



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



Bible Explorations Newsletter

October 2024 Issue

Inside This Issue

1-4	October is here – Come to Idaho!
4-6	Obedience: Condition or Result of Salvation by Ted Schultz
6-8	Bringing Our Talents Together at Tabernacles
8	Ways to Support Bible Explorations

We are living in such exciting times! Our Feast of Tabernacles camp in northern Idaho is coming up soon and we want you to join us! The meetings will run from October 18th through the 26th, with travel days on October 17th and 27th. Call or email for more information, and let us know who's coming so we can better prepare for you. We have plenty of room in the lodge and cabins, and all you need to bring are linens (sheets/pillows/blankets/towels) and bottled water. Also, bring your own food if you have a special diet. We look forward to seeing everyone again, especially in such an exquisite, peaceful lake setting with beautiful sunrises and sunsets! Several of the speakers will be in person as well to converse with outside of the meetings.

Here are some photos of the different cabin styles where some brethren will be staying. All cabins have electricity and heat. There is a heated bathhouse with toilets, sinks, and showers available for your use. Remember, you need to bring your own linens (bedding/sleeping bags, pillows, towels, etc.)



Cabin rooms-bunk beds:



Below are the two room options in the lodge. One option has two single beds that can be pushed together to make a king if desired. The other option has two bunk beds: a twin over twin and a twin over full. Every room in the lodge has windows overlooking the lake! There are hall bathrooms on both floors. We will try to honor your preference if possible, but may need to assign brethren based on available rooms/cabins so let us know as soon as you can if you are coming! We have quite a few who have already confirmed they are coming.



This is the dining hall where we will have our programs. The dining hall accommodates 160-200, and is complete with a large fireplace for those chilly days. The main floor is wheelchair accessible and there are accessible restrooms. The covered lakeside porch has rocking chairs and is a wonderful place to relax and watch the sunset.



Below the dining hall are a kids room and a craft room. The kids room serves as a small meeting space with a play area for young children. There is a restroom off the kids room.



The craft room is a bright room with cement floors designed with paint splatters to welcome creativity. The tables can be moved to create an open space and can hold 20-40 people. There is a restroom which also has a big utility sink for cleaning up after creating works of art.



The outdoor scenery is very inviting with trails to walk or places to just sit and talk while enjoying the beauty of the lake. Kids can run around and explore. The sun causes the gentle waves to glitter across the water. There are over 300 acres all along the lake.



For those wanting to "rough it", there are meadows available for tent camping.



Come join us in this idyllic setting while we learn and search God's word! We all need to B.E. ready for He is coming soon! We need to discover, understand and share these great truths! How many more will we have? Only our Father knows.





OBEDIENCE CONDITION OR RESULT OF SALVATION?

By Ted Schultz

THE SAVIOUR'S PURPOSE FOR COMING TO THIS WORLD

“The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. **Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.**” Ibid. p. 664, emphasis supplied. The perfect humanity referred to in this statement is not a perfect physical body but Christ’s spiritual qualities. We can praise the Lord that He has given us His inspired counsel to keep us on the right path. It has been confirmed to us that Christ is our example in faith and obedience. On this our faith can rest with complete confidence. **“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study.”** *Youth’s Instructor*, October 13, 1898. As we look to Christ and

witness what He did in our human nature, our faith is quickened and made strong. We are encouraged to press forward. After the apostle Paul had set forth the nature of Christ he wrote, “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.” Hebrews 6:1.

“By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garments of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 311,312.

AS WITH CHRIST SO IT MAY BE WITH US

“‘The prince of this world cometh,’ said Jesus, ‘and hath nothing in Me.’ John 13:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 123.

SEEKING TO BECOME PERFECT IN CHRIST

“Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foot hold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of himself, ‘The Prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.’ [John 14:30.] Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept his Father’s commandments, and there was no sin in him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble. “It is in this life we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits.” *The Great Controversy*, 1888 edition, p. 623.

WE NEED NOT RETAIN ONE SINFUL PROPENSITY

In Ellen White's letter to pastor Baker she stated "not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, p. 18. Many think that this gave Christ an advantage over us because, as Ellen White said, each one of us has been "born with inherent propensities of disobedience." Ibid. This is where the power of Christ comes into the picture. Christ puts us on vantage ground with Him. While we are born with propensities to do evil we are not to stay that way. Christ came to show us that we do not need to retain even one sinful propensity.

"The Saviour took upon Himself the infirmities of humanity, and lived a sinless life, that men might have no fear that because of the weakness of human nature they could not overcome.... We need not retain one sinful propensity.... As we partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are cut away from the character, and we are made a living power for good. Ever learning of the divine Teacher, daily partaking of His nature, we cooperate with God in overcoming Satan's temptations.

"How this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the Word of God. Only by the Word could He resist temptation. 'It is written,' He said. And unto us are given 'exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature....' Every promise in God's Word is ours.... When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the Word. All its strength is yours.

"Grasp His promises as leaves from the tree of life: 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.' John 6:37. As you come to Him, believe that He accepts you, because He has promised. **You can never perish while you do this — never.**" *The Faith I live By*, p. 23, emphasis supplied.

FALSE CONCEPT OF SIN

False definitions of sin have led to false concepts of the human nature of Christ. One of the false definitions is that sin is not so much what you do as what you are. This concept is illustrated in the following quote. "Sin, to be understood as sin, must be seen in the context of who we are in relationship to God. It must be seen as a state of existence as much as it is acts and deeds. Indeed, the acts and deeds themselves results from the state of sin in which we exist. Sin, therefore, is as much who we are as it is what we do, because, in the end, we do what we do because we are what we are." *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, Jan. Feb. Mar., 2005, p. 16. This statement is a

definition of the doctrine of original sin which has been imported into Adventism from the world of Roman Catholicism. Of course, if sin is a state of being in which we are born then it naturally follows that Christ could not have been born into the state of being into which we have been born. Jesus, according to this view, could not have been born with our human nature. The Bible is clear, however, that the gospel teaches us that Jesus Christ our Lord was born of the seed of David according to the flesh. Romans 1:1-4. "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Romans 8:3. "For verily He took not on *Him* the nature of angels; but He took on *Him* the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren." Hebrews 2:16, 17.

If Jesus supposedly "**took sinless human nature**" (*Questions on Doctrine*, p. 650) as one of our doctrinal books declares in a bold headline, then He could not have inherited it from Adam, because Adam had no children before his fall. These words are a direct contradiction of what has been confirmed through inspiration. "What love! What amazing condescension! The King of glory proposed to humble himself to fallen humanity. He would place His feet in Adam's steps. He would take man's fallen nature." *Confrontation*, p. 17-18.

The unbiblical concepts of the unfallen nature of Christ and original sin lead naturally to the next step – that we cannot overcome sin as Christ did because we are born guilty sinners and are continuing to sin before we even *do* any sin. This is why, according to this concept, the idea of overcoming sin and living a life of victory is viewed as legalism. It also explains how the error has come to exist that sanctification is a moot theological issue, that we will continue to sin until the moment of glorification when our fallen human nature, and thus our "state of sin", will be taken away.

SAVED ONLY THROUGH OBEDIENCE

"The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been — just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents, — perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized." *Steps to Christ*, p. 62.

"It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and

Satan. . . The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 763. Emphasis supplied. The great deciding moment is now before the whole world.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5: 3, 4. **(The End)**

BRINGING OUR TALENTS TOGETHER AT TABERNACLES BRENT MEIKLE: BIBLE EXPLORATIONS.COM

A cube composed of 400 pounds (186 kilograms) of pure 24-karat gold was displayed under heavy security at Central Park in New York as part of a cryptocurrency promotion. At



current market prices the gold cube is worth \$17,280,000. It drew a great deal of attention and global media as few people have ever witnessed this amount of gold on display at a single location. In fact, part of the promotion was this amount of pure gold formed into a single unit had never been witnessed anywhere in world history---including anything adorning the Tombs of the Pharos.

The Mercy Seat is one of only two items in the entire Tabernacle that was to be made from pure gold (the 7-Candled Menorah is the only other pure gold furnishing). The remaining hard surfaced items in the Tabernacle (the boards for the walls, the Ark, the Altar of Incense, the Table of Showbread) are all made from a hard wood that is overlaid completely in gold. Gold in the Tabernacle Pattern represents the Heavenly Realm. Silver is always representative of redemption. Lesser value metals (Bronze and Brass) represent the Earthly Realm.

Biblical Historians often focus on the 7-Candled Menorah when providing examples of the value of the Tabernacle Furnishings. It is easy to calculate because we are told it was made from a single Talent of Gold. One Talent of

Gold weighs seventy-five pounds. Which is about 20% of the weight of the Gold Cube that was put on display at Central Park. But there was another article of furnishing in the Tabernacle that was made of pure gold. The Mercy Seat is pure Gold that was hand-beaten to encompass the artistic Cherubim and the Seat itself and to remain as a single unit.

We are not directly given the amount of gold used to form the Mercy Seat. However, because we are given the exact dimensions of it, we can easily calculate the amount of gold that was necessary to construct it. The minimum amount of gold required to form the Mercy Seat is six talents (6 x 75 pounds = 450 pounds). This is approximately 10% more than the Gold Cube with a current market value of \$19,500,000 US Dollars. Therefore, their claim is proven incorrect.

I have done no research at all to determine whether larger pure gold artisan works exist in world history and make no claim in this regard. My point is that the "Gold Cube" claim is false based on our knowledge of the Mercy Seat alone. The 1-Talent weighing Menorah and the 6-Talent weighing Mercy Seat together represent 7-Talents (525 pounds) of pure gold Tabernacle artifacts. Together with the Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy Seat in the earthly Tabernacle is representative of the Throne of GOD in Heaven and the Most Holy Place is as His Throne Room.

The units of weight used in Israel, from the largest to the smallest, were the talent, the mina, the shekel, the beka and the gerah as follows:

1. **Talent:** The largest unit of weight in OT Israel was the talent. The Hebrew word is 'kikkar'. The word 'talent' is from the Greek unit of weight 'talanton' and the Latin 'talentum', which was roughly equivalent to the Hebrew 'kikkar'. In the OT, the talent is often used to weigh gold and silver.
2. **Shekel:** The other important unit of weight is the shekel. The Hebrew word is 'seql', which comes from the root word for 'weight'. The shekel was also used to weigh gold and silver, but also to weigh less valuable materials. Shekel weights have been discovered in Israel in denominations of 1, 2, 4 and 8 shekels. From weighing these, it has been estimated that a shekel was approximately 11.5 grams or 0.4 oz.
3. **Mina:** The mina is not mentioned so often in the OT, but was also normally used to weigh gold or silver. It has been suggested that this unit of weight was only used during and after the exile in Babylon. According to Ezekiel, "20 shekels, 25 shekels, and 15 shekels shall make a mina for

you." (Ex 45:12). This would suggest that there were 60 shekels in a mina.

4. **Beka:** A beka was half a shekel, "a beka a head (that is, half a shekel, measured by the sanctuary shekel)" (Ex 38:26).
5. **Gerah:** The gerah was the smallest unit of weight and is defined as a twentieth of a shekel, as by Ezekiel, "The shekel shall be 20 gerahs" (Ezekiel 45:12).
6. **Number of Shekels in a Talent:** The number of shekels in a talent can be calculated from the account of the building of the tabernacle, "The silver from those of the congregation who were counted was 100 talents and 1775 shekels, measured by the sanctuary shekel; a beka a head (that is, half a shekel, measured by the sanctuary shekel), for everyone who was counted in the census, from 20 years old and upward, for 603,550 men." (Ex 38:25-26). If each person brought half a shekel of silver, the total number of shekels of silver was 301,775 shekels. This was equivalent of 100 talents and 1775 shekels, showing that 100 talents were 300,000 shekels, and therefore 1 talent was 3,000 shekels. Based on the weight of one shekel being 11.5 g, this would suggest that a talent was approximately the equivalent of 34 kg (11.5 g x 3000) or 75 lb.

Summary of weight values

1 talent = 3000 shekels

1 talent = 50 minas

1 mina = 60 shekels

1 shekel = 2 bekas

1 shekel = 20 gerahs

The incredible detail of the Biblical Testimony allows us to observe and discover incredible truths. We are able to convert Old Testament measurements to current measurements because of the details of Scripture. But the most important considerations in observing the "value" of the Tabernacle is, "Where did this gold originate and what was its purpose?". It originated through the Promise of GOD that not only would he free the Hebrew Slaves from their Egyptian bondage, but that they would leave Egypt with gifts from the Egyptians as recompense for their slavery.

At Mount Sinai they became the new Nation of Israel. "And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. For the purpose of, "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the

pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it" (Exodus 25). The LORD called for a free-will offering with the specific purpose of completing His Tabernacle.

And the people willingly gave for this purpose. So much so that Moses had to ask them to stop giving because the offering had been met. They gave 29 Talents of Gold (2200 pounds) with a current market value of \$100 Million USD in Gold alone. It was a lot of money—then and now—but it was collected from among 600,000 men and their families. On an individual basis it amounts to only about 1/20th of an ounce of gold each at an approximate market value today of \$160 USD. Thus, it is demonstrated that when all give then larger targets are much easier to reach and achieve.

We also see that those GOD had truly Blessed, and those same who valued the completion of His House (Tabernacle/Temple) gave more on their own than all others combined. "And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So, David prepared abundantly before his death". When prepared it is written:

"Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto. Moreover, there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work. Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with thee" (1 Chronicles:22:14-16).

King David gave the equivalent of many Billions of Dollars of Gold alone for his son to complete the Temple of the LORD. Even the Queen of Sheba gave Solomon 120 talents of gold (1 Kg 10:10). So now friends, as October brings us the Holy Days the Biblical Testimony gave to be observed in the seventh month, consider all of these things. We are living in the very times the Holy Days foreshadowed. This month we are meeting at the Bible Explorations Tabernacle Camp. The purpose is to gather together and broadcast the Biblical Tabernacles message around the globe.

Friends if you are able, please make this a special time of giving---a free will offering to allow Bible Explorations to complete its work. Let us all bring our "talents" together to Bless one another and above all---to be the Blessing the

LORD intends us to be to all those that He is Calling. Bible Explorations has stepped out in Faith in renting the camp location, funding the broadcasting, and working multiply the talent that GOD gave us and not simply to bury it until His Return.

Just as I was completing this article, I received news from Sandy that the Satellite for Africa is being turned off for lack of funding. Bible Explorations made an urgent request two months ago. I made my book a part of an initiative to raise the \$75,000 annual payment requirement. Sandy informs me she did receive a little bit of a bump from smaller supporters that she was able to use to pay \$5,000 last month to keep it on air. But nowhere near the balance of \$70,000 they need. This requires a larger supporter who is able to step up to support B.E.'s African initiative.

As referenced in my article earlier, the LORD helps provide for us and asks only for us to return a measure to finish His Work. When spread out, much can be accomplished. When those that can give more do so—magnificent works are achievable. You may or may not have different works that you support outside of Bible Explorations. Africa may or may not be important to you. In any event, all I can do is ask you as a fellow supporter of Bible Explorations to prayerfully consider making October a time for special free-will offering for the Bible Explorations Ministry.

Bible Explorations is a reflection of you and together they strive to let our light shine by bringing our talents together to Herald the Soon Return of the LORD Jesus Christ in His Last Calling to awaken a slumbering world. When He Returns His Temple will be completed. Our generation is the capstone to the Temple. Join me and all of the other speakers and guests at the Bible Explorations Tabernacles Camp—either live or via broadcast in our support of Bible Exploration.

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!

Besides the expenses of renting these facilities for camp, 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.

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.
6. **Feast of Tabernacles Camp Retreat spot this October 2024: \$9,500 just for renting the place. Please help as you are able.**

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:

www.Paypal.com info@BibleExplorations.com

Your bank via Zelle info@BibleExplorations.com

Call with credit card donations: 1-877-475-1318

Donate stock via our website link (call for more info): See Link At: www.BibleExplorations.com

Mail checks or money orders to:

Bible Explorations Inc

1279 W. Henderson Ave, PMB #317

Porterville CA 93257

**FEAST OF
TABERNACLES
October 18-26**



We will be live on zoom and all the platforms you find us on (Roku, Website, YouTube, Satellite)

COME IN PERSON AND JOIN US IN IDAHO!

The address where we will be is:

N-Sid-Sen Camp & Retreat Center

36395 S Hwy 97

Harrison, ID 83833

<https://n-sid-sen.org/> (Website)

PASSOVER AND FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD for 2025 will be April 13 through 20, 2025

