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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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PASSOVER AND FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

God is Good! He is in control of all! In the last newsletter we talked about the speakers coming for the campmeeting. All was being prepared and many of you were making plans, tickets were purchased and schedules were being made and confirmed. Out of nowhere we got word we could not gather in groups. Here it was 10, then it was none, all the social distancing, now masks many places. We could let this get us down. We could have just given up and decided to skip this one. However, God is in control. We decided to try using Zoom and with the help of a few people we were able to have our camp meeting and stream it out live! On Zoom many people would get on and we were interacting as though we were in person! It was great. We had at least 4 presentations a day, many with their powerpoints! While we were unable to record DVDs of it, you can go to our

YouTube channel and watch them all! Chris has been able to separate them so you can find the ones you want! His hard work is appreciated. Go to YouTube and find Bible Explorations. Just type in the following: <https://m.youtube.com/BibleExplorations> and this will get you there, then click on “videos” and you can watch them all (past and present). And once again...even though it was through zoom, many said this was another “best” camp meeting! My dad would have been so happy we didn’t give up!

We will be using this same process with Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/819822562> for our live broadcasting of Sabbath School and Church until the “shelter in place” has been lifted. You can get on zoom and interact with us, or watch it on our youtube or Roku channels live (about a 2 minute delay).

Another exciting thing we are going to begin doing is having a weekly (Wednesdays) live prayer meeting with Pastor Randy Brehms via this zoom process (also live streaming from zoom to YouTube/Roku). **This will continue even after the “shelter in place” has been lifted!** We are also happy to say Charmaine Vierra has agreed to do raw food demos before our prayer meetings. Charmaine will begin about 4 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) and go about 30-45 minutes, and the prayer meeting will begin about 5:00 p.m. with Pastor Randy Brehms. Please mark your calendars and join us! We will be going through

Steps to Christ, so get your book out and read and study with us! You can email or call us for any additional information. This will help keep our Bible Exploration family together and encouraged in between our camp meetings! The next camp meeting is October 3-10, 2020, Feast of Tabernacles! We are already planning that one and hope to see you here.

NOTE: You can find Charmain's websites at: EatMoreRainbows.com and VierraVitality.com as well as: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rawandrealtribe>. You can join this for free.

THE FOUNDATION REMOVED (continued)

By Ted Schultz

DISSECTING THE ANATOMY OF A DECEPTION

We witness a most interesting phenomenon with the foregoing criticisms of the sanctuary doctrine. This critic first lays it down that Ellen White never claimed infallibility. While it is stated that she was "absolutely *historically* accurate" in her description of what happened in 1844, it is implied that because she was not an exegete of the Bible her positions in regard to what really happened were in error because she was fallible. It is amazing how this person quotes statement after statement from a person who never claimed infallibility to emphasize the infallibility of Scripture! So if Ellen White would have claimed infallibility, would that have fixed the problem in this critic's mind? We think not. Is such an argument brought against the writers of the Bible? Have any of the Bible writers claimed infallibility? Was Paul infallible? Were Moses, Daniel, John, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel infallible? Did any of them claim infallibility? No, of course not. So why is this argument brought up and used against Ellen White? This argument is nothing but the throwing of dust in the eyes to distract people from the obvious authority that she did have. We notice that this critic is quite silent on a crucial matter and that is the visions. God gave Ellen White visions. She was then instructed to write and relay the messages of what she saw and heard to the people. The critic says, "The ultimate argument in defense of the traditional interpretation of Daniel 8:14...has been Ellen White's explicit affirmation of it." This is the critic's fundamental error. It is not Ellen White's affirmation, it is God's. Ellen White was merely the messenger of that affirmation. That is why she is called "the Lord's messenger." But the words "the Lord's messenger"

were voted out of the fundamental titled "The Gift of Prophecy" at the 2015 General Conference session. The spirit of many leaders toward the Spirit of Prophecy is subtly making its way into the church at large.

"THE LORD'S MESSENGER"

"Some have stumbled over the fact that I said I did not claim to be a prophet; and they have asked, Why is this? I have had no claims to make, only that *I am instructed that I am the Lord's messenger*; that He called me in my youth to be His messenger, to receive His word, and to give a clear and decided message in the name of the Lord Jesus.

"Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord's messenger. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. My Saviour declared me to be His messenger. 'Your work,' He instructed me, 'is to bear My word. Strange things will arise, and in your youth I set you apart to bear the message to the erring ones, to carry the word before unbelievers, and with pen and voice to reprove from the Word actions that are not right...."

"Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from truth *under any circumstances*. Give the light I shall give you. The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil." *Selected Messages*, Book One, pp. 31, 32.

ONE DEVIATION FROM TRUTH LEADS TO ANOTHER

Our own history as a people shows that when any person or group of people, no matter how high their position, refuses to listen to the testimonies they will go from one deviation of truth to another. Our official publications have again and again set forth ideas relating to the sanctuary doctrine that deviate from the truths that God has given to His people. The Lord has repeatedly and clearly given visions to His messenger that have conveyed marvelous and exalted truths. He has sent straight to the point messages about not accepting



false expositions of the Scriptures—especially in regard to the sanctuary teaching.

“Before the last developments of the work of apostasy there will be a confusion of faith. There will not be clear and definite ideas concerning the mystery of God. One truth after another will be corrupted...there will be a removing of the landmarks, and an attempt to tear down the pillars of

our faith. A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false sabbath...In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith.” *Maranatha*, p. 192.

A DECEPTIVE WORK

The editors of our publications are clearly following the lead of Desmond Ford for he asserted that Jesus went into the most holy place at His ascension. Like most who make this assertion, they also claim to believe in the ministry of Ellen White as the Lord’s messenger. But how do you get Jesus into the most holy place at His ascension when there are statements all through the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy stating clearly that Jesus went there in 1844? There are at least two ways you can do this. You can simply treat those inspired statements as if they don’t even exist (make them “of none effect” by remaining silent about them), or do what Ford did by simply misquoting the Spirit of Prophecy and enlisting the aid of a modern version of the Bible (the NIV) to accomplish his desired end. Here is Ford engaging in some tricky word-smithing: “And when she [Ellen White] quotes Hebrews 9 and 12 [Hebrews 9:12], which, as I read to you in the latest version, translates as Christ went into the most holy place at his ascension. She used the version available to her, which had ‘holy place,’ which the translators knew meant ‘the second apartment,’ because holy place is the name given to the second apartment right throughout Leviticus 16, about five times. And it’s in Leviticus 16 where you have ‘within the veil’ used repeatedly.” Desmond Ford, *goodnewsunlimited.org*, article entitled “The Investigative Judgment: Theological Milestone or Historical Necessity?” p. 3.

Ford speaks of reading from the latest version that translates Jesus as going into the most holy place at His ascension. This follows the NIV in Hebrews 9:12: “He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.” Heb. 9:12, NIV.

Ford handles the available evidence in a misleading way. He makes it look like Ellen White meant to say most holy place when she said holy place. He also makes it look like the *King James Version* translators meant to say “the second apartment” but said holy place instead. Ford has now come to tell the world what Ellen White and the KJV translators really meant to say but did not say. Here is Ellen White, however, saying what she really did mean to say as she quotes from the KJV: “‘By His own blood’ He entereth ‘in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.’ Heb. 10:7; 9:12.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 757. (*The Great Controversy*, 421).

There have been those down through the years that have used the Spirit of Prophecy to give credibility to the ideas they expound when in fact the Spirit of Prophecy, taken in its entirety, contradicts the very positions they endeavor to set forth.

Ford used the Spirit of Prophecy to give credibility to his idea that Jesus went into the most holy place at His ascension. He states: “So let me point out to you that Ellen White clearly teaches that Christ went into the most holy place at his ascension. In one place, she says, ‘Still bearing humanity, he ascended to heaven, triumphant and victorious. He has sprinkled the blood of the atonement on the mercy seat.’ That’s at his ascension. Let me give you the reference *Signs of the Times*, April 19, 1905.

“Listen to it again. ‘Still bearing humanity, he ascended to heaven, triumphant and victorious. He has taken the blood of the atonement into the holiest of all’ – notice she’s quoting Hebrews 9 and 12, and she’s applying the holiest of all to the most holy place, the place where the mercy seat is. Because the second half of the sentence says, ‘...sprinkled it upon the mercy seat.’

“So, here, Ellen White says that Christ, at his ascension, went into the most holy place and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat.” Ford,

goodnewsunlimited.org, article entitled “The Investigative Judgment,” p. 2.

Three times Ford references this statement from the *Signs of the Times* and even makes specific reference to “the second half of the sentence” when he quotes it. But all three times he leaves out several important words from the end of the sentence that he is quoting. Here is the complete sentence. “Still bearing humanity, He ascended to heaven, triumphant and victorious. He has taken the blood of the atonement into the holiest of all, sprinkled it upon the mercy seat and His own garments, and blessed the people.” *Signs of the Times*, April 19, 1905.

So we see that Ford did not even finish the sentence that he was quoting, and when we look at the words which he cut out of the quote we understand why. He had to expunge them from the quote in order to make the Spirit of Prophecy say what he wanted it to say. The words that he left out of the quote are “...and His own garments, and blessed the people.”

If it was the mercy seat alone that was sprinkled with blood, then the quote from the *Signs* article would refer to the Day of Atonement as Leviticus 16:15 indicates. There was one time and one time only, however, that both the mercy seat and the garments of the priests were sprinkled with blood; that was when the tabernacle was inaugurated. The sanctuary and everything in it including the priests and their garments were consecrated to sacred service by the anointing of oil and blood at the inauguration service. “And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which was upon the altar, and sprinkled it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons’ garments with him; and sanctified Aaron, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons’ garments with him.” Lev. 8:30. After the days of consecration, “Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people.” Lev. 9:23.

The only time the priest was in the most holy place when it was not the Day of Atonement was during the inauguration of the sanctuary and its services. **The quote which Ford fails to finish from the *Signs* is a reference to Christ going into the most holy place during the inauguration of the heavenly sanctuary at His ascension and not for cleansing or judgment in 1844.**

There is one thing of which we can be certain and that is any cause which enlists any species of deception to sustain it is a cause in which Christ has no part. Ford’s deceptive usage of the Spirit of Prophecy is perhaps worse than Canright’s vitriolic attacks of yesteryear because Ford feigned acceptance of the Spirit of Prophecy, whereas Canright left no doubt as to his bitter attitude toward the Spirit of Prophecy and the sanctuary doctrine. Likewise many in high positions of influence in our church will claim belief in the Spirit of Prophecy, but then advocate positions on our foundational doctrine that are completely opposed to that which God has confirmed in visions.

CONFUSION ON THE JUDGMENTS

The idea that the judgment spoken of in Daniel 7:22 takes place before Jesus comes is becoming increasingly popular within our church. Our doctrinal book has helped a great deal in furthering the confusion when it misapplies the judgment of the thousand years (Daniel 7:22) and applies it to the investigative judgment of Daniel 7:9 and 10.

REASON FOR CONFUSION

There are at least two reasons for this confusion: (1) the increased usage of modern Bible versions and (2) the downgrading of the authority of the Spirit of Prophecy. Nearly all of the new versions in use today agree with each other against the KJV and the Spirit of Prophecy on this crucial issue. Not only is this true on Daniel 7:22, but on other crucial points of doctrine as well.

Chapters two through seven of Daniel were written in Aramaic. The Aramaic word translated as “given” is found twelve times therein: Daniel 2:23, 37, 38; 4:16; 5:28; and 7:4, 6, 11, 14, 22, 25, and 27. The *King James Version* translators consistently rendered it as “given” all twelve times. If one used the NIV words “pronounced judgment in favor of” rather than “given” in any of the other verses, it would not make any sense at all. The following modern versions agree with each other against the KJV and the Spirit of Prophecy:

- NWT—“given in favor of”
- RSV—“given for”
- TEV—“pronounced judgment in favor of”
- NRSV—“given for”
- NASB—“judgment was passed in favor of”
- CWB—“decided in favor of”
- NEB—“judgment was given in favor of”

- Berkeley—“dominion was given to”
- TLB—“vindicated his people”
- NKJV—“a judgment was made in favor of”
- NAB—“judgment was pronounced in favor of”
- NLT—“judged in favor of”
- NCV—“judged in favor of”
- HCSB—“judgment was given in favor of”
- TNIV—“pronounced judgment in favor of”

So is there a time when judgment is “given” to the saints as the KJV so plainly states? Listen to the words of this question that the apostle Paul asked the Corinthian believers: “Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” 1 Cor: 6:2. John the Revelator confirms: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.” Rev. 20:4. We also have confirmation from the Spirit of Prophecy.

“Daniel declares that when the Ancient of Days came, ‘judgment was given to the saints of the Most High.’ Daniel 7:22. At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: ‘I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.’ ‘They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.’ Revelation 20:4, 6. It is at this time that as foretold by Paul, ‘the saints shall judge the world.’ 1 Corinthians 6:2.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 661. This statement shows that the doctrinal book contradicts what God has confirmed to us through His messenger. What then are baptismal candidates to do when called to make a vow to “accept the teachings of the Bible as expressed in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church”? *Seventh-Day Adventist Church Manual*, Revised 2005 17th Edition, p. 33 or 2015 19th Edition, p. 46. The candidate would see the contradiction between the statement on page 216 (of SDAB) when it says; “As the Lord’s messenger, [Remember that as of the 2015 General Conference she is no longer called the Lord’s messenger.] her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction.” Then on page 325 they see the book contradict that fundamental by not allowing the Lord’s messenger to be an authoritative source to instruct and correct their mistake on the judgment of Daniel 7:22. The baptismal candidate who is carefully instructed in our foundational doctrine will quickly perceive that there are some crucial

differences between what the Lord’s messenger stated in the book *The Great Controversy* and a number of theories presented in the doctrinal book.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

The question has been raised in the past, what practical good is it to know specifically where Jesus is now or when He went to wherever He went? A partial answer to that question is that before the judgment of Daniel 7:22 begins, the judgment of Daniel 7:10 and the cleansing of the sanctuary have already taken place. The sealing of God’s people has been accomplished. **If anyone is counting on the judgment of Daniel 7:22 to be “vindicated” it will be too late!** The Scriptures say of the hundred and forty-four thousand, “These are they which follow the lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.” Rev. 14:4. By faith God’s people will follow Jesus in His saving work in the heavenly sanctuary. If Jesus has revealed to us what He is doing in our behalf, shouldn’t we be interested in any instruction He has given to us? If it is for our eternal salvation, should that not elicit intense interest on our part? If we understand that when Jesus went into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary He began a new and special work of cleansing which would, in turn, require a clear understanding on our part so that we can cooperate with Him in that work of cleansing, then whatever Jesus has revealed to us would be cherished by every one of us. If, instead, our interest is lukewarm at best and our minds are filled so full of earthly things that there is no room for the seal of God, what then will be the outcome?

TRUTH MATTERS

A number of years ago the present writer heard a pastor preach on Daniel 7:21 and 22. As he began, he stated in a stentorian voice, “I’m reading from the NIV. I hope that doesn’t give anyone heartburn.”



After he finished reading verse 22 he said: “What do you think of that—defeated saints possessing the kingdom? I don’t understand it brothers

and sisters but it’s so.” This pastor then went on to develop the idea that even though we are overcome by Satan in the spiritual sense, we will be “vindicated” in the judgment and “a verdict will be rendered in our favor.” This pastor’s understanding

of the gospel was profoundly influenced by the NIV wording of Daniel 7:22 for he stated in his sermon: “I cherish my theology on this text.” Sadly, this dear pastor did not understand that the judgment of Daniel 7:22 was not a judgment that God’s true and faithful people would ever be judged in. But this pastor was not alone in his confused understanding of the investigative judgment. Far from it. **(To be continued...)**

OUR WORLD TODAY...

By Cheri Hall

The world we live in today, with all its division, threats, uncertainty, shut-downs etc., is unstable at best. During a time like this, it is easy to feel overwhelmed, unsettled, fearful, even panicked. But, as Christians, I’d like to challenge you to expand your focus a little. Now, I realize that in the last several weeks, we’re all feeling as though we’ve been “catapulted” further towards perilous times ahead. It’s very natural in these type of situations, to try to make sense of or control the impending issue – thus, many have come out with absolute proclamations about what is happening or is about to happen. I’ve heard various things lately. One of which stands out more than the rest, “The Sunday Law is here!” Ok. To address this, let’s talk about some of what we do know about this issue.

- 1) The National Sunday Law has been on the agenda in the US for many years.
- 2) As of yet, The National Sunday Law has not been enforced.
- 3) The Sunday Law has been written within the pages of the Climate Change Document that the Pope signed in 2015.
- 4) President Trump pulled the US out of the Paris Climate Accord in the Spring of 2017.
- 5) President Trump does not believe nor support Climate Change.
- 6) President Trump is a strong advocate of religious liberty. He has delivered numerous amount of speeches on the subject. He has also put into place more laws to protect it.
- 7) The Pope is meeting with the world leaders this coming fall, concerning the Climate Change Document.
- 8) Many people in our Country would like to see a Sunday Law enforced.

- 9) Most importantly, the Bible tells us that we will have a Sunday Law. SOP also tells us this.

The question is, when is it going to be enforced? At this point in time, no one except God really knows. However, people can and have made some educated guesses. Taking all the facts/evidence into consideration, depending on what happens at the November Election, will give us a better idea of when it might happen. Please understand, I’m not trying to take away from the urgency here. But, I’m careful not to create a false alarm.

Should we feel an urgency now? Yes. We should feel an urgency to be ready in our spiritual life at all times. Draw close to our Savior, study the Word, memorize and claim the promises habitually, keep your channel open to God throughout the day and share the Gospel with others as God leads you. Only through these things will we become victorious Christians.

We know that someday, probably not too far in the future, we will be cut off from the dependency of society, in the areas of work, food and water, power, and money. But, we are also told not to fear.

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Heb 13:5-6

Here are some practical suggestions on what we can do that will help us to move forward towards being ready for whatever comes:

- 1) Get rid of excess stuff. Too much stuff will become more of a burden as time goes on.
- 2) Try to get out of debt. The less connection you have with money entities, the better.
- 3) Learn all you can about natural healing remedies. Find out what materials you’ll need and gather them – herbs, hydrotherapy items, cleansing materials etc.
- 4) Start growing your own food if you’re not already. If you don’t have a growing area, grow in pots.
- 5) Learn how to preserve your food – canning, drying etc.

- 6) Take care of your health. It's going to take some strength for the tough times.

No matter what happens or when, we are to trust our Heavenly Father. He has promised us that He will take care of those who are faithful to Him.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust." Psa 91:1-2

A FEW QUOTES FROM THE PEN OF ELLEN WHITE

In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John [the Baptist] is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. . . . In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him lose sight of self.--*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 332, 333 (1904).

Communion with God will ennoble the character and the life. Men will take knowledge of us, as of the first disciples, that we have been with Jesus. This will impart to the worker a power that nothing else can give. Of this power he must not allow himself to be deprived. We must live a twofold life--a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work.--*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 512 (1905).

Prayer and effort, effort and prayer, will be the business of your life. You must pray as though the efficiency and praise were all due to God, and labor as though duty were all your own.--*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 538 (1881).

Firmly Rooted In Christ . . . The storm is coming, the storm that will try every man's faith of what sort it is. Believers must now be firmly rooted in Christ or else they will be led astray by some phase of error.--*Evangelism*, pp. 361, 362 (1905).

The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part

company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.--*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324 (1898).

VEGETABLES YOU CAN GROW AT HOME (YES, EVEN IN AN APARTMENT)

by Meg van Huygen (Seattle)

I'm now growing produce I was buying every single week. This not only saves money, it also cuts way down on waste because I only harvest what I plan to use, right before I start cooking. It's really fun and rewarding too: The longer I do it, the more veggies I want to add to my little urban garden. You don't have to wait for the right season to begin if you're growing indoors, and everything you grow can be organic to boot. In some cases, you can even regrow your veggies from scraps. **Here's how to get started:**

The Containers Literally any dirt-filled container with a hole in the bottom will work, but some are more user-friendly—and attractive—than others. I've used cheap tin toiletry storage bins from Target, plastic yogurt tubs, ornate olive oil tins, old kitty litter buckets, drawers salvaged from an IKEA dresser that fell apart, and even burlap coffee sacks. (Sack farming is ideal for people who have very little space, as they're high in volume but take up little surface space—plus you can slit the sides and grow different plants!) Go through your recycling and get creative with it. You can use regular flower pots too, of course.



The Prep Add a bit of gravel to the bottom of the container to encourage drainage. If you don't have gravel, you can use smashed-up old ceramic plates or cups, bits of concrete, marbles, or a handful of actual rocks. Put some kind of saucer or dish underneath the container so it doesn't leak all over your floor or counter when you water it, then fill the rest with soil.

The Plants If you're starting your garden from seeds and want to keep it low-key in the beginning, I recommend Jiffy Peat Pellet Seed Starters, which are cheap and unmessy: You just add water, and they pop up, so you don't have to fill up a Dixie cup with dirt or anything. Plus transplanting to larger containers is a snap. There are upsides to going to a garden store and buying your own greenhouse seedlings, however: They'll be

hardier, healthier, and more likely to thrive than the ones you start yourself.

The Veggies Here are some of the easiest, most prolific, and most useful vegetables that I've grown so far.



Salad Greens, Like Spinach, Arugula, Mesclun, and even Loose-Leaf Lettuces

These guys couldn't be easier: Just water every day, get your scissors, and custom-snip

yourself a salad. I like to have a few pots going at once and plant new seeds every 10 to 14 days to ensure a steady salad supply. Greens are perfectly happy in smaller containers too. You can segregate your salad species pot by pot or plant from a seed packet of mixed greens. Chard, in particular, especially the rainbow-hued bright lights variety, doesn't need a lot of attention and brings delicious, brilliant results.

Celery If you plant it from seed, celery takes about 120 long days from germination to harvest, *but* you can speed up the process significantly: Just take the base of an old bunch of celery and let it sit in water for five to seven days, until leaves start to grow out of the top and roots sprout from the base. Then replant it in a pot with soil loosely covering the roots and watch it go to town. Break off a few stalks as you need them, leaving the rest of the bunch intact and alive. Celery's easy as long as you water it daily; but don't drown it, as the outer stalks can develop rot.

Radishes Growing radishes is as easy as can be, and they grow fast, with only 30 to 40 days from germination to harvest. There are all kinds of fun, colorful varieties too. They don't like to be crowded, so you'll have to thin out the herd if they sprout too close together. Other than that, just plant the seeds under half an inch of soil in a container that has at least eight inches of soil in it, water them every day, and pull them up as soon as they're ready so they don't get bitter. You can keep a few pots of these going at once, with staggered sowing times, just in case inspiration for taco night randomly strikes!

Carrots Similar to radishes, carrots don't need much space, and the sprouts also need to be thinned out—they like to have one to two inches of wingspan, so to speak. They tend to need deeper soil than radishes, and they typically take about twice as long to harvest (around 70 days), but they're essentially as simple to grow.

Chile Peppers If you live in northerly climes like I do, I have good news: You can still grow chiles indoors, as long as you can give them at least six hours of bright sunlight a day and don't keep your thermostat below 70 degrees. They can be even grown from the seeds you scrape out of your store-bought chiles, as long as they're organic. I've

had the most success with jalapeños, habaneros, and Thai bird's-eye chilis in a 16-inch pot. And even better news: They're pretty hardy and won't die if you forget to water them for a couple of days. (Looking at you, celery.) This is one plant that will benefit from a grow light or from being placed outdoors during warm weather, if possible. Chiles are self-pollinating, but outdoor insects help them out with this process, so if your chiles are flowering but not fruiting, it's easy to hand-pollinate them—just tap the stems gently once the flowers have bloomed in order to spread the pollen.

Tomatoes Tomatoes, like their nightshade cousins chile peppers, are self-pollinating, and many varieties can thrive in containers. Smaller tomatoes like Red Robins, Yellow Pears, Tiny Tims, and Florida Petites are all good choices. Tomatoes can tolerate a bit more cold than chiles as well—a minimum of 65 degrees or so. Nothing's worse than a mealy, pale, flavorless wintertime tomato, and so having access to your own sunny, organic toms will brighten your whole season. If you love tomatoes as much as I do, you can start a new pot every two weeks to keep the cycle coming. Since tomatoes are self-pollinating, the chile pepper rules apply: If they're not doing the thing on their own, just tap the stems of the open flowers to get the pollen moving around.

Kale Kale can grow to magnificent heights in an outdoor garden, but it's perfectly content indoors too—possibly even more so, as it doesn't love either frost or heat. You can keep it going all year round, so long as you stay on top of the watering and direct sunlight. Depending on your available gardening space, dwarf varieties might be preferable, which ends up being about one foot by one foot. If you're aiming for microgreens, kale sprouts are ready in a couple weeks; the plants take about two months to reach maturity.

Scallions Scallions are by far the easiest vegetable to grow from scraps. All you do is take the white ends of the scallions, stick 'em in enough water to submerge the roots, and change the water every few days. After a week, you can plant them in a pot. Then just snip off the fresh ends with a pair of scissors to season your meals. Voila! Never buy scallions again! If they start to flower, it's no problem—the zingy blossoms are great in salads.

ENJOY MAKING YOUR GARDENS GROW!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER BIBLE EXPLORATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT. "SEE" YOU WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AND SABBATH MORNINGS!

FEAST OF TABERNACLES OCT 3-10, 2020

