



# Bible Explorations Newsletter

April 2023 Issue

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## PASSOVER AND FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD 2023

The schedule is at the end of this newsletter. We will be getting close to starting when you receive this letter! Please join us on zoom, say hello and study with us just like you were here in person! Those who are unable to join live, we will be live on YouTube and Roku and the website. You can watch live or go back and watch them later. They will all be recorded on our YouTube channel.

## THE CHARACTER OF GOD REVEALED IN CHRIST

by Mrs. E. G. White

All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it

every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more. And it will be ours to realize the blessing which Paul desired for the Ephesian church when he prayed "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you *the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what *the riches of the glory* of His inheritance in the saints, and what *the exceeding greatness of His power* to usward who believe."

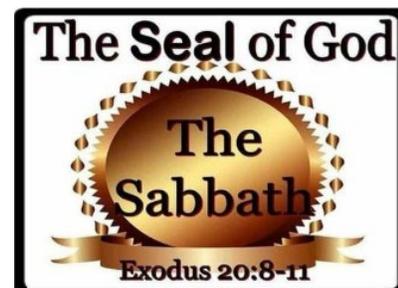
It is Satan's constant study to keep the minds of men occupied with those things which will prevent them from obtaining the knowledge of God. He seeks to keep them dwelling upon what will darken the understanding and discourage the soul. We are in a world of sin and corruption, surrounded by influences that tend to allure or dishearten the followers of Christ. The Saviour said: "Because iniquity shall

abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Many fix their eyes upon the terrible wickedness existing around them, the apostasy and weakness on every side, and they talk of these things until their hearts are filled with sadness and doubt. They keep uppermost before the mind the masterly working of the archdeceiver and dwell upon the discouraging features of their experience, while they seem to lose sight of the heavenly Father's power and His matchless love. All this is as Satan would have it. It is a mistake to think of the enemy of righteousness as clothed with so great power, when we dwell so little upon the love of God and His might. We must talk of the mightiness of Christ. We are utterly powerless to rescue ourselves from the grasp of Satan; but God has appointed a way of escape. The Son of the Highest has strength to fight the battle for us, and "through Him that loved us" we may come off "more than conquerors."

There is no spiritual strength for us in constantly brooding over our weakness and backslidings, and bemoaning the power of Satan. This great truth must be established as a living principle in our minds and hearts--the efficacy of the offering made for us; that God can and does save to the uttermost all who come unto Him complying with the conditions specified in His word. Our work is to place our will on the side of God's will. Then, through the blood of the atonement, we become partakers of the divine nature; through Christ we are children of God, and we have the assurance that God loves us even as He loved His Son. We are one with Jesus. We walk where Christ leads the way; He has power to dispel the dark shadows which Satan casts across our path; and, in place of darkness and discouragement, the sunlight of His glory shines into our hearts.

Our hope is to be constantly strengthened by the knowledge that Christ is our righteousness. Let our faith rest upon this foundation, for it will stand fast forever. Instead of dwelling upon the darkness of Satan and fearing his power, we should open our hearts to receive light from Christ and to let it shine forth to the world, declaring that He is above all the power of Satan, that His sustaining arm will support all who trust in Him.

Said Jesus: "The Father Himself loveth you." If our faith is fixed upon God, through Christ, it will prove "as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the Forerunner is for us entered." It is true that disappointments will come; tribulation we must expect; but we are to commit everything, great and small, to God. He does not become perplexed by the multiplicity of our grievances nor overpowered by the weight of our burdens. His watchcare extends to every household and encircles every individual; He is concerned in all our business and our sorrows. He marks every tear; He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. All the afflictions and trials that befall us here are permitted, to work out His purposes of love toward us, "that we might be partakers of His holiness" and thus become participants in that fullness of joy which is found in His presence. Published in *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 740-742



**THE SABBATH**  
By Ted Schultz

**The Church chose Sunday**

"God simply gave His [Catholic] Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days." Vincent J. Kelly, *Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations*, p. 2.

**The Catholic Church "supplanted" Sunday for the Sabbath**

"If any Sabbatarian wants to know the proper method of spending the Sunday, the Catholic Church is the natural source to apply to for information. Under her direction the Sunday supplanted the Jewish Sabbath, and she is, therefore, the best fitted to settle any dispute as to its claims." *The Catholic Press*, Sydney, Australia, Aug. 25, 1900. Emphasis supplied.

That which is often titled “the Jewish Sabbath,” is purely a human designation. The seventh day Sabbath is not a “Jewish Sabbath.” The Bible says plainly, “The seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God.” Exodus 20:10. The seventh day Sabbath existed for more than two thousand years before there was a Jew. Genesis 2:2-3. The term Jew comes from the name Judah, one of the sons of Jacob.

The Catholic Church openly admits that it “supplanted the Jewish Sabbath.” Supplant means to overthrow by tripping up, to supersede by force or treachery according to *Webster’s*. This definition is true to historical facts. Many yielded up their lives because they would not give up the Sabbath. We call to witness one noble example of unrelenting faith in Christ and His word.

“This was Barbary Von Thiers, who had been baptized by a Sabbatarian minister named Stephen Benedict. At her examination, she declared her rejection of Sunday and the holy days of the church, but said that ‘the Lord God had commanded rest on the seventh day;’ in this she acquiesced, and it was her desire, by the help and grace of God, to remain as she was, for it was the true faith and the right way in Christ.” Tamar Davis, *A General History of the Sabbatarian Churches*, pp. 106, 107. (1851). We call to witness two more souls of great faith. In 1565 Francis Davidis “contending that the ten commandments of the Decalogue were of a moral and immutable nature, and, consequently, that the seventh day of the week should be observed as a sabbatical rest. His views were highly offensive to Christopher Bathori, prince of Transylvania, who threw him into prison, where he died in 1579, at an advanced age....In 1585, Jacob Paleologus, of the isle of Chio, was burned at Rome for Judaism. At his trial, he declared that the ten commandments were moral and immutable in their nature. In other countries executions of a similar character took place; and the Semi-Judaizers [Sabbath keepers] were persecuted from region to region, like the vilest of mankind.” *Ibid.* pp. 98, 99.

Mosheim, in his *Ecclesiastical History* says that the ancient Passaginians [one of many names for the Waldenses] believed “that the law of Moses in

everything except the offering of sacrifices, was obligatory upon Christians; in consequence of which they circumcised their followers, abstained from those meats, the use of which was prohibited under the Mosaic economy, and celebrated the Jewish Sabbath.” John L. Mosheim, *An Ecclesiastical History, Ancient and Modern* (1871), Vol. 1, p. 333. Wave after wave of genocide through the centuries was brought against the Waldenses. It is an amazing thing that history reveals to us – man executing his fellow man for the horrible crime of keeping God’s commandments!

### **Catholics are in full possession of Sunday**

“Sunday is founded, not on Scripture, but on tradition. As there is no scripture for the transfer of the day of rest from the last to the first day of the week, Protestants ought to keep their Sabbath on Saturday and thus leave Catholics in full possession of Sunday.” *Catholic Record*, September 17, 1893.



Again, a free and open admission is made that Sunday sacredness is not Biblical but is based on tradition. On this point

history is repeating itself. It has always been a problem with God’s professed people to put tradition over the Scriptures. Jesus was faced with the same issue two thousand years ago. “Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophecy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:6-9. “Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.” Mark 7:9. Rome admits that keeping Sunday holy is a tradition that has superseded the Sabbath commandment of God. Rome is indeed telling the truth when it states that under her direction Sunday supplanted the Sabbath.

### **Proof of the Church’s power**

“Question. – Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals or precepts?

“Answer, – Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her, – she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” Rev. Stephen Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism*, p. 174, (1851).

### **“I abolish the Sabbath day”**

“The Bible says remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic church says No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And lo the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic church.” Thomas Enright, president of Redemptorist College, Kansas City, MO., in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, February 18, 1884, published in *American Sentinel* [a Roman Catholic journal], June, 1893.

### **Rome’s mark of authority**

“Sunday is our mark of authority...The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” *Catholic Record*, Sept. 1, 1923.

But the Bible says, “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.” James 1:18. “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31, 32. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” I Peter 1:23. The church was born out of the word of God and it is instructed to “continue” in the word. “And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4. “Of course the Catholic church claims that the change [from the Sabbath to Sunday] was her act ... and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.” From the office of Cardinal Gibbons, through Chancellor H. F. Thomas, November 11, 1895.

Rome claims that Sunday is the mark of her power. God proclaims that the seventh day Sabbath is the mark of His power. “Moreover also I gave them my

sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.... And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.” Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Exodus 31:17. The word sign in the original Hebrew means a signal, flag, beacon, **mark**, token, or monument. Certainly the seventh day Sabbath is a monument brought into existence by the Creator Himself to constantly remind us of His creative power to sanctify us. The seventh day Sabbath truly is a mark of God’s power. We are God’s possession both by creation and redemption. When we happily and freely keep His Sabbath holy we acknowledge Him as supreme in our lives and show our love for Him in our worship of Him and Him alone.

### **Not the Creator**

“Not the Creator of the Universe, in Genesis 2:1-3, but the Catholic Church can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven days.” S. C. Mosna, *Storia della Dominica*, pp. 366, 367, 1969.

Only our Creator God is worthy of honor and worship. The fact that God created man should be reason enough to lay the glory of man in the dust forever. It should call forth from man his highest praise to God and his deepest and undivided love and devotion to Him who made us and redeemed us.

The Scriptures say, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Revelation 4:11.

### **Compromise is impossible**

“Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.” Editor, *The Catholic Mirror*, September 23, 1893. The *Catholic Mirror* was an official publication of Cardinal Gibbons and the Papacy in the United States.



The question may be fairly set forth, how does one keep a day holy that God has not made holy or has never asked anyone to keep holy? Does not this call up the issue of loyalty? To whom will we be loyal? Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

### **The pagan Sunday made Christian**

"The church took the pagan philosophy and made it the buckler of faith against the heathen. She took the pagan Roman Pantheon, temple of all the gods, and made it sacred to all the martyrs; so it stands to this day. She took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday. She took the pagan Easter and made it the feast we celebrate during this season...

"The sun was a foremost god with heathendom...There is, in truth, something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the Sun of justice. Hence the church in these countries would seem to have said, 'Keep that old pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified.' And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder [the god of light and peace], became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus." Catholic World, Vol. 58, No. 348, March, 1894, p. 809.



Who was Balder to which the pagan Sunday was dedicated? Balder was a god in Norse mythology. According to this myth from the world of paganism, Balder was the son of Odin also called Adon or Adonis who is a counterfeit of Adonai. Christ, in the Hebrew of the Old Testament, is called Adonai – the Lord. Hislop informs us that Balder is the "Chaldee form of Baal-zer, 'The seed of Baal;' for the Hebrew z, as is well known, frequently, in the later Chaldee, became d. Now, Baal and Adon both alike signify 'Lord.'" Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 312. Baal was the ancient sun god of Phoenicia. It is extraordinarily interesting that Sunday became correlated with sun worship. And Balder, which is of the lineage of the counterfeit of Christ, was also involved in sun worship.

Ancient Israel blended the worship of this false sun Lord with the true creator LORD. Ezekiel the prophet

mentions "women weeping for Tammuz" and men "with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshiped the sun toward the east." Ezekiel 8: 14, 16. Tammuz is another name for Adon or Adonis. The birthday of Tammuz is purported to be December 25, just after the winter solstice – the shortest day of the year. Mithra like Tammuz was considered to be born on December 25. Historian Cumont says, "They [the Mithraists] held Sunday sacred, and celebrated the birth of the Sun on the 25th of December." Franz Cumont, *The Mysteries of Mithra*, 1910, pp. 190, 191. Just as ancient Israel quite literally had blended sun worship and its attendant false deities with the worship of Adonai the true God, so the Catholic Church, as we have seen by its own free and open admission, carried forward this ancient Sunday sacredness into modern times.

### **The New Law of the Catholic Church**

"The New Law has its own spirit, its own Sacrifice, and its own feasts, which have taken the place of those appointed in the Law of Moses. If we would know the days to be observed, or the regulations about them, or the spirit in which they are to be kept holy, we must go to the Catholic Church, not to the Mosaic Law. The Church tells us to keep Sunday holy, instead of Saturday, and to keep it in a Christian, and not a Jewish manner." John F. Bagshawe, *The Threshold of the Catholic Church—A Course of Plain Instructions for Those Entering Her Communion* (1874).

### **Endowed with power to teach**

"The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. We say by virtue of her divine mission, because He who called Himself the 'Lord of the Sabbath,' endowed her with His own power to teach, 'he that heareth you heareth Me'; commanded all who believe in Him to hear her, under penalty of being placed with the 'heathen and publican'; and promised to be with her to the end of the world. She holds her charter as teacher from Him—a charter as infallible as perpetual. The Protestant world at its birth [in the Reformation of the sixteenth century] found the Christian Sabbath [Sunday] too strongly entrenched to run counter to its existence; it was

therefore placed under the necessity of acquiescing in the arrangement, thus implying the church's right to change the day, for over three hundred years. The Christian Sabbath is therefore to this day the acknowledged offspring of the Catholic Church as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the Protestant world." The Catholic Mirror, Sept. 23, 1893. Emphasis supplied.

Jesus did promise power to the church in His gospel commission to the disciples. Notice His exact words in that commission. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:18-20. The commission gave no authority or power to change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week. Jesus warned of the effort of the religious leaders in His day to place the traditions of men over the commandments of God. "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Mark 7:7-9. From Jesus' own lips we receive warning of men who put tradition over the commandments of God.

A charter that is said to be both infallible and perpetual ought to uphold that which the Bible itself says is perpetual. The seventh day Sabbath is called "a perpetual covenant." "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." Exodus 31:16, 17. The underlying Hebrew word for perpetual is *olam* which means eternal, everlasting, without end. This Scripture is emphasizing the perpetuity of the law of God. Eternally, from the creation of this world to the earth made new, and beyond, the Sabbath will be

celebrated. The prophet Isaiah speaking the words of the Creator says:

"For, behold, I create new heavens and new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD" Isaiah 65:17; 66:22, 23.

The Creator so wants everyone to personally be able to witness this new creation when it takes place that He inspired the prophet John to say it again. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1, 4-5. **(To be continued...)**

## BECAUSE OF ALL OF YOU!!



Thank you for all your donations and prayers. We are able to share books and mail them out! We share God inspired messages to the world thanks to the internet! Please continue to pray and support this ministry. We do have monthly bills and we try to help others in need, as well as ship out books to people to share. We are not stopping until we hear a loud voice saying it is done. So pray and help us continue to spread the Good News we have. People are learning about the Great Hope we have. They are needing to know His commandments and statutes, too! We are trying to share that with every talk we have. Share our YouTube and website, Roku, etc. with family and friends. You never know who may see the right talk at the right time! God is in control!

**Next Newsletter will be May 2023**

***Bible Explorations Welcomes You to a Blessed Remembrance of our Lord's Sacrifice at the Time of the Passover***

**Wednesday, April 5 (Passover)**

The Christian Passover **pre-recorded** will be shown on our website & Roku various times throughout the 5<sup>th</sup>. See the website schedule: [www.BibleExplorations.com](http://www.BibleExplorations.com)

**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath ULB April 6**

8:00 – Kimber Hoffman  
*"The Substitute"*

9:00 – David Barron  
*"Is the Flat Earth a Last Day Truth?"*

10:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Spiritual and Prophetic Purposes of the Feasts"*

11:00 – Abel Camacho  
*"Doubting Thomas"*

**Friday – April 7**

8:00 – Kimber Hoffman  
*"The Cities of Refuge"*

9:00 – David Barron  
*"The Lunar Sabbath Deception"*

10:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Prophetic Confusion: Why So Much?"*

11:00 – Keith Bond  
*"The WEF and AI"*

**Sabbath, April 8**

7:00 – Eugene Sardis  
*"Three Books"*

8:00 – Kimber Hoffman  
*"The Enemy"*

9:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Spring Feasts: Prior Applications and Typology"*

10:00 – Abel Camacho  
*"Does God Kill?"*

11:00 – David Barron  
*"Sun God Worship Deception?"*

**Sunday – April 9**

7:00 – Eugene Sardis  
*"You Were Called, Why?"*

8:00 – Kimber Hoffman  
*"Lukewarm"*

9:00 – David Barron  
*"The Tender Mercies of the Wicked"*

10:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Fall Feasts: Prior Applications and Typology"*

11:00 – Ted Schultz  
*"The Condition of Salvation"*

**Monday – April 10**

7:00 – Christian Israel  
*"The Order of Heaven Part 1"*

8:00 – Kimber Hoffman  
*"Flashing Lights"*

9:00 – Ed and Linda Kotz  
*"Prophecies of Messiah Part 1"*

10:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Festival Cycle at the Second Coming"*

11:00 – Keith Bond  
*"How the Church Came up with Date for Day of Atonement"*

**Tuesday – April 11**

7:00 – Christian Israel  
*"The Order of Heaven Part 2"*

8:00 – Kimber Hoffman  
*"India Ministry Update"*

9:00 – Ed and Linda Kotz  
*"Prophecies of Messiah Part 2"*

10:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Festival Cycle at the End of the Millennium"*

11:00 – Hein de Wit  
*"Bible Economics"*

**Wednesday – Last Sabbath ULB April 12**

7:00 – Christian Israel  
*"The Order of Heaven Part 3"*

8:00 – Keith Bond  
*"TBA"*

9:00 – Hein de Wit  
*"Set Aside the Leaven-Communion"*

10:00 – Tom Stapleton  
*"Prophetic Update"*

11:00 – Abel Camacho  
*"The Cat's In the Cradle"*



**MARK YOUR CALENDER**

**JOIN US FOR FEAST OF  
TABERNACLES**

**SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH  
OCTOBER 7, 2023!!**

Also join us every Sabbath morning starting at 10 a.m. Pacific time and Wednesday evenings 5 p.m. Pacific time (Zoom, Roku, YouTube, Website)

"Search me oh God and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting"  
Ps.139:23-24

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth..." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

