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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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BABYLON AND ITS KING

Talking of Babylon it is written that “her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Question: does America’s sins, like Babylon of old, have sins that will reach up to heaven?

Some suggest that it was sin when on June 25, 1962, the Supreme Court took prayer out of the schools, on January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court legalized abortion. And how next the Supreme Court legalized same sex marriage, then how did our nation stand before God? Then we rebuild with the Freedom Tower draped in rainbow colors and the White House became colored the same way. We remember, we rebuild and we come back stronger. - - - Without You God!

Whether or not these things so important in the minds of many God-fearing folk today, are counterbalanced by a power in Europe that is very determined to unite the world under one banner or another.



Fortunately we still have the Constitution and its amendments. Or do we? Ever since the “drug bust” made at a certain Indian religious ceremony in California, the Constitution has been attacked by statesmen and civilians alike. Attacked and reinterpreted, and sometimes overlooked. To many it is an outmoded document that needs revitalizing for today’s world.

Who understands all of this?

And he said: Go thy way Daniel, for the words are closed and sealed up till the time of the end

“And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river. How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times and a half, and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

The pope, talking to Congress last September made this ultimately clear to be his policy:

“The challenges facing us today call for renewal of that **spirit of cooperation**, which has accomplished so much good throughout the history of the United States. The complexity, the gravity and the urgency of these challenges demand that we pool **our resources and talents**, and resolve to support one another, with respect for our differences and our convictions of conscience

“We need a conversation which **includes everyone**, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

It appears that anything or, any one, that joins a depraved society with this one world resistance is bound to clash.

So where are we heading? For what? And when? Only those who read their Bibles with meekness and prayer will understand.

“Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.”

Will the sleazy, [or wicked as the Bible calls them] join with the rest of the world on a common issue? Will it then turn against the “heretics” that won’t go along with them? Will they be forced to go along with it? Will they not be able to buy or sell, and some of them simply disappear?

Like the prophet Daniel said: “Only the wise shall understand.”

“ALL THE WORLD WONDERS AFTER THE BEAST.”

This is absolutely Biblical! It will happen, and as Daniel says “only the wise shall understand.” Although it is written in somewhat shadowy script, still more and more of it is becoming obvious as things progress.

(Rev 17:8) The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the

book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The reason they wonder is because they have no understanding of it. Even as plainly as it is written, the wicked cannot understand.

(Rev 17:9) And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

(Rev 17:10) And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

This was looked at in previous sermons, and some of the exciting interpretations laid out for us to examine. SDA should be understanding it. And we will, but it all leads to verse 11.

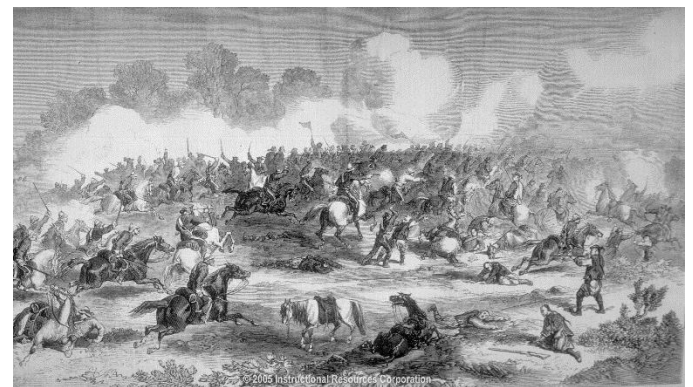
(Rev 17:11) And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

This, too, will be a welcome relief for the suffering saints.

(Rev 17:12) And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

(Rev 17:13) These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

This is not good news, but look at how their focus has changed. From a war with the saints to a war with Christ at His second coming.



(Rev 17:14) These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

CALLED out of Babylon
CHOSEN as the bride of Christ
FAITHFUL as in obedience

(Rev 17:15) And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

So then we are right about the east representing an amalgamated world.

(Rev 17:16) And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

What would change their minds more than finding out they had been conned into the biggest confrontation the world has ever seen! Thinking they were right had only confused them into fighting an invasion by Christ. But, enough truth is found in Scripture for them to have no excuse for missing their destination.

(Rev 17:17) For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

What words of God? We can return to Daniel for them:

(Dan 11:43) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians *shall be* at his steps.

(Dan 11:44) But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

Tidings out of the north: Christ preparing to return, and does return from the sides of the north.

Tidings out of the east: The sealing angel approaches earth from the east and seals those to be saved through the final holocaust.

(Dan 11:45) And he (Satan. or his representative,)

He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

As we saw in the Revelation, the ten kings turn against him. He seems to be void of any human friends at this time. They have lost the war and now know who it is that they have been fighting, but it is too late for them.

Only those remaining on God's side, keeping His commandments, statutes and judgements, are safe. They are loyal, they are true, and they have been faithful.

When Christ was questioned: "When questioned why He did not join in the frolics of the youth of Nazareth, He said, 'It is written, I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in Thy precepts and have respect unto Thy ways. I will delight myself in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word.'" DA89.4; Psalm 119:14-16.

How about you? Are not His answers good enough to emulate?

So what is our desire?

"That stumbling blocks that have hindered the progress of truth be removed, and God have a clean and holy people to declare His statutes and His judgements." 1T333

[The Feast of Unleavened Bread](#)

This was truly one of the best Feasts we have ever shared. It seems that all the speakers had been zeroing in on the end-time prophecies. There were up-to-date messages on the nearness of the time of trouble, how to be ready for it, and what we can do about it. Everyone had the same focus but each showed a different way of getting there. None of the speakers had the attitude that it is either my way or no way. All gave their views with the idea of sharing tools to help people do their own research, as well as what all of these things mean in today's world.



Truly the Passover and Unleavened Bread week was something to be remembered. Certainly those who have been coming to the past few feasts have a knowledge not obtainable anywhere else. The speakers came from so many directions each bringing vital thoughts that will help us all.

David Barron was one of the speakers and wrote these words:

[TERRA BELLA SPRING FEAST REPORT -2017](#)



What a wonderful camp meeting we had this spring. A great time for all, coming together to feed on the food and the word. Friendships were formed that are to last an eternity. Our Father in heaven blessed us with several excellent presentations concerning many different topics including having to do with the character of God, His law, and several ideas presented concerning the prophetic scenes unfolding before us that really made us think. For those who missed the meetings we do have them on DVD and will be playing them on BETV in the near future so be sure to stay tuned as we were all truly blessed by the presentations and the presenters at this meeting. (I know now why the Book says “come o the feast.”

We had a baptismal ceremony as well where several dedicated their lives to the service of our Lord. The bible tells us that these times are times to bring to remembrance the work which was done on the cross for us. “Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the



feast.” (1 Corinthians 5:7, 8) The meetings were truly Christ centered and brought out the need to have complete confidence in our Father and His word, and to exalt Him over some of our human theories and speculations. We continue to realize that we have many things to learn, and many, many things to unlearn. And we are determined to learn the right things. Study, study, study!

We are only 5 months away from our next camp, the Feast of Tabernacles. And we can’t wait to see our family again. It is important to prepare now. Some are coming together as a family Sabbath to Sabbath, it will come to pass that some will come to worship from New Moon to New Moon. We are told in the book of Zechariah chapter 14 that to “go up from **year to year** to worship the King,

the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles” is something that we will do, but also should do now. In the next verse it is written that “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.” (Zechariah 14:17, 18)

“Well would it be for us to have a feast of tabernacles, a joyous commemoration of the blessings of God to us as a people.” [Ellen White Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, November 17, 1885]

There is an important principle in coming together. And truly a blessing to be had at these meetings that comes from minds receiving mutual contact. The bible tells us that God has appointed times for pouring out his latter rain. In Zechariah 10 verse 1 he tells us to “ask in the time of the latter rain”. It is truly time to receive a large out pouring as the loud cry of the third angel is swelling. God wants to lighten the earth with his glory, his spirit. And He wants us to come up for the refreshing of it in the fall. No need to be left out.

“We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. . . . The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God’s appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.” (Ellen White FLB 246)

“Those who shut themselves up within themselves, who are unwilling to be drawn upon to bless others by friendly associations, lose many blessings; for by mutual contact minds receive polish and refinement; by social intercourse, acquaintances are formed and friendships contracted which result in a unity of heart and an atmosphere of love which is pleasing in the sight of heaven.” (Ellen White 6T 172.2)

Be sure to be among those that catch this upcoming meeting in Terra Bella, we look forward to seeing our family again soon. Don’t miss it. Mark the date Thursday October 5th, 2017- Friday October 13th, 2017 and remember there is an extra day after, the Sabbath to receive an extra Blessing. See you there. ☺

AS TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA.

We do not quite have the funds needed. We lack about \$20,000 which will help cover Australia through this August. This is very trying for us, but there is a silver lining. We are customers in good and regular standing, our reputation is good as it should be. The satellite company is offering us a 4-month contract (through August) for Australia satellite, after which the price should drop a little for a year. Who knows but what we are entering the time when such broadcasts will all be cut

off the air? Those dumb ministries that know the truth and have not presented it will never be able to. Watch the signs, stay with us to the end. Be not afraid for He that is with you is more powerful than He who is against you. If you can help us between now and June, please do. \$20,000 more will help us cover the shorter contract through August, along with the paying for Unwired Broadband and our monthly expenses, etc. It is a lot of money and it is crucial now. We receive emails daily from folk all around the world so excited about BETV and their learning about Sabbath and God's statutes. Please help.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BANNED IN RUSSIA – WHAT ABOUT ADVENTISTS?

Came to my desk from David Barron

On July 5, 2016 Catholics and Muslims came together in a joint declaration declaring some of their common beliefs which included “a rejection of all forms of proselytism” (Radio, Vatican, 2016) In other words, they reject all forms of evangelism. They also agreed that when they go out and do good works such as helping the needy this work “should never be used to proselytize.”

Something very similar happened during the dark ages. A decree was issued in 1521 in an effort to suppress the reformation, “As a compromise it was finally proposed that where the Reformation had not become established, the Edict of Worms should be rigorously enforced; and that “in those where the people had deviated from it, and where they could not conform to it without danger of revolt, they should at least effect no new reform, **they should touch upon no controverted point**, they should not oppose the celebration of the mass, **they should permit no Roman Catholic to embrace Lutheranism.**” (Daubigne)

The edict of worms was a decree issued in May of 1521 by Emperor Charles V which read “For this reason **we forbid anyone from this time forward to dare, either by words or by deeds, to receive, defend, sustain, or favour the said Martin Luther.** On the contrary, we want him to be apprehended and punished as a notorious heretic, as he deserves, to be brought personally before us, or to be securely guarded until those who have captured him inform us, whereupon we will order the appropriate manner of proceeding against the said Luther. Those who will help in his capture will be rewarded generously for their good work.”

In other words, the Roman Catholic Church made a law making it illegal to proselytize. During the dark ages it is thought that the numbers of victims of that organization have numbered 50-150 million. This is no small work. The torturous ways in which they have done these things

have no semblance of Christ. There is no doubt that Jesus Christ would have been outlawed by this church from proselytizing during these dark ages had he walked the earth during this time.

Jehovah's Witnesses are well known for door to door work sharing their understanding of the bible and their faith. Though not well received by the public, many are doing what they understand to be the commission that they have been given from Christ. Which is to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) In other words advocate, promote, teach, tell, and proselytize. It is written that “if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa 8:20) So if a law was made contrary to our faith, then we would have a choice:

1. Obey God
2. Bow to Man

Similar laws were made against the apostles when they were “proselytizing” the Jews. We read of it in the book of Acts chapter 5.

Acts 5:28-29 Saying, Did not **we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?** and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then **Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.**

The apostles were making many converts, they were going forth teaching, healing the lame and sick, and so the Jewish leaders did what they could to outlaw the apostles. They threw Peter in jail, then after an angel let him out, they caught them proselytizing again in the temple and brought the apostles before courts.

Is it possible that we are going to have to stand before courts to answer for our faith? Absolutely. Are we ready to stand for God? Or will we be among those who bow to Caesar? If we are followers of Christ, we cannot help but proselytize in his name.

It was reported last year in February of 2016 that Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill had ended a 1000 year schism between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. They declared their intent to end Christian persecution. (Burke, 2016) However, it seems the opposite is coming to pass. We read from Christianity Today July 16th, 2016 from an article entitled “Russia's Newest Law: No Evangelizing Outside of Church”:

“Christians in Russia won’t be allowed to email their friends an invitation to church or to evangelize in their own homes if Russia’s newest set of surveillance and anti-terrorism laws are enacted.” (Shellnut, 2016)

Protestants cannot evangelize. BUT.... A recent article from the Catholic News Agency is entitled “New religious laws in Russia **not** expected to hurt Catholic Church”. (Rezac, 2016) Is it any wonder? Why would it hurt a church unless they were obeying the divine commission of Jesus to go and preach the gospel? It matters not to the Catholic Church and of course Catholic’s are not going to be affected by it.

On April 21, 2017 the Supreme Court criminalized the activity of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Not only have they made them outlaws if they choose to continue their faith, but the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the claim filed by the Ministry of Justice “to liquidate the religious organization ‘Administrative Center of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia’ and the local religious organizations that are part of its structure [and] to turn over to the Russian Federation all property of the liquidated religious organization. (Supreme Court Rules to Criminalize the Activity of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia, 2017)

That is no small matter. Now some may be reading and saying “Wow, glad this isn’t happening to me. I’m a Seventh-day Adventist and am thankful for the freedoms we do have.” Or “I live in a free America”. Well, first off, the ban not only affects Jehovah’s Witnesses, but it also affects Mormons and Seventh-day Adventists.

The Catholic Church runs a media project called Aleteia. On their website they have an article called “Pacifist Jehovah’s Witnesses now banned in Russia as “extremists”. In this article, talking about the anti-evangelism law of 2016 this is what we are told.

“Jehovah’s Witnesses are not the only ones affected, she said. The law applies also to Mormons and Seventh Day Adventists, for example.

She said that the Orthodox in the south of Russia are generally very religious and see groups such as 7th-Day Adventists as competition. There have been many examples of people from Christian [sects] going into Orthodox churches and distributing literature or in some way disturbing church services... they are being perceived as the guys coming in and taking away our future converts.” (Burger, 2017)

Seventh-day Adventists are also a target of these laws. And using State to enforce religious law has never been

something that the Papacy has shied away from. In America today many religious laws, free speech laws, as well as laws against the press are being made, and the time is coming upon us where we shall be brought before the courts to answer for our faith by some of our Sunday Keeping brethren. Some will be levied with fines, some thrown in jail, and some will be offered positions of influence to silence them. May God give us the strength to stand in this time of persecution where the love of many will wax cold.



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Thanks to some special people we now have the “green” book back in stock! ***The Church Triumphant, NEW LIGHT, and the 144,000*** by Elder VanDenburgh is back on our shelves. Find it on the order sheet or on the website or just call us! Thank you to Lee Schappell and Rodney & Lyleen Davis for your help and support in getting this reprinted!! This has been a much-requested little book! **On special now, only \$5!**