "did you check the oil?"

I then decided to call the mechanic who lived 8 miles away. My thought was, "I only have one dollar in my purse, how am I going to pay him for his time and expense?"

About that time another man came driving up on a motorcycle. As he walked past me, he made a comment on how beautiful the day was and I responded with, "yes, it is."

He walked in the store and I walked back over to my car, thanking the Lord for whatever his plan was. When I reached the car, I again checked the oil as it was now cooled off and it was at the full mark. I got into the car and turned the key on. The knocking and banging were as loud as ever!

I was standing in front of the car when the guy on the motorcycle was driving by and saw the hood up, so he



pulled over and asked me if I needed help. I said yes, that would be nice. The first thing he did was checked the oil! He then said, “why don’t you try starting it again while I listen to see where the knock is coming from.” I turned

it on and the knocking and banging continued. I then saw him move from the left side to the right side of the car and as he leaned over the engine to track down where the noise was coming from, he laid his hand on the air-condition motor. At that instance, the knocking and banging ceased and the car idled softly. I got out and walked around to where he was and asked him what happened. He said, “when you turned off the air-conditioner, the knocking stopped.” I said, “but I did not turn it off because it was not on.” He said, “well, I guess you are good to go. Your car is running fine, but maybe you should not use the air-conditioner.” At this instance I could see God’s plan developing.

I then asked him if he liked to read and he said “Yes.” I showed him my box of books and said he could pick the ones he would like. He chose several then said, “You must be a Christian. My sister is a Christian too. She is concerned for me and says I should be a preacher, but that’s not for me, but I will read these books as soon as I get home.”

I thanked this man very much and went on my way. I knew why this incident had occurred and it had nothing to do with the mechanics of my car! I turned on the air-conditioner and had a pleasant ride on to my destination. I was sorry that I did not get this man’s name but God know him and I pray for him every day.

An hour later when I reached Ontario OR, I drove over to Walmart to do some shopping for my mother before I went to see her. They did not have everything she needed so I went across the street to Winco to finish up.

A few months back, they passed a law in Oregon that the stores would not provide plastic bags any more, but that we needed to bring our own. So, I took a few bags with me and put a couple of books in my bags. As I was engrossed in my shopping, a gentleman saw the bags in my cart and asked me if we had to provide our own bags, that he was a trucker and did not have any. I said, “yes, we do but the store will sell you some if you need any.” We got into a conversation and at one point I asked him if he enjoyed reading. He said he did. I then said I would like to give him a book. He said “sure, I will read it.”

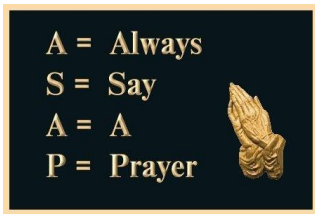
The one I had in English was “Who are the Angels?” I pulled it out and he looked at it and exclaimed, “Oh, I do not believe in angels.” I then asked him if he believed in God. He answered “no.” He then said, “You must be a Christian. I said, “Yes I am.” He said, “Do you know you are a marked person?” I answered “Yes.” He then asked me why I was such a happy person. I told him it was because I knew my Savior. This took us further into dialog. He told me when he was 13 years old, he desired to find God, but things just did not pan out.

At the end of this conversation he said, “I am going to read your book because I promised you I would.” I asked him for his name. He gave it to me, then asked me why. I said, “because I am going to pray for you every day that you will find God, as He reveals Himself to you.” Willy said, “you would do this for me?” and I said “Yes.” He then asked me for my phone number and I asked him why. He said, “because when I find God, I want to call you and let you know.” I said, “You have a deal.”

A week later, another hot July day, as I was driving the 145 miles round trip to Fruitland to see my mother, I prayed to the Lord and said, “I have a box of books that I need to give out. If there is anyone today that is in need of one of them, please put us together.” 30 seconds later as I was descending down this winding road, I could see a person about halfway down this hill, walking and carrying a heavy backpack. I quickly sent up another prayer asking God if he was the one. The answer was “yes.” I passed him up and stopped at a safe place, waiting for him to catch up. As he approached, I rolled down my window and asked him if he would like a ride. He said “Oh, that would be so nice.” He put his backpack on the back seat and got in. He apologized for his sweaty condition and I said, “no problem sir.” His appearance showed that his life had been rough. I asked him how long he had been walking and he said “two days.” He was headed to Weiser which was the very next town, only 6 miles away.

As we engaged in conversation, I asked him about his life. He said he was born in Idaho but moved to California with his family many years ago. After his mother died from cancer, his life went downhill from there. I asked him why he came back to Idaho and he said, “well, I came back to my beginnings to start a new life. I want to change and find a better way.” At that moment I said in my heart, “Oh Father, You are so Awesome! Thank You for giving me such a privilege of helping this man.”

As we drove into Weiser, he asked me if I would drop him off at the nearest grocery store to get something to eat. He had only one dollar. I said, “how about if I give you a few more dollars to add with it.” He was shocked that I would do that. I then asked him if he liked to read. He answered quickly. “Oh, yes.”



I knew just the right book to give him “Finding Peace Within.” He stared at the title and slowly said, “this is just what I needed.” I asked him his name and said, “I will be praying for you

every day that God will direct your path in a new and better life.” Brent gave me a hug and with tears in his eyes, thanked me.

A few days later, earlier in the morning as I was studying, I received a phone call from a Christian lady in south Texas. She works for a very large company in Houston as their leading sales person. I have never met Sandy in person but we have talked on the phone many times. Several years ago, she received a set of my DVD’s on “Unlocking the Book of Daniel” as well as the booklet with the same title. She knew I studied Bible prophecy had some questions to ask.

After the greetings and talk of concerns about the state of our country, she got to the real reason of her call. She just bluntly asked, “Who is the antichrist and what is the mark of the beast?” This caught me by surprise and I thought, “how can I answer such an important and deep subject in just a few minutes (as she was calling me from work)?” I sent up a quick prayer and said, “Lord, would it be wise for me to tell her that I will send her a book which will explain it all or what would you have me to do?” The answer came back very clear. “Just answer her questions.” So, I did.

I told her who the antichrist was and how he had changed the true Sabbath to Sunday which he claimed was “the mark of his authority.” I repeated the 4th commandment and Sandy replied, “isn’t Sunday the 7th day?” I said “No. Saturday is the 7th day.” There was total silence on the other end of the line. Then she said, “I never thought that before.” I then asked her if I could send a couple of books that would not only show the history of how all this took place (“Will America Survive”) but also one (“The Perfect Storm”) with many of the boastful claims of this antichrist. She replied “please do.”

As soon as we hung up, I thought of my circumstances and how it would be a day or so before I could get these books in the mail to Sandy. But our Heavenly Father already had a plan. In just a few minutes after the call, I received an email from Elmira at Countdown Ministries saying, “Lyn, if you know of anyone who would like a copy of any of our books, let me know and I will send it to them.” I was shocked! I quickly emailed her back with the name and address of my friend and Elmira got a book sent to her that day!

The relationship between Sandy and I has grown since that day. We share many things concerning our families and country which we pray for.

The purpose of my sharing these stories is to encourage everyone as servants of our Lord to keep a box of books in your vehicle to share with others as Yeshua directs.



Mat 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Mat 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Time is short and what we are going to do, we must do quickly. We must follow in the footsteps of our Master. *John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.* In His Service, Lyn Wright

PRAYER BRINGS INCREASED SPIRITUAL STRENGTH By Ellen White

Those who seek God in secret telling the Lord their needs and pleading for help, will not plead in vain. “Thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.” As we make Christ our daily companion we shall feel that the powers of an unseen world are all around us; and by looking unto Jesus we shall become assimilated to His image. By beholding we become changed. The character is softened, refined, and ennobled for the heavenly kingdom. The sure result of our intercourse and fellowship with our Lord will be to increase piety, purity, and fervor. There will be a growing intelligence in prayer. We are receiving a divine education, and this is illustrated in a life of diligence and zeal. Pr 82.1

The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness. By maintaining a connection with God, we shall be enabled to diffuse to others, through our association with them, the light, the peace, the serenity, that rule in our hearts. The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with persevering effort in training the mind in thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances.

Strength and grace can be found in prayer. Sincere love is to be the ruling principle of the heart.

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

By Ted Schultz

In an 1887 *Review* article the Lord's Messenger penned her opening thought as follows:

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it.” *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.

The article strongly suggested that while the Lord has a blessing of revival to give to us we have a work of preparation in order to receive that blessing. Several years later we were given insight as to what the work of preparation is before Christ returns.

“The closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and second advent of Christ.” [Malachi 4:4, 5 is then quoted.]. *Southern Watchman*, March 21, 1905, (*Faith I Live By*, p. 290).

The prophecy of Malachi says, “Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Malachi 4:4, 5. Were the Jews prepared for the first coming of Christ? No they were not. Why not? They did not obey the command to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments. This was the work that was to be done preparatory to the first coming of Christ, but they did not do this work. The Lord through His prophet gave His people their appointed work which was to be done before He came. It was a simple work, clear and to the point. Yet the people of God did not hearken to the prophet. Instead of the people having hearkened to the words of the prophets Jesus uttered the tearful words, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee.” Matthew 23:37. History shows that the Lord's professed people have had a long standing antipathy to the prophets. Malachi's predecessor Jeremiah said, “Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.” Jeremiah 7:25. See also 11:3, 4; 25:4, 5; 26:4, 5; 29:19; 35:15; 44:4, 23. The prophets brought messages of reform to the people that if obeyed would have resulted in rich blessings to them. But they despised the messages because they despised the statutes and judgments of the Lord that they were directed to remember. Ezekiel 20:13,

Devote your mind to spiritual things. Keep your mind from dwelling upon yourself. Cultivate a contented, cheerful spirit. You talk too much upon unimportant things. You gain no spiritual strength from this. If the strength spent in talking were devoted to prayer, you would receive spiritual strength and would make melody in your heart to God.

The greatest blessing that God can give to man is the spirit of earnest prayer. All heaven is open before the man of prayer....The ambassadors of Christ will have power with the people after they have, with earnest supplication, come before God.

We do not value the power and efficacy of prayer as we should. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish. We are seldom, in all respects, placed in the same position twice. We continually have new scenes and new trials to pass through, where past experience cannot be a sufficient guide. We must have the continual light that comes from God.



The strength acquired in prayer to God will prepare us for our daily duties. The temptations to

which we are daily exposed make prayer a necessity. In order that we may be kept by the power of God through faith, the desires of the mind should be continually ascending in silent prayer. When we are surrounded by influences calculated to lead us away from God, our petitions for help and strength must be unwearied. Unless, this is so, we shall never be successful in breaking down pride and overcoming the power of temptation to sinful indulgences which keep us from the Saviour. The light of truth, sanctifying the life, will discover to the receiver the sinful passions of his heart which are striving for the mastery, and which make it necessary for him to stretch every nerve and exert all his powers to resist Satan that he may conquer through the merits of Christ.

You may have a deep and abiding sense of eternal things and that love for humanity which Christ has shown in His life. A close connection with heaven will give the right tone to your fidelity and will be the ground of your success. Your feeling of dependence will drive you to prayer, and your sense of duty summon you to effort. Prayer and effort, effort and prayer, will be the business of your life. You must pray as though the efficiency and praise were all due to God, and labor as though duty were all your own. If you want power you may have it; it is waiting your draft upon it. Only believe in God, take Him at His word, act by faith, and blessings will come.

Pr 82.1-84.1- (Prayer Power, Chap 9)

24. Having come to a point where they despised the statutes and judgments of the Covenant-maker, they came to despise the Covenant-maker Himself. This could not be otherwise. God's law is an expression of the kind of person He is. Whatever is our attitude toward the law is our attitude toward the Lawmaker. At the end of their probationary time they said "His blood be on us and on our children." Matthew 27:25. Think of it! They despised the blood of Jesus! All heaven was poured out in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord in His saving blood. What could speak more eloquently of God's love for humanity than the shed blood of Jesus in our behalf?

If the Jews had allowed the law of God to be written upon their hearts they would have allowed the living Christ to be the king of their lives. But what of spiritual Israel? Have we been obedient to the message to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments? Malachi 4:4 was under consideration at the very beginning of the Advent Movement. In fact O. R. L. Crosier opened his well-known *Day-Star Extra* article in the February 7, 1846 issue by quoting Malachi 4:4. This same article was



endorsed by the Lord in a vision to Ellen White. *A Word to the "Little Flock"*, p. 12. The understanding of Crosier and his friends was greatly increased because they were obedient to the

command to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments. But what of the many years between then and now? Has the passing of the years made us increasingly rich in our understanding of the book of the law? Let us stop and assess the present situation.

When is the last time we have heard a sermon preached on remembering the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments? When is the last time we have experienced a revival work based on the directions contained in Malachi 4:4, 5? When is the last time we have seen substantive articles in our publications on this vital subject? When is the last time we have seen a Sabbath School Quarterly plumbing the depths of this subject which explains "the work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ"? When is the last time we have been to a camp meeting where the keynote speaker as well as other speakers have addressed this indispensable issue? We as a denominated people have the second advent enshrined within our name. Why such a great silence on the very thing that prepares us for that event we so fervently believe in? What are the present indicators of where we stand in relation to the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments? Decades of elective abortions, creedalism, doctrinal pluralism, ecumenism, false doctrines, higher criticism, Jesuitism, pantheism, lack of reverence in the sanctuary, spiritualism, social justice, the sacred tithe used for non-tithe purposes, unbelief in messages sent by the Lord's messenger, unbelief in our

foundational doctrine, vice rampant even among ministers of the gospel and a whole host of other issues are some indicators.

Will the times of refreshing be poured out upon an unclean and disobedient people? The early apostolic church gives answer to that question, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Acts 5:32. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A Prophet [Christ] shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you [the gospel commission]. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear [the gospel of] that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." Acts 3:19-23. The early apostolic church saw within the law of Moses the gospel commission and the conditions by which the refreshing of the Holy Spirit and the restitution of all things would take place. In fact Acts 3:22 and 23 are quoting directly from Deuteronomy 18:18, 19. Yes, the prophet Moses will speak again to the Lord's covenant people in a special way to prepare them for His second coming.

The call to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments was not heeded by the Jews previous to Christ's first coming and as a consequence they were left unprepared. But again we ask, is spiritual Israel now heeding the call to remember? No we are not. How could we heed the call to remember the law of Moses if we have nailed the law of Moses to the cross? For many years we have correlated Colossians 2:14 with Deuteronomy 31:26. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to his cross." Colossians 2:14. Our doctrinal book has titled the "Book of the Law" as "the ceremonial law." Then Deuteronomy 31:26 is brought into direct connection with Colossians 2:14. "Take this book of the law [torah], and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God that it may be there for a witness against thee." *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*27, pp. 242-243.

Thus by the correlation of these two Scriptures we have nailed the entire law of Moses to the cross. Many think that the law of Moses is called the law of Moses because it was his law. But the Old Testament revivalist, Nehemiah, referred to the law of Moses variously as "the book of the law of Moses," "the book of the law," "the book," "the law," "the law of

God,” “the book of the law of God,” and “the book of the law of the Lord.” Nehemiah 8:1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 18; 9:3. It is impossible to escape the observation that the law being referred to is the law which was written in a book. The word for law in all these instances is torah. The torah is not to be confused with the Talmud. The Talmud is a collection of writings of the Rabbis. The Rabbis often put a mystical construction upon the words of Scripture. *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 39. Christ acted independently of the Rabbinical laws. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 84. The torah, on the other hand, is God’s law as surely as the ten commandments which were written by His own finger upon stone. Christ Himself was the author of the torah. “The words of Moses concerning the statutes and judgments of the Lord are also the word of God to us.” *Signs of the Times*, March 21, 1895. While we have an abundance of Spirit of Prophecy confirmation that the law of Moses applies to us we have, nevertheless, nailed that law to the cross. But after having nailed the law of Moses to the cross we have dissected that supposedly crucified body of law in hopes of bringing down from the cross and restoring life back into bits and pieces of it such as tithing, the Day of Atonement, morality, marriage, etc.

Colossians 2:14 states that something was found to be against us and was nailed to the cross. We have used Deuteronomy 31:26 to supposedly prove that it was the book of the law that was nailed to the cross. Verse 24 makes it clear that it was Moses who had written that book of the law. “And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished.” The Lord Himself had given to Moses the words which he was to write in the book of the law. “Moses of himself framed no law. Christ, the angel whom God had appointed to go before His chosen people, gave to Moses statutes and requirements necessary to a living religion and to govern the people of God.” *Review And Herald*, May 6, 1875. Deuteronomy 31:24 states that Moses wrote the words of the law “until they were finished.” In other words, all the words of the law are in “the book of the law.” Therefore to say that Colossians 2:14 is speaking about the book of the law of Deuteronomy 31:26 requires us to nail the entire law of Moses to the cross. This raises insuperable difficulties for we know that Christ and the apostles taught from the law of Moses after the crucifixion. But the matter is resolved when we understand that Paul did not nail the law of Moses to the cross. Colossians 2:14 states that it was the chairographon

tois dogmasin not the torah that Paul says was nailed to the cross. The underlying Greek words, chairographon tois dogmasin, are only in this verse and nowhere else in Scripture. The Greek term nomos, which is the New Testament term for torah, is found nearly two hundred times in the New Testament. If the apostle Paul wanted to state that the law of Moses was nailed to the cross then why did he not simply say it? For example when Paul referred to the torah he used the word nomos when he was quoting Jeremiah 31:31-34 verbatim in Hebrews 8:8-10. Likewise when Jesus referred to the torah the term nomos is used. For example, “Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law?” “If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?” John 7:19, 23. But the term nomos is not used in Colossians 2:14. In fact, Paul does not use this term in the entire book of Colossians even though he used that term more than any other New Testament writer in his other epistles. It is therefore obvious that Paul was not doing away with the “nomos” (the law). **(To be continued...)**



Most of you know we are on Roku and our website 24/7. We are also live every Wednesday night (5pm Pac time) for prayer meeting and Sabbath mornings (9:45 a.m.) on Roku and YouTube and also on zoom.

Join us at <https://zoom.us/j/84276933892>. (NEW ZOOM NUMBER) This zoom link will NOW remain the same always so mark it down! We will have Feast of Tabernacles on Zoom again this year. We will begin at 7 a.m. Pacific time. So many different time zones, we feel this is good! We will also be having some from our Bible Exploration’s partner in South Africa, Hein de Wit, and his group. Plan to “attend” at this time, too. Join us if you can on zoom, or just watch all of this live on YouTube, <https://m.youtube.com/BibleExplorations> or www.BibleExplorations.com. We look forward to “seeing” you all both weekly and during the camp meeting! Call or email for more info. We are family and God is ALWAYS in control! Feast of Tabernacles is October 3-10, 2020.

