



Bible Explorations Newsletter

May 2023 Issue

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PASSOVER AND FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD 2023

The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread was wonderful. We had some great speakers, and you can find them on our Bible Explorations YouTube channel ([BibleExplorations.com/YT](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBibleExplorations)). We had a few folk show up in Nevada and it was nice to meet in person again. We will keep you up on what we will be doing this fall. No matter what, we will be live on zoom!

There are a few small groups who get together and watch us from their own areas on Sabbath. Keep these small groups in prayer. We are here to help where needed! We are spreading His word worldwide!

PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S COMING

By Ellen G. White

Do we believe with all the heart that Christ is soon coming and that we are now having the last message of mercy that is ever to be given to a guilty world? Is our example what it should be? Do we, by our lives and holy conversation, show to those around us that

we are looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who shall change these vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body? I fear that we do not believe and realize these things as we should. Those who believe the important truths that we profess, should act out their faith. There is too much seeking after amusements and things to take the attention in this world; the mind is left to run too much upon dress, and the tongue is engaged too often in light and trifling conversation, which gives the lie to our profession, for our conversation is not in heaven, whence we look for the Saviour.

Angels are watching over and guarding us; we often grieve these angels by indulging in trifling conversation, jesting, and joking, and also by sinking down into a careless, stupid state. Although we may now and then make an effort for the victory and obtain it, yet if we do not keep it, but sink down into the same careless, indifferent state, unable to endure temptations and resist the enemy, we do not endure the trial of our faith that is more precious than gold. We are not suffering for Christ's sake, and glorying in tribulation.

There is a great lack of Christian fortitude and serving God from principle. We should not seek to please and gratify self, but to honor and glorify God, and in all we do and say to have an eye single to His glory. If we would let our hearts be impressed with the following important words, and ever bear them in mind, we should not so easily fall into temptation and our words would be few and well chosen: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for

our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." "Thou God seest me."

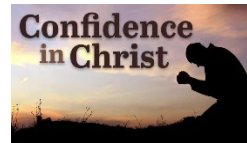
We could not think of these important words, and call to mind the sufferings of Jesus that we poor sinners might receive pardon and be redeemed unto God by His most precious blood, without feeling a holy restraint upon us and an earnest desire to suffer for Him who suffered and endured so much for us. If we dwell on these things, dear self, with its dignity, will be humbled, and its place will be occupied by a childlike simplicity which will bear reproof from others and will not be easily provoked. A self-willed spirit will not then come in to rule the soul.

The true Christian's joys and consolation must and will be in heaven. The longing souls of those who have tasted of the powers of the world to come and have feasted on heavenly joys, will not be satisfied with things of earth. Such will find enough to do in their leisure moments. Their souls will be drawn out after God. Where the treasure is, there will the heart be, holding sweet communion with the God they love and worship. Their amusement will be in contemplating their treasure—the Holy City, the earth made new, their eternal home. And while they dwell upon those things which are lofty, pure, and holy, heaven will be brought near, and they will feel the power of the Holy Spirit, and this will tend to wean them more and more from the world and cause their consolation and chief joy to be in the things of heaven, their sweet home. The power of attraction to God and heaven will then be so great that nothing can draw their minds from the great object of securing the soul's salvation and honoring and glorifying God.

As I realize how much has been done for us to keep us right, I am led to exclaim, Oh, what love, what wondrous love, hath the Son of God for us poor sinners! Should we be stupid and careless while everything is being done for our salvation that can be done? All heaven is interested for us. We should be alive and awake to honor, glorify, and adore the high and lofty One. Our hearts should flow out in love and gratitude to Him who has been so full of love and compassion to us. With our lives we should honor

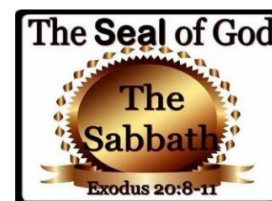
Him, and with pure and holy conversation show that we are born from above, that this world is not our home, but that we are pilgrims and strangers here, traveling to a better country.

Many who profess the name of Christ and claim to be looking for His speedy coming, know not what it is to suffer for Christ's sake. Their hearts are not subdued by grace, and they are not dead to self, as is often shown in various ways. At the same time they are talking of having trials. But the principal cause of their trials is an unsubdued heart, which makes self



so sensitive that it is often crossed. If such could realize what it is to be a humble follower of Christ, a true Christian, they would begin to work in good earnest and begin right. They would first die to self, then be instant in prayer, and check every passion of the heart. Give up your self-confidence and self-sufficiency, brethren, and follow the meek Pattern. Ever keep Jesus in your mind that He is your example and you must tread in His footsteps. Look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame. He endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself. He for our sins was once the meek, slain lamb, wounded, bruised, smitten, and afflicted.

Let us, then, cheerfully suffer something for Jesus' sake, crucify self daily, and be partakers of Christ's sufferings here, that we may be made partakers with Him of His glory, and be crowned with glory, honor, immortality, and eternal life.



THE SABBATH

By Ted Schultz

John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York
"The belief in the Bible as the sole source of faith is unhistorical, illogical, fatal to virtue of faith, and destructive of unity."

The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. XIII, Protestantism, Section IIIA—Sola Scriptura (“Bible Alone”), Nihil Obstat, February 1, 1912 by Remy Lafort, D.D., and Censor, Imprimatur, John Cardinal Farley of New York.

The Bible tells us how faith comes. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17. “The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17. “And from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” II Timothy 3:15-17. Jesus said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.” Psalm 119:11. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” I Peter 1:23.

The Third Commandment

“The third commandment of God is: Remember thou keep holy the Lord’s day.”

“Why does the Church command us to keep Sunday as the Lord’s day?”

“The Church commands us to keep Sunday as the Lord’s day, because on Sunday Christ rose from the dead, and on Sunday the Holy Ghost descended upon the apostles. “The early Church changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday on the authority given to it by Christ. The New Testament makes no explicit mention that the apostles changed the day of worship, but we know it from Tradition.

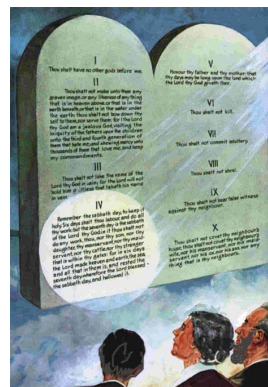
“What are we commanded, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:9-11. “Remember” is the only word that was quoted

correctly from the fourth commandment of the Bible in the catechism!

“By the third commandment we are commanded to worship God in a special manner on Sunday, the Lord’s day.” This We Believe (rev. ed. of the Baltimore Catechism No. 3), pp. 189-193.

The post-Vatican II Council Catechism (1964) represents in a chart the third commandment to be the Sabbath commandment which states, “Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day.” Catechism of the Catholic Church, p. 496. It is listed as the third commandment and not the fourth because the second commandment has been “dispensed with” (The Augsburg Confession).

The second commandment reads as follows. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20:4-6.



Almost all of the fourth commandment has been expunged. The following words have been deleted. “the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle In order to maintain a full count of ten commandments the tenth commandment was divided into two parts. The very order and content of the ten commandments was changed. The Catechism in which we find these great alterations to the law of God was declared by Pope John Paul II to “be a sure norm” and “a sure and authentic reference

text for teaching catholic doctrine.” Ibid. p. 5. The Great Schism of 1054

Two principle points, images in the church and opposition to the Sabbath, contributed to the Great Schism that divided the Catholic church. While there was a complex mix of reasons, both religious and political that led to the final separation, these two reasons stood prominent among them. The Eastern Church at the time were iconoclasts. Iconoclast comes from the two words ikon (image) and klastes (breaker). The Eastern Church did not believe in images in the church. They also felt that Rome’s opposition to the Sabbath was not correct and that Roman Catholics should cease Saturday fasts.

Heylyn, in his very old history of the Sabbath, confirms the regard that the Eastern Church had for the Sabbath.

“Not that the Eastern Churches, or any of the rest which observed that day [the Sabbath], were inclined to Judaism; but that they came together on the Sabbath day, to worship Jesus Christ the Lord of the Sabbath.” Peter Heylyn, *The History of the Sabbath In Two Books*, (1636). Part 2, p. 74. “It was the practice generally of the Eastern Churches [to observe the Sabbath]; and of some Churches of the West. For in the Church of Millaine [Milan], which, as before I said, in some certain things, followed the Churches of the East; it seems the Saturday was held in fair esteem, and joined together with the Sunday.” Ibid. p 73 (Old English spelling corrected to modern rules).



In the summer of 1054, Pope Leo IX sent Cardinal Humbert from Rome to Constantinople to deal with the widening rift between the Western and Eastern Churches. It did not go well. The Pope of Rome was determined that his authority should be recognized by the whole Christian world. The eastern patriarch, Michael Cerularius did not agree. Whereupon, Cardinal Humbert placed a papal bull upon the altar of Santa Sophia which declared that

everyone in the Eastern Church was excommunicated. In response, Cerularius excommunicated Cardinal Humbert, Pope Leo IX, and the entire papal legation.

“The quarrel embittered itself as the Catholics accused the Christians of Constantinople of Judaizing [keeping the Sabbath] with the Jews and Christianizing with the Christians, while genuine believers should look upon the Jews and their Sabbath with execration. ‘The Easterners,’ Cardinal Humbert wrote, ‘chose to observe the Sabbath with the Jews.’” – Cardinal Humbert, quoted in Migne, *Patrologia Latina*, 143:936-937.” *The Sabbath and the Lord’s Day*, p. 197.

We see by one of the most notable events in history that for a thousand years after the days of the apostles there were Christians keeping the seventh day Sabbath of creation on a large scale. This created one of the greatest divisions in the Christian world. Many were faithfully observing it while another sector of Christianity was accusing them of Judaizing for doing so. Sadly, after the passing of many years, the Greek Orthodox Church began keeping Sunday only. Yet in both the East and the West there were faithful souls that continued to keep the seventh day Sabbath. And so it will be to the very end of time. There will be a remnant that keep the commandments of God. Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

Augsburg Confession of Faith

“They [the Catholics] allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord’s day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it appears, neither is there any example more boasted of than changing of the Sabbath day. Great, say they, is the power and authority of the church, since it dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments.” *Augsburg Confession of Faith*, Article 28, par. 9. Emphasis supplied.

Rome Challenges Protestants

“You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded. The command to keep holy

the seventh day is one of the ten commandments; you believe that the other nine are still binding; who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible and the Bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered.” Library of Christian Doctrine: Why Don’t You Keep Holy the Sabbath Day? pp. 3, 4. London: Burns and Oats (Roman Catholic).

Following the Church vs. Following the Bible

“If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church.” Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, letter February 10, 1920.

Protestants are Following Rome

“Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the Roman [Catholic] Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath.” John Gilmary Shea, American Catholic Quarterly Review, January 1883.

Sunday Observance Rests on Authority of the Catholic Church

“But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn’t it curious that non-Catholics, who claim to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is inconsistent; but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away – like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair.” John A. O’Brien, The Faith of Millions: the Credentials of the Catholic Religion, Revised Edition, 1974, pp. 400-401.

There is, however, a crucial bit of history missing in this statement. During the fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, God’s true commandment

keeping people fled into the wilderness so they could live out their commandment keeping lives without being killed for doing so. Revelation 12:14-17. But even when living in the more desolate places of the earth countless souls were hunted down and slaughtered like wild animals. This history is little known today even though it was prophesied before it took place. This history is prophesied to be repeated. Revelation 13:5-18.

The Council of Trent

At the final session of the Council of Trent which reconvened in January of 1562, Gaspar de Fosso, the Archbishop of Reggio made a speech. In part, this is



what he said: “The Protestants claim to stand upon the written word only; they profess to hold the Scriptures alone as the standard of faith. They justify their revolt by the

plea that the Church has apostatized from the written word and follows tradition. Now the Protestant’s claim that they stand upon the written word alone is not true. Their profession of holding the Scriptures alone as the standard of faith is false. Proof ... The word explicitly enjoins the observance of the seventh day as Sabbath. They do not observe the seventh day, but reject it. If they truly hold the Scriptures alone as the standard, they would be observing the seventh day as it is enjoined in the Scripture throughout. Yet they not only reject the observance of the Sabbath as enjoined in the written word, but they have adopted, and do practice the observance of Sunday, for which they have only the tradition of the (Catholic) Church. Consequently, the claim of Scripture alone as the standard fails and the doctrine of ‘Scripture and tradition as essential’ is fully established, the Protestants themselves being Judges.” Editor, Catholic Mirror, September 23, 1893. See also J. H. Holtzman, Canon and Tradition, p. 263.

The First Sunday Law

The first Sunday law issued on March 7, 321 A. D. speaks of Sunday as the “venerable day of the sun” which, of course, is a purely pagan title. “Let all

judges and towns people, and the occupations of all trades rest on the Venerable Day of the Sun: nevertheless, let those who are situated in the rural districts, freely and with full liberty attend to the cultivation of the fields; because it frequently happens that no other day may be so fitting for sowing grains and planting vines; lest the critical moment being let slip, men should lose the commodities granted by heaven.” Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. III, p. 380.

There was nothing in Constantine’s Sunday law that could be considered Biblical or Christian. In it there was no mention of the Sabbath at creation, the seventh day, Christ, or of His resurrection. His mention of “the venerable day of the sun” was a perfect move on his part, as a believer in mithraism, to unite the sun worshiping pagans with Christians who, before this, had already begun to observe Sunday.

Central to Mithraism was sun worship on the venerable day of the sun. This law was a civil decree made by Emperor Constantine who was not a Christian but a worshiper of Mithra. He, ever the politician, used Christianity as a branch of politics to bring unity to the empire. He issued five more Sunday laws over the next few years to strengthen the first law. “...by a law of the year 386, those older changes effected by the emperor Constantine were more rigorously enforced; and, in general, civil transactions of every kind on Sunday were strictly forbidden. Whoever transgressed was to be considered, in fact, as guilty of sacrilege.” Augustus Neander, History of the Christian Religion and the Church, (1832 ca.), Vol. II, sec. iii, part ii, div. iii, par. 4. Romanized Christianity, at the time, began more than ever to integrate forms of paganism into its own system of belief and church practice in an effort to win over the pagans. As paganism and Romanized Christianity blended, civil and religious laws blended accordingly. “As a solar festival, Sunday was the sacred day of Mithra; it is interesting to notice that



since Mithra was addressed as Dominus (‘Lord’), Sunday must have been ‘the Lord’s day’ long before Christian times.” A. Weigall, The Paganism in Our Christianity, p. 145.

Constantine’s Sunday law was a great assist in mingling the sun worship of Mithraism with professed Christianity. That day, before dedicated to Mithra, would also become the day to worship Christ. This change would be enforced by yet another Sunday law. But this time it would not be a civil law handed down by the Emperor, it would be a law handed down from the church with the help of the Emperor.

A Gradual Change

The change from the seventh day Sabbath of creation to Sunday was a very gradual change spanning centuries. In the years immediately following the days of the apostles, virtually all Christians kept the seventh day Sabbath. Then followed many years when both Saturday and Sunday were observed with Sunday not even being seen as having any sacredness, but observed as a festival to commemorate Christ’s resurrection. The observance of Sunday served to win over converts from heathenism since they too held Sunday in high regard. As the years passed Sunday began to be regarded as having a degree of sacredness. As Sunday rose higher and higher, the Sabbath was pressed lower and lower. The Sabbath which the Lord declared to be a feast day was made a fast day and eventually Sunday became the chief feast day. Through church councils and the influence of half converted pagans and world loving Christians the true Sabbath of creation came to be regarded as a mere relic of the Jews and that which God had blessed at creation was declared to be a curse.

The Council of Nicea

In 325 A. D. Emperor Constantine called the bishops to a council in Nicea over which he himself presided. He sought the help of the bishops to settle the Arian conflict and the bishops sought the help of the emperor for the furtherance of their own ends. Over three hundred bishops attended this council. While this council was called to deal with some issues that were threatening to divide the Christians and thus

destabilize the empire, other issues were dealt with as well. One such issue was Sunday as a rest day. An edict was drawn up in favor of the ‘venerable day of the sun.’ “Constantine did many things to favor the bishops. He gave them money and political preference. He made their decisions in disputed cases final, as the decision of Jesus Christ. But in nothing that he did for them did he give the power over those who did not belong to the church. To compel them to act as though they did, except in the one thing of the Sunday law. In the Sunday law, power was given to the church to compel those who did not belong to the church, and who were not subject to the jurisdiction of the church, to obey the commands of the church. In the Sunday law there was given to the church control of the civil power, so that by it she could compel those who did not belong to the church to act as though they did. The history of Constantine’s time may be searched through and through, and it will be found that in nothing did he give the church any such power, except in this one thing – the Sunday law.” Alonzo Trevier Jones, *The Great Empires of Prophecy*, pp. 491-492. (1898). **(To be continued...)**



We have some sad news from the last couple of months! As most of you know, in February we lost our dear friend and great speaker, Dave Baxter. He is so very missed by all!

In March we lost a beautiful God-fearing lady, full of faith, always encouraging in her words, Alicia (Alice) Camacho, Abel’s wife. Abel and Alice have been with Bible Explorations for years and helped so much in so many ways. We look forward to that morning we will see her again when He comes! She is sleeping for now, but please pray for Abel. This has to be such a hard time. They were married over 50 years. We love them both and we are so glad we have that great hope of His soon coming!

Another one we recently lost was Cheryl Richardson. She was married to Marvin Richardson. They had moved from Bakersfield up to the mountains near Springville. She will be missed. We need to keep Marvin in your prayers. He also has some medical issues but is hanging in there! God is in control.



Sleeping Saints Guarded as Precious Jewels— [[Isaiah 26:19](#) quoted]. The Life-giver will call up His purchased possession in the first resurrection, and until that triumphant hour, when the last trump shall sound and the vast army shall come forth to eternal victory, every sleeping saint will be kept in safety and will be guarded as a precious jewel, who is known to God by name. By the power of the Saviour that dwelt in them while living and because they were partakers of the divine nature, they are brought forth from the dead (EGW) ([Letter 65a, 1894](#)).

FALSE SHEPHERDS

By Ellen G. White (Early Writings)

I have been shown that the false shepherds were drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. The truth of God is sealed up to them; they cannot read it. When they are interrogated as to what the seventh-day Sabbath is, whether or not it is the true Sabbath of the Bible, they lead the mind to fables. I saw that these prophets were like the foxes of the desert. They have not gone up into the gaps, they have not made up the hedge that the people of God may stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. When the minds of any get stirred up, and they begin to inquire of these false shepherds about the truth, they take the easiest and best manner to effect their

object and quiet the minds of the inquiring ones, even changing their own position to do it. Light has shone on many of these shepherds, but they would not acknowledge it and have changed their position a number of times to evade the truth and get away from the conclusions that they must come to if they continued in their former position. The power of truth tore up their foundation, but instead of yielding to it they would get up another platform that they were not satisfied with themselves.

I saw that many of these shepherds had denied the past teachings of God; they had denied and rejected the glorious truths which they once zealously advocated and had covered themselves with mesmerism and all kinds of delusions. I saw that they were drunken with error and were leading on their flock to death. Many of the opposers of God's truth devise mischief in their heads upon their beds, and in the day they carry out their wicked devices to put down the truth and to get something new to interest the people and divert their minds from the precious, all-important truth.

I saw that the priests who are leading on their flock to death are soon to be arrested in their dreadful career. The plagues of God are coming, but it will not be sufficient for the false shepherds to be tormented with one or two of these plagues. God's hand at that time will be stretched out still in wrath and justice and will not be brought to Himself again until His purposes are fully accomplished, and the hireling priests are led to worship at the feet of the saints, and to acknowledge that God has loved them because they held fast the truth and kept God's commandments, and until all the unrighteous ones are destroyed from the earth.

The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given all these truths to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. He has also given them truths that none of these parties know, neither will they understand. Things which are sealed up to them, the Lord has opened to those who will see and are ready to understand. If God has any new light to communicate, He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds

enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error.

I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.

I saw that we have no time to throw away in listening to fables. Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth, and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be able to give a reason of our hope from the Scriptures. While false doctrines and dangerous errors are pressed upon the mind, it cannot be dwelling upon the truth which is to fit and prepare the house of Israel to stand in the day of the Lord.

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