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Bible Explorations Newsletter

February 2019 Issue

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MORE ON WHAT WILL THIS YEAR BRING?

What a crazy world we are living in. Such evilness around! Things will get worse before they get better! I can't wait for heaven where things are full of beauty, love, and purity which our Father is preparing for us now. Where are you going?



CURRENT EVENTS NEWS QUOTES AND ELLEN G. WHITE

(Emphasis added with caps)

by Chris Hall

CLIMATE, SUNDAY REST, LAUDATO SI, NEWS

Jan 22 2019 “The youngest woman ever elected to Congress, Ocasio Cortez, again made headlines and sparked conservative criticism when she said Monday that she and other young Americans fear ‘the WORLD IS GOING TO END in 12 years if we don’t address CLIMATE CHANGE.’ Since taking office, she has called for a GREEN NEW DEAL.”

www.usatoday.com

Dec 10, 2018 www.nbcnews.com. “In the Jesuit publication, America Magazine, Ocasio-Cortez wrote earlier this year that the ULTIMATE GOAL of reforming the criminal justice system ties “directly to the heart of OUR CATHOLIC FAITH.”

Jan 2, 2019 “Poland Shops open only on last Sunday of each month in 2019” “TRADE ON SUNDAYS was previously only allowed on the first and last Sundays of the month ..This has been further reduced to ONE, the last Sunday of the month, as of 2019. ..As of January 1, 2020, there will be a BLANKET BAN. ..Those who violate the restrictions will face FINES of between \$25usd and \$2500usd, while repeat

offenders face PRISON SENTENCE.”
www.polandin.com

Jan 7, 2019 “POPE Francis ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS”

“Rethinking our COMMON DESTINY in the present context also involves rethinking our relationship with OUR PLANET. This year too, immense DISTRESS and SUFFERING caused by HEAVY RAINS, FLOODING, FIRES, EARTHQUAKES and DROUGHT have struck the inhabitants of different regions of the Americas and Southeast Asia. Hence, among the issues urgently calling for an AGREEMENT WITHIN the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY are care for the environment and CLIMATE CHANGE.” www.vaticannews.va

Jan 7, 2019 “Pope DECRIES rise of NATIONALISM, FLAWS of GLOBALIZATION” (pope wants the world unified, to rule easier)

June 19, 2015 “POPE Francis calls for a new system of GLOBAL GOVERNMENT to TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.” www.independent.co.uk

Jan 24, 2019 Cali Congressman Ro Khanna Tweet
“New rule: Anyone who opposes investments for a GREEN NEW DEAL has to tell us how they will pay for the DAMAGE from intense HURRICANES, FLOODS, DROUGHTS, WILDFIRES, rapid SEA LEVEL RISE and ECOLOGICAL DEVASTATION.” www.twitter.com

E.G. White: “The SUNDAY movement is now making its way IN DARKNESS. The leaders are CONCEALING the true issue, and MANY WHO UNITE IN THE MOVEMENT DO NOT THEMSELVES SEE whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and APPARENTLY CHRISTIAN, BUT when it shall speak it WILL REVEAL the spirit of THE DRAGON.” CCH335

Jan 2019 “Catholics confront global poverty”
“CLIMATE CHANGE and poverty are closely intertwined. The people who suffer most from the disruption of NATURAL DISASTERS are our brothers. POPE FRANCIS calls on us.. it's time to address global warming and poverty, ..Emissions to rise EARTHS surface TEMPERATURE dangerously, CRIPPLING HEAT WAVES, EXTREME PRECIPITATION, SEA WARMS ACIDIFYING, SEAS RISE.” confrontglobalpoverty.org

Rev 8:9 “And the third part of the CREATURES which were in the SEA, and had life, DIED; and the third part of the SHIPS were DESTROYED.”

Rev 16:9 “The angel poured our his vial upon the sun, And men were scorched with great heat.”

Dec 31, 2018 “My 2019 prediction is that churches and people of faith across the world will RECOGNIZE THE DESTRUCTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE and make a prophetic call to CHANGE OUR WAYS OF LIVING.”

www.religionnews.com

E. G. White: “The substitution of SUNDAY in place of the Bible SABBATH, is the LAST ACT in the drama. WHEN THE SUBSTITUTION BECOMES UNIVERSAL, God will reveal Himself. HE WILL ARISE in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place TO PUNISH THE INHABITANTS of the world for their iniquity,”

7T 141

E.G. White: “I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of ‘refreshing’ and the ‘latter rain’ to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter!” EW71

Rev 14:9 A THIRD ANGEL followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone WORSHIPS THE beast and its IMAGE and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, THEY, too, will DRINK THE WINE OF GODS FURY.. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead WHO DIE IN THE LORD FROM NOW ON.. “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM.” (probation closed)

Luke 21:28 “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh.”

ISLAMIC NEWS

Dec 26, 2018 “Sharia UNDERAGE MARRIAGE ALLOWED in Germany?” www.breitbart.com

Jan 5 2019 Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB “I used my own personal QURAN to use for the CEREMONIAL SWEAR IN.” www.thehill.com

Jan 8 2019 Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB
“We’re going to impeach that *****.”
www.foxnews.com

Gen 37:25 “...and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmaelites...”

ABORTION, MURDER or CIVIL RIGHT? NEWS

Jan 7 2019 “NY Gov Cuomo said, 'Supreme Court Judge Kavanaugh is going to REVERSE Roe v. Wade and I have no doubt Gorsuch is going to reverse Roe v. Wade (abortion vs pro-life).’” Cuomo said, referring to the two justices appointed by President Trump.” www.thehill.com

Jan 7, 2019 The Bill Submitted to NY: “Entitles the Reproductive Health Act, NY's latest abortion law allows TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY UNTIL THE EXPECTED DAY OF BIRTH, with some limitations.” “REDEFINES ‘PERSON’ as “a human being who has been BORN and is alive”, eliminating the possibility of recognizing the personhood of an unborn child. During Hillary Clintons 2016 campaign, she said, 'THE UNBORN PERSON DOESN'T HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.’”
www.breitbart.com

Jan 22, 2019 “Long-stalled ABORTION BILL PASSES New York Legislature as state law.”
www.usatoday.com

Jan 22, 2019 “ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER complex — was illuminated with PINK LIGHTING to celebrate the Empire State’s passage of legislation designating ABORTION a “FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT.” www.breitbart.com

CDC “There were 93,096 abortions in New York during 2015.” (NY may exceed California's 150k+/yr soon too!) www.dailywire.com

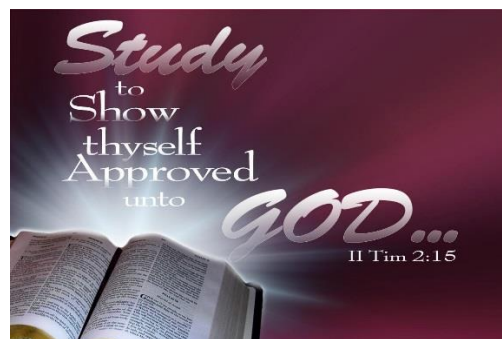
Amos 1:13 “Thus saith the LORD, For three transgressions of the children of Ammon .. I will not turn away the punishment thereof because they have RIPPED UP THE WOMEN WITH CHILD .. that they might ENLARGE THEIR BORDER.”

Ephesians 6:12 “For WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH and blood, BUT AGAINST

principalities, against powers, against the RULER OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Jan 24, 2019 LIVE from #Brussels: “35,000 kids fighting for our planet's future and #ClimateJustice NOW! The reports of the death of #Democracy are greatly exaggerated - it's alive and kicking! #Youth4Climate” www.twitter.com

REMEMBER:



“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

2 Timothy Chapter 3

DANIEL 12: THE SCATTERING OF THE SAINTS AND HOW LONG?

by Russell Friend

There is a seeming contradiction between Daniel 12 and Revelation 10 about Time we should be aware of and understand, it is no contradiction at all. But to see what seems to be that contradiction, we need to see of what kind of time Daniel 12 is speaking and then to understand what kind of time Revelation 10 is referring.

We read in Daniel 12:5-8, verse, 5 “*Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, THERE STOOD TWO, THE ONE ON THIS SIDE OF THE BANK OF THE RIVER, AND THE OTHER ON THAT SIDE OF THE BANK OF THE RIVER. 6 AND ONE SAID TO THE MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN, WHICH WAS UPON THE WATERS OF THE RIVER,*

HOW LONG TO THE END OF THESE WONDERS? 7 And I HEARD THE MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN, which was upon the waters of the river, WHEN HE HELD UP HIS RIGHT HAND AND HIS LEFT HAND UNTO HEAVEN, AND SWARE BY HIM THAT LIVETH FOREVER THAT IT SHALL BE FOR A TIME, TIMES, AND AN HALF; AND WHEN HE SHALL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TO SCATTER THE POWER OF THE HOLY PEOPLE, ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE FINISHED. 8 And I HEARD, BUT I UNDERSTOOD NOT: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" Because these verses are in the context of the Antitypical Judgment, that context being seen in the last few verses of Daniel 11 and the first verse of Daniel 12, they cannot be talking about the 1260 years of Papal Persecution; because, as most students of Adventism realize, the last few verses in Daniel 11 have not taken place yet, and we are in the time of the Judgment, and certainly Daniel 12:1 and beyond is still future; therefore the Time, Times, and an Half: a year, two years, and a half a year: those 3 1/2 years must be yet in our future! So what difference would that make in our understanding of this seeming contradiction? Apparently, so to speak, it is a "Prophetic Time" game changer.



When the Man in linen said: **"And when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished,"** He was certainly including those verses not yet fulfilled to us in Daniel 11. We know from Daniel 7:21&22 in the previous study, the Little Horn is to make war on the Saints during the time of the Judgment, until Judgment is given to the saints: starting with verse 21 **"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."** While in Daniel 12:1 we see the Ancient of Days standing to give a Judgment in favor of His Saints. And we see this again in verses 25&26 of Daniel 7, the same kind of scenario about this same time period we see in the first verse of Daniel 12: Daniel 7:"**25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of**

time. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end." So can we safely conclude, in Daniel 12:7 the scattering [or shattering] of the Power of the Holy people is the same as this war of wearing down the saints [a genocide] the Little Papal Horn carries out against God's Saints; then all these things [from the time of the end] written up to verse 45 of Daniel 11, and verse 1 of Daniel 12 will be finished?! And that time limit is not in long ages of 1260 years, but 1260 Literal Days. Literal Days because that is the kind of time the prophecy is given in, and this time occurs during the time of the Judgment; and from Daniel 11:40 [the beginning of the time of the end] to verse 45 there is not enough information about the ongoing events to have us "understand" this time could span a second 1260 YEAR period.

So, from these verses, and a little common sense, we may see, God has put a time limit on this last Papal attempt at wearing down of the Saints! Therefore, the wearing out of the people of God is short, until God gives the Judgment to the saints, as told in Daniel 7. What is that Judgment? Says Daniel 7:22 **"Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."** AND AGAIN, in verse **"26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end."** So, this Judgment of the Most High is, then, in favor of the Saints and against the Little Horn and his Papal kingdom; and seems much like the end of Daniel 11 and the beginning of Daniel 12, as we read of the King of the North, the Little Horn, in Daniel 11:44 **"But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. 45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him."** Daniel 12:1 **"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."** Again, these verses in Daniel 11 and 12 sound very much like Daniel 7:10 **"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great**

words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.”

These tidings from the East and the North that anger the King of the North: are these tidings from the Heavenly Temple of God: Gospel Tidings that are unraveling the Papal Kingdom? We read in: Revelation 18:1 *“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. 7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. 8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. . . .” 11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.”* This appears to me to be the Latter

Rain message to those in the Papal Kingdom and to the whole world! We might see, here is the first part of the Judgment given to the saints of the Most High: in their favor. That God has honored them with the Latter Rain to give the Last message of Warning against the mark of the beast, and the Salvation that is offered to the world.



For these reasons we should see the next verses of Daniel 12, in the context of the Antitypical Judgment, as a short time of Judgment for the Living in the time of the end:

1. The last verses in Daniel 11 concerning the time of the end are only 5 verses: containing not enough information to warrant a belief that the Time, Times and an Half in Daniel 12 speak of long ages of another 1260 years; but rather of 3 1/2 Literal years.
2. The three times in Daniel 7:10&11, 21&22, 25-27 from our earlier study, set in the context of a Second Revived Supremacy of Papal Rome [a Supremacy that comes well after 1798 and during the time of the Judgment].
3. The last of those 3 times in Daniel 7, Daniel places Papal Rome both in the View of the Antitypical Judgment and a definite period of 1260 DAYS: a Time, Times, and an Half.
4. The Time, Times and an Half in Daniel 12:7 are in the context of the last few verses of Daniel 11 and Daniel 12:1, the King of the North is furious with God's Saints, intends to kill them all, then Jesus stands for His holy people [the end of the Judgment], and there is a time of trouble such as never was. Since Daniel 11:40-45 with Daniel 12:1 have not yet occurred, it must be an imminent future event that carries with it the 3 1/2 years of Literal time of which verse 7 speaks.
5. In Daniel 12:7 the Time, Times, and an Half are put in a future view immediately before us, of *“all these things shall be finished.”* This demands our view of this verse turn from the long ages of Time, to the shorter time of a Second Papal Supremacy of a

Revived Papal Rome in the Antitypical Judgment for a short period of Literal Time.

6. All the time prophecies of Daniel 7 and 12, with Revelation 11 to 13 are given in Literal Time, not Prophetic Time.

7. This Literal Time in which the prophecy was given has been previously understood and taught only by Interpolation [i.e. “the insertion of something of a different nature into something else” such as] to mean a Day for a Year.

8. The Day for a Day, Literal Time, as a principle, in which the prophecies were given, has never been used by mainstream Adventism as an understanding or consideration for interpretation of these Prophecies; yet they all were written in Literal Time, and God does not lie. What He says He will do! Prophetic Time is fulfilled and done: that just leaves Literal Time to be fulfilled.

But now, in view of the Time, Times, and an Half of Literal Time, we have a seeming contradiction between Daniel 7&12 and Revelation 10 [and we might extend that contradiction to include Revelation 11&13, if not 11-13]. On the one hand we have Christ, the Man dressed in linen, in Daniel 12 declaring the continued existence of the Papal Kingdom from the time it declares war against the Saints to their scattering, to be only a 3 1/2 literal year period. A definite amount of time!

On the other hand we have in Revelation 10, an angel declaring, just as the 7th angel is about to sound his trumpet to finish the mystery of God, that the Book of Daniel is an open Book now; and there shall be time no longer. At the same time the angel declares to John that he is to prophesy a second time, **“Thou must prophesy again.” Revelation 10:11.** If the Book of Daniel is open, and Daniel was told his Book would be opened in the time of the end; and we see this little Book open in the hand of the angel, then the little Book must be the Book of Daniel that was to be sealed until the time of the end; and the time of this Angel in Revelation 10, declaring time no longer must also be in the time of the end sometime after 1798 and after 1844 the end of the longest time prophecy in the Bible of 2300 years. So the Time, Times and a Half, and the declaration: Time shall be no longer, are both in the setting of the Antitypical Judgment, and the time of the end.

So, which is it? Time, or no time?? What time is here being spoken of as the Time that is no longer??? For there is Prophetic Time, and then the Literal Time in which the Prophecies of Daniel 7 and 12 were given. *(Part 2: “That Contradiction Between Times” will be in our March newsletter.)*



We look forward to seeing all of you here for Passover and Week of Unleavened Bread, [April 20-27, 2019](#). The Passover meal will be on Friday afternoon, April 19th, and then we will have speakers all day Sabbath the 20th through the 27th. Share the information and invite your family, friends and neighbors! Invite strangers! So many are out there lost and cold...without any true knowledge of our Wonderful Father and His Son! Join us this spring!

We will have great speakers once again: Jaime Jorge will be with us for 2 concerts, speaking will be Melissa Jordan, Christian Israel, Russell Friend, Solomon Khunou, and also Pastor Arthur Branner and his wife Dr. Esmie Branner. They will be bringing us some exciting things for our time.

The Branners sent this in an email: The theme for the week is: “Awakening the Conscious Mind” Through: “Prophecy Science and the New World Order”

We will take you in a journey to examine the prophecies of Daniel 12. We have been cautioned to understand the warning that is hidden in that particular chapter, and to unveil the meaning. Jesus in Matthew 24:15 also pointed to the book of Daniel and spoke of a sign written therein and that whoso readeth let him understand.

Understanding comes when the mind is healed, and that deep inner work of renewal of the mind begins. Emotional Healing prepares the mind for the Seal of God, to make it through the time of trouble, and to live eternally with God.

Pastor Branner will cover the Prophecies of Daniel. and Dr. Esmie will cover Mental and Emotional health, for the last day. *(Please see page 7 to learn more about them.)*

Plan to be here! How many more do we have? Only our Father knows. I believe we are living almost past the toenails of time, as my dad used to put it. I'd say that is almost the very end!



Please continue to be a part of this work! Be a part of our Bible Explorations family and help us reach the world so the end may come and we can see our Savior coming in the

clouds! Please help by doing all you can. Share with friends and neighbors how to find us through our various internet programming, books, DVDs, and also live streaming so they can learn more about what is coming and how to be ready.



Do not doubt yourself but believe and have faith in our Father. Together we can help finish the work!

Remember Bible Explorations in your prayers and financial support as we continue to keep John and Clara's ministry alive in sharing the Great Hope of His Soon Coming!



MEET PASTOR ARTHUR R. BRANNER II & ESMIE G. BRANNER PH.D.

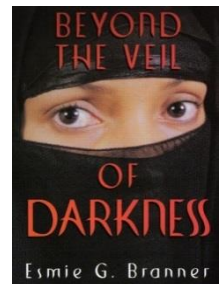


Pastor Arthur R Branner II was born in Pontiac Michigan. He is a graduate of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University, in Michigan; and is currently completing his doctoral studies in Christian Counseling, from Trinity Theological Seminary in Indiana.

Pastor Branner is a retired Captain in the US Army and National Guard. He served a tour of duty from 2004-2005 as an Army Chaplain in Iraq. He is married to Dr. Esmie Branner a specialist in cognitive neuroscience/psychology and the author of the book "Beyond The Veil Of Darkness. He is an accomplished writer and published author. Some of his favorite hobbies are water skiing and snow boarding.

Dr. Esmie Branner: Grew up in England, and is a graduate of Andrews University in Berrien Springs Michigan. She earned a Ph.D in Research Psychology; specializing in Cognitive Neuroscience, and Emotional Intelligence (EQ). She has worked as a college professor, counselor and therapist. Currently she is a consultant in the area of mental & emotional Health.

She is a published author of the book:



"Beyond The Veil Of Darkness" Which unfolds her thrilling life testimony and spiritual experience, while living in Saudi Arabia with Ex-Muslim husband and five children.

Her new book soon to be released is **"Healing for the Sealing"** which reveals the Biology and Science of Emotional and Spiritual Healing.

The Branner's have a Family Life Ministry, Science of Salvation S.O.S they conduct spiritual and mental health seminars nationally and internationally, specializing in family mediation and counseling. Pastor Branner is a teacher and preacher of Bible prophecy; and Dr. Esmie interweaves the bible with current groundbreaking science that enhances emotional healing and spiritual growth.

Pastor Arthur believes that the future of our society is to a large degree determined by the quality of our families.

Pastor and Dr. Branner are the parents of 5 adult children and 14 grandchildren.

Rev 12:11 "and they overcame him by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death".

The Branners believe that we can overcome ALL things, through Christ who strengthens us.

I am looking forward to meeting them and hearing what they will share with us, along with all the other speakers we have! Jaime Jorge will be here the evening of April 24th (7:30 p.m.) and morning of April 25th (10:00 a.m.). Pastor Randy Brehms will also be here to help with the music, along with Arlene Overbeck, Dan and Carol Liss, Lee Schappell and Don Velasquez and more. Come and join us! We need to study together to be ready and not be left out.

Ellen G. White, *Christ Object Lessons*, Chap. 29:
"To Meet the Bridegroom"



Based on Matt. 25:1-13

Christ with His disciples is seated upon the Mount of Olives. The sun has set behind the mountains, and the heavens are curtained with the shades of evening. In full view is a dwelling house lighted up brilliantly as if for some festive scene. The light streams from the openings, and an expectant company wait around, indicating that a marriage procession is soon to appear. In many parts of the East, wedding festivities are held in the evening. The bridegroom goes forth to meet his bride and bring her to his home. By

torchlight the bridal party proceed from her father's house to his own, where a feast is provided for the invited guests. In the scene upon which Christ looks, a company are awaiting the appearance of the bridal party, intending to join the procession.

Lingering near the bride's house are ten young women robed in white. Each carries a lighted lamp and a small flagon for oil. All are anxiously watching for the appearance [p. 406] of the bridegroom. But there is a delay. Hour after hour passes; the watchers become weary and fall asleep. At midnight the cry is heard, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." The sleepers, suddenly awaking, spring to their feet. They see the procession moving on, bright with torches and glad with music. They hear the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. The ten maidens seize their lamps and begin to trim them, in haste to go forth. But five have neglected to fill their flasks with oil. They did not anticipate so long a delay, and they have not prepared for the emergency. In distress they appeal to their wiser companions saying, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are going out." (Margin.) But the waiting five, with their freshly trimmed lamps, have emptied their flagons. They have no oil to spare, and they answer, "Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."

While they went to buy, the procession moved on, and left them behind. The five with lighted lamps joined the throng and entered the house with the bridal train, and the door was shut. When the foolish virgins reached the banqueting hall, they received an unexpected denial. The master of the feast declared, "I know you not." They were left standing without, in the empty street, in the blackness of the night.

As Christ sat looking upon the party that waited for the bridegroom, He told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience illustrating the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming.



Our next newsletter will have more information, and possibly the schedule, along with directions. You can check out our website to find more information: www.BibleExplorations.com. Call or email any time.

