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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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THE QUESTION TO BE DECIDED BY TED SHULTZ

Just as the Old Testament opens with the creation account establishing the “two great lights” “for signs and for seasons” so we see the New Testament closing with these two great lights—the sun clothing the woman and the moon under her feet in the symbolic representation of Revelation 12. This symbol is called “a great wonder in heaven.” Rev. 12:1. The word wonder comes from the Greek semeion (Strong’s #4592) which means a miracle, **sign**, or **token**. So what is the woman a sign or token

of? In the creation account the sun and the moon were set “for signs and seasons.” Gen. 1:14. The word signs in the Hebrew is owth which means “the sense of appearing, a signal, as a flag, beacon, monument, **sign**, or **token** (Strong’s #226) which is exactly what Revelation 12:1 declares the woman to be—a sign or token that “appeared” in heaven. Three times Genesis 1:14-18 states that the sun and the moon are set “in the firmament of heaven” for signs and for seasons. The word seasons comes from the Hebrew word moed (Strong’s #4150) which we have already seen means “a fixed time or season, an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose), technically the congregation; by extension, the place of meeting; also a signal, an appointed sign or time, assembly, feast, and set time.” Please note that these signs and seasons were set in place at creation before sin entered the world. The woman is a visible token of God’s creative power. Just as the Creator set the sun and the moon for signs and for seasons, likewise the woman of Revelation 12 is a sign or token of God’s power to recreate man in His own image and redeem him everlastingly.



The feasts (moedim) of the Lord (Lev. 23) and the time of their occurrence were based on the “two great lights” of heaven set at creation for signs and for seasons (moed). This is why the annual feasts which are regulated by the new moons are statutes which are “not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon man in every age as long as time should last.” *Review and Herald*, May 6, 1875.

The miqrah, the holy convocation, the called out ones, the remnant of the woman’s seed are to feel the direct assault of the dragon. Just as “the old serpent” was focused on bringing the downfall of Adam and Eve, and devouring Christ the “man child” (Rev. 12:4, 5) as soon as He was born, so he is working to bring the downfall of the remnant who keep the commandments of God.

God has always had His faithful called out ones, His true church, even in the worst of times. There has always been the cycles of the best of times and the worst of times, but through it all there has been a constant; there has always been a remnant. This remnant has always been faithful to all of God’s covenant conditions. Likewise there will be a remnant at the very end of time that will keep God’s commandments,

and statutes, and judgments—all of them. They will not be bribed, flattered, deceived or threatened to deviate from their covenant with God.



This remnant will pass through an experience referred to as the time of Jacob’s trouble. “Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.” Jer. 30:7. The prophet Daniel calls it “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.” Daniel 12:1.

The remnant of Revelation 12:17 are the remaining ones, the residue. (Strong’s #3062, loipoy). Daniel tells us that the papal beast “devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it.” Dan. 7:7, 19. The Hebrew word for residue is sha’ar and means a remainder, or remnant. The prophecies of Daniel and John foretell a terrible outbreak of war

against the remnant, which leaves us with a question. What happened to everyone else? Many of God’s faithful people will suffer martyrdom. “And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.” Dan. 11:33. We have also been warned that apostasy will sweep through our ranks.

“Therefore he [the king of the North] shall be grieved and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.” Dan. 11:30. We see by this prophecy that apostasy is going to hit the church and many will break their covenant relationship with God. Those that forsake the holy covenant will be completely taken away with the flatteries of the papal whore, and will go to great lengths in their apostasy.

“The Lord is in earnest with us. In His word He declared that many shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They will go to great lengths in departing from God.” *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7, p. 20.

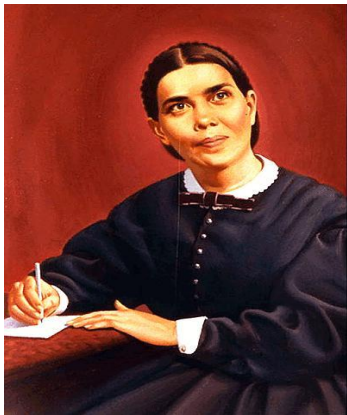
HISTORY WILL BE REPEATED

“We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in the fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that ‘shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.’ [Verses 31-36, quoted.] Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, p. 394. Prophecy such as this is underscored by a number of statements from the pen of inspiration. “In the last vision given me, I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 608. Why is that? Of course it is human nature not to be sanctified or even want to be. We are completely dependent upon Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit to create in us any desire to break from our unsanctified existence. And what are God’s people to think when they see those in top positions of

influence in the church forcefully setting forth the idea that sanctification is **not** an issue essential to salvation and that it is a “moot theological issue” as is stated in the book *Issues*, page 109. This publication states in the title page that it is “Authorized by the North American Division Officers and Union Presidents.” Sanctification a moot theological issue? The apostle Paul would disagree. “God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” 2 Thess. 2:13. “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.” 1 Thess. 4:3. “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thess. 5:23.

A LARGE CLASS

“As the storm approaches a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been **sanctified through obedience to the truth**, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 608. The expression “sanctified through obedience to the truth” is not an isolated thought by any means. We



find it repeated thirty one times throughout the *Ellen White Writings Infobase*. The shorter phrase “sanctified through obedience” is found forty four times. Such expressions today are viewed as heretical by many ministers and leaders as well as laity, and those who truly

believe we are sanctified through obedience to the truth are often ridiculed and maligned as being legalistic and not Christ-centered. How has it come to this? Again we reference writers who produced the book *Issues*. This time we quote from a sixteen page insert that was placed in the *Review*. “Neither has the church ever ‘formally’ adopted a position on perfection and the precise nature of human obedience.” *Issues: The Seventh-day Adventist Church & Certain Private Organizations*, p. 7, Insert in the *Adventist Review*, Nov. 5, 1992. It is needful to point out that even if the church has not formally adopted a position on the precise nature of obedience, God nevertheless has revealed to mankind the precise nature of the obedience He requires. “Casting down

imaginings and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity **every thought** to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Cor. 10:5. **This is obedience on the thought level.** “Ye shall **diligently keep** the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.” Deut. 6:17. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” Romans 6:16, 17. This “obedience unto righteousness” of which Paul speaks is that sanctification that comes through obedience to the truth.

WHEN THE MAJORITY FORSAKE US

Are you ready for the majority to forsake you? Are you sure you are not part of the majority? “To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few---this will be our test.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 136. Indeed obeying all that God has commanded us to do is righteousness. “And it shall be our righteousness if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.” Deut. 6:25. The commandments spoken of in this text are God’s commandments, statutes, and judgments as is clearly spelled out in chapters four through eight of Deuteronomy. Of these commands God says, “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deut. 6:7. How many of us are defining righteousness by this clear cut truth? How many are standing in defense of this truth? How many even know what the statutes and judgments are? Those of us who make up the older generation look back over a period of time spanning over a half a century and realize that very little has been said on these vital subjects. Where are God’s champions to champion His cause, to stand for truth and righteousness when champions are few? It need not



be a marvel that the majority will forsake Bible truth. It is already happening, it just is not as evident as it will be when the final sealing comes at the time of the Sunday law. Sadly, when that test comes it will be too late to make the preparation for the test. We must prepare now. The doctrine of the cleansing of the sanctuary is a present truth doctrine that is preparing us right now. Like it or not, or deny that it is happening—it is happening all the same. At this very moment a moral character test is being applied to those of us who profess faith in the three angels messages. The standard of that test is God’s commandments, statutes and judgments. We must know for ourselves what great testing truths are contained within the book of the law. **Search the title to your immortal inheritance**

“We are approaching stormy times, and we want to study the true foundation of our faith. We want to search the book of the law to see if our title to the immortal inheritance is without a flaw.” *An Adventist Apocalypse*, p. 18.

WHO WILL BE ABLE TO STAND?

“But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth: for he is like a refiner’s fire, and a fuller’s soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” Mal. 3:2, 3. “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Psalms 26:3-5.



There are those who belittle any doctrine that helps prepare a people to stand in the purity of Christ’s presence. We can be certain that they are false prophets. Heartfelt obedience to the truth and the sanctification that it brings is the work that God’s people are to be engaged in right now at this present time. “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying

the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” 1 Peter 1:22. While there are those in high places formally stating that the church has never adopted a position on “the precise nature of human obedience” the Spirit of Prophecy states with words too clear to be misunderstood the precise nature of human obedience. Notice the adjectives attached to the word obedience.

- Willing obedience COL 116
- Unquestioning obedience 4T146
- Prompt obedience RH April 24, 1900
- Perfect obedience SC 62
- Entire obedience 4SG 156
- Continual obedience DA 668
- Implicit obedience 4T 187
- Unswerving obedience PP 52

“Exact obedience is required, and those who say it is not possible to live a perfect life throw upon God the imputation of injustice and untruth.” *Review and Herald*, p. 519, (MS 148, 1899.)

“The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of us.” *Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 929. Are all these descriptions of the obedience that God requires “precise” enough? How could it be stated more precisely? Are these concise words on obedience just to be seen as inert, lifeless and empty words on a piece of paper until the church adopts a formal position on “the precise nature of human obedience”? Then the “decision of the united Seventh-day Adventist Church in General Conference session” (Insert for *Adventist Review*, Nov. 5, 1992, p. 7.) reacts back on the words already written in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy and infuses those words with precision, authority, and special importance that those words supposedly did not possess prior to a formal church action?

THE QUESTION TO BE DECIDED BY THE WHOLE WORLD

“It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come

the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

“That the law which was spoken by God’s own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward. It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. He need not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained. For ‘whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.’ James 2:10. By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan’s power.

“Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world,” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 763.

Many are the voices now proclaiming that some specification of the law which was spoken by God’s own voice has been set aside at the cross. Let us each one weigh carefully the implication of that claim.

“Holiness is wholeness for God. It means perfect obedience to every precept of the law of God.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 12, p. 145.

Each one of us must search the book of the law and become knowledgeable with every precept it contains, for it is this law that will be sealed among the followers of Christ. Isaiah 8:16.

PASSOVER AND FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD



See the enclosed schedule for our Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread starting the evening of April 29 and going through May 7, 2018. Because this happens at the first of May we will not have a May newsletter. We hope to see you here! Lots of

places to stay here, free camping and rv hookups with electricity/water. Come and enjoy the many great speakers, see old friends and make new ones! We will begin the Passover program on the afternoon of Sunday, April 29 about 4 p.m. For those who have had questions about our timing, please note here at

Bible Explorations we go by the first visible new moon after the start of spring. We do not start our count in winter (before the spring vernal equinox which was March 20). You can see a great illustration and explanation about the equinox here <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/equinox-not-equal.html>.



Bible Explorations has studied into the calendar, timing, evening to evening, God’s righteousness including his love, justice and mercy, etc. We have a few who may come with differing views on several subjects and while they are welcome to come, we do not wish to argue or have those differing thoughts presented or pushed on folk at our camp. Thank you.



**EXCITING NEWS FOR
ALL OUR VIEWERS!**

NOW MORE WAYS TO FIND US!

As you know, we have had this ministry on satellite for several years around the world thanks to your support. However, it is quite expensive and we have decided to go towards other less expensive ways to spread the message as our funds won’t allow us to continue satellite much longer. The messages will continue to be seen worldwide. See the following.

Please go to www.BibleExplorations.com and in the upper right corner see Facebook and YouTube.  

Click on either one to get to our facebook or youtube channel. We have our programming 24/7 on our website, Roku, etc. We have **live programming** on Sabbath mornings and our camp meetings (twice a year) on our website, Roku (www.Roku.com) and also YouTube. Now we are excited to share another new way to view our programming. You can sign up **FREE** at www.ginikofaith.com. Check it out. This has many more ways you will be able to watch BETV/Bible Explorations! (Including Amazon Fire TV, Roku, GooglePlay, etc. for free!) Please let your friends know so everyone can continue to watch us as we phase out of the satellite programming! We do have a few more months on satellite for U.S./Canada and Australia/New Zealand. Please call or email for more information.

Info@BibleExplorations.com or **1-877-475-1318**.

DIRECTIONS

Bible Explorations welcomes all to a joyous experience of learning in Terra Bella, California April 29 (evening) through May 7, 2018.

Welcome to Spring 2018
*Passover and Feast of
Unleavened Bread*



Note: Campgrounds will be available the prior week (no charge).

If coming from the South, plan on 45 minute drive north from Bakersfield. Take Hwy 99. Passing through Bakersfield on Hwy 99 you will come to a cut-off to the right marked Hwy 65 to Porterville and Sequoia Parks. Take Hwy 65 north (the only way you can) past Ducor to Terra Bella, Ave. 95, (this is a stop signal). Turn East (right) on Ave. 95 & go about 3 miles to Rd. 256. Turn left (North) onto Rd. 256. Continue one long block to Ave. 100. Ave. 100 goes only to the right (East). Look for a red house on the left about one block from the corner of Rd. 256 and Ave. 100. **The address is 25810 Avenue 100, Terra Bella, CA 93270.**

If coming from the North, plan on 1 1/2 hour from Fresno. Continue South on Hwy 99 to Pixley. Watch close; it is but a little distance from Tipton. Take Ave 96 East to Hwy 65. Ave 96 will become Ave 95. (Continue east past the town of Terra Bella on Ave. 95 about three miles to Rd. 256. (There is Tuff Products at this' corner). Turn left (North) on to Rd. 256. Continue one long block to Ave. 100. Avenue 100 goes only to the right (East). Look for a red house on the left about one block from the corner of Rd. 256 and Ave. 100. **Address is 25810 Avenue 100, Terra Bella, CA 93270.** Campground entrance is on east side of house.

RVs and tents are welcome free with free electricity, water.

Available motels:

1. Motel 6 – least expensive (559-781-7600)
2. Best Western – has a Denny's (559-781-7411)
3. Holiday Inn Express – newest (559-782-1200)



INTERNET BROADCAST

While it is much better in person, some are unable to attend, so we will again broadcast live during the meetings. Please see website below to watch us over the internet

We will be live on BETV (Glorystar) for U.S./Canada & Australia/New Zealand

To watch online: www.bibleexplorations.com

You can also watch us on Roku and Google TV and YouTube.

For more information call: 877-475-1318