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Bible Explorations Newsletter

March 2023 Issue

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COMING SOON! LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

This Spring, Bible Explorations will be hosting Passover/Unleavened Bread here in Overton, Nevada from April 5th through April 12th. After several years apart, we are excited to be able to fellowship together in person! Similar to Terra Bella, there will be RV/camper sites and tent camping available nearby. Also, we have access to some houses where individuals or groups can rent rooms with a donation to help cover the cost of utilities. There will be more than one family in a house, which will allow for more time to connect with one another. Please help us prepare for you by informing us of your intent to come as well as your anticipated arrangements. If you are willing and able, we also welcome extra donations marked "Passover" to help cover some of the expenses of those unable to contribute much. This property does not belong to Bible Explorations, therefore, we have increased expenses compared to

Terra Bella. Thank you and we are so grateful for any way you can help Bible Explorations spread the good news!

This will be a first here in Overton and I am looking forward to seeing you! Of those coming here, a few will be speakers which will present live as well as on Zoom, and the remaining speakers will be on Zoom as usual. There are several nice, large areas here for communing together. The schedule for the Feast will involve morning messages, followed by afternoon fellowship and exploring. Valley of Fire State Park, which also has campsites, is not far and very interesting to visit. There is also a museum in town showcasing the indigent people of this region- a fascinating educational experience for both kids and adults!

We cannot wait to hear from you! This world is getting colder and darker every day. So much evil abounds. We know His coming is soon, but we also all need encouragement to keep up the good fight! Join us this Spring!

FAMILY COMPANIONSHIP
 Ellen White

We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company. Psalm 55:14.

Throw around your children the charms of home and of your society. If you do this, they will not have so much desire for the society of young associates.... Because of the evils now in the world and the restrictions necessary to be placed upon the children, parents should have double care to bind them to their hearts and let them see that they wish to make them happy.

Let parents devote the evenings to their families. Lay off care and perplexity with the labors of the day.... Let the evenings be spent as happily as possible.



Form a home reading circle, in which every member of the family shall lay aside the busy cares of the day and unite in study. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, take up this work heartily, and see if the home church will not be greatly improved.... Read the literature that will give you true knowledge and that will be a help to the entire family.

If they would gather the children close to them, and show that they love them, and would manifest an interest in all their efforts, and even in their sports, sometimes even being a child among children, they would make the children very happy and would gain their love and win their confidence.

Brought up under the wise and loving guidance of a true home, children will have no desire to wander away in search of pleasure and companionship. Evil will not attract them. The spirit that prevails in the home will mold their characters; they will form habits and principles that will be a strong defense against temptation when they shall leave the home shelter and take their place in the world. *My Life Today*

Please note the above devotion is for “families” and I believe this includes “church family” as well. Please join us here in Overton, if you can, or at least on Zoom to join and talk with us. We need each other during this end times. His coming is near, and the closer it gets, the more evil the world gets.

Let us share with each other our trials as well as our victories! Encourage one another! We will be a happy

family with MANY OTHERS soon in heaven! Let’s share with the world what we know. They need the encouragement and hope that we have. He is coming soon, let’s ALL be ready!

PRAYERS FOR OUR B.E. FAMILY



As some of you know, we lost another wonderful man in February. Dave Baxter is sleeping now, waiting with so many others for that Great Day. It was sudden and really shocked us. Zoom and Bible Explorations will not be the same. He was always there, always working, helping everyone. Please say prayers for his family. I spoke to him nearly every day. He was always encouraging and happy. Never let anything seem to get him down. It’s such a loss. While I wait for heaven to come soon, I realize there are still those out there we need to reach with His love. Keep us all in prayer that we stay strong and faithful until the end.

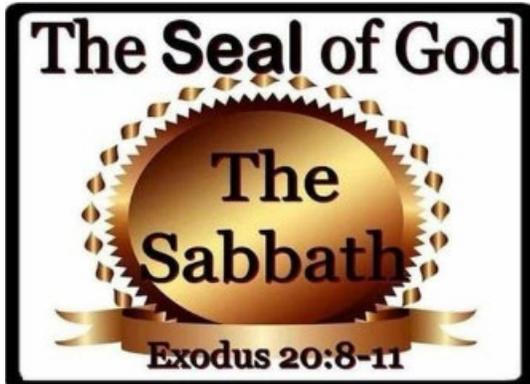
WHAT IS GOD’S JUSTICE?

Ellen G. White

What a lesson is this to men holding positions of responsibility today in the church of God! What a solemn warning to deal faithfully with wrongs that bring dishonor to the cause of truth! Let none who claim to be the depositaries of God's law flatter themselves that the regard they may outwardly show toward the commandments will preserve them from the exercise of divine justice. Let none refuse to be reprov'd for evil, nor charge the servants of God with being too zealous in endeavoring to cleanse the camp from evil-doing. A sin-hating God calls upon those who claim to keep His law to depart from all iniquity.

A neglect to repent and to render willing obedience will bring upon men and women today as serious consequences as came upon ancient Israel. There is a limit beyond which the judgments of Jehovah can no longer be delayed. The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that the counsels and admonitions given them

through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity. (*Prophets and Kings, Chap 34, Pg 416-417*)



THE SABBATH

By Ted Schultz

“The apostles kept Sunday...as a holy day”

An old book of instruction for the Catholic faithful written by Leonard Goffine in 1690 has received more “approbations” than most books that have been published by Catholic writers. Cardinal Gibbons wrote the Preface to a new edition of that book in 1896. In addition, fifteen archbishops and forty-six bishops gave their approbation to this work. Under the heading of **Sunday** we find this instruction:

“Why do we Christians keep Sunday as a holy-day instead of Saturday, which was the day observed under the Old Law?

“The apostles kept Sunday, the first day of the week, as a holy-day for these reasons:” (Then follows four reasons given as to why they kept Sunday as a supposedly holy day).

But no Scripture was given as evidence that the apostles kept Sunday. This is for a good reason. There are no texts to support Sunday sacredness. There are only eight verses that mention “the first day of the week.” Here they are in the order they occur in the New Testament:

1) Matthew 28:1. “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.”

2) Mark 16:1, 2. “And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.”

3) Mark 16:9. “Now when Jesus was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.”

4) Luke 24:1. “Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.”

5) John 20:1. “The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher.”

6) John 20:19. “Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”

7) Acts 20:7. “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

8) 1 Corinthians 16:2. “Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

None of these “first day” texts say anything about the apostles keeping the first day of the week as a holy day. No mention is made about a church service. Nor is there any mention about Jesus or the apostles changing the sanctity of the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week – for any reason. None of these first day texts call the first day the Lord’s day. The above first five texts show us that the women went to the tomb on the first day of the week **after** they “rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.” Luke 23:56.

Luke, a Gentile, wrote this about thirty years after the resurrection. Luke's account shows that the women who loved Jesus kept the Sabbath **after** the death of Christ. Luke, who also wrote the book of Acts, mentions "the first day of the week" only once in the book of Acts, but mentions the Sabbath nine times.

Catholic Press

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...From the beginning to the end of Scripture there is not a single passage which warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." *Catholic Press* (Sydney), August 25, 1900.

Catholic Christian Instructed

"Question. – Has the [Catholic] church power to make any alterations in the commandments?

"Answer. – ...Instead of the seventh day, and other festivals appointed by the old law, the church has prescribed the Sundays and holy days to be set apart for God's worship; and these we are obliged to keep in consequence of God's commandment, instead of the ancient Sabbath." – Rt. Rev. Dr. Challoner, *Catholic Christian Instructed*, p. 211.

Proof of the church's power to command holy days

"Question, – By whom was it [the Sabbath] changed?

"Answer, – By the governors of the church, the apostles, who also kept it; for St. John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day which was Sunday. Apoc. 1:10.

"Ques. – How prove you that the church hath power to command feasts and holy days?

"Ans. – By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.

"Ques. – How prove you that?

"Ans. – Because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin; and by not keeping the rest [of the feasts] by her commanded, they again

deny, in fact, the same power." Rev. Henry Tuberville, D.D.R.C., *An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine*, p. 58. (1833).

The answer to the first question above is not biblical as we have already shown. There is no verse in the Bible that refers to the first day of the week being the Lord's day.

Pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws

"The Pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ." *Ferraris' Ecclesiastical Dictionary*, Decretal de Tranlatic Epriscop. Cap.

The prophecies of Scripture foretold of a power that would "think to change times and laws." Daniel 7:25. This claim of the pope's power is a direct fulfillment of prophecy.

Pope can modify divine law

"The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth." Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliothica*, "Papa," art. 2, translated.

But where in Scripture does God give to any man the command to change His law? God has given a warning not to tamper with his law. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2. "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." Deuteronomy 12:32.

The prophecies that speak of a power that thinks to change God's law is also spoken of as receiving "his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:2) from the dragon – not God. Revelation 12:9 tells us who the dragon is.

Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday

"Question.–Which is the Sabbath day?

"Answer.–Saturday is the Sabbath day.

“Ques.–Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?”

“Ans.–We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A. D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” Rev. Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, p. 50, 2nd. Edition, 1910. This catechism received the blessing of Pope Pius X.

Nowhere in the Bible

“Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday.” Martin J. Scott, *Things Catholics Are Asked About*, (1927 ed.), p. 136.

This statement in its brevity states the matter as it actually is. Indeed, there is not a text of Scripture in either the Old or New Testaments where Sunday is sanctified. This, Cardinal Gibbons now assures us.

“Is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday and to abstain on that day from unnecessary servile work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, (1917 ed.), pp. 72, 73. Emphasis supplied.

If the Bible is consulted

“If we consulted the Bible only, we should still have to keep holy the Sabbath Day, that is Saturday.” John Laux, *Course in Religion for the Catholic High Schools and Academies*, Vol. 1, (1936 ed.), p. 51.

Catechism of the Council of Trent

The decisive Counter Reformation Council of Trent which was held from 1545 to 1563 resulted in the *Catechismus Romanus*. Three years after the Council Pope Pius V ordered the Vatican Press to publish the catechism for all the priests. This catechism says, “It pleased the church of God, that the religious celebration of the Sabbath day should be

transferred ‘to the Lord’s day [Sunday]’” *Catechism of the Council of Trent* (Donovan’s translation, 1867), Part 3, chap. 4, p. 345. **(To be continued...)**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK



Bible Explorations has a large family and we have people who need to have prayers sent up for them. I know my list does not include nearly everyone, but the ones I know right now are listed below.

Marvin and Cheryl Richardson – Marvin had cancer, seems to be cancer-free but has issues with his bones and legs he has had since birth. It is very hard for him to walk now. Please keep him in prayer.

His wife Cheryl has much more serious issues. She found out a spot on her head was cancerous. They feel the cancer has gone into her body more, but they are trying to treat it where it is and hope it all goes. God is good and hears our prayers. They say it is on her head and into her brain, so they cannot cut it out right now. I don’t know all the details, but please keep her in prayer.



Rodney Davis had big fall Friday! He fell on his back and broke his C6. He is in the hospital but may be home when you read this. The family decided against surgery; they wanted to put a pin in. So they are making him a strong neck brace so he is immobile for 3 months at least and let God heal it. Keep him in prayer. He is always so positive and works so hard, even when he is down. Also keep his wife Lyleen in prayer. She has been busy right along with him preparing things here for Charmaine’s cleansing retreat (March 8-15) and also getting the area ready for our upcoming Passover/Unleavened Bread camp here (April 5-12)!

Keep **Carol Wright** in prayer. She made it back home from rehab but is so weak. She has trouble walking and will be moving to her sister’s when they are ready. But as always, she is still always positive!!

Violet Smith (92) is going to be going into a home

soon. She has trouble walking, her legs just don't want to behave. However...as you see on our zoom, she ALWAYS has a smile. Such a sweet lady, and we love her so much. She has so much wisdom for us! Both of these ladies have been part of Bible Explorations for years. Keep them both in prayer.

There are also many who are having troubles either financially or spiritually. Pray they will be given the right amount of faith and know God has not left them. He is coming soon and He is in control. The world looks like it's going down, but then it has to before He returns, so in a way this is a good thing! I so want to see those who are asleep waiting for the Trump. Pray that those of us still here stay strong! We are family! Let us know if you need prayer, too.

FAMILY WORSHIP IN MY LIFE

My Life Today, Ellen G. White

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10.

If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin, the moral powers are under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptation; and unless some mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the arch rebel leads the way.

And yet in this time of fearful peril some who profess to be Christians have no family prayer....

The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan's most successful devices to ruin souls. Prayer is communion with God, the fountain of wisdom, the source of strength and peace and happiness. Jesus prayed to the Father "with strong crying and tears." ... "Pray one for another," James says; "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

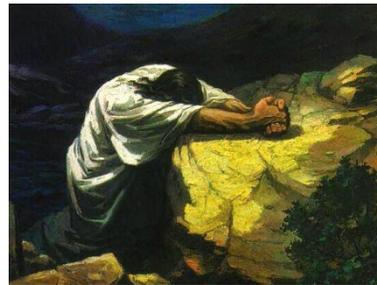
By sincere, earnest prayer parents should make a hedge about their children. They should pray with full faith that God will abide with them, and that holy angels will guard them and their children from Satan's cruel power....

How appropriate it is for parents to gather their children about them before the fast is broken and point them to the heavenly Father, who so liberally gives them the bounties of His providence! How fitting for them to thank Him for His protection during the night and to ask for His help and grace and the watchcare of His angels during the day! How fitting, also, when evening comes, to gather once more before Him and praise Him for the mercies and blessings of the day that is past!

GETHSEMANE

Desire of Ages, Ellen G. White

In company with His disciples, the Saviour slowly made His way to the garden of Gethsemane. The Passover moon, broad and full, shone from a cloudless sky. The city of pilgrims' tents was hushed into silence.



Jesus had been earnestly conversing with His disciples and instructing them; but as He neared Gethsemane, He became strangely silent. He had often

visited this spot for meditation and prayer; but never with a heart so full of sorrow as upon this night of His last agony. Throughout His life on earth He had walked in the light of God's presence. When in conflict with men who were inspired by the very spirit of Satan, He could say, "He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." John 8:29. But now He seemed to be shut out from the light of God's sustaining presence. Now He was numbered with the transgressors. The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father's love. Feeling how terrible is the wrath of God against transgression, He exclaims, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death."

As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and

silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause. His form swayed as if He were about to fall. Upon reaching the garden, the disciples looked anxiously for His usual place of retirement, that their Master might rest. Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth.

Near the entrance to the garden, Jesus left all but three of the disciples, bidding them pray for themselves and for Him. With Peter, James, and John, He entered its secluded recesses. These three disciples were Christ's closest companions. They had beheld His glory on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen Moses and Elijah talking with Him; they had heard the voice from heaven; now in His great struggle, Christ desired their presence near Him. Often they had passed the night with Him in this retreat. On these occasions, after a season of watching and prayer, they would sleep undisturbed at a little distance from their Master, until He awoke them in the morning to go forth anew to labor. But now He desired them to spend the night with Him in prayer. Yet He could not bear that even they should witness the agony He was to endure.

“Tarry ye here,” He said, “and watch with Me.”

He went a little distance from them—not so far but that they could both see and hear Him—and fell prostrate upon the ground. He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it. This agony He must not exert His divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequences of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression...

...Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but He heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, “O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.” Yet even now He adds, “Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.” (*Desire of Ages, Ch. 74*)

The above words hurt my heart so deep. Can you imagine going through that? He loved us so much, and none of us deserve anything He gave. However, He freely gave it anyway. Let's love Him and give Him our hearts completely. Pray for forgiveness. He and His Father deserve our all.

SPEAKERS FOR 2023 PASSOVER/UNLEAVENED BREAD

April 5-12: We have several speakers lined up. There are a couple that will be here in Nevada, but all of them will still be via zoom, so you will be able to join if you don't make it here this spring! However, we hope you do.

We will have Keith Bond, Abel Camacho, Mille and Paul Caggiano, Ed and Linda Kotz, Kimber Hoffman, Hein de Wit, Tom Stapleton, David Baron, and Ted Schultz. This is the list so far! It will be a great one, as always!

Please continue to pray and support this ministry. There will be costs for this camp meeting. It differs from Terra Bella because we do not own this. However, it will all work out! We also continue to have monthly bills, some which have gone up, even for zoom, web service, mailing, equipment, etc. so we appreciate it all. 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. There are so many “finding God” right now because of the problems in the world, it's all upside down. However, they are needing to know His commandments and statutes! 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!

MORE YUMMY VEGAN RECIPES!



SIMPLE SPANISH STEW *Veganuary-Sally Thompson*

This flavor-packed but simple Spanish stew is easy to create and even easier to eat! Read our instructions on how to create this classic, plant-based vegan stew.

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cooking Time: 90 minutes
Serves: 2

INGREDIENTS: (DOUBLE IF YOU LIKE)

2 servings of Pearl Barley
1 Vegetable Stock Cube
1 Tin of Plum Tomatoes
1 Handful Whole Black Pitted Olives
1 White Onion, diced largely
1 Sweet Red Pepper, diced largely
1/2 Butternut Squash, diced largely
1 Tin of Chickpeas
2 tsp Smoked Paprika
1 Tbsp Nutritional Yeast
Sea Salt & Black Pepper to taste
Lemon Juice
Fresh Flat leaf Parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

Boil the pearl barley in a separate pan for approximately 30-40 minutes.

In a large stew pan, fry off the onion until lightly browned, adding in each of the seasonings.

Add the butternut squash and a touch of water to help it soften. Steam for around 10 minutes.

Add the remaining vegetables and steam for a further 5 minutes.

Add the vegetable stock and tinned tomatoes, bringing the whole mix to the boil.

Simmer for another 30 minutes, adding the chickpeas and kale after around 20 minutes.

Stir in the pearl barley and stir thoroughly.

Serve with a sprig of parsley on the top! Season to taste.

Eat with yummy homemade bread, crackers, pita bread or anything you like! Add some vegan sour cream on top! Enjoy!

HEALTHY SAUTEED APPLES

Beauty Bites.org

These healthy sauteed apples are quick and easy to make with cinnamon, vanilla and without any added sugar. If you're wondering what to do with the apples lounging in your kitchen, don't hesitate and make this delicious low-calorie dessert with apples in 5-8 minutes.



Prep Time: 3 minutes
Cook Time: 5 minutes
Total Time: 5 minutes

INGREDIENTS

4 apples, peeled, cored and chopped
2 tsp coconut oil
1 tbsp water
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp vanilla
a pinch of nutmeg
a pinch of salt
optional: 1 tsp maple syrup

INSTRUCTIONS

Peel, core and chop the apples into bite-sized pieces.

Add them to a nonstick pan with coconut oil, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla and a little splash of water and stir together to coat. Cover and cook at medium-high heat for one minute.

Then take the lid off, reduce heat and keep stirring occasionally for another 3-4 minutes or until some of the apples become golden brown.

Take out and serve immediately. You can add nuts to it, too! Anything you like! Or use it for ice cream topping (vegan or not!)

Jesus IS Coming Soon! Let's Be Ready!

