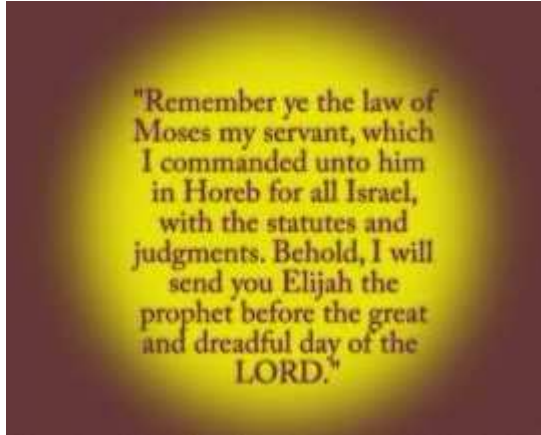


The Sealing of the 144,000

New Discovery Series

by Elder John VanDenburgh



Welcome to another Bible Explorations, tape number six, The Sealing of the 144,000. This is the one I've been so excited to get to — laying groundwork, groundwork, groundwork and now here we are at last. Of course it may be a little bit sharp for those who haven't seen the previous DVDs but for those of you who have been studying, you are ready for this.

We're going to begin with one of heaven's statutes believe it or not, and why not? We're going to go way back to Leviticus 23:21 and read a little bit about Pentecost. I think you'll find it fits right into our lecture as we go.

The text reads:

"And ye shall proclaim on the self-same day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you..."

Now, we all know what a holy convocation is now.

"Ye shall do no servile work therein..."

Pentecost is like a Sabbath. The next line says:

"It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings and throughout all your generations."

Well, hundreds of years later, another Pentecost, on the day of this feast, the Spirit of God fell on a group of believers gathered in an upper room. Yes, we've traveled clear down to 50 days this side of the resurrection of Christ. And we come to Pentecost again. Acts 2:1-4.

"And when the 'Day of Pentecost' was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

That's important!

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting, And there appeared unto them

cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance.”

So, they had the power, they had the strength, they had the knowledge, and they also had the tools. They could speak in all those other languages to spread all the word so quickly.

Now, the truth is, these obedient saints are the prototypes of the 144,000 who will also receive the fire from heaven. Aren't you excited about that? That's coming up pretty soon and I want you to be ready to receive it. And when this experience happens again it will absolutely infuriate the antichrist. Why? Because these sealed beautiful saints will not bow, bend, or abandon their faith. Neither will they walk away from the commandments or the statutes of the Lord.

You can get a little picture of it with me looking at Daniel chapter 11, verse 44 and 45, so let's read this:

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him...”

They're going to trouble the antichrist.

“...therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”

Oh, you talk about a time of tribulation, this'll be it.

“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain...”

Now, Daniel 9:16 tells us the glorious holy mountain is Jerusalem. Some think it represents the church but I would hate to see the antichrist sitting in the middle of the church but, you know, I'm not worried about that interpretation right now. Let's move on with the text:

“...he shall come to his end and none shall help him.”

All right, the sealing angel comes from the east bringing the latter rain, but the temple, where his message originated, was in the sanctuary that lies in the north. Isaiah 14:13-15 tells us that the sanctuary in heaven, the throne, is in the sides of the north. So, the sealing angel gets his message from the north and approaches planet earth from the east.

Well, let's look at it. Revelation 7, verse 2 through 4:

“And I saw another angel sending from the east, having the seal of the living God...”

Oh, this is getting exciting. Friend, this is what you want. This is what you've been waiting for:

"...and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."

Friends, here is described the final generation of Israel. So, antichrist is upset at tidings that come from the north and the east and the resulting of the sealing of the 144,000 at Pentecost. Well, why do I say at Pentecost? Because Pentecost is the prototype. In fact, there's no other time given in all of Scripture for the beginning of such an experience — except Pentecost. So, together, let's watch it happen from Revelation 8, verse 5:

"And the angel took the censer, and filled it with a fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth..."

And what's the result?

"...and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings and an earthquake."

You know, all of us are deeply interested in the Spirit filling us with power and with strength. We long for that fire, don't we? But think about it for just a moment. When did that fire first come? ...on any old day of the week? Oh, no. And this is very important because it may be one reason why His Spirit is directing you to His statutes. So you'll be at the right place at the right time.

From the General Conference Daily Bulletin (2/28/1893), I want to read these words:

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean...And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes."

Now the rest of this quote connects the statement not only with their day but specifically with our day. She goes on to write:

"If the wilderness of the church is to become as a fruitful field, and the fruitful field to be as a forest, it is through the Holy Spirit of God poured out upon His people."

And what is the Spirit of God supposed to do? ...to cause you to walk in His statutes. Now, that's clear enough for any sensitive Christian mind. The problem is, several times in history, ancient Israel was not sensitive to the commandments or the statutes. But final Israel will be sensitive to both the commandments and the statutes — as you well know.

I am going to be reading from Second Volume of the Manuscripts, page 22 and couple it with this Ezekiel 36 that Ellen White was quoting and get more information from it.

“The saving knowledge of God will accomplish its purifying work on the mind and heart of every believer.”

Oh, I can hardly wait for that.

“The Word declares: ‘Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Isn't that wonderful?

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

This is what we want, isn't it? Let's continue:

“And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes. This is the descent of the Holy Spirit, sent from God to do its office-work.”

That's strong, isn't it? Yes, the Holy Spirit, the descent of the Holy Spirit is to cause you to walk in the statutes — those of you who have your heart soft toward God and your mind willing to accept what He says. You know, it says that He said of the Holy Spirit, sent from God (that would be from the north), to do its office-work. The dictionary says the word office or office work here means “officially authorized.” Oh, friends, why would you resist the power of God? ...the Spirit of God, as she puts it, especially since Pentecost is one of the statutes?

You know to take his feasts from the statutes is like trying to take the Sabbath from the Ten Commandments. Now, people have tried to do both for a long, long time and it never has been very successful. The question is, will you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into walking into God's statutes? Are you beginning to sense the angel coming from the east?

This quote continues in the Second Volume of the Manuscripts:

“The house of Israel is to be imbued with the Holy Spirit, and baptized with the grace of salvation.”

So, who and what is final Israel? They are the group of 144,000 children of Israel that receive the descent of the Holy Spirit, as everyone well knows, and be causing them to be walking in His statutes — which most people don't know. Aren't you glad you do?

By the way, have you ever heard lectures on the blaspheme of the Holy Spirit? Remember what it is? Although the 144,000 maintain the name of Israel, we have to go back many centuries to see where that name was first used. All the way back to Genesis 32:28:

“And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. Therefore thou shalt be called Israel.”

Why would they be called Israel? Hmm, same reason you could be called Israel. Because you are a prince and you have power with God and with men and you’ve prevailed, that’s why. Wouldn’t it be nice to know that’s being said about you in the courts of heaven?

But, Jacob wasn’t perfect. He hadn’t been forced to trick his father or deceive his brother. He could have accepted the loving and kind Leah, to wife; she may have bore him 12 children. With God all things are possible. But in spite of those little rough spots, Jacob grew to be truly one of the very best representatives for God on planet earth — just like you can become.

His name was passed on down to his children and his 12 sons developed children after them and they became the 12 tribes of Israel maintaining the name of grandpa. Now, while in Egypt, they developed into a very large nation, in fact, such a large nation that it worried Pharaoh. In other words, they were getting so strong, so big, and so powerful that Pharaoh became worried. And so, he made slaves of them to take care of the situation.

Deuteronomy 10:22 says:

“Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.”

Now, those of you who have been to Bible Explorations have studied the stars with Brother Bobst or with others. You know there are billions and billions and billions of stars out there and while they are at Egypt they weren’t made into billions and billions and billions of people. We can certainly see the figure of speech meaning there were many of them, literally multiplied thousands.

As a nation, Israel received a charge from God. Now this is important because it made the difference between success and failure. The charge is given in Deuteronomy, chapter 11, verse 1:

“Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep His charge, and His statutes, and His judgments, and His commandments, always.”

How long is God’s intent? Always! Friends, “always” surely includes the final generation.

Now there are four unique aspects of ancient Israel that I would like you to take note of. First, I want you to notice all the promised blessings they would receive if they would be loyal and

- First: The promise of blessings.**
- Second: Ancient Israel's failure.**
- Third: The promise to recall Israel.**
- Fourth: Final Israel's success.**

faithful. Second, for our admonition we must see Israel's failure and why they failed. Third, God promises to recall Israel. And, fourth, final Israel will be as successful as early Israel should have been.

First, I want you to notice the blessings. I'm not going to read them all to you. There are twenty-five of them in just nine verses but I want you to see the abundant blessings from God should they be faithful. So, we're going to start with Leviticus 26, verse 3 through 12:

"If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then (1) I will give you rain in due season, and (2) the land shall yield her increase, and (3) the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And (4) your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and (5) the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and (6) ye shall eat your bread to the full, and (7) dwell in your land safely."

Skipping down a few...

"For (17) I will have respect unto you..."

Oh friends, wouldn't it be wonderful for God to say I respect you?

"...and (18) make you fruitful, and multiply you, and (19) establish my covenant with you."

Oh, we are going to be especially together forever. It just is so beautiful. You see, He says:

"And (24) I will walk among you, and will be your God, and (25) ye shall be my people."

But, remember how all this started. It said:

"If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them..."

This was the charge for Israel — always. It always was, it always will be, that's what the word "always" means! Take courage from that.





Now, the truth is, ancient Israel became divided into two nations — Judah, which included Judah and Benjamin, and Israel, which included the other ten tribes.

Actually, Israel had three names: Israel; Joseph; and Ephraim. You could call them by either one of those and be correct. Hmm... Kind of like a person that's going to Los Angeles; no, he's going to L.A.; no, he's really going to the City of Angeles. I heard one person say they're going to Smog Hollow, whatever that means for sure, but

anyway: one place with different names. So, Israel, Ephraim, and Joseph became synonyms for the nation of the ten tribes.

Now, these ten tribes, of Israel, were driven out of their homeland about 137 years before Judah and Benjamin were. Why? Because they were the first to negate His commandments and His statutes — and they lost out.

II Kings 17:8-20 tells us why they failed. There are (s)'s along the way [below], an "s" in parentheses, that's the statute they were breaking. And "c", when you see that, in parentheses, that means it was a commandment that they were breaking. Now, let's read through the text:

"And they walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel, and the kinds of Israel, which they had made."

2Kings 17:8-20
This is why the ancient children of Israel failed.

(S) = BROKEN STATUTE
(C) = BROKEN COMMANDMENT

So, they picked up the statutes from the enemy and even the king made up statutes different from God's.

"And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God, and they built them high places (s) (Deut. 12:2), in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. And they set them up images (c) and groves in every high hill (s) (Deut. 12:13), and under every green tree: And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger, For they served idols (c), whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

"Yet the Lord testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep My commandments

and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the Lord their God. And they rejected His statutes, and His covenant that He made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He testified against them...”

Can you imagine people rejecting His statutes? If you can, you know exactly what was going on.

“...and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them, that they should not do like them(s). (Deut. 7:12). And they left all of the commandments of the Lord their God, and made them molten images, even two calves (c), and made a grove (s) (Deut. 12:13), and worshipped all the host.”

Why is this important? Why am I slowing down to read all these things to you? Because we must not follow in the footsteps of failure. That’s why it’s recorded. A few more verses and then on to other things.

“And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire (s) (Lev. 20:21), and used divination (s) (Deut. 18:10) and enchantments (s) (Lev. 19:26), and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger. Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of His sight: and there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.”

Of course, Judah also was amalgamated with Benjamin. And they fell a little over 100 years later to the same things! That’s what it goes on to say, notice:

“Also Judah kept not the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the Lord rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of the spoilers, until he had cast them out of His sight.”

Friends, how discouraged the Heavenly Father must have been. How discouraged the Son must have been. Look at the list of broken laws. Under commandments, images, idols, worshipped the stars, and served Baal. Under the statutes they have their groves, their high places, they copied the heathen, they had children in the fire, divination, and enchantments.

Do you know what we’ve seen? We’ve noticed four serious commanded violations and six serious statute violations until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight. Now, let me ask you something, personally. Forget tradition, forget these things, and just use your own intelligence and your own brain. Listen... If breaking the commandments and statutes was paramount to their scattering, then what do you suppose will be paramount to their gathering?

Can you see all these verses and the Spirit of Prophecy quotes we have had in the past five hours becoming more and more important? It shouldn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out. But the Lord isn't leaving it to chance. Oh, no. Ellen White says to bring these things to your attention in the time of the end, it was the setting, is the office work of the descending spirit. God is not leaving it to chance for you to figure it out.

Friends, it is for final Israel to have the mindset of Yahweh — just like Paul did. That's right, you remember I Corinthians 6:9 and 10? I think we've read this before, where Paul said to the Christian church:

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?”

You can call yourself “Christian” until you're blue in the face, if you are not a righteous person, I'm sorry. He says:

“Be not deceived: neither fornicators (statute), idolaters (commandment), nor adulterers (commandment), nor effeminate (statute, cross-dressing), abusers of themselves with mankind (statute), Nor thieves (commandment), nor covetous (commandment), nor drunkards (statute), nor revilers, nor extortioners (statute, Lev. 6:2) shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

So, we find the same principles and the same thing, but God is reiterating them for you and me and the time of the end. You see, God has His statutes and satan has his substitutes for all of them.

Now, I want to go back to the original charge given to Israel and I want to get rid of a myth — they're called “Moses' law.” Well, that's alright, you can call them Moses' law, but I want you to see that they did not originate with Moses. We're going to read the text Deuteronomy 5, verse 31:

“But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I (Yahweh) will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which though shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it.”

Isn't it interesting that they were to learn the statutes before entering the promised land? Deuteronomy 6, verse 6 through 8:

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Listen to the conclusion of the text:

“And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”

Friends, the hands will do what the mind acknowledges. The hand is a sign because it is visible. A sign has to be visible to be a sign. But it is in the mind before the hand acts and you see the action of the hand. And where, pray tell, is their antitype but in Revelation 7 verse 2 and 3:

“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

Now, friends, God hasn't changed and His seal hasn't changed.

Now, what about the other side? What about the wicked? They have a spot also. They have a mark. Deuteronomy 32:5:

“They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of His children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.”

So, we have people being marked one way or another. Not marked Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutherans, and Catholics, and Seventh-day Adventists, and Mormons, and whatever. Oh, no, they are marked obedient or disobedient. And where is their antitype?

Also in the last days, Revelation 14:9 and 10, read it:

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.”

Now, dear friend of mind, the commandments of Yahweh are not the Mark of the Beast. The Mark of the Beast is the transgression of them. Notice that the saints who do not get the mark of the beast are keeping the commandments of God in the 12th verse:

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Now, in verse 6 and 7, above, there's a clear reference to the seventh-day Sabbath and it surely is one of the commandments that these saints will be keeping. But Revelation 14:12 does not say here are they that keep the commandment of God, but here are they that keep the commandments of God in the plural. There will be more than one commandment used in the sealing of the Almighty.

And speaking of all the commandments used as sealing, we're going to look at Isaiah 16 where it says:

"Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples."

And the word "law" there, if you look it up in Strong's, for the Greek, you will find it translates to "Torah." The laws of the first five books and the examples therein.

Such a seal is clearly exemplified in the Torah. And I want to read it with you in Exodus 13:7-9, catch this:

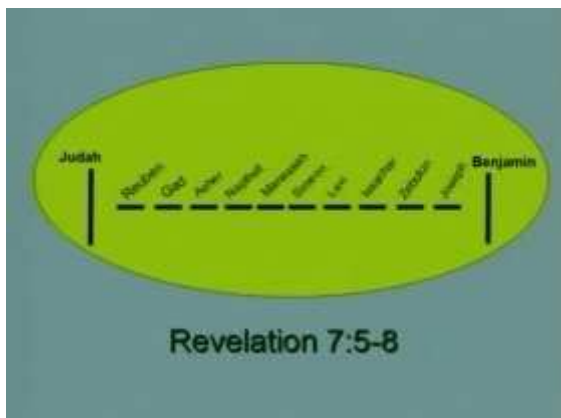
"Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign unto thee unto Thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the Lord brought thee out of Egypt.'"

Now, you can see why no evil comes from the mouths of the 144,000 children of the tribes of Israel. In fact, Revelation 14:5 confirms that in their mouth was found no guile. What is guile? Well, in the dictionary it means deceitfulness. The absence of guile is explained as innocence. The righteous will have the seal of God. They will have the principles of the Torah guiding their thoughts, their actions, their words; innocently and without deceit.

Revelation 14:1 and 5 tells us that the spot on the righteous is forever glorious:

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

Oh, friends, that's your destiny if you'll listen to the Spirit of God and walk in His counsel.



Studying the final twelve tribes in Revelation chapter 7, you'll see that the 144,000 are listed in a most interesting sequence. The very first tribe is Judah. The second tribe is Reuben, then Gad, Aser, Naphtali, and so on, until you get to the end, and then you will find Benjamin at the other end. In other words, Judah and Benjamin are like to sentinels with the other ten tribes in between, just as though they're saying we're not going to lose you again.

Before we get into the prophecies guaranteeing the return of Israel, in these last days, we need to do some comparing. And I watched a skillful minister on television station 3ABN making scriptural comparisons regarding Israel. I'm going to start where he did and then go on a little further.

Let's look at a few facts. A man named Joseph (who had a coat of many colors) dreamed, and then brought his family to Egypt. His family grew to become a great nation and that nation was very special to Yahweh.

I want to throw a chart up on the board to show you some interesting facts. You will see, in the upper left hand corner, Isaiah 41:8:

Joseph Dreamed		
Isaiah 41:8	of Abraham	Matthew 1:1
Hosea 11:1	from Egypt	Matthew 2:15
1Cor 10:1,2	Baptized	Matthew 3:13
Num 14:33,34	Forty	Matthew 4:1,2
Ex. 24:9 & 12	Mountain	Matthew 5:1
Psalms 80:8	A Vine	John 15:1
Isaiah 49:3	Servant	Matthew 12:17,18

“But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.”

The nation of Israel, then, was the seed of Abraham. Hosea 11:1:

“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”

Remember they were led by Moses. Baptized, I Corinthians 10:1-2:

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, now that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses.”

Numbers 14:33-34 has the number “forty” as an important number:

“After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years ...”

He went up on a mountain and received the principles by which they were to live.

“Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel...And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.”

Psalms 80:8, the nation of Israel was called a vine:

“Thou has brought a vine out of Egypt: thou has cast out the heathen, and planted it.”

And of course, Israel was to be a servant, Isaiah 49:3:

“And he said unto me, “Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

Joseph Dreamed		
Isaiah 41:8	of Abraham	Matthew 1:1
Hosea 11:1	from Egypt	Matthew 2:15
1Cor 10:1,2	Baptized	Matthew 3:13
Num 14:33,34	Forty	Matthew 4:1,2
Ex. 24:9 & 12	Mountain	Matthew 5:1
Psalms 80:8	A Vine	John 15:1
Isaiah 49:3	Servant	Matthew 12:17,18

Israel is to be a glory to the Father.

Now, we're going to change scenes a little bit about the second man of Israel who came along centuries later. Another man named Joseph of all things, dreamed a dream and took his family to Egypt. Joseph's wife's name was Mary.

And now we'll go back to our chart and make a few comparisons. Here we go at the top of the chart. Matthew 1:1, Jesus was the Son of Abraham.

“The book of the generation of Jesus Chris, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Matthew 2:15, remember Christ was taken to Egypt and came out of Egypt:

“And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

Matthew 3:13 Christ was baptized:

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.”

Matthew 4:1-2, 40 days became very important again:

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.”

And Jesus led his people up into a mountain to receive the principles by which to live, Matthew 5:1:

“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:”

And of course Christ is the true vine, John 15:1:

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.”

Was Christ a servant? Oh, yes, you can't partake of the ordinances without recognizing Christ taking the place of a servant, Matthew 12:17-18:

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, ‘Behold my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.’”

What I'm saying here is that Christ is truly the epitome, faithful, man of Israel. He lived the life, taught the teachings, walked the walk. In fact, it's written in Signs of the Times 6/11/1896 that Ellen White wrote:

“It was Christ who said, “Ye shall do my statutes and keep my judgment.”

Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do you really believe that? Once again, he talked the talk and walked the walk. He didn't fail. He taught both the commandments and the statutes. Otherwise He would have had no credibility in old Judea at all. But He did it. In fact, in Matthew 5:17 once He said:

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

And you might ask yourself what law? And if you look this word law of this text in Strong's concordance, it will say, “specifically of Moses including the volume.” It was the whole volume of the Torah. Actually, if you look up the word law here in Strong's concordance, the Greek gives no reference to the ten commandments at all except as they were included in the Torah and that's not mentioned.

Now, listen to me friends, if Christ refused to destroy the law of Moses, then who are we that we should supplant his authority. I don't think that we would want to do that. And who are we to think the apostle Paul nailed them all to the cross? Friends, that would make Paul worse than the antichrist, wouldn't it? It was written of the antichrist that he just changed the appointed times and the laws. Where people that claim, when they read Colossians 2, that Paul simply took them all away, did away with them at the cross.

Friends, if you have a blue stick you can change it by painting it red. But, then, if you get some blue paint you can change it back again. If something's changed it can come back. But if you throw the stick in the fire it's gone, there's not much you can do with it.

I want you to recall Isaiah chapter 8:20 where it says:

"To the law (Torah) and to the testimony..."

The testimony included the rest of the Old Testament. In other words, all the Old Testament books written by the prophets, historians, and the poets, would not have been included in the Old Testament if their testimony had disagreed with the Torah.

Going on with Christ's words and His teaching of truth, in Matthew 7:12, He said:

"Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

And once again, if you look up this word "law" in the Greek, Strong's concordance, you will see that He was talking about the law of Moses, including the entire volume of it.

Christ is indeed the true Man of Israel. He taught the Torah. He walked the walk.

Notice, Review and Herald 5/6/1875 where Ellen White wrote:

"Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern every day life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the ten commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon man in every age as long as time should last."

Did you know that Ellen White confirms Christ and Isaiah and Strong's concordance of it all? Christ truly was the perfect Man of Israel. He did not fail on a single point. He walked the walk: our perfect example. And over and over and over he upheld the Torah and over and over and over Ellen White confirms it.

Now, I want to give you good news. Good news! The second nation of Israel will not fail either. They know the statutes were given that they might not depart from righteousness and they are already studying them, trying to understand them, each one. They are determining, using Ellen White's statements, which are principles and which are details. They are finding out.

This group will heed the admonition be ye holy for I am holy and they, as Jude, will remain dedicated to the One who is able to keep them from falling. And they believe that He can and that He will.

Now, regarding a much less issue about the 144,000... I must share the truth that there's a time coming when they will know exactly who they are. Ellen White said it is truly not for us to

speculate, at this point in time, which individuals among us may be members of the 144,000. But, then she goes on to say, there's plenty of evidence to know, when the time comes, they will know who they are. Well, one thing for sure, they will know they are Israel.

The twelve tribes were not faultless, therefore the covenant between them and God was not a perfect covenant. In Hebrews 8:8 it is written:

“For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.”

Did you get that? ...both houses!

Now when Israel was dispersed so many, many centuries ago, there's been no Israel of that ten tribes since. But there's coming a time when there will be. He's going to make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the tribes of Judah. The two houses complete with the twelve tribes are not seen again until Revelation 7 where the 144,000 children of Israel are seen and there are twelve tribes listed. Hallelujah! I want you to be a part of them.

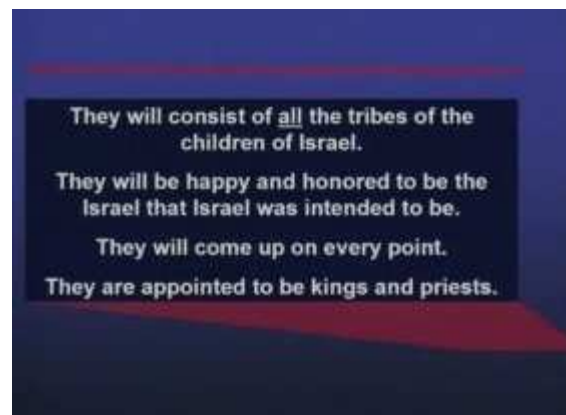
And what about the new covenant? What about that new covenant, look at Hebrews 8:10:

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.”

Therefore, friends, the covenant will be a perfect covenant. All over the land of the world we're finding people renewing this covenant, even as we speak. ...not only from one denomination either.

Now, there are four comments I want you to know about. One, they will consist of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Number two, they'll be happy and honored to be the Israel that Israel was intended to be. Three, they will come up on every point. And, four, they are appointed to be kings and priests.

That past Israel was designed to be a kingdom of priests, Exodus 19:5,6:



“Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.”

Friends, that's what He wanted Israel to be and that's what Israel will be. Ellen White affirms it from 5T 475, 476:

"They are to be as kings and priests unto God. While satan is urging his accusations and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro placing upon them the seal of the living God."

He designed Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a kingdom of priests He shall have. His word will not return unto Him void. He designed that Israel should keep His covenant and a covenant keeping Israel He shall have. But they must do a tremendous work on the earth. They'll be giving the loud cry. They'll be leading people in repentance. They'll be leading people to Christ. Some of them will win many souls and some will win but few.

Let's look at the evidence. From Last Day Events, 282:

"On the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few."

Friends, the 144,000 are not sealed just to be status symbols on the earth. Oh, no, they are going to be soul winners, winning a great multitude. And not only that, they're going to be a clean and holy people. First volume of the Testimonies page 333, listen to the words:

"Stumbling blocks which have hindered the progress of truth may be removed..."

What kind of stumbling blocks? May I suggest pride, peer pressure, tradition?

"...and God have a clean and holy people to declare His statutes and judgments. The captain of our salvation leads His people on step by step, purifying and fitting them for translation."

Everybody has thought for centuries that the 144,000 will be translated. But now we know they are going to be teaching the statutes and judgments, first, and they will be a pure and holy people. In other words, modern Israel is now being formed. They will be a clean and holy people just like Ellen White says. They'll be declaring His statutes and judgments just like she said. They'll be fitted for translation just like she said. The question is, will you be one of them? The choice is yours.

Friends, while a church is fussing between liberals and conservatives and tithes and offerings and morals and doctrines and standards, God all the while has an agenda that is consistently moving ahead. He is recalling Israel. And Israel is responding. Makes one want to sing!

I suppose that's why Jeremiah wrote about it that way. Let's look at Jeremiah 31:7-10:

“For thus saith the Lord, Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save Thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind, and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.”

Oh, friends, this is not the second coming of Christ. There’ll be no blind or lame or people travailing in pain at the second coming of Christ and their journey towards their kingdom in heaven, neither will they be weeping for repentance, for these things will be of the past.

The text goes on to say:

“They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

Israel, Ephraim, yes, the ten tribes are still important to the Lord. Are they coming? Are they gathering? Are you one of them? Are you listening to the angel from the east? Verse 10:

“Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He that scattered Israel will gather him and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.’”

Oh, friends, are you being gathered in that flock? Is the angel descending by your side? Is he talking to your heart? What is he saying? We know that the call in Jeremiah is made in the remnant of time. How do we know that? Because they’re called a remnant in verse 7 and because the text goes on to say they’ll be involved in Jacob’s trouble. I want you to notice Jeremiah 30:7-10:

“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.”

Oh, is this in reference to the special resurrection in Daniel 12:2?

“Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord, neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.”

Now listen to me, who is this final Israel? Who is true Israel anyway? The text in Galatians 3:29 says:

“If he be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

John 8:39:

“And they answered and said unto him, ‘Abraham is our father...’”

They were thinking only bloodline.

“Jesus saith unto them, If we were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham.”

Well, what are the works of Abraham that we must do if we are going to be the children of Abraham and belong to Christ? Take our sons up and offer them on a mountaintop? Oh, no, what caused Abraham to do that was his willing obedience. Notice the text in Genesis 26:5:

“Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”

Are you truly Abraham’s remnant or do you just think so?

Ellen White once wrote about a time when past Israel was sealed. I want you to notice when they were sealed. It was not when the ten commandments were given, it was not even when the Sabbath was given. It was not until the rest of the law was given. I want you to read this because all things were written for our admonition. You’re going to hear some interesting things. Watch the text (1MR, page 114-115):

“Preparation was now made for the ratification of the covenant according to God’s direction. Here the people received the conditions of the covenant. They made a solemn 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.”

Now did you get that? 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.”

Ellen White taught of the statutes that they expressed the principals of the law. That they defined the law. That they clarified the law. And they made the commandments more specific. We saw those things in our second lecture together.

Now, let's go on with our quote:

“If the Israelites had obeyed God's requirements, they would have been practical Christians. They would have been happy and not following the inclinations of their own natural hearts. 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.”

I can remember past days I used to nail the book of the law to the cross.

“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.”

Remember, Christ the same yesterday, today and forever. He'd do the same thing today He did then. But notice this last part:

“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 has said we will do and be obedient.’ (Ex. 24:7) Then the people were set apart and sealed to God.”

When does the Torah teach that Israel was set apart and sealed to God? Not until they agreed to the particularizing of the law as spoken by Christ and recorded in the book. At the end of the quote she adds:

“God graciously accepted them as His special treasure. Thus the Israelites entered into a solemn covenant with God.”

What goes around comes around. We've had the commandments and the Sabbath for many years. But until we accept, like they did, the whole covenant, sealing awaits. Is such a sealing going on now? ...very likely because people all over the country are being turned on to these things by the angel.

Revelation 7:4:

“And there were sealed 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

When will they be sealed? According to the Torah, their sealing will be accomplished after they accept the book of the law, the things given them by Moses and written in the volume. The things lived and taught and honored by Christ and is being presented everywhere at the power of the descending angel. So, what do I suggest to do?

“Let us strive with all the power God has given us to be among the 144,000.”
RH 9/9/1905

And, friends, striving is not hesitating. Hesitating is not striving.

Friends, I want to bring a quote up from Signs of the Times 3/21/1894: Either...

“The words of Moses to Israel, concerning the statutes and judgments of the Lord, are also the word of God to us.”

...or they aren't. What He said He will not change and what she has written will not change, even praying about it is not going to change. The words of Moses to Israel concerning the statutes and the judgments are also the word of God to you and to me.

Oh, how hard it is to break away from tradition and simply believe it. From 2nd Volume Review and Herald, page 370, col. 1 (June 17, 1890):

“The law of God has been given for the regulation of our conduct and it is far reaching in its principles.”

Again, she wrote:

“The controversy begun in heaven over the law of God has been kept up on the earth ever since satan's expulsion from heaven.”

Clearly she states under inspiration:

“The great statute book is truth and truth only for it delineates with unerring accuracy the history of satan's deception and the ruin of his followers.”

The Torah, the very beginning of the Torah shows a deception of satan to Eve. And the flood shows what happened as a ruin of His followers. And the same story goes over time and time again through the Torah in little sections.

“Satan claimed to be able to present laws which were better than God’s statutes and judgments and he was expelled from heaven.”

No wonder, then, he is troubled by tidings from the north and the east as the angel descends to bring attention to the very statutes that have been buried under the traditions of men for centuries. Expulsion from eternity can happen to anyone. But in the last days the 144,000 are being sealed — not expelled. They will be keeping and teaching the very statutes and judgments that satan has replaced with his substitutes and began to do so even in heaven.

What substitutes? You can think of many of them: Easter for Passover; Christmas for Tabernacles; Sunday for Sabbath; same sex marriage for holy matrimony; unclean foods replacing the Torah diet; and, on and on it goes and where it stops... Hah! It stops at the feet of the 144,000.

So, here we stand at the very brink of last day events. Witnessing floods, pestilences, earthquakes, yea and earthquake and a flood that killed 178,000 people? Friends, people have upheld the Lisbon quake some time ago as a sign of the end. It killed 60,000 people. This one, we’ve had recently, three times that much. And the devastation caused by the Lisbon earthquake, and its title wave, was not near the devastation that we have seen recently. Many indeed are being called at this very time, but few respond to stand among the chosen.

Whose side are you on? ...the one who was expelled for trying to substitute God’s statutes and judgments or the True and Faithful Man of Israel that excelled? What value would it be to work for God, teach Sabbath school class, be deacon, deaconess, Sabbath school superintendent or, wherever, and then fail your final test as the sealing angel is encouraging you to walk in the commandments and the statutes and the judgments? Next time his voice to you might be softer and softer and softer until finally: not heard at all.

Heavenly Father, we ask that You will bless this audience. Help them to review this DVD and see these quotations from Scripture that are written for our generation. See the quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy that are written for our generation and may the Spirit of God convince them of truth as they read and study, in my prayer, in Thy Name, amen.

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