

The Long Awaited Emergence of Women in Ministry as Elders & Pastors

Study for Sabbath, July 4, 2015, Revised May 5, 2017 – Prepared by Bro. Graham

1 Background

2 1. In the beginning, when God "...created them male and female; He blessed them and called them
3 Adam..." (Genesis 5:2, CJB). Please grasp the gravitas of the previous sentence. God was so immersed
4 in the equality of the sexes, He called them both by one name. His long held desire for oneness echoes
5 in the statement: "one Lord, one trust, one immersion; one God, ...who rules over all, [and] works
6 through all, and is in all" (Ephesians 4:5-6, CJB). Because the long awaited return of Christ is imminent
7 (Revelation 3:11 | 22:7 | 22:12), and "...there is a large harvest, but...few workers; [Jesus gave this
8 counsel to the disciples]—'Plead with the Lord of the Harvest that He speed workers out to gather in His
9 harvest'" (Luke 10:2, CJB). Clearly, some of Jesus' disciples have prayed. For God, who hears prayer and
10 works through all, has caused "...something new and different to happen, [to make] Israel, (Galatians
11 3:29, NKJV) ...search for God" (Jeremiah 31:22, NLT). And God announced His plans this way—"...I am
12 going to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Don't you see it? I will make a road through
13 the wilderness of the world for my people to go home, and create rivers for them in the desert" (Isaiah
14 43:19, TLB & 11:16, GNT)! "...With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"
15 (Matthew 19:26, NASB).

16

17 2. Sometimes it feels like God has forgotten His Word. There is no need to panic when our timeline
18 conflicts with God's timeline. Thus, when "...all the souls of those, [underneath the altar], who had been
19 martyred for preaching the Word of God and for being faithful in their witnessing [called] loudly to the
20 Lord and [said]—'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge the people of the
21 earth for what they have done to us? When will you avenge our blood against those living on the
22 earth'? [God was mindful of their plea, and responded with these reassuring words], '...rest a little
23 longer..." (Revelation 6:9-11, TLB). Why did God respond that way? "For in just a little while, the
24 Coming One will come and not delay" (Hebrews 10:37, NLT). Don't lose this vision! Jesus is coming
25 again. "...This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the
26 same way you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11, CJB). Therefore, God who knows "...that day and
27 hour..." when His Son will return (Matthew 24:36), owns the work schedule and the workers; therefore,
28 He orchestrates all things "...according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself" (Ephesians
29 1:9, NKJV). Nothing happens on earth and in God's church without His awareness and approval because
30 "...the guardian of Israel never slumbers or sleeps" (Psalm 121:4, CJB).

31

32 Significance

33 3. God is doing something new and different for His people. "...God's home... [will be] among His
34 people, ...[where] God Himself will be with them" (Revelation 21:3, NLT). Before settlement in the New
35 Jerusalem, God will finish His new and different work to usher in "...the one called Faithful and True..."
36 (Revelation 19:11, CJB), who rode "...a white horse, ...[held] a bow, and... was given a crown. ...[Thus
37 equipped], He rode off as a conqueror to conquer" (Revelation 6:2, CJB). Do not be distracted by
38 contemporary events within "...the household of God—...the church of the living God, which is the pillar
39 and foundation of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15, NLT). The divine plan is on schedule; God is in control.
40 Jacob, (a.k.a., Israel), revealed that plan when he prophesied that "...The scepter, (insignia of supreme
41 power), shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh, (He who is to be sent), comes (Genesis 49:8-10, TLB).

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42 Direction

43 4. "You have heard my predictions and seen them fulfilled, but you refuse to agree it is so. Now I will tell
44 you new things I haven't mentioned before, secrets you haven't heard" (Isaiah 48:6, TLB). "The Lord our
45 God has secrets known to no one..." (Deuteronomy 29:29, NLT), except to them to whom He choose to
46 reveal. "Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence Him. With them alone He shares the
47 secrets of His promises" (Psalm 25:14, TLB) "when the Holy Spirit... passes onto you what He has
48 heard..." (John 16:13, TLB). This is a decisive moment! "Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters.
49 Make sure that your hearts are NOT evil and unbelieving..." (Hebrews 3:13, NLT). Let us review one of
50 God's revealed secrets.

51

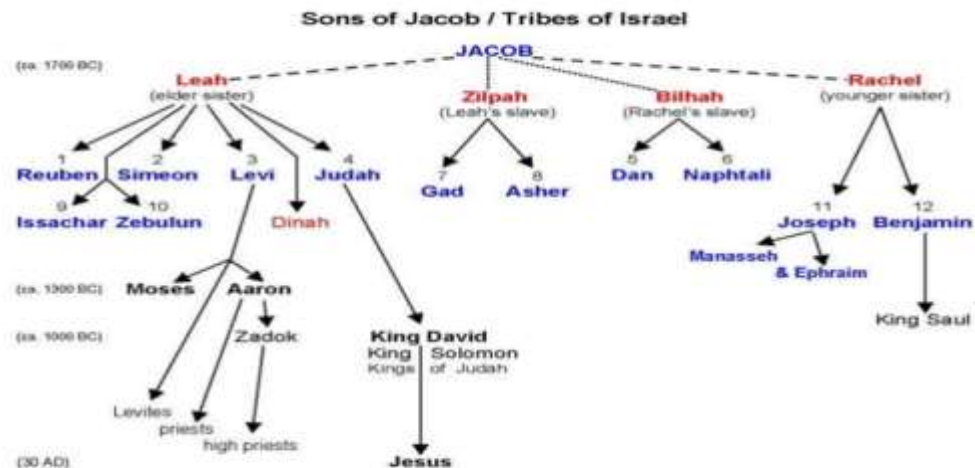
52 System Upgrade

53 5. "...Under the old system, the common people could not go into the Holy of Holies. [This prohibition
54 existed] as long as the outer room and the... [Levitical] system it represents were still in use. This is an
55 important lesson for us today. For under the old system, gifts and sacrifices were offered, but these
56 failed to cleanse the hearts of the people who brought them. For the old system, [which came through
57 Levi was

58 overlooked by
59 our Lord when
60 He chose Judah,
61 as His
62 descendant. The
63 old system] dealt
64 only with certain
65 rituals—what
66 foods to eat and
67 drink, rules for
68 washing
69 themselves, and
70 rules about this
71 and that. The
72 people had to
73 keep these rules

74 to tide them over until Christ came, [through a different lineage], with God's new and better way
75 (Hebrews 8:8-10; 10:15-16, & Romans 2:14-15, NLT). He came as High Priest of this better system that
76 we now have. He went into that greater, perfect tabernacle in heaven, not made by men nor part of
77 this world, and once for all took blood into that inner room, the Holy of Holies, and sprinkled it on the
78 mercy seat. But it was not the blood of goats and calves. No, He took His own blood, and with it He, by
79 Himself, made sure of our eternal salvation. And if under the old system the blood of bulls and goats
80 and the ashes of young cows could cleanse men's bodies from sin, just think how much more surely the
81 blood of Christ will transform our lives and hearts. His sacrifice frees us from the worry of having to
82 obey the old rules and makes us want to serve the living God..." (Hebrews 9:8-14, TLB) as free, non-
83 oppressed, people (John 8:36, NASB).

Miscellaneous-Christ's Family Line Illustrating Righteous by Faith¹⁷



"The three original kings of Israel were [Saul](#), [David](#), and [Solomon](#). After the death of Solomon, the ten northern tribes revolted and established the [kingdom of Israel](#) in the north. The remaining tribes remained loyal to the son of Solomon and formed the Kingdom of Judah in the south."¹⁸

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84 6. "...The Holy of Holies of the temple in heaven was thrown wide open" (Revelation 15:5, TLB)! "[Just
85 as] it doesn't make any difference now whether we have been circumcised or not; what counts is
86 whether we really have been changed into new and different people" (Galatians 6:15, TLB); similarly,
87 our gender does not matter in regards to the roles we fulfill for Christ, for "...the Lord set apart the
88 godly—male and female—for Himself..." (Psalm 4:3, NLT). "[But more importantly], ...He has given each
89 one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. ...When [Christ] ascended to the heights, ...He...
90 gave gifts to His people. ...Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets,
91 the evangelists, the pastors, and [the] teachers" (Ephesians 4:7-11, NLT). There were no gender
92 assignments during the distribution of gifts. Such arbitrary distinctions are of human, not divine origin.
93 Those who thus reason forget that the first gospel evangelist was Mary Magdalene (John 20:13-18 &
94 Matthew 28:1-10). This inauguration of gender unlimited witnesses to His Majesty's resurrection were
95 significant. "We are NO longer Jews or Greeks, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women; but
96 we are all the same—we are Christians. We are one in Christ (Galatians 3:28, TLB). Observe the
97 similarities between the statement made by Paul, in Galatians 3, and the statement made by Moses in
98 Genesis—God "...created them male and female; He blessed them and called them Adam..." (Genesis
99 5:2, CJB). Therefore, to celebrate the original equality and oneness, which was lost in Eden by
100 transgression, which God is working to restore between the sexes, using His righteousness by faith
101 program, (Genesis 3:16, TLB), the narrative that follows examines these discussion points—

102

- 103 ▪ Gender assignment to roles is another distraction—¶ 7.
- 104 ▪ The role of holy women in Christendom must be perpetuated—¶ 8.
- 105 ▪ Divine providence appointed women to herald the risen Savior—¶ 9.
- 106 ▪ Women's role in spreading the Good News is part of the New Deal—¶ 10.
- 107 ▪ You have become living... stones for God's use in building His house—¶ 11.
- 108 ▪ Intelligent, centrist Christians focus on... the Great Commission—¶ 12.
- 109 ▪ Pastors today—whether male or female—are merely workers together with God—¶ 13.
- 110 ▪ We may learn important lessons from selected portions of contemporary American history—¶
111 14.

112 The Case for Focusing on Substance

113 7. Gender assignment to roles is another distraction. It takes us away from the core, pressing issues
114 before us that deserve our undivided attention. "...The bridegroom [has been] delayed... [and all have
115 become] drowsy and fell asleep" (Matthew 25:5, NLT). But it behooves us to remember that we are
116 members of a denomination focused on preparing people for Christ's return as a warrior and a
117 conqueror (Revelation 19:11 & 6:2, CJB). Voluntary association with the Seventh Day Adventist church
118 should express support for the church's mission. Consequently, each of us should follow Paul's
119 example—"I determined NOT to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1
120 Corinthians 2:2). Some people are building a career by focusing on contemporary trends, with which
121 they disagree. I may be mistaken, but I think that is called Journalism. Journalism is important, because
122 "...access to free information plays a central role in creating a system of checks and balance..."
123 (Wikipedia-Journalism). "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have
124 their exits and their entrances..." (William Shakespeare). So go ahead and play your part; and play it
125 well. The Great Controversy, 1888, p. 519.2 makes this poignant point:

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126 Satan... invents every possible device to engross the mind. There has ever been a class
127 professing godliness, who instead of following on to know the truth, make it their religion to
128 seek some fault of character or error of faith in those whom they do not agree. Such are Satan's
129 right hand helpers. ...In every conceivable manner, they will seek to cause that which is pure
130 and righteous to be regarded as foul and deceptive.

131 In contrast, God's workers will focus on Scriptural priorities, which all true Christians embrace. Below,
132 the acronym, LOST GRACE, summarize the focus of true Christians:

133

134 Love one another (John 13:35)

135 Outreach to those who have lost or are losing their faith (Matthew 10:6)

136 Spread the Good News to truth seekers (Matthew 9:35 | Jeremiah 29:13)

137 The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

138

139 Growth in grace (2 Peter 3:18)

140 Righteousness by faith (Philippians 3:9)

141 Acceptance with God (Proverbs 21:3 | Hebrews 12:23)

142 Climbing Peter's ladder (2 Peter 1:5-8)

143 Encouraging people to accept God's perfect plan (John 6:28-29 | Jeremiah 29:11)

144 Because of the priorities mentioned above, anything else lies outside the scope of any worthwhile,
145 individual or corporate, strategic direction. Therefore, it behooves us to "...avoid stupid controversies,
146 genealogies, quarrels, and fights... because they are worthless and futile" (Titus 3:9, CJB). But more
147 importantly, "...to men and women have been committed the sacred trust of making known the
148 unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8 in The Acts of the Apostles, p. 134.2).

149

150 Emphasize Collaboration not Competition

151 8. The role of holy women in Christendom must be perpetuated. This part of sacred history can be
152 marginalized and therefore, dismissed. And by doing so, we will miss the opportunity to inspire a new
153 generation of women, endowed with spiritual gifts, to be faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus,
154 it is necessary to write about the heroic faith and the unprecedented assignment given to holy women
155 at the dawn of the emerging Christian church. Admittedly, "...the disciples were called Christians first in
156 Antioch" (Acts 11:26), but the seeds of the movement, which they pioneered were sown long before. So
157 just as Luke though it needful to write to Theophilus, it is also important to go on the record, (OTR), and
158 address the role of women in the church "...that you might know how well-founded are the things about
159 which you have been taught" (Luke 1:1-4, CJB), in the Scriptures. The aim here is to encourage you to
160 avoid sidebar issues in the echo chamber, and learn to focus on substance. God is deeper than our finite
161 minds can ever comprehend. To make matters worse, "...now we see through a glass darkly, [or as the

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162 Jewish Bible states], now we see obscurely in a mirror..." (1 Corinthians 13:12, KJV, CJB). Examine God's
163 self-declaration—"For My thoughts are NOT your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways..." (Isaiah
164 55:8). "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His
165 judgments, and His ways past finding out" (Romans 11:33). "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can
166 you probe the limits of the Almighty" (Job 11:7, CJB | NIV)? Let us explore together the role of women
167 in the church from the perspective of an asset rather than a liability.

168

169 God's Way is Perfect

170 9. Divine providence appointed women to herald the risen Savior. Now, just as then, "...their words
171 seemed to [the 11 and to all the rest] as idle tales, and they believed them not" (Matthew 28:1-10,
172 emphases on verses 7 & 10 | Luke 24:9-11). Would the 11 and the rest had the same response if the
173 news of the risen Savior was heralded by men? That is another sidebar issue, so turning away from that
174 question, consider something grand. "...God, [whose] way is perfect..." (2 Samuel 22:31), it would be
175 inconceivable to imagine that the commissioning of the group of women to herald the Savior's
176 resurrection was coincidental! Do not underestimate what God can accomplish through holy women.
177 What I am attempting to do here is to elevate your cognitive and affective sense of valuation of both
178 men and women to ANY responsibilities to which either group is called of God. Human systems have a
179 record of setting ceilings on other humans. Slavery, designed to dispossess and control others, has a
180 long, and diverse history! "Eliminate the things and people that rent space in your head so you can use
181 that space for thoughts that are helpful and productive" (Gary Coxe). "Emancipate yourselves from
182 mental slavery..." (Marcus Garvey). You might disagree with the reasoning set forth here, and if you
183 do—good for you. "...What is important is for each to be fully convinced in his [or her] own mind"
184 (Romans 14:5, CJB).

185

186 Prophetic Fulfillment

187 10. Women's role in spreading the Good News is part of the New Deal. "The work symbolized by the
188 angel of Revelation 18:1-4, CJB, which illumined the earth, must be fulfilled. God is using all available
189 resources to announce His impending return. Examine this ancient prediction—"The day will come, says
190 the Lord, when I will make a new contract with the people of Israel and Judah" (Jeremiah 31:31, TLB |
191 Hebrews 8:8, TLB). "...This is the new agreement I will make with the people of Israel, says the Lord—I
192 will write my laws in their minds so that they will know what I want them to do without even telling
193 them..." (Hebrews 8:10, TLB). With the Law of God inscribed upon the minds of His people, "...they will
194 ALWAYS know [His] will..." (Hebrews 10:16, TLB). More importantly, God "...will pour out [His] Spirit
195 upon ALL, ...men and women alike... (Joel 2:28-30, TLB). God will use his authority, at this time, to
196 empower all people, without regard to race, color, gender, among other factors, including "...the
197 stones..." (Luke 19:40), to finish the spread of the Gospel. And the legitimate basis for this decision is—
198 "We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all
199 the same—we are Christians; we are one in Christ" (Galatians 3:28, TLB). This idea is too revolutionary
200 for our finite minds; therefore, it is easier to go back to what is comfortable and familiar despite the new
201 direction that opens before us opportunities to finish the work and hasten Christ's return. God has
202 always been in the business of opening new frontiers, i.e., uncharted territory (Isaiah 19:21-25, GNT).

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203 End Time Work

204 11. "...You have become living building stones for God's use in building His house. What's more, you are
205 His holy priests... to offer to God those things that please Him" (1 Peter 2:5, TLB). More specifically,
206 "...You are priests of the King, you are holy and pure..." (1 Peter 2:9, TLB). You will remain "...priests of
207 God and of Christ..." during the millennium (Revelation 20:5-6). Therefore, the important issue is not
208 your distribution of testosterone and estrogen, but rather your sanctification for God's use (Psalm 4:3,
209 TLB). For with God, all things are possible, including empowering women to serve in ANY capacity. If
210 women serve as ministers of God, guided by the same Holy Spirit as men are, their work will NEVER
211 harm the Gospel, because "...the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save..." (Isaiah 59:1). "God
212 is so awesome, He once used a "...dumb ass speaking with man's voice..." (2 Peter 2:15-16). When those
213 who are called have failed to carryout God's appointed mission, God has both the exclusive right and the
214 executive authority to do whatever pleases Himself. But while we remain here on earth, be aware of
215 the human problem of perceived exclusivity and entitlement, which takes many different forms,
216 including those of a religious nature. One poignant example traces back to those Jews who "...were
217 amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit would be given to Gentiles..." (Acts 10:34-45, TLB). How can this
218 be? These foreigners—"...aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of
219 promise..." (Ephesians 2:12)—are not the chosen people (Matthew 3:9 & Luke 3:8). What audacity God
220 has to pour out His Holy Spirit on these uncircumcised people? "...With men this is impossible; but with
221 God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

222

223 Renewed Call for Mission Focus

224 12. Intelligent, centrist Christians focus on issues germane to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-
225 20). To do that, let each of us submit to "...the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself
226 to God as a sacrifice without blemish, [to] purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that
227 we can serve the living God" (Hebrews 9:14, CJB). Submission to Christ is a much more fruitful activity
228 than debates about which gender should have what roles when Jesus himself says, "...There is a large
229 harvest. But there are few workers..." (Luke 10:2, CJB). When we focus on substantive issues, less time
230 will be devoted to issues in the echo chamber. This response, of avoiding the noise in the echo
231 chamber, is important for this reason—...John saw Jesus coming toward Him and said, 'Look! The Lamb
232 of God who takes away the sin of the world'" (John 1:29, NLT). In this declaration, John was signaling
233 the beginning of the end of the Old Testament, sacrificial system and its priestly order (Hebrews 7:23-
234 24, 27, NLT).

235

236 13. Pastors today—whether male or female—are merely "...workers together with [God]" (2 Corinthians
237 6:1). The ancient priesthood, which descended from Levi, is obsolete. Holy men and women, endowed
238 with the God's gifts received by the Holy Spirit, serve God and not men, in the capacity of workers and
239 not as the ancient priest. Then there is no need to be stuck in that ancient system of thinking because
240 Christ has changed the model to a new and better system. Christ is our "...High Priest who sat down in
241 the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven..." (Hebrews 8:1-2, NLT). Let us
242 celebrate Christ's priesthood, for "the sacrifice he offers is far better than those offered by the earthly
243 priests. But even so, if He were here on earth He would NOT be permitted to be a priest because down

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244 here the priests still follow the old Jewish system of sacrifices" (Hebrews 8:4, TLB). Here is the
245 important matter! Just as God poured out His Spirit on the Gentiles to the amazement of the Jews, (Acts
246 11:1-3), and spoke through the dumb ass to the amazement of Balaam, (Numbers 22:28-30 & 2 Peter
247 2:16), which raises questions about who was the real ass, let those who are shocked by the emergence
248 of women as Elders and Pastors rest assured that God can and will use all clean vessels to finish His
249 appointed work (Isaiah 52:11, CJB). "Is there a limit to [God's] power" (Numbers 11:23, GNT)? God has
250 an urgency in the work of gathering His people, (Isaiah 27:12-13; Revelation 7:3; 9:4; 13:6; 14:1; 20:4; &
251 22:4), unto Himself (Revelation 21:1-4).

252

253 14. We may learn important lessons from selected portions of American history. Examples follow.
254 American had its first Black, male and female Surgeon Generals—David Satcher and Jocelyn Elders.
255 America had its first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State—Colin Powell.
256 America has its first Black President—Barak Obama. Historical blindness impeded the vision of some
257 who NEVER saw people of color serving in leadership capacities. Do not permit your blindness to lead
258 you along the obstructionist pathway. Instead, work as a facilitator, following the example of Gamaliel,
259 (Acts 5:34-39, NLT). God has built His church "...upon... [a] ...Foundation Stone..., a firm, tested,
260 precious Cornerstone that is safe to build on—(Isaiah 28:16, TLB). "He is the Rock..." (Deuteronomy
261 32:4). "...All the powers of hell SHALL NOT prevail against it—[Him]" (Matthew 16:18, TLB). In view of
262 these things, how are you building? "...Each one's work will be shown for what it is. The Day will
263 disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire—the fire will test the quality of each one's work" (1
264 Corinthians 3:13, CJB). Therefore, do all that is possible to do to advance the Great Commission and
265 thereby hasten the day of our Lord's return.

266

267 15. We have come to the end of one contemporary, hot topic. Either agreement or disagreement with
268 the author is NOT necessary, for "...on questions of this kind..., what is important is for each to be fully
269 convinced in his [or her] own mind" (Romans 14:5, TLB & CJB). A few parting words from Ellen White's
270 writings dating back to a time when women were in the minority among workers in God's cause. "God
271 calls for earnest women workers, workers who are prudent, warm-hearted, tender, and true to
272 principle. He calls for persevering women, who will take their minds from self and their personal
273 convenience, and will center them on Christ, speaking words of truth, praying with persons to whom
274 they can obtain access, laboring for the conversion of souls" (Christian Service, ChS. p. 27, ¶.3).
275 "Women who can work are needed now, women who are not self-important, but meek and lowly of
276 heart, who will work with the meekness of Christ *wherever* they can find work to do for the salvation of
277 souls" (ChS 28.6). "God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth. If the husbandman
278 neglects to cultivate the soil, God works no miracle to counteract the sure results" (ChS 228.3). Thus, if
279 women prepare themselves for Christ's service, to God be the glory, even as "delegates turned down a
280 motion that would have allowed each division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to decide... whether
281 to ordain women to the gospel ministry in its territory, by a margin of 1,381-977, with five
282 abstentions..."¹

¹ <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story2988-%E2%80%8Bgc-delegates-vote-%E2%80%98no%E2%80%99-on-issue-of-women%E2%80%99s-ordination>

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283 Ten Minutes Review Questions & Answers before Continuation at Paragraph 8 – NO DISCUSSION PLEASE

- 284 1. When a hen lays an egg, she does so in a nest. What nest, i.e., context, justification, or reason
285 was presented for the study topic—The Long Awaited Emergence of Women in Ministry as
286 Elders & Pastors?
- 287 a. Hint: ¶1! Answer: “I am doing something new; it’s springing up. Can’t you see it? I am
288 making a road in the desert, rivers in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19, CJB). Jesus is soon to
289 come. The message of His coming requires promulgation. God, who is neither divisive
290 nor discriminatory, will use available workers, defined NOT based on gender, but
291 holiness.
- 292 2. What vision must permeate our memory, decision-making, and activities?
- 293 a. Hint: ¶2! Answer: “...This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will
294 come back to you in just the same way as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11, CJB).
295 God knows the time of His son’s return (Matthew 24:36), and He owns the work
296 schedule and the laborers; therefore, He orchestrates all things “...according to His good
297 pleasure which He purposed in Himself” (Ephesians 1:9, NKJV).
- 298 3. Why is God advancing His Kingdom with all available, eligible workers?
- 299 a. Hint: ¶3! Answer: Probation will close someday and the rider on the white horse, who
300 “...had a bow and a crown... went out conquering and to conquer” (Revelation 6:2,
301 NKJV). Heaven is making preparation for the soon return of Christ to earth to bring His
302 guests to the heavenly banquet.
- 303 4. Does God reveal His secret plans to everyone?
- 304 a. Hint: ¶4! Answer: “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show
305 them His covenant” (Psalm 25:14).
- 306 5. What changes became effective when the Levitical system found fulfillment with Christ, our
307 atonement?
- 308 a. Hint: ¶5! Answer: Christ entered the “...greater, perfect tabernacle, in heaven, not made
309 by men nor part of this world.” This is God’s new and better way. Christ “...came as
310 High Priest of this better system that we now have. ...He took His own blood, and with it
311 He, by Himself, made sure of our eternal salvation” (Hebrews 9:8-14, TLB). Do not
312 worry about adherence to the rituals of the Levitical priesthood. In the current new and
313 better way, Christ’s priesthood supersedes the Levitical system.
- 314 6. What are the implications of the opening of the temple in heaven (Revelation 15:5, NKJV)?
- 315 a. Hint: ¶6! Answer: ...When [Christ] ascended to the heights, He... gave gifts to His
316 people. ...Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets,
317 the evangelists, the pastors, and [the] teachers” (Ephesians 4:7-11, NLT). There were no
318 gender assignments during the distribution of gifts. Such arbitrary distinctions are of
319 human, not divine origin. “We are NO longer Jews or Greeks, or slaves or free men, or
320 even merely men or women; but we are all the same—we are Christians. We are one in
321 Christ (Galatians 3:28, TLB). However, if you prefer the rules of the Levitical system,
322 then Exodus 34:20, KJV is a must read!
- 323 7. What are some of our responsibilities as members of a worldwide church committed to
324 EFFECTIVE promulgation of the everlasting Gospel of Revelation 14:6?
- 325 a. Hint: ¶7! Answer: See the acronym: LOST GRACE for the answer.

The Long Awaited Emergence of Women in Ministry as Elders & Pastors

Study for Sabbath, July 4, 2015, Revised May 5, 2017 – Prepared by Bro. Graham

326 Further Reading:

- 327
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- 332
1. The Actual Significance of the San Antonio Ordination Vote
(<http://spectrummagazine.org/article/2015/07/06/actual-significance-san-antonio-ordination-vote>)
 2. Seventh-Day Adventists Vote to Deny Women’s Ordination
(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/seventh-day-adventists-vote-to-deny-womens-ordination_us_559ea058e4b05b1d028fdb9a)