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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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START SAVING AND PLANNING FOR SPRING

Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread are coming soon! Start preparing now for April 8 through 15, 2020. Hard to believe it is nearly 2020! We will have some great speakers lined up, so make your plans now! If anyone has questions, please just call or email! Remember us with your support and prayers. This is God’s ministry and we believe it is His will, as well as my dad’s, to continue. We are blessed by our Father and appreciate all your prayers for His guidance in all we do at Bible Explorations. With my dad gone, we have big shoes to fill, but I do think he would be happy with our continued work.

“There are only two places in the universe where we can place our treasures,—in God's storehouse or in Satan's; and all that is not devoted to God's service is counted on Satan's side, and goes to strengthen his cause. The Lord designs that the means entrusted to us shall be used in building up his kingdom. His goods are entrusted to his stewards that they may be carefully traded upon, and bring

back a revenue to him in the saving of souls. These souls in their turn will become stewards of trust, co-operating with Christ to further the interests of God's cause.” **RH December 24, 1903, par. 7**

“God is not pleased with the present showing. Our means is not to be bound up for years where it is not available for missionary work. This God forbids. He sees the great work to be done in various places throughout the world. He sees the cities in which memorials for Him are to be established, to proclaim the truth for this time. ... I have been commissioned to instruct our people to be economical, and always ready to give of their means to the Lord's work. If you have a thousand dollars to spare, God wants it; it belongs to Him. If you have twenty dollars to spare, God wants it. His vineyard is waiting to be worked.” **GCB April 7, 1903, par. 9-10**

THE FOUNDATION REMOVED

By Ted Schultz

One of the great evils that will come

Notice this statement from a Sabbath school quarterly. “The only throne in the wilderness tabernacle and in Solomon’s temple was in the Most Holy Place, where Christ dwelt continually.” *Adult Sabbath School Lessons*, July, August, September, 1996, p. 27. It’s almost as if the quarterly was plagiarizing Canright. This was Canright’s number one point of disagreement with the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the sanctuary doctrine. Canright said, “God’s throne was always in the most Holy of the sanctuary, between the cherubim, over the

ark, never once in the Holy place.” *Seventh-Day Adventism Renounced*, p. 122.

A throne in the holy place

The apostle John (like Isaiah 6:1-6) testifies that he saw a throne in the holy place. The apostle says, “And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunders and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.” Rev. 4:5. Twelve times John mentions a throne in the holy place in chapter four. And again John testifies, “And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.” Rev. 8:3. Notice that both the seven lamps of fire and the golden altar are said to be “before the throne.” These items of furniture were in the holy place, not the most holy place. The Spirit of Prophecy quotes Revelation 4:5 and 8:3 and confirms that John is describing the first apartment. “The holy places of the sanctuary in heaven are represented by two apartments in the sanctuary on earth. 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.’ Revelation 4:5. He saw an angel ‘having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which is before the throne.’ Revelation 8:3. Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven: and he saw there the ‘seven lamps of fire’ and ‘the golden altar,’ represented by the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth.” *The Great Controversy*, pp. 414, 415.

The right hand of the throne of God

After Canright and the Sabbath school quarterly have laid down the rule that the most holy place is the **only** place the throne is, then the way is open to establish that that is where Jesus went at His ascension. The before mentioned Sabbath school quarterly poses a question as to where Jesus went at his ascension. We will here quote that question with the texts they give as answer to that question. Then we will quote the paragraphs before and after that question to show the interpretation that has been placed upon Scripture that is given as supposed Bible evidence that Jesus went into the most holy place at His ascension. So, first of all, here is their question.

“Where did Christ go when He ascended to heaven after His death and resurrection? Mark 16:19: Eph. 1:20: Heb. 8:1; 12:2.”



Now we will quote the paragraph immediately preceding that question.

“Christ was represented by every priest who ministered in the court and the Holy Place during the

daily service (Heb. 10:11, 12). But all throughout the day-by-day services conducted in the court and the Holy Place, Christ Himself was present in the glory above the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place. He was present in the Most Holy Place while His ministry was only in the Holy Place. His Most Holy Place ministry, represented by the work of the earthly priest, did not take place until the Day of Atonement.” This paragraph was used to set the table for posing the question as to where Jesus went at His ascension. The next paragraph we quote immediately follows that question and is supposed to put the final answer to that question.

“We have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord’ (Heb. 8:1, 2, RSV). The only throne in the wilderness tabernacle and in Solomon’s temple was in the Most Holy Place, where Christ dwelt continually. As Christ’s ministry was only Holy Place ministry until the Day of Atonement, so His heavenly ministry was only Holy Place ministry until the antitypical Day of Atonement, which began in 1844. Just as Christ was present in the Most Holy Place during the *daily* service in the ancient tabernacle, so He occupies the throne with His Father during His Holy ministry prior to 1844.” *Adult Sabbath School Lessons*, July, August, September, 1996, p. 27.

So the short version answer the quarterly gives to the question as to where Jesus went at His ascension is that He went directly into the most holy place and has been there ever since. This publication of the General Conference would have God’s people believe that Jesus our High Priest for eighteen hundred years carried forward Holy Place ministry from the Most Holy Place. They arrive at this conclusion because they base everything on a faulty premise. What we have just read from the quarterly is what the servant of the Lord called a “false exposition of Scripture,” “theories that cannot be substantiated from Scripture,” “false theories,” and “specious error.” God had commanded Moses to tell Aaron **not** to go into the most holy place “at all times.” “And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy *place* within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.” Lev. 16:2. The word “*place*” is italicized in the *King James Version* showing that the word was supplied and is not in the original. But the context shows us the “holy” that Aaron was not to come “at all times” into was the most holy place where the ark and the mercy seat were. (Even the court of the tabernacle was called the holy place. Lev. 6:26). So we see that Aaron the High Priest, who was a type of Christ our High Priest, was not in the most holy place continually carrying on holy place ministry. Quite the contrary. If he had done so he would have died. God raised the importance of this issue to the level of life and death in the

typical service. What must it be in the antitypical! The Scripture is very clear on this point.

“The Lord has shown me in vision”

“The Lord has shown me in vision, that Jesus rose up, and shut the door, and entered the Holy of Holies, at the 7th month 1844.” A *Word to the “Little Flock”*, p. 12. Notice the first seven words of that statement—“the Lord has shown me in vision.” To say that Jesus went into the most holy place at His ascension, as scholars do today and as certain official General Conference publications such as the *Adventist Review, Ministry* and *Adult Sabbath School Lessons* are now teaching, is a denial of the visions. This is the very thing that the nominal Adventists did at the Albany Conference in April of 1845. They denied the visions.



“I saw a throne”

Notice also that the visions confirm to us that there was indeed a throne in the holy place and that both the Father and the Son sat thereon.

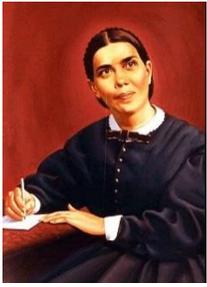
“I saw a **throne**, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus’ countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father’s person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, ‘If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist.’ Before the **throne** I saw the Advent people—the church and the world. I saw two companies, one bowed down before the **throne**, deeply interested, while the other stood uninterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the **throne** would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then He would look to His Father, and appear to be pleading with Him. A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the **throne**. But few would receive this great light. Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it: others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. Some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the little praying company. This company all received the light and rejoiced in it, and their countenances shone with glory.

“I saw the Father rise from the **throne**, and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the **throne**, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes

fixed on Him as He left the **throne** and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, ‘Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself.’ Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, ‘My Father, give us Thy Spirit.’ Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.

“I turned to look at the company who were bowed before the **throne**; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the **throne**, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the **throne**, and pray, ‘Father, give us Thy Spirit,’ Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan’s object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God’s children.” *Early Writings*, pp. 54-56.

Eleven times the servant of the Lord in this vision mentioned a throne in the holy place. Throughout the entire explanation of the vision’s portrayal of Jesus’ transition from the holy place to the most holy place Ellen White says: “I saw,” “I saw a throne,” “Before the throne I saw,” “Then I saw,” “I saw two companies,” “Then I saw an exceeding bright light,” “I saw the Father rise from the throne,” “There I beheld,” “I turned to look,” “I saw them look up to the throne.” If all of these claims by Ellen White of what she said she saw were false claims then she would be a fraud and the foundation of Adventism would be a sham and Adventism would fall. On the other hand, however, if she really did see the things she said she saw in vision, as true Seventh-day Adventists firmly believe she did, then the statements in our publications which state that Jesus went into the most holy place at His ascension and that He has been there since that time are a fraud. It would also follow that Ellen White was telling the truth when she warned that these fraudulent teachings would be “one of the evils that will come.” If people come to believe this fraudulent teaching would it not naturally follow that it would “lead many to depart from the faith” just as we have been warned? Yet despite the warnings and the examples of departures from the faith over this matter set squarely before us as a people, there is this industrious work to carry forward these very “false theories.” This deceptive and evil work has now been carried forward for many years in high places. It is time for God’s people to set their influence against it. *(To be continued...)*



A Sermon by Ellen White, 1894

Manuscript 26, 1894 [A sermon based [Deuteronomy 6:1-3](#) and [Isaiah 58:3-13](#), preached in the S.D.A. Chapel at Parramatta, N.S.W.]. It would have been wonderful to have heard her in person, but here she is speaking from the past, to all of us here today:

“Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: that thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.”



Here is a promise in keeping the commandments of God and teaching them to our children. What does that mean? Everyone who obeys the commandments of God from the heart, everyone who follows in the path of obedience, God makes the promise unto them. The heavenly intelligences are ready to

cooperate with them. “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” The Lord has declared, “That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.” If not, how can God let His blessing and protecting care and guardianship be over you?

The enemy is after His possessions. He pleads that the race has transgressed the commandments and says, “Let me bring my power to bear upon them.” But God can protect His people that are obedient. If you are disobedient, it is important that [you] consider your situation. There is some importance attached to obeying God's commandments. “Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God” (with two-thirds of thy heart? or with half of thy heart? or with a quarter?), “with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Who gave this direction? The invisible Leader enshrouded in the billowy cloud. Fathers and mothers, we want you to

hear sharply and with an understanding heart. “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. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” ([Deuteronomy 6:7-9](#); also [10-12](#)).

We want you to take in just the directions. We want to inquire, Fathers and mothers, are we to all intents and purposes carrying out the requirements of God's Word? Do we feel the necessity of surrendering our heart's affections to God? Who is following the word and obeying the commandments which He has specified? The words of God are of the highest value. We cannot afford to be negligent. If parents feel the sacredness of the truth, will they not seek to educate their children to right principles? Abraham commanded his household after him.

Great consequences are to be met: to the disobedient, no promises, no blessings, but the threatening of the Lord. God cannot take them to His kingdom nor take them to the city of our God, because they would have a second rebellion in heaven. We must every one of us take heed to the instruction God has given us.

As I was speaking to my natural sister, the wife of a Methodist minister, in regard to the requirements of the Word of God, she said she would keep the Sabbath if the whole world would keep it. The duty of keeping the Sabbath is plainly laid down before us, and God does not say, “If it is convenient.” Parents know it is a sacred thing to carry out these principles in the household. And if the parent expects to bring up his children in the right way he cannot play the lad. He must have growing dignity that Christ gives to a man. God so appreciated every soul that He “gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Here the Son comes into our world to practice self-denial, and although His own nation did not receive Him He was the infinite Son of God. He was working for the uplifting of the human race. How much does God value man? I point you to Calvary. [The] most ignominious death my Lord suffered that He might rescue you, yet He does not force any of you to serve Him. He does not force the will or conscience of any soul. God has given Jesus to our world and He wants us to search the Scriptures. He can put His Holy Spirit upon us and He says, “I am at thy right hand to uphold thee”—to walk with our hand in the hand of Jesus Christ, to love Him and to glorify Him. His love is without a parallel. No comparison can be made to that love. He was one with the Father and was suffered to die for us.

Christ in God and God in Christ. All this was to take men and women and bring them up from a state of sin,

disobedience, and transgression to favor with God. Man with Christ and Christ with God; the life and the obedience hid with Christ in God, that when He who is our life shall appear, we may appear with Him in glory.

Well-ordered and well-disciplined families are an example that God gives to our world. You want a well-ordered house. God wants the light of His love to rise upon you. He wants that His ministers should search for the careless ones—His heritage bought with His own blood. The children are God's property that you have in charge. It is no light matter to know how you shall deal with God's heritage—that you may have that wisdom that is from above, that at last you may be able to say, Here, Lord, are the children Thou hast committed to my charge.

What is your practice? Are you injuring your understanding through using narcotics, tobacco, wine, and liquor? I warn you of that path because God warns you all from it. You must give a good example to your children. It was sin that brought the agony upon the Son of the infinite God, taking the wrath of God upon His own divine soul. What hereditary trusts have you gathered? Have you gathered them up from Abel, Noah, Abraham? God says of Abraham, "I know him that he will command his children and his household after him."

You want to train your children not only for this life but for the future, immortal life as well. You want to have a hold upon God. God will inquire in the judgment, What have you done with My possession? There is a judgment to come and everyone [is] to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. God knows that we cannot cleanse the soul from a sin; He knows that there is no power with us.



Just as soon as Abraham pitched his tent he erected his altar, where he offered his morning and evening sacrifices to God. Today God wants you to offer up your morning and evening petitions to Him. Are you weak in moral power? Man, a partaker of the divine nature, may overcome what? The corruptions that are in the world through lust. That man may do justice in everything, and teach his children to do justice in everything, not by being idle, but that God had given them hands [that do] not hang useless. He wants everyone to exercise the talents that God has given them, waiting, watching, praying, and working.

"The night cometh, when no man can work." You know not how soon the time will come when your hands will be folded on your breast until you come forth in the resurrection. You know not how soon you may be called. Every day you are to go on a progressive work of sanctification. It is a work of a lifetime. Today we are to sow the fruits of the Spirit of Christ in our own character.

His goings forth are prepared as the morning. As you follow on to know the Lord you will understand more and more the light that is in reserve for you.

Why not honor the Creator of the heavens and the earth in obeying the fourth commandment? Why not, as the



Sabbath is approaching, Friday, have our business over before the sun goes down? And from the beginning of every week we shall be preparing our lessons for the Sabbath school.

Abraham worshiped the Lord and erected an altar which was a living testimony wherever he went, so that even the roving Canaanites recognized it. We want that every one should have his altar erected. Children should pray for the guardianship of the angels through the night. When next Sabbath comes, what will you do, fathers and mothers?

When my children were small we had a large family of adopted children. We would have our work away before the setting of the sun. The children would hail the Sabbath as a joy. They would say, Now father and mother will give us some of their time. We would take them out for a walk. We would take the Bible and some religious instruction to read to them, and explain to them the Scriptures. We would keep praying that they should know the truth of God's Word. We would not lie abed Sabbath mornings because it was Sabbath. We would have our preparations all ready the day before so that we could go to service without the hurry and worry. We would not stroll off and have a nice time to ourselves. We wanted our children to have all the privileges and blessings of God's sanctified rest day.

I'll read you what God wants us to consider. Let us read of what work should be done. We might as well set ourselves to it. I feel it is a sin to be idle. If I did not see the necessities of God's cause, I need not work so constantly. I draw in every line to raise the standard higher. We must love our neighbors as ourselves. We should work with the right hand and the left so that we might give to those who are in need. Christ tells us that we must help our brother that is falling into decay. If we fold our hands and be as butterflies, we can do no good in this world. We want you to see the importance that we should live to please somebody else. Just as soon as we see the necessities of those around us, we should take hold and help them. [Isaiah 58:3-8](#), quoted. Jesus Christ is our righteousness. Every step that Christ takes and we follow, the glory of the Lord is our reward. "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry," (now what?) "Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity," then there will be answers to our prayers.

We should not condemn the brother who falls into decay. There should be no judging. "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day." Do you want it thus? Do you want that the cloud of reproach should be rolled away? Lay up your treasure in heaven that when your Lord shall appear you may have the eternal weight of glory.

"And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." How many I have heard talk of the death of their souls. They did not seem to feel any burden for the souls for whom Christ died.

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Who is it that has torn down the fourth commandment, covered it up so that man should forget God? After He had created the world in six days He rested on the seventh. Every tree, shrub, and flower that God made testifies that He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh. He tells us that in six days He made heaven and earth. But a spy is on our track.

If one is arrested for working on the first day and keeping the Sabbath, do you hear him say, I will not keep the Sabbath any more? They are glad for the privilege of bringing the truth before the people. Shall we take the spurious and trample on the divine? No. If the prison is to be our home, we shall sing within the prison walls. Is it any more than the King of glory endured on our behalf?

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words." What God says is to be obeyed, irrespective of consequences and the commands of men.

That is why Paul and Silas were thrown into prison. The universe of heaven knew all about it. These men were singing praises to God. It was a new note the jailers heard. They were laid upon their backs, and their feet put in the stocks, and yet they touched a new note. Heaven's army approaches, and to their tread earth begins to quake. The jailer knew that those who kept the prison when Peter escaped were put to death. As the doors opened Paul did not say to the frightened jailer that it would be good enough for him to be put to death, but he did say, "Do thyself no harm." Then the jailer comes in and acknowledges the power of God and asks forgiveness for his cruelty and says, "What must I do to be saved?" He

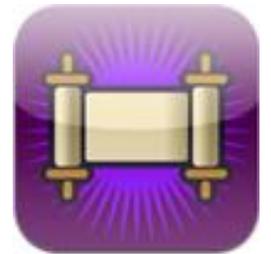
gives himself to God, washes the backs of Paul and Silas, and puts them in as comfortable a position as possible.

There was a desire on the part of the officers [magistrates] that Paul and Silas should quietly leave the jail; but Paul says No, you have scourged us, and though uncondemned you have imprisoned us; now take us out yourselves. That God lives today who wrought for Paul and Silas. May God help us to establish the fear of God in our homes. God help us that we may make straight paths for our feet. May God help us to help one another, and the Lord of Hosts will be with us and give us victory.—Ms 26, 1894

IT'S TIME, GET READY!

By Yolanda Zahn

"Thus saith the LORD stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16 As the churches of our day are uniting with the antichrist power they have neglected to teach the people of God's law, which are the commandments, statutes and judgments. True love inspired by grace always leads to obedience to the will of God. Read Romans 7:22 and Psalms 40:8. The law, in Hebrew the Torah, is mostly in the first 5 books of the Bible and is repeated in the New Testament by Christ and His disciples. Christ stated in Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled." Christ's disciple, Paul, states in Acts 24:14 "...so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets." What importance does God place on His laws, the commandments and statutes in the last days before the return of His son, Jesus Christ back to this earth? The prophet Malachi warns in Malachi 4:4, 5 "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." Before Christ's Second Coming God will send a message to all to come back to His ways, His will, His laws, to not only hear but to do and obey His laws of LOVE and instruction. God LOVES us and wants us to be with Him for eternity. Ezekiel 36:27 God states "...I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to talk in My statutes..." Deuteronomy 11:1 says "Therefore thou shalt LOVE the LORD they God and keep His charge, and His statutes, and His judgments, and His commandments, always."



God's law includes the 10 commandments, statutes and judgments. The statutes are meant to explain and define the 10 commandments. There are 613 laws but not all will

apply. Some are gender specific, some pertain to the temple service (not here), leprosy laws (modern medicine has healed), animal sacrifices (Daniel 9:27 ended), treatment of slaves, and others that are unapplicable. But, there still exist statutes that are applicable for today such as the dietary laws, human sexuality laws, ethics, behavior and relationship laws, true Biblical holidays, prejudice/bias, etc. The statutes mixed with the commandments are repeated in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 6:9 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

So, Christ’s death did not release us from obeying the Father’s laws, but rather gave us a new heart thru His Spirit to want to obey His laws. Jeremiah 36:33 says “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” God’s laws are really His special words to us for our happiness, to bring us blessings and true peace of mind. Deuteronomy 32:1,2 says “Give ear oh ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.” To do God’s will we need power and that power can only come from Jesus Christ in our heart. Christ’s presence in our heart will not only renew our heart but instead of saying “do I have to” I will say “I want to do thy will, draw me closer to thee.” Revelation 22:14 says “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, AND MAY ENTER IN THROUGH THE GATES INTO THE CITY.” “He which testifieth these things saith, SURELY I COME QUICKLY AMEND. EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS.”

JESUS IS COMING BACK. GET READY!!

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAYS – QUOTES FROM THE PEN OF ELLEN WHITE (REVIEW & HERALD, 1884-1888)

Anciently the children of Israel were commanded to keep three annual feasts each year: The Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Feast of Weeks. The Lord gave directions that on these occasions their gifts and offerings were to be consecrated to Him, and none should appear before Him empty-handed. But in our day it has become fashionable to observe these festal occasions in a manner that would divert the mind from God instead of bringing glory to His name. Those whom God has blessed with prosperity should acknowledge the Giver, and feel that where much is given, much will be required. Our holidays have been perverted from their intended use. Gifts are lavished upon one another, and praise which should have

been given to God, to whom all these things belong, is bestowed upon poor mortals.

There is no divine sanctity resting upon the twenty-fifth of December; and it is not pleasing to God that anything that concerns the salvation of men through the infinite sacrifice made for them, should be so sadly perverted from its professed design. Christ should be the supreme object; but as Christmas has been observed, the glory is turned from Him to mortal man, whose sinful, defective character made it necessary for Him to come to our world. ...

Jesus, the Majesty of heaven, the royal King of heaven, laid aside His royalty, left His throne of glory, His high command, and came into our world to bring to fallen man, weakened in moral power, and corrupted by sin, aid divine. He clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might reach to the very depths of human woe and misery, to lift up fallen man. By taking upon Himself man's nature, He raised humanity in the scale of moral value with God. Those great themes are almost too high, too deep, too infinite, for the comprehension of finite minds.

Parents should keep these things before their children and instruct them, line upon line, precept upon precept, in their obligation to God--not their obligation to each other, to honor and glorify one another by gifts and offerings. But they should be taught that Jesus is the world's Redeemer, the object of thought, of painstaking effort; that His work is the grand theme which should engage their attention; that they should bring to Him their gifts and offerings. Thus did the wise men and the shepherds...

Thousands of dollars (in 1884) are needlessly spent every year in gifts to each other. That is means lost to God, lost to His cause. It pleases the vanity, encourages pride, creates all kinds of dissatisfaction, murmuring, and complaints, because perhaps the gifts are not just what was desired, not of the high value wanted or expected. Christmas is not observed as its name implies it should be. Man has forsaken God in almost everything, and has turned the attention to self. He has left the pure springs of living waters which flow from the throne of God, and hewn out to himself broken cisterns which can hold no water. God gave man a probation that he might be fitted for heaven. He was to look upward to God, who was to be the soul's adoration, but talent, skill, and inventive powers are all exercised to make self the supreme object of attention. Man has withdrawn his gaze from Deity, and fastened his eyes upon the finite, the earthly, the corruptible. Satan is in this work to put God out of the mind and interpose the world and self that the eye shall not be single to the glory of God. Satan captivates and ensnares the mind. His infernal wisdom is continually exercised to mold and fashion the material with which he



has to deal, to make God the least and the last object of devotion...

Let us represent the Christian life as it really is; let us make the way cheerful, inviting, interesting. We can do this if we will. We may fill our own minds with vivid pictures of spiritual and eternal things, and in so doing help to make them a reality to other minds. Faith sees Jesus standing as our Mediator at the right hand of God. Faith beholds the mansions He has gone to prepare for those who love Him. Faith sees the robe and crown all prepared for the overcomer. Faith hears the songs of the redeemed, and brings eternal glories near. We must come close to Jesus in loving obedience if we would see the King in His beauty.

FALSE SHEPHERDS

By Ellen White, Early Writings

I have been shown that the false shepherds were drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. The truth of God is sealed up to them; they cannot read it. When they are interrogated as to what the seventh-day Sabbath is, whether or not it is the true Sabbath of the Bible, they lead the mind to fables. I saw that these prophets were like the foxes of the desert. They have not gone up into the gaps, they have not made up the hedge that the people of God may stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. When the minds of any get stirred up, and they begin to inquire of these false shepherds about the truth, they take the easiest and best manner to effect their object and quiet the minds of the inquiring ones, even changing their own position to do it. Light has shone on many of these shepherds, but they would not acknowledge it and have changed their position a number of times to evade the truth and get away from the conclusions that they must come to if they continued in their former position. The power of truth tore up their foundation, but instead of yielding to it they would get up another platform that they were not satisfied with themselves.

I saw that many of these shepherds had denied the past teachings of God; they had denied and rejected the glorious truths which they once zealously advocated and had covered themselves with mesmerism and all kinds of delusions. I saw that they were drunken with error and were leading on their flock to death. Many of the opposers of God's truth devise mischief in their heads upon their beds, and in the day they carry out their wicked devices to put down the truth and to [124] get something new to interest the people and divert their minds from the precious, all-important truth. I saw that the priests who are leading on their flock to death are soon to be arrested in their dreadful career. The plagues of God are coming, but it will not be sufficient for the false shepherds to be tormented with one or two of these plagues. God's hand at that time will be stretched out still in wrath and justice and will not be brought to Himself again until His purposes are fully accomplished, and the hireling priests are led to

worship at the feet of the saints, and to acknowledge that God has loved them because they held fast the truth and kept God's commandments, and until all the unrighteous ones are destroyed from the earth. The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given all these truths to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. He has also given them truths that none of these parties know, neither will they understand. Things which are sealed up to them, the Lord has opened to those who will see and are ready to understand. If God has any new light to communicate, He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error.

I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.

I saw that we have no time to throw away in listening to fables. Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth, and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be able to give a reason of our hope from the Scriptures. While false doctrines and dangerous errors are pressed upon the mind, it cannot be dwelling upon the truth which is to fit and prepare the house of Israel to stand in the day of the Lord.

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THANK YOU! "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** (KJV)

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