



Bible Explorations, Inc.
 P.O. Box 10965
 Terra Bella, CA 93270



Bible Explorations Newsletter

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Inside This Issue

1-4	Faithfulness in the End Times; VanDenburgh
5-6	Time to Remember, Time to Decide, which deals with Malachi 4:4, 5 (Ted Schultz)
6-8	Stories of My Grandmother -Ellen White

WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE

What a wild world we are living in. This is the time to know Him and study and become Christlike so we will BE READY when He comes. Also prepare and study to spread the message to those who are now so fearful in the world, either from a virus, violence, confusion, etc. Be an encouragement to those around you, family, friends, and others. Homeless are afraid. Orphans and widows! Many are wondering what is next. Give them God's love. Pray for God's will for 2021 for Bible Explorations. As you know, you can watch us live and the recorded talks at: BibleExplorations.com/zoom; BibleExplorations.com/YT (YouTube) and also our site, BibleExplorations.com; and/or Roku. Share our channels with others!

FAITHFULNESS IN THE END TIMES

By Elder John VanDenburgh with Ellen White

[NOTE: This is going to be a Bible Study. I will be adding Bible verses which you need to read (KJV). Please get your Bibles out as you read this part of the newsletter. It will save space so I can add most of the study Elder John did. Thank you.]

We must be faithful to God and to one another:

“...He (Satan) is sweeping the whole world into his ranks, and the few who are faithful to God’s requirements are the only ones who can ever withstand him, and even these he is trying to overcome.” RH24, 1889; 2RHA354 **Please read Revelation 12:17 (KJV); Revelation 2:26; Revelation 3:9.**

After Sunday laws there may be wars, storms, meteoric showers, or even asteroids:

“There are calamities on sea and land; and these calamities will increase, one disaster following close upon another; and the little band of conscientious Sabbath-keepers will be pointed out as the ones who are bringing the wrath of God upon the world by their disregard of Sunday. RH March 18, 1884. **Please read Matthew 24:7-9.**

“In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire falling among...mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say, ‘We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know they would come so soon.’ Others said ‘You knew? Why then did you not tell us?’” 9T28 **Please read Rev. 8:7-11.**

(1) Fiery hail, (2) great mountain lands in the sea, (3) fallen star pollutes 1/3 of all earth’s drinking water.

Even the spirit world knows what is coming down:

“This is the moment for all to take refuge in me, because I am the Ark of the New Covenant. At the times of Noah, immediately before the flood, those whom the Lord had destined to survive His terrible chastisement entered into

the ark. In these your times, I am inviting all my beloved children to enter the ark of the new covenant which I have built in my Immaculate Heart for you, that they may be assisted by me to carry the bloody burden of the great trial, which precedes the coming of the day of the Lord. Do not look anywhere else. There is happening today what happened in the day of the flood.” Apparition of the virgin Marcy to Fr. Gobbi, July 30, 1986

“There are going to be bad things happening in the world, and what is asked for is conversion,” Patricia was told not to reveal the actual secret, as it would create panic. One month ahead of time Patricia will warn the world of the message through her spiritual advisors. The Virgin has told Patricia “the secret has three parts, and all three have to do with future chastisements for the world.” The virgin Mary to Patricia ‘Pachi’ Talbot, Apparitions 1988-1990

The spirit world is aware of the soon coming close of probation on the human race. The evil spirits are not on our side, but neither are they stupid regarding the prophecies.

“Time is short and there will be some point when conversion will no longer be possible.” Apparition of virgin Mary, Thunder of Justice p. 36

There are two churches in one. Be consistent in belonging to the right group:

“In this representation of the prophet, we see that Satan is at work, not only with worldlings who have not the fear and love of God before them, but also with those who profess faith in Christ. Here are plainly represented two distinct parties formed from a company that was once united. The members of one of these parties are in resistance to the will of God. They have taken themselves from the side of the loyal and true, and are not resisting the warnings of the Spirit of God.” RH July 18, 1907; 5RHA341

How can you know you are ‘in’ the right church?

“There is no other church than the assembly of those who have the Word of God, and who are *purified* by it.” 4SOP237

“There are clear decided distinctions to be restored and exemplified to the world in holding aloft the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The beauty of holiness is to appear in its native luster in contrast with the deformity and darkness of the disloyal, those who have revolted from the law of God...His authority should be kept *distinct* and *plain* before the world, and no laws are to be acknowledged that come in collision with the laws of Jehovah.” TM16 **Please read Revelation Matthew 19:17.**

Today’s relevancy of Revelation Chapter 5:

“The 5th chapter of Revelation needs to be closely studied. It is of great importance to those who shall act a part in the work of God for these *last days*.” 9T267 **Please read Revelation 5:1-14**

The above relevant opening scene (Rev 5) of the judgment (of the living) is immediately followed by the white horse and rider in Chapter 6. **Please read Revelation 6:1-2**

Conquering and to conquer has been applied to a past age, but as is true with many passages has a more pertinent application in the very near future.

White Horse experience of Rev. 6 applied in the apostle’s time: “He, (Christ) rejoiced in the consciousness that He could and would do more for His followers than He had promised, that from Him would flow forth love and compassion, cleansing the soul-temple, and making men like him in character, that His truth, armed with the power of the Spirit would go forth conquering and to conquer.” AA23



White Horse experience of Rev. 6 applied to the final generation: “Clad in the armor of Christ’s righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. ‘Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners,’ she is to go forth into all the world, ‘conquering and to conquer.’” PK725

“His power was mightily displayed, encouraging them to press the battle to the gates. He taught them terrible things in righteousness as He led them on step by step, conquering and to conquer. At last the victory was gained. The army following the banner with the inscription, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus,” was gloriously triumphant. 8T41,42

In addition to the world, who also will be harassing the true church?

“When the defiance of God’s law is almost universal, when His people are pressed in affliction by their fellow men, God will interpose. Then will the voice be heard from the graves of martyrs, represented by the souls that John saw slain for the Word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, which they held – then the prayer will ascend from every true child of God: ‘It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law.’” RH 12/21/1897; 3RHA528; 6BC1081

In the above quotation, the final persecution is associated with: “The time for Thee, Lord to work: for they have made void Thy law.” The time frame is during the 5th seal. So also is the time frame of this next quote: “Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin. The protest of Bible truth will be no longer tolerated by those who have not made the law of God their rule of life. Then will the voice be heard from the graves of the martyrs represented by the souls that John saw slain for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ which they held: then the prayer will ascend from every true child of God, ‘It is time for Thee, Lord to work; for they have made void Thy law’...” RH June 15, 1897; 3RHA474; The Crisis Ahead, p.16

Fifth Seal: Please read Revelation 6:9-11. Notice how this scene follows the greatest blood bath of war the world has ever seen: Please read Revelation 6:8 Praise God, the end will soon be in sight and we will soon be in Heaven at last: Please read Rev. 19:1-2; Rev. 7:13-14 When the trials are over and the redeemed are with Christ thunderous music is heard: Please read Rev. 19:6-9

Every serious Adventist in this generation should know that Prophecy and History is to be repeated before our very eyes. “In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. Those things which have been will be repeated.” MS32, 1896; 2SM109

Such study of the prophecies effects the individual self: “...All persons who might have understood the prophecies, but who did not read and search to see if they were applicable *to this time*, and concerned their individual selves, will be taken in the snare, and suffer eternal loss. They will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” RH 12/26/1899; 4RHA135

Such study could easily fill the mind with present truth light. It might help remedy the confirmed blindness of Laodicea. “Anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that though mayest see.” Rev 3:18

God wants us to have new light. **IT IS SATAN THAT DOESN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE NEW LIGHT:**

“...for Satan as a powerful general has taken the field, and in this last remnant of time he is working through all conceivable methods to close the door against light that God would have to come to His people.” RH 12/24/1889; 2RHA354.

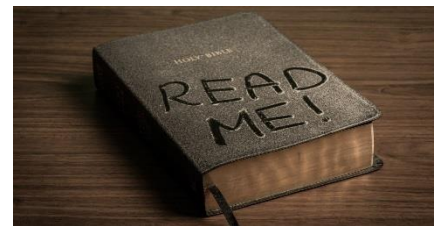
“Light must come to the people through agents *whom God shall choose*, who will give the note of warning, that none

may be in ignorance of the purposes of God or the devices of Satan. At the great heart of the work, Satan will use his hellish arts to the utmost. He will seek in every possible way to interpose himself between the people of God, and shut away the light that God would have come to His children.” RH 12/24/1889; 2RH354

The suggestion here is that God will bring the new light to us through agents God shall choose if Satan succeeds in preventing new light from coming to us from the “heart of the work.” “We cannot be excusable in accepting only the light which our fathers had one hundred years ago.” HS197; ML310 **Please read Proverbs 4:18**

CAUTION: “We are to pray for Divine enlightenment, but at the same time we should be careful how we receive everything termed new light. We must beware, lest under cover of searching for new truths, Satan shall divert our minds from Christ and the special truths for this time.” Letter 7, 1891; 1SM159

As it reads: “The whole Bible should be given to the people just *as it reads*. It would be better for them not to have Bible



instruction at all, than to have the teaching of the Scriptures thus grossly misrepresented.” GC521 “If men would but take the Bible *as it reads*, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.” CG599 “...Satan is a cunning worker, and he will bring in subtle fallacies to darken and confuse the mind and root out the doctrines of salvation. Those who do not accept the Word of God *just as it reads*, will be snared in his trap.” MS42 1907; 2SM52

“A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible *just as it reads*. Carry the Word of God to every man’s door, urge its plain statements upon every man’s conscience. Repeat to all the Saviors command: ‘Search the Scriptures.’ Admonish them to take the Bible *as it is*, to implore divine enlightenment, and then, when the light shines, to gladly accept each precious ray, and fearlessly abide the consequences.” 5T388 “Many do not hesitate to sneer at the Word of God. Those who believe that Word *just as it reads*, are held up to ridicule.” PK185

According to its obvious meaning: “...The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed.” GC599 Confidence in Ellen White: “The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the

Spirit of God. Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Prov 19:18) Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. Letter 12, 1890; 2SM78

One thing is certain: those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the testimonies of God's Spirit." Letter 156, 1903; p2 (to Brother Magan, July 27, 1903). **Please read Revelation 19:18**

The Faith Delivered to the Saints: "By proclaiming the ten commandments to the children of Israel with His own voice, God demonstrated their importance... The power and glory with which the law was given reveal its importance. It is the faith delivered to the saints by Christ our redeemer speaking from Mt. Sinai. This is the faith once delivered to the saints, who stand in moral power before the world, firmly maintaining this faith." Letter to Physicians, 6/25/1903; Spec Test, Series B, No. 1, P 6,7; Spec Test Articles, Series B, No. 1, P5,6 **Please read Psalms 119:97-105**



What is weak sentimentalism? "...but the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism making little distinction between good and evil...GC448 "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14. If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15

Church troubles: "...Do not forget that the most dangerous snares which Satan has prepared for the church will come through its own members." 5T477. "We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hinderances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world." RH3/22/1887; 2RHA121

How to prevent church deterioration: "The plain, straight testimony must live in the church, or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it did upon ancient Israel because of their sins God holds His people, as a body, responsible for the sins existing in individuals among them." 3T269 In other words we are our brother's keeper: **Please read Joshua 22:20.**

"We are required to be Christlike toward those who are our enemies; but we must not, in order to have peace,

cover up the faults of those we see in error. The world's Redeemer never purchased peace by covering iniquity, or by anything like compromise." RH 01/16/1900.

"...We cannot accept peace on such conditions. Let it be war, war to the end of earth's history, rather than peace through apostasy and sin." RH 05/8/1888, 2HA210.

"...The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means, the church will come indeed corrupt; and as stated in Revelation, 'A cage of every unclean and hateful bird.'" TM265 **Please read Revelation 18:2**

How did Ellen White tell the people to remain unaffected by apostasy, and does her counsel reach to our day? "Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe. We shall be affected by it unless we, by faith, hang our helpless souls upon Christ. If men are so easily misled, how will they stand when Satan shall personate Christ, and work miracles?" 2SM58; 1BC1114-5

In 1903 Ellen White saw changes coming from leaders not standing on the pillars of our faith: "...Satan has laid his plans to undermine our faith in the history of the cause and work of God. I am deeply in earnest as I write this. Satan is working with men in prominent positions to sweep away the foundations of our faith." RH 11/19/1903; 4RHA578.

"If the most earnest vigilance is not manifested at the great heart of the work to protect the interests of the cause, the church will become as corrupt as the church of other denominations." 4T513

Beside being an evangelist, what is my work? And why, other than evangelism, does Bible Explorations exist? 1) "There is a terrible amount of guilt for which the church is responsible. Why are not those who have the light putting forth earnest efforts to give their light to others? They see that the end is near." 4T457; 2) "Brethren, regard yourselves as missionaries, not among heathen, but among your fellow workers." 7T265; 3) "This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the man of sin foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power. A monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will. GC50

What should not be done that was being done in her day? "...the right hand of fellowship is given to the very men who are bringing in false theories and false sentiments, confusing the minds of the people of God, deadening their sensibilities as to what constitutes right principles." 2SM151.

Go from this "seminar" determined to know and share God's principles and prophecies with your own brothers

and sisters. God will bless you because: “The more you exercise your powers for the Master, the more apt and skilled you will become. The more closely you connect yourself with the Source of light and power, the greater light will be shed upon you, and the greater power will be yours to use for God.” 4T45 [Continued in next Newsletter.]

TIME TO REMEMBER, TIME TO DECIDE, WHICH DEALS WITH MALACHI 4:4, 5

By Ted Schultz

Conditions for being “set apart and sealed to God”

“Preparation was now made for the ratification of the covenant, according to God’s directions.... Here the people received the conditions of the covenant with God, typifying the covenant made between God and every believer in Jesus Christ. The conditions were plainly laid before the people. They were not left to misunderstand them. When they were requested to decide whether they would agree to all the conditions given, they unanimously consented to obey every obligation. They had already consented to obey God’s commandments. The principles of the law were now particularized, that they might know how much was involved in covenanting to obey the law; and they accepted the specifically defined particulars of the law. “Moses did not leave them to misconstrue the words of the Lord or to misapply His requirements. He wrote all the words of the Lord in a book, that they might be referred to afterward. **In the mount he had written them as Christ Himself dictated them.** “Bravely did the Israelites speak the words promising obedience to the Lord, after hearing His covenant read in the audience of the people. They said, ‘All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.’ Then the people were set apart and sealed to God.” E. G. White, *S. D. A. Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 1107. Emphasis supplied.

Before the people were set apart and sealed to God, they pledged obedience (Exodus 19:3-8) to all the conditions of the covenant which had been particularized. Of this pledge we are told, “This is the pledge that God’s people are to make in these last days.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 1, p. 116. Objections have been made that Israel should have never made such a pledge because they were pledging themselves to an impossibility. Their own history bears out that fact, it is said. But the apostle Paul tells us why they failed. “But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? [Why?] Because they

sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.” Romans 9:31, 32. “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” Hebrews 4:2.

We emphasize by repeating the words of inspiration. “The closing words of Malachi [Malachi 4:4,5] are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and second advent of Christ.” *Southern Watchman*, March 21, 1905. This work of preparation specified in this prophecy has been given the silent treatment as though this vital instruction does not even exist. The fact that Colossians 2:14 has been correlated with Deuteronomy 31:26 thus nailing the “book of the law” to the cross is the cause of much confusion today. While on the one hand we have nailed the book of the law to the cross, on the other hand we treat it as though the book of the law has *not* been nailed to the cross at all. If it was Christ Himself that dictated to Moses “the specifically defined particulars of the law,” then we will want very clear authority from Christ’s word for abolishing any of those particulars.

Remember that these “particulars” are the “conditions of the covenant” and for receiving the seal of God. Beware of anyone who downplays this fact. The law to which the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Malachi refer is the same law to which the prophet Jeremiah refers in Jeremiah 31:31-34. It is the torah. “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” vs. 34. The law which God promises to write upon our hearts in the new covenant is the torah which, of course, includes the ten commandments, but also includes the statutes and judgments.



The “ways” of God

When we see the torah underlying the word for law in these various prophecies of what the Lord says He will do for us, it broadens and increases our understanding significantly as to what our obligation is in cooperating with Him in that work. God wants to give us new hearts. That is why He says, “My son,

give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.” Proverbs 23:26. Isaiah gives a prophecy of what “shall come to pass in the last days.” “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” Isaiah 2:1, 2. The “ways” of God are His statutes and judgments. Deuteronomy 30:16; 5:31-33. The “law” is the torah. The “word” is the decalogue. The word in the Hebrew for “word” is dabar and is used many times in the Old Testament. We have heard of the ten words as referring to the ten commandments. This comes from Exodus 34:28 where it speaks of the “ten commandments.” The underlying word for commandments is dabar which is often translated as “word.” So one could quite accurately say that the text in Isaiah 2:2 is saying “He will teach us of His statutes and judgments, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law of Moses, and the ten commandments of the LORD from Jerusalem.” If the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments is prophesied to go forth from Zion in the last days then it is obvious that there will be a select group of people that will proclaim these messages. “Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”



Deuteronomy 4:5, 6. Does not Daniel speak of this group at “the time of the end?” “The wise shall understand.” Daniel 12:10. Do you suppose that those who are spoken of as being

wise in Deuteronomy and Daniel are the wise virgins that Christ spoke of in His parable in Matthew 25? Not only are we promised that the wise will understand, but “they that understand among the people shall instruct many.” Daniel 11:33. The keeping of the law of Moses is the wisdom and understanding of the remnant at the end of time. This keeping of the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments will be done both in precept and example “in the sight of the nations which shall hear all these statutes.” Obviously, if the nations are hearing these

statutes and judgments, someone must be proclaiming them. And, if someone is proclaiming them, they have obeyed the command to remember them. In other words, they have obeyed the command in Malachi 4:4 to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments. This remembering is not a nonchalant and apathetic consideration of the matter. Nor is it a mere passive mental recollection. It is a matter that grips the heart as something of eternal value. It is grasped as something that has to be accomplished in the life in order to be prepared for Christ’s second coming. This is a matter that demands our greatest interest and our best efforts to understand and matches the eternal reward to be gained. It will engross the whole mind. It is something that will be accomplished with latter rain power during the loud cry. By strong faith God’s promises to us in Ezekiel 36 will be claimed.

- I will take you from among the heathen.
- I will gather you out of all countries.
- I will bring you into your own land.
- I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you will be clean.
- I will cleanse you.
- I will give you a new heart.
- I will put a new spirit within you.
- I will give you a heart of flesh.
- I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in the statutes and to keep His judgments, and do them.

All these things are slated to take place during the loud cry in the closing work of Christ’s ministry in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

.....*To be continued.*

STORIES OF MY GRANDMOTHER

“The Joke that Failed” Chapter 3

“Who’s that man in the front room talking with father?” Sarah asked her mother one day as she entered the house.

“It’s Otis Nichols, an Adventist from Dorchester, Massachusetts. He wants you and Ellen to spend a few days at their home. Two self-appointed preachers are teaching strange doctrines, which have confused and discouraged some of the believers there. He wants them to hear Ellen relate her visions, and if possible put an end to their fanatical teachings.”

When Mr. Nichols returned to his home, Sarah and Ellen went with him. Soon after they arrived, two

men, a Mr. Sargent and a Mr. Robbins, called on an errand. When they had finished their business, they said to Mr. Nichols, "We'll stay overnight if it's all right with you." "Yes, indeed," Mr. Nichols replied; "come right in; the Harmon sisters are here, and you'll have a chance to get acquainted with them." Mr. Sargent looked at Mr. Robbins, and Mr. Robbins looked at Mr. Sargent. Suddenly they both decided they must hurry back to Boston.

Mr. Nichols was disappointed. "Too bad," he said, "but you'll have a chance to meet the sisters in Boston. We're planning to bring Sister Ellen with us to speak to the company on Sabbath." When he said Sabbath, he really meant Sunday, for they did not yet understand that Sunday was not the Sabbath.

"All right," the men replied, "we'll send out word that Miss Harmon is to speak in Boston next Sabbath, and we'll meet you there."

That evening during family worship Ellen was shown in a quiet vision lasting only a moment that she should not go north to Boston on Sunday, but to Randolph, a town about ten miles south of Boston. When she told Mr. Nichols, he protested, "We can't go to Randolph. I promised the men we'd meet them in Boston. How can I break my word?"

"That will be all right," said Ellen. "The Lord has shown me that we should go to Randolph. We'll understand when we get there."

After leaving Mr. Nichols' home, the two men sent out an announcement that there would be no meeting that week at Boston; all the believers should meet at Randolph. They thought they were playing a clever joke on Ellen Harmon. In Boston she would find an empty house, while all the people she expected to talk to would be at Randolph listening to them preach.

According to their announcement, on Sunday morning the two men met the Adventist believers at the Thayer home in Randolph. They were greatly pleased with themselves for having outwitted Brother and Sister Nichols and the Harmon sisters. Mr. Sargent, who did most of the speaking, had been telling people that the time was past when Christians should work.

"Brethren," he said, "we are in the year of Jubilee, when every man should rest." He had nothing to say

about the women who had to cook, clean house, and chop wood while their husbands rested. These men were spreading this fanatical teaching everywhere. Sensible people asked, "How can we live this way? How will we support our families?" The men answered, "Let the rich sell their possessions and give to the poor. Then there will be no necessity for anyone to labor."

On this particular day Mr. Sargent was preaching this strange doctrine. Then he began talking about the visions. "You have heard about those visions of Ellen Harmon's," he said. "Don't listen to them; they are of the devil." There was a knock at the door. In walked the Nichols family with Sarah and Ellen Harmon. Sargent stopped in the middle of a sentence, too surprised to continue. Abruptly he turned to Mr. Robbins and asked him to announce a closing hymn. "We will come together after lunch," he said.

Lunch was soon over, and the people were back in the room, eager to see what would happen next. During the opening prayer the Spirit of the Lord took Ellen into vision. This displeased Sargent and Robbins. It was the last thing they wanted the people to see, for they knew Ellen was opposed to their strange teaching. All eyes were fixed upon the young woman in vision. Occasionally she spoke words of comfort and hope.

Something must be done to take attention from her, Mr. Robbins thought to himself. He stood up and announced a hymn, but scarcely anyone joined the two men in singing. Mr. Sargent picked up his Bible and began reading, shouting in an effort to drown out Ellen's voice. "Will you please stop singing and reading," came a request from the audience. "We want to hear what Sister Ellen is saying."



That was just what the two men did not want. They continued shouting and singing until both were hoarse, and their hands shook so much they could hardly hold their books. But Ellen's voice, as she seemed to be conversing with someone in the vision, rang out clear and distinct. Every word could be heard.

Everyone in the room could see that she was under the control of a divine power. They watched her dignified movements and noted that she did not breathe, even while repeating to the listening

company sentences that were being spoken to her in the vision. There were whisperings:

“Her message can’t be from the devil; it’s so full of cheer and comfort and the love of God.” -- “Her words are like a voice from heaven.” -- “Surely these men have been telling us lies.” -- “This vision reminds us of the visions God gave His prophets in Bible times.”

Mr. Thayer stood up. “I have been told that visions which come from Satan can be stopped by laying an open Bible on the person having the vision. Mr. Sargent, will you make this test?” Mr. Sargent refused. At the moment Ellen was resting in a chair in the corner of the room, leaning back against the wall. Mr. Thayer lifted a large family Bible from the table and laid it upon her chest.

Immediately she lifted the Bible in one hand. She stepped to the center of the room, raised the Bible high above her head, and exclaimed, “The inspired testimony from God!”

For an hour she held that heavy Bible in one hand, above her head, and turned its pages with the other hand. With eyes directed away from the book, she pointed with her finger to the very verses she was repeating.



“Let’s see if she is quoting them correctly,” someone suggested. Moving a chair to Ellen’s side, he stepped up on it so that he could look down on the Bible. In surprise he exclaimed, “Sister Ellen is turning the pages and pointing her finger at the very texts she is using. Without looking, she is quoting correctly!” Others climbed onto the chair to see for themselves, and said in astonishment, “This is wonderful! She is not seeing those scriptures with her natural eyes. They are being shown to her in vision.”

The words she spoke brought hope to the people. They could see that God was speaking to them through His weak, humble messenger. .

After a time Ellen turned to scriptures which described the punishment of the wicked at the judgment day. At this Mr. Sargent and Mr. Robbins became troubled and silent. What would they do

now? The company waited—hoping, expecting. Would they confess their sin? But they were too proud. At the close of the meeting they left without acknowledging that they were wrong.

Mr. Robbins had boasted to Sarah Harmon that he could throw a spell over Ellen and bring her out of vision. But here in the presence of the power of God, he was afraid even to attempt to carry out his threat.

About sundown candles were lighted. During the time that Ellen had been in vision she had not breathed, nor had she been conscious of anything in the room. Now she began to breathe and to notice the people around her.

This is the longest vision of which there is any record. It lasted nearly four hours. **(End)**

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have someone like her with us today? We are told in Acts 2:17: And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Study and strive to be like Him. Have His character and be ready. We have a big hungry world who needs His message. Let’s share it to all so He can soon come for us!

WORDS FROM THE PEN OF ELLEN WHITE

In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John [the Baptist] is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. . . . In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him lose sight of self.--*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 332, 333 (1904).

Communion with God will ennoble the character and the life. Men will take knowledge of us, as of the first disciples, that we have been with Jesus. This will impart to the worker a power that nothing else can give. Of this power he must not allow himself to be deprived. We must live a twofold life--a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work.--*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 512 (1905).

