



**BIBLE EXPLORATIONS**  
 1279 W. HENDERSON AVE, PMB #317  
 PORTERVILLE CA 93257



# Bible Explorations Newsletter

December 2024 Issue

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We are about to go into 2025! The world is getting older! Watching Brent Meikle's series? The Covenant Code! His book will be available soon on Amazon! Once it is we will let you know! Those who donated and are receiving the PDF via email, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter will be out soon. Watch for it!

I see so many things happening with Bible Explorations and I'm very confident our Father and His Son are showing us daily what we need to do. This ministry is reaching many hungry souls. Chris has been working very hard getting the tech part of it done so we reach more people when they search for certain topics. Many are finding this ministry and have questions. Let's continue it until He comes!! Thank you ALL for your financial support and prayers! They all mean so much!

### OUR HIGH CALLING

Ellen G. White

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalm 90:12.

Another year of life is now in the past. A new year is opening before us. What will be its record? What will we each inscribe upon its spotless pages? The manner in which we spend each passing day will decide this question....

Let us enter upon the new year with our hearts cleansed from the defilement of selfishness and pride. Let us put away every sinful indulgence, and seek to become faithful, diligent learners in the school of Christ. A new year opens its unsullied pages before us. What shall we write upon them? ...

Seek to begin this year with right purposes and pure motives, as beings who are accountable to God. Ever bear in mind that your acts are daily passing into history by the pen of the recording angel. You must meet them again when the Judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened....

If we connect with God, the source of peace, and light, and truth, His Spirit will flow through us as a channel, to refresh and bless all around us. This may be the last year of life to us. Shall we not enter upon it with thoughtful consideration? Shall not sincerity, respect, benevolence, mark our deportment toward all?

Let us withhold nothing from Him who gave His precious life for us.... Let us all consecrate to God the property He has entrusted to us. Above all, let us give Him ourselves, a freewill offering.

May the beginning of this year be a time that shall never be forgotten—a time when Christ shall come in among us, and say, “Peace be unto you.” John 20:19. Brethren and sisters, I wish you, one and all, a happy new year. RH January 3, 1882 & ST January 1889

### A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ellen G. White, 1882

“I wish you a happy New Year,” will soon be repeated far and near, by parents and children, brothers and sisters, acquaintances and friends. In a world like ours, this New Year's greeting seems far more appropriate than the Merry Christmas so lately echoed from lip to lip. On every hand are pale faces, brows furrowed with pain and care, or forms bowed with age. Wherever we turn may be seen the garb of mourning. The suffering, the care-worn, and the aged can no longer be merry. In many a household there is a vacant chair; a beloved child, a husband and father, whose presence gladdened the last Christmas and New Year's festivity, is gone from the circle. A merry Christmas seems a mockery to that bereaved family.

But whatever the cares and sorrows of life, whatever the mistakes and errors of the past, the “Happy New Year,” when uttered as an expression of love or respect, falls pleasantly upon the ear. And yet, are not these kindly wishes often forgotten with the utterance? How often we fail to carry their import into the daily life, and thus to aid in their fulfillment. The New Year's greeting is frequently uttered by insincere lips, from hearts that would not forego one selfish gratification in order to make other's happy. Recipients of gifts and favors every new year, many accept these as their due. Receiving daily the bounties of Heaven, sunshine and shower, food and raiment, friends and home,—all the unnoted yet priceless blessings of life,—they forget the claims of the Giver; forget that God has left them a legacy in his poor; and that Christ, the Majesty of Heaven, identifies himself with suffering humanity in the person of his saints.

Says our Saviour, “It was I whom you neglected. While your wardrobe was supplied with costly apparel, I had no comfortable clothing; while you feasted, I was hungry; while you were absorbed in pleasure, I was sick, a stranger, and uncared for. Let those who would have a happy new year, seek to

honor God and make all around them happy. Let them share the gifts of Providence with those more needy, and bring to the Lord their offerings of gratitude, their sin-offerings, and their free-will offerings.



Let us review our own course during the past year, and compare our life and character with the Bible standard. Have we withheld from our gracious Benefactor that which he claims from us in return for all the blessings he has granted?

Have we neglected to care for the poor, and comfort the sorrowing? Here, then, is work for us.

Upon many, God has bestowed his gifts with a lavish hand. Will they make corresponding returns? Some of these persons, when in poverty, were faithful in the smallest trust committed to them. They would sooner deny themselves of the comforts, or even the necessities of life, than to withhold their offerings from the Lord's treasury. God has rewarded their faithfulness by prosperity. But now a change comes over the recipients of his bounty. Their wants increase faster than their income, and they no longer return to God the portion which is his due. Thus is developed that same spirit of covetousness which proved the ruin of Judas.

Let us each bring our souls to task. Let us see if we have brought all our offerings to God. I would do this for myself as an individual. It may be that I have been remiss during the past year. I know not when or where, but to make sure that I have done my whole duty, I will at the first of the year bring an offering to God to be appropriated as may seem best, to some one of the branches of his work. If any of you, my brethren and sisters, are convicted that you have failed to render to God the things that are his; if you have not kindly considered the wants of the poor; or if you have withheld from any man his due, I entreat you to repent before the Lord, and to restore fourfold. Strict honesty toward God and men will alone meet the divine requirements. Remember that if you have defrauded a neighbor in trade, or in any manner deprived him of his own, or if you have robbed God

in tithes and offerings, it is all registered in the books of Heaven.

Many are bemoaning their backsliding, their want of peace and rest in Christ, when the past year's record shows that they have separated themselves from God by their departure from strict integrity. When they will faithfully examine their hearts, when they will open their eyes to see the selfishness of their motives,—then their prayer will be, “Create in me a clean heart O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” God requires us to have a pure heart and clean hands. Let those who have committed wrong give proof of their repentance by seeking to make full restitution, let them in their after-life give evidence of a genuine reformation, and they will assuredly enjoy the peace of Heaven.

Let us enter upon the new year with a clean record. Let faults be corrected. Let bitterness and malice be uprooted. Let right triumph over wrong. Let envy and jealousy between brethren be put away. Heartfelt, honest confession will heal grave difficulties. Then, with the love of God in the soul, there may flow from sincere lips the greeting, “I wish you a happy New Year.”



Many who were with us at the beginning of 1881 are not here to welcome 1882. We ourselves may not live to see another year. Shall we not seek to improve the little time allotted us? Will not the church of Christ turn from their backslidings? Will they not cast aside their idols, repent of their love of the world, overcome their selfish greed, and open the door of the heart to bid the Saviour welcome? May the beginning of this year be a time that shall never be forgotten,—a time when Christ shall come in among us, and say, “Peace be unto you.”

Brethren and sisters, I wish you, one and all, a happy New Year.

“We live in deeds, not years;  
In thoughts, not breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.  
We should count time by heart-throbs.  
He most lives  
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.”  
*The Review and Herald, January 3, 1882.*

## WORDS OF COUNSEL

I wish to say that all over the fields, there is not among the laborers that humiliation of soul, that sanctification of the Spirit of God, that there should be. Of what use is it for us to say that we have the grace of Christ unless this grace is revealed in the daily life, in the thoughts, the words, and the actions?

Our only hope is to remember that we are little children—God's little children. “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance.” We are inclined to exalt self. But God wants no self-exaltation in His work. He wants us to labor in simplicity and humility, as His little children, learning daily of Him. We must bring His Word into the practical life. We talk the truth, we preach the truth, but we do not live the truth.

The light given me is that we are to study more than we do the instruction given to Moses by God after He had proclaimed the law from Sinai. The ten commandments were spoken by God Himself, and were then written on tables of stone, to be preserved till the judgment should take place. After the giving of the law, God gave Moses specifications regarding the law. These specifications are plain and explicit. No one need make a mistake.

In the day of judgment we shall be asked whether we have lived in harmony with these specifications. It is because we do not carry out these specifications in all our dealings, in our institutions, our families, and in our individual lives, at all times, and in all places, that we do not make greater advancement. It is by the directions that God has given that we shall be judged at the last day.

Have we studied these specifications? I heard them one night some weeks ago. It seemed as if they were being given to Israel, and there was the same solemnity that there was when they were given. I thought, This is given to me that I may tell our people that we must study these specifications. When the directions that God has given are followed, our institutions will be pure and clean, free from all selfishness and covetousness. The tenderness of Christ will come in. His love will fill our hearts. A sense of God's goodness will make us weep, and sing,

and praise God. Then we shall be living channels of light, prepared to do His will.

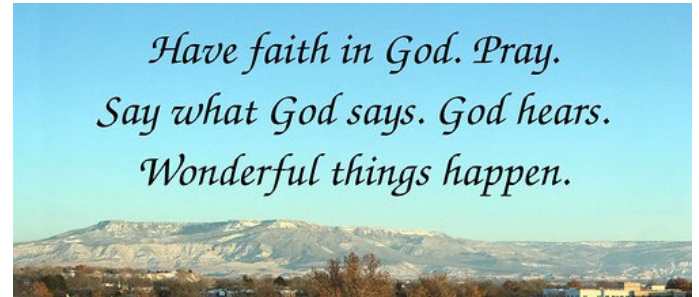
We do not make enough of Deuteronomy and Exodus. These books record the dealings of God with Israel. God took the Israelites from slavery, and led them through the wilderness to the promised land. They had almost reached the end of their journey. Spies were sent over the Jordan to view the land, and bring back a report.

God had shown his people what He would be to them, and what He would do for them. He had destroyed their enemies before them. Nevertheless, when the spies returned from their search, they came with hearts filled with unbelief. They enlarged upon the difficulties and dangers before the Israelites should they undertake the conquest of Canaan. They saw that the cities were walled and very great, and the people who dwelt there were strong, and it would be impossible to conquer them. "And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night." They gave way to cruel, wicked unbelief, and cried, and murmured, and found fault. They accused not only Moses, but God Himself, of deception, in promising them a land which they were not able to possess, and they went so far as to appoint a captain to lead them back to the land of their suffering and bondage from which they had been delivered by the strong arm of Omnipotence.

In their rebellion the people exclaimed, "Would God we had died in the wilderness." Their prayer was granted. God declared that for forty years Israel was to wander in the wilderness, and that there, all who had left Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, would die.

Moses also had his trial. God chose him to deliver Israel. He had been trained as a general, and he thought that it was by force that he was to deliver the people. One day, seeing an Egyptian smiting an Israelite, he killed the Egyptian. Then he fled to Arabia, and for forty years he kept sheep. There his pride and self-sufficiency were swept away. He became patient, reverent, humble, "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."

We need to learn the lesson of humility and meekness. And we need to learn to help one another all that we possibly can. When we see one whose soul is in peril, let us be very careful that we do not drive him farther from Christ. Let us speak and act as God's little children, not as men who would kill.



Do not cherish self-sufficiency. Walk humbly before God. "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding." "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

It is because of the experiences through which I passed last night that I am led to say these things. It means everything to us whether we are sanctified to God, body, soul, and spirit; whether we are channels through which He can communicate His life and light.

When, after Moses' time of trial and preparation was over, he was once more told to go and deliver Israel, he was self-distrustful, slow of speech, timid. "Who am I," he said, "that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He pleaded as an excuse a lack of ready speech. He had been the general of the armies of [Egypt], and he certainly knew how to speak. But he was afraid that he would bring self into his work.

We cannot guard too carefully against self-exaltation. We are to stand where we know that God is speaking to us. Only in this position are we safe. The Lord wants us to stand where we are sanctified and purified, wholly consecrated to His service. Unless we stand in this position we cannot offer Him acceptable service. We need to realize more fully than we do the preciousness of human souls.

God wants us to learn what it means to be temples of the Lord. When we learn this, His saving grace will come to us, and the terrible dissension that is doing so much to weaken our efforts, will no longer be seen among us.

Think of these words; pray over them. Come to the Lord as little children. Plead with Him for His salvation. If we receive His salvation into our hearts, His power will be with us, and success will crown our efforts.

O, there is so much for us to learn. We must make advancement. God has a controversy with us. Many of us have left our first love. We have grown cold and indifferent. Let us not act in such a way that God will have to manifest the wrath that he is loath to manifest. He restrains Himself. The omnipotent One places Himself under the control of Omnipotence. God watches over His weak, erring, tempted children for their good. The punishment He sends them is for their good. He wants them to be saved, and that is why He sends His judgments. He desires them to learn to exercise the compassion that those who are saved must exercise.

Let us co-operate with God. The Word says: “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” “Ye are God's husbandry; ye are God's building.” He wants you to co-operate with Him in cleansing the heart of all evil. He says that if we obey Him, He will make us a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and will give us the victory over our enemies. **Mrs. E. G. White, March 25, 1907, Australasian Union Conf Record.**

## VEGAN RECIPES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

### VEGAN PUMPKIN POT PIE

Ugly Vegan Kitchen

1 cup dehydrated soy curls (**OR** 15.5 ounce can of cannellini beans, drained and rinsed)

1 can of store-bought vegan biscuits or your own vegan biscuit recipe!

3 Tbsp vegan butter

1 large yellow onion, small dice

3 garlic cloves, finely chopped



2 celery stalks, diced (**OR** 1 cup diced celery)

2 carrots, diced (**OR** 1 cup diced carrots)

½ tsp dried thyme

¾ tsp rubbed sage

½ tsp dried rosemary

Black pepper, to taste (*optional*)

½ tsp garlic powder

½ tsp onion powder

3 cups fake chicken broth

1 Tbsp nutritional yeast

1 Tbsp cornstarch + 1 Tbsp water

15 ounce can of pumpkin puree

Salt, to taste (I added ~¼ tsp)

Finely chopped parsley, to top (*optional*)

1. If you are using soy curls, add them to a mixing bowl and fill it with water until they are fully submerged. Set aside.

2. Bake the biscuits according to their directions (**OR** follow your favorite vegan biscuit recipe and bake those). Remove from oven and set aside.

3. While the biscuits are baking in the oven, we'll get to work on the filling for the vegan pumpkin pot pie. In a large cast iron skillet, add the vegan butter, onions and a dash of salt. Sauté over medium-low heat for ~7 minutes or until the onions are golden.

4. Add the garlic, celery, and carrots. Sauté an additional 3 minutes. Then, add the thyme, sage, rosemary, black pepper, garlic powder and onion powder. Continue stirring around for ~3 more minutes.

5. Squeeze out the soy curls, and then, add them to the skillet. Pour in the broth and stir in the nutritional yeast. Bring it to a low simmer, and then, cover it for 10 minutes.

6. Mix the cornstarch with the water in a little bowl. Pour it into the skillet with the vegan pumpkin pot pie filling. Stir until it thickens a bit. Then, stir in the pumpkin puree. Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed (more salt?).

7. Bake uncovered at 350° F for 20-25 minutes or until it's nice and bubbly. Remove from the oven. Arrange the baked biscuits on the top of the vegan pumpkin pot pie. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve. 😊

How about Vegan Ricotta Cheese to stuff your shells!

## VEGAN TOFU RICOTTA

### Ugly Vegan Kitchen

12 ounce package of extra firm tofu, drained and broken into 4 pieces

1 Tbsp lemon juice

1 Tbsp nutritional yeast

½-1 tsp garlic powder

½ tsp onion powder

½ tsp salt

1 Tbsp olive oil, *optional*

1. In a medium mixing bowl, add all the vegan tofu ricotta ingredients listed in the recipe. 2. Smash together with your hands (or use the back of a spoon) until the tofu is completely pulverized. It's fun to do, so really go for it! Then, use it as a vegan substitute for ricotta cheese in baked savory recipes, like lasagna, stuffed shells, calzones, and more. 😊

How many enjoy a “*parmesan*” sprinkled on your spaghetti or vegetables? And usually you make it vegan with walnuts or something? Here is a new take that sounds delicious!! Try it and let me know what you think!

## FAUX PARMESAN

By A.J. Chef

### INGREDIENTS:

1 cup of oats

1 cup of nutritional yeast

1 Tablespoon of Benson's Table Tasty (or your favorite salt-free seasonings)

**PREPARATION:** Place all ingredients in a dry blender or food processor fitted with the “S” blade and process until a powder. **CHEF'S NOTE:** This will keep in the refrigerator for several months. Enjoy!

## YOUTUBE “LIKE” AND “SUBSCRIBE” HELP



Our new “THE COVENANT CODE©” series is on our YouTube (BibleExplorations.com/YT) along with all of our other videos! Please be sure to Like and Subscribe when you go watch them!

Please remember we also have monthly bills for Zoom, software, video ads, support and packaging for

the books we send out. We're also currently working on new technical work for BE to place BE's most viewed videos at the top of Google so that every SDA can more easily encounter them when searching on Google.com. We are constantly working to upgrade how people find our channels as well. We have tech support, salaries, postage and supplies, copying books, etc. Thank you for any blessings you may give. **Tax receipts go out in January!**

## Here are some bills (approx.) you can help us with:

1. Tulix Video Data \$11,400 (due December)
2. Zoom/software & editors- \$800/month.
3. Postage/packaging/books - \$400/month.
4. Africa Satellite - \$63k/year.
5. *Brethren Aid*/Labor/tech-support- \$95K/year.

Please remember us when you consider blessing a ministry. Thank you.

## FIND US HERE:



**BibleExplorations.com (website)**

**BibleExplorations.com/YT (YouTube Channel)**

**BibleExplorations.com/Zoom (Live on Sabbath beginning at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 5 p.m.**

**PST and every camp meeting)**

## WAYS YOU CAN SEND DONATIONS:

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**PASSOVER AND FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD for 2025 will be April 13 through 20, 2025.** We will keep you updated on what is happening! Join us on our **Facebook Group: Bible Explorations – BETV** to also keep updated and ask questions! **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**



# Bible Explorations 2025 Calendar



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<http://www.bibleexplorations.com>

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	7	S	M	T	W	T	F	7	S	M	T	W	T	F	7	S	M	T	W	T	F	7
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Sabbath & High Day & New Moon (crescent is seen after sunset prior day)