



# Bible Explorations Newsletter

August 2023 Issue

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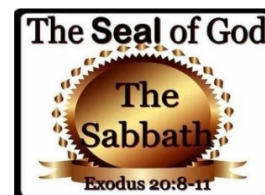


On August 15 we will be on satellite over Central and South Africa again spreading all our messages with those dear folk! Those in that area can find us by scanning:

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Thank you for your support both financially and in prayer to get this accomplished! Please continue so

we can keep it going and spread the message to a dark world. He IS coming soon! We MUST be ready and let us help others to be ready! What a wonderful day that will be!!



## THE SABBATH By Ted Schultz

### Papal encyclicals

Rome's plans for implementation of future Sunday laws may be seen in recent papal encyclicals as well as in its current Catechism which was given official approval by Pope John Paul II. The absolute authority of the pope in all things Roman Catholic must be understood. Malachi Martin, former Jesuit and professor at the Vatican's Pontifical Biblical Institute, explains. (Of Martin, *The Dallas Morning News* said, "In Biblical times they would have called him a prophet.") "Only Malachi Martin, consummate Vatican insider and intelligence expert, could reveal the untold story behind the Vatican's role in today's winner-take-all race against time to establish, maintain, and control the first one-world

government...” *The Keys of This Blood*, back cover. Of the pope Martin says, “That one man in that one place holds the keys to that salvation. He is the Keeper of the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Catholic teaching holds that any Roman Catholic, any non-Catholic Christian, or any non-Christian of whatever other religion who receives God’s salvation receives it through the spiritual office of that one man in Rome and the merits of his Church of Believers....

“The essential note, therefore, of the Catholic Church is absoluteness. The triple claim is absolute: the pope as God’s only official representative, Rome as the only place in which that pope is found as its bishop, the dependence of all who are saved on that one man and his sacred office....

“According to Catholic belief and traditional practice, all power to govern, to teach, to administer the temporal and spiritual affairs of the Catholic Church whether in Rome or elsewhere originates in the pope as Christ’s representative. The pope is the first source and the ultimate recourse in the power structure. That one man as pope is given the plenitude of power. All others merely share in it. This is why all positions of power, except that of pope, are appointive: power is given by the pope. Only the position of pope is attained by election.

“But the man elected pope does not receive his papal power from the cardinal-electors who vote him in. They do not possess that power. Catholic belief and dogma is that if a man is validly elected by the authorized electors, the cardinals, then God automatically confers the plenitude of power directly on the pope....All authority to wield power and to confer power at any echelon depends on the power of the pope to grant that authority.” Malachi Martin, *Rich Church, Poor Church*, pp. 85, 87. Nihil Obstat, Felix F. Cardegna, S.J., Censor Deputatus; Imprimatur, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, February 14, 1966.

The Vatican II Council repeatedly affirmed the supreme and universal authority of the church through the pope. The pope’s teaching authority is declared “infallible” and “irreformable.” This great authority, it is emphasized, does “not come from the consent of the church.” It comes from the pope

himself. *The Documents of Vatican II*, pp. 47-49, Walter M. Abbott, S.J., general editor.

The papal encyclicals from the last twenty years or so leaves the reader with the profound impression that the pope is not addressing just the Catholic faithful. He is sending a message to the whole world. He intends the whole world, Catholic, non-Catholic, Christian and non-Christian to view what he is saying as infallible and irreformable, that is to say, incapable of being reformed and not subject to revision or alteration. Obviously, one who claims to have power to change the law of God would consider himself vested with power to change human laws and reign over all the inhabitants of the earth. This reality is symbolically set forth in the pope’s Triple Crown—“The Triregnum (the Papal Tiara formed by three crowns symbolizing the triple power of the Pope: father of kings, governor of the world, Vicar of Christ).” [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va), Holy See Press Office, Tiara. The “plenitude of power” the pope is claimed to have is exercised as governor of the world, not just the Catholic Church. The papal power will yet again be acknowledged by the kings of the earth. “These have one mind, and give their power and strength unto the beast.” Revelation 17:13. This prophecy is very close to realization.

### **Dies Domini**

Dies Domini was an encyclical by pope John Paul II which was released July 5, 1998. Here are some quotes from this letter:

**“Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.”** *Dies Domini*, Section 67. Emphasis supplied.



Pope John Paul II was dedicated to the same purpose to which his predecessors were. In fact, in *Dies Domini* John Paul II referred to Pope Leo XIII.

“In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right **which the State must guarantee.**” *Dies Domini*, Section 66. Emphasis Supplied.

Pope John Paul II repeatedly referred to the seventh day Sabbath of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 as well as

the fourth commandment of Exodus 20 as if these Scriptures were referring to the first day of the week.

### A common effort

“Sanctifying Sundays and holy days requires a common effort. Every Christian should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would hinder them from observing the Lord’s Day. Traditional activities (sport, restaurants, etc.), and social necessities (public services, etc.), require some people to work on Sundays, but everyone should still take care to set aside sufficient time for leisure. With temperance and charity the faithful will see to it that they avoid the excesses and violence sometimes associated with popular leisure activities. In spite of economic constraints, **public authorities should ensure citizens a time intended for rest and divine worship.** Employers have a similar obligation toward their employees.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (1994 edition), p. 528, para. 2187. Emphasis supplied.

According to this official statement it is not just the work of Christians to sanctify Sundays, but that of the “public authorities” and “employers.” Public authorities are secular or civil powers. These would include those who make laws and enforce those laws. How would these civil powers “ensure citizens a time intended for rest and divine worship”? They, of course, would do it through passing a Sunday law!

### The common good

“In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christian should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church’s holy days as **legal holidays.** They have to give everyone a public example of prayer, respect, and joy and defend their traditions as a precious contribution to the spiritual life of society. If a country’s legislation or other reasons require work on Sunday, the day should nevertheless be lived as the day of our deliverance which lets us share in this ‘festal gathering,’ this ‘assembly of the first born who are enrolled in heaven.’” *Ibid.*, para. 2188. Emphasis supplied.

How are Sundays to be recognized as legal holidays? How has any holiday come to be recognized as a legal holiday? Through legislation of the Congress of the United States.

### Cooperation by the Civil Authorities

In *The Roman Catechism* (1985) under the heading ‘Cooperation by the Civil Authorities Regarding This Commandment’ are the following words: “The civil authorities should be urged to cooperate with the church in maintaining and strengthening this public worship of God, and to support with their own authority the regulations set down by the church’s pastors....For it is only in this way that the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now keep holy.” This catechism outright calls for civil authorities to support the church’s doctrines. This catechism also received the commendation of pope John Paul II just as the 1994 catechism did. Let it be clearly understood that civil authority is being called upon to sustain matters of worship. It is demanding that we not only keep Sunday holy but that we are not any longer to keep the Sabbath holy. This Rome is calling upon the civil authorities to bring about by civil legislation. Rome is calling upon civil authorities to help the faithful understand which day they should keep holy. There is no instruction here for the faithful to go to the Word of God to learn the truth of the matter. This is truly amazing. Just as soon as Sunday keeping is enforced, the punishment of those who will not comply will once again become a reality. This is at the point of realization.

### Violators should be punished as heretics

Yes, Rome is unapologetic of its past history of punishing those they brand as heretics as the following words from the world of Romanism indicate: “We confess that the Roman Catholic Church is intolerant; that is to say, that it uses all the means in its power for the extirpation of error and sin; but this intolerance is the logical and necessary consequence of her infallibility. She alone has the right to be intolerant because she alone has the truth. The church tolerates heretics where she is obliged to do so, but she hates them mortally, and employs all her force to secure their annihilation. When the Catholics shall here be in possession of a considerable majority, –which will certainly be the case by and by, although the time may be long deferred, – then religious liberty will have



come to an end in the republic of the United States. Our enemies say this, and we believe with them. Our enemies know that we do not pretend to be better than our church, and in what concerns this her history is open to all. They know, then, how the Roman Church dealt with heretics in the middle ages, and how she deals with them today where she has power. We no more think of denying these historic facts than we do of blaming the saints of God and the princes of the church for what they have done or approved in these matters.” Charles M. Snow, *Religious Liberty in America*, (1914), pp. 370, 371. Quoting from *Shepherd of the Valley*, St. Louis, MO., (1876), under the supervision of Archbishop Kendrick.

These words confirm the prophecy of Revelation 13:11, 12. “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth [the rise of the United States]; and it had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” Someone may say that the statement above, quoted from the *Shepherd of the Valley*, is from over one hundred years ago and that Romanism is much different now. We would direct the reader’s attention to Pope John Paul II, who gave his approval of the 1985 and 1994 catechisms who spoke the following words.

“In obedience to the Third Commandment, Sunday must be sanctified, above all, by participation in Holy Mass.

“In his [apostolic] letter, the pope goes on to say a violator should be ‘punished as a heretic,’ said McNally [executive director of Call to Holiness, a Metro Detroit lay group that promotes traditional Catholic teachings], who read an unofficial English translation of the letter on a Vatican Web site.” *The Detroit News, Metro Edition*, Tuesday, July 7, 1998. These words from Rome are not from the darkness of the middle ages. They are from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. To fully appreciate what it means to be punished as a heretic by Rome we recommend the reading of *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*, the histories of Alexis Mustin’s *The Israel of the Alps* (1866), Henry Arnaud’s *The Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of Their Valleys* (1827), Antoine Monstier’s *A History*

*of the Vaudois Church* (1849), or William Gilly’s *Waldensian Researches*, Vol. 4 (1831).

Let the reader ever remember the words of Cardinal Gibbons: “Amid the continual changes in human institutions, she [the Roman Catholic Church] is the one institution that never changes.” Cardinal Gibbons, *Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 83, 43<sup>rd</sup> ed.

History is shouting out to those who will listen to what happens when any religious power uses the strong arm of the state to enforce its doctrines and decrees. **(To be continued...)**

## **WHAT IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST?**

Ellen White

The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord’s memorial of creation. . . . The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of the week. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God. (*Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 8, p. 117)

Christians of past generations observed Sunday supposing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath, and there are now true Christians in every church who honestly believe that Sunday is of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity and integrity. But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law and the world shall be enlightened concerning the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God to obey a precept of Rome will thereby honor popery above God. . . . It is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive “the mark of the beast.” (*From Here to Forever* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1982), p. 278.)

## **CHRIST AND THE LAW**

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times* 3/29/1910

At a very early age Jesus began to act for Himself in the formation of His character, and not even respect and love for His parents could turn Him from obedience to God's Word. “It is written” was His

reason for every act that varied from the family customs.

But the influence of the rabbis made His life a bitter one. Even in His youth He had to learn the hard lesson of silence and patient endurance. His brothers, as the sons of Joseph were called, sided with the rabbis. They insisted that the traditions of the Jewish priests must be heeded, as if they were the requirements of God; and they were greatly annoyed at the clear penetration of Jesus in distinguishing between the false and the true. His strict obedience to the law of God they condemned as stubbornness.

They were surprised at the knowledge and wisdom He showed in answering the rabbis. They knew that He had not received instruction from the wise men, yet they could not but see that He was an instructor to them. They recognized that His education was of a higher type than their own. But they did not discern that He had access to the tree of life, a source of knowledge of which they were ignorant.

All through His ministry to this earth, Christ was a living representative of the law. No violation of its holy precepts was found in His life. Looking upon a nation of witnesses who were seeking occasion to condemn Him, He could say unchallenged, "Which of you convicteth Me of sin?"

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus did not dwell on the specifications of the law, but He did not leave His hearers to conclude that He had come to set aside its requirements. He knew that spies stood ready to seize upon every word that might be wrested to serve their purpose. He knew the prejudice that existed in the minds of many of His hearers, and He said nothing to unsettle their faith in the religion and institutions that had been committed to them through Moses. Christ Himself had given both the moral and the ceremonial law. He did not come to destroy confidence in His own instruction. It was because of His great reverence for the law and the prophets, that He sought to break through the wall of traditional requirements which hemmed in the Jews. While He set aside their false interpretations of the law, He carefully guarded His disciples against yielding up the vital truths committed to the Hebrews.

The Pharisees prided themselves on their obedience to the law; yet they knew so little of its principles

through every-day practice, that to them the Saviour's words sounded like heresy. As He swept away the rubbish under which the truth had been buried, they thought He was sweeping away the truth itself. They whispered to one another that He was making light of the law. He read their thoughts, and answered them, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Here Jesus refutes the charge of the Pharisees. His mission to the world is to vindicate the sacred claims of that law which they charge Him with breaking. If the law of God could have been changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have suffered the consequences of our transgression. He came to explain the relation of the law to man, and to illustrate its precepts by His own life of obedience.

God has given us His holy precepts because He loves mankind. To shield us from the results of transgression, He reveals the principles of



righteousness. The law is an expression of the thought of God; when received in Christ, it becomes our thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin. God desires us to be happy, and He gave us the precepts of the law that in obeying them we might have joy. When at Jesus' birth the angels sang,

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good-will toward men" they were declaring the principles of the law which He had come to magnify and make honorable.

When the law was proclaimed from Sinai, God made known to men the holiness of His character, that by contrast they might see the sinfulness of their own. The law was given to convict them of sin, and reveal their need of a Saviour. It would do this as its principles were applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit. This work is still to do. In the life of Christ the principles of the law are made plain; and as the Holy Spirit of God touches the heart, as the light of Christ reveals to men their need of His cleansing blood and His justifying righteousness, the law is still an agent in bringing us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.

“Till heaven and earth pass,” said Jesus, “one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” The sun shining in the heavens, the solid earth upon which you dwell, are God's witnesses that His law is changeless and eternal. Tho they may pass away, the divine precepts shall endure. “It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.” The system of types that pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, was to be abolished at His death; but the precepts of the Decalogue are as immutable as the throne of God.

Since “the law of the Lord is perfect,” every variation from it must be evil. Those who disobey the commandments of God, and teach others to do so, are condemned by Christ. The Saviour's life of obedience maintained the claims of the law, and showed the excellence of character that obedience would develop. All who obey as He did, are likewise declaring that the law is “holy, and just, and good.”

Jesus takes up the commandments separately, and explains the depth and breadth of their requirement. Instead of removing one jot of their force, He shows how far-reaching their principles are, and exposes the fatal mistake of the Jews in their outward show of obedience. He declares that by the evil thought or the lustful look the law of God is transgressed. One who becomes a party to the least injustice, is breaking the law, and degrading his own moral nature. Murder first exists in the mind. He who gives hatred a place in his heart, is setting his feet in the path of the murderer; and his offerings are abhorrent to God.

The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. The command, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect,” is a promise. God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach.

### DO WE KNOW WHEN HE WILL RETURN?



The times and the seasons God has put in His own power. And why has not God given us this knowledge? Because we would not make a right use of it if He did.

A condition of things would result from this knowledge among our people that would greatly retard the work of God in preparing a people to stand

in the great day that is to come. We are not to live upon time excitement. We are not to be engrossed with speculations in regard to the times and the seasons which God has not revealed. Jesus has told His disciples to “watch,” but not for a definite time.

His followers are to be in the position of those who are listening for the orders of their Captain; they are to watch, wait, pray, and work, as they approach the time for the coming of the Lord; but no one will be able to predict just when that time will come; for “of that day and hour knoweth no man.” You will not be able to say that He will come in one, two, or five years, neither are you to put off His coming by stating that it may not be for ten or twenty years.

*The Review and Herald, (EGW) March 22, 1892*

### AROUND THE WORLD AGAIN...

Floods continue to break records around the world. In Delhi India, thousands evacuate their homes due to Yamuna River reaching record highs July 14. Turkey: many displaced when heavy rain of almost 10 inches in 24 hours caused flooding in Turkey's Black Sea region July 12. Bali Indonesia had severe weather conditions which resulted in widespread flooding with strong winds. Ongoing floods in the state of Assam India have affected 20 districts and over 100,000 people since June 14. Nepal had deaths and many missing after floods and landslides in Koshi province in June. Pakistan had flash flooding and strong winds causing damage and fatalities in the province. Iran had severe weather resulting in fatalities and damage. China also had floods and landslides in June.

### The hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth is expected to happen in Death Valley today

*MSM.com July 15, 2023.* The blistering heat wave sweeping across California has all eyes on the desolate expanse of Death Valley this weekend. With the National Weather Service (NWS) predicting the hottest temperature ever recorded, one that could shatter existing records, there is an intense atmosphere of anticipation and concern.

Regardless of the exact temperature, Death Valley will experience deadly heat, with overnight lows that could exceed 100 degrees.

## Hottest June in history

Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have already confirmed that last month, June 2023, was the hottest June ever recorded.

If the current heat trends continue unabated, July is likely to follow suit. As a land notorious for its extreme heat, Death Valley is drawing particular attention.

## Hottest temperature ever recorded

Situated in the parched heart of Death Valley, Furnace Creek is the particular location that has meteorologists and climate scientists on edge. The NWS has forecasted temperatures here that could reach a staggering 129 degrees, and possibly peak at 131 degrees Fahrenheit this Sunday. If this becomes reality, it will set a new record for the hottest temperature ever officially recorded on Earth.

**USA Today, July 21, 2023: Extreme heat is killing more people – and the worst is yet to come.** There is no longer an excuse to be unprepared for the deadliness of extreme heat. The American Southwest is facing record stretches of days over 110 degrees, and Florida has measured sea-surface temperatures nearing 100. The Oregon State Fire Marshal said preliminary damage assessments from the Golden Fire east of Klamath Falls showed that 43 residences near the town of Bonanza were destroyed. More than 40 outbuildings were also consumed by fire. On July 6, Algeria recorded the highest nighttime low temperature in African history— just over 103 degrees. A powerful heat dome has descended on Europe, bringing land surface temperatures to 140 degrees in Spain.

How many of you ever see or hear of these things? Or if we do, it comes and goes quickly without much thought. We are busy in our daily lives. We have safe homes. We don't see it; it's in another country. We feel safe and don't realize how horrible it is for so many people today. So many homeless, too! Pray for them all around the world. People need our prayers. We are so happy to be able to go on satellite over Africa! These people need to hear the messages of hope we share, too! They need to know He is coming soon, be ready and look up. Below read Mrs. White's

words about reaching large congregations. With internet and satellite we are able to do this!

**Reaching Large Congregations**—We should make efforts to call together large congregations to hear the words of the gospel minister. And those who preach the Word of the Lord should speak the truth. They should bring their hearers, as it were, to the foot of Sinai, to listen to the words spoken by God amid scenes of awful grandeur.—Letter 187, 1903. Ev 119.1

**Give the Trumpet a Certain Sound**—Those who present the truth are to enter into no controversy. They are to preach the gospel with such faith and earnestness that an interest will be awakened. By the words they speak, the prayers they offer, the influence they exert, they are to sow seeds that will bear fruit to the glory of God. There is to be no wavering. The trumpet is to give a certain sound. The attention of the people is to be called to the third angel's message. Let not God's servants act like men walking in their sleep, but like men preparing for the coming of Christ.—The Review and Herald, March 2, 1905.

## VEGAN RECIPE CORNER

### VEGAN BLACK BEAN BURGERS

(AllRecipes.com)

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 baby carrots, grated (Optional)
- ½ cup chopped sweet onion
- ¼ cup minced green bell pepper (Optional)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 3 tablespoons chili-garlic sauce (such as Sriracha®), or to taste
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon warm water
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning (such as Old Bay®)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 slices whole-wheat bread, torn into small crumbs
- ¾ cup unbleached flour, or as needed

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a baking sheet.

Mash black beans in a bowl. Add carrots, onion, bell pepper, and garlic; mix well.

Whisk chili-garlic sauce, cornstarch, water, chili powder, cumin, seafood seasoning, salt, and black pepper together in a separate small bowl.

Stir chili-garlic sauce mixture into black bean mixture; mix in bread crumbs. Stir flour, 1/4 cup at a time, into bean mixture until a sticky batter forms.

Spoon mounds of batter onto the prepared baking sheet, about a 3/4-inch thickness per mound; shape into burgers.

Bake in the preheated oven until cooked in the center and crisp on the outside, about 10 minutes per side.

### Tips

One egg can be substituted for cornstarch, but the recipe will not be vegan.

### THE BEST VEGAN MAC AND CHEESE)

(LovingItVegan.com)

#### Ingredients:

½ cup Vegan Butter (112g)  
6 tablespoons All Purpose Flour  
5 cups Coconut Milk (3 cans, 1200ml, Unsweetened)  
1 cup Vegetable Stock (240ml)  
3 tablespoons Dijon Mustard  
1 cup Nutritional Yeast Flakes (60g)  
3 teaspoons Onion Powder  
3 teaspoons Garlic Powder  
1 ½ teaspoons Smoked Paprika  
1 ½ teaspoons Salt  
1 ½ teaspoons Black Pepper (Ground)

16 ounces Elbow Macaroni (450g)

3 thick slices White Bread (Toasted, or 1 cup Panko Breadcrumbs)  
2 tablespoons Vegan Butter (Melted)

#### For the Cheese Sauce:

Add the vegan butter to a pot and let it melt. When it's melted add in the all-purpose flour and stir it vigorously with the melted butter.

Then pour in the cans of coconut milk and the vegetable stock. Use a hand whisk to whisk out the lumps. Keep whisking until it starts to boil and then keep whisking for a few minutes after it has boiled until it thickens. It will continue to thicken as it cools,

so it doesn't have to be all the way there when you remove it from the heat, as long as it has thickened considerably from when you started.

Remove it from the heat and add in the Dijon mustard, nutritional yeast, onion powder, garlic powder, smoked paprika, salt and pepper and whisk in. Now your sauce is ready, you can prepare your macaroni.

Cook your macaroni according to the package directions and then rinse and drain.

Add the cooked macaroni into the pot of sauce and toss it up with the sauce.

Then transfer the macaroni and sauce to a 9×13 baking dish and smooth down.

Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C).

Prepare the crumb topping by breaking up the 3 thick slices of toasted white bread and placing into the blender. Pulse blend until you have crumbs. Then transfer to a mixing bowl, and add in the melted vegan butter and toss up the crumbs with the melted butter.

Place the breadcrumbs evenly over the top of the macaroni cheese.

Bake for 20 minutes until the topping is golden brown and crispy. Enjoy!

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