



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Clouds

Tonight my heart is heavy and I'm asking for your prayers. In our Bible study earlier tonight someone asked why Jesus didn't go ahead and die when he experienced the weight of our sins when they were placed upon him at Gethsemane. Someone else suggested that he couldn't die at that time because he needed to fully expose satan. If he had died while in Gethsemane then we wouldn't have understood what evil satan had fallen to. I suggested that he went through that experience for us. By living among us and experiencing what we go through we can know that he loves us so much that he is willing to do anything to be with us. He is with us in all our trials, experiencing our frustrations, our pains, our fears... He shares our happy times also. He even cares about what is happening with our beloved little Mia who at the time was laying on the kitchen stove and not showing much in the way of life signs.

On Wednesday Mia began vomiting. She was only producing small amounts of water or sometimes she was having dry heaves. She isn't eating and has taken to mostly being by herself in secluded places. I'm not hearing any signs of her scratching in the litterbox.

Friday morning we had a problem that messed up our day. Elkanah lost his wallet. We searched the house everywhere but it was nowhere to be found. He had stopped at a grocery store on his way home from work on Thursday and he even called and asked if they had it. They didn't. He eventually found it out on the carport by the corner of the house. It must have fallen out of his pocket when he got out of the car.

By the time he found it, it was getting into the afternoon. There was something else going on that made me think God might be working to change his plans for

next week. On Monday he was scheduled to have major surgery. When he got home Thursday night he told me that he felt like he was coming down with the flu.

I know from experience that being knocked out with general anesthesia while you are sick is a bad idea. They once did it to me knowing that I had the flu. The surgery that was scheduled wasn't an emergency, it was an exploratory to try to diagnose a problem. They had to wake me up almost as soon as they knocked me out. The nurse anesthetist went out to talk to Elkanah and he said she was visibly shaken. Apparently I nearly became one of the dearly departed because of that.

And despite knowing what experience I had, Elkanah was determined to go through with that surgery. Well, you can't blame him. He's been in pain for nearly a year and none of the attempts to correct the problem without surgery has been successful. So when he got home he took some zinc, took a fever bath, then went to bed for the night. When I crawled into bed I lay with my back to him and could feel and hear him coughing into my hair.

So when he lost his wallet on Friday I was wondering if maybe God was trying to tell him not to have surgery on Monday. Without his ID the hospital probably wouldn't admit him.

Now here's why I think God may have run some interference about his upcoming surgery. While he was out shopping the doctor's office called to reschedule his surgery until a later date. When I checked the 5-day weather forecast I saw that we're going to be having rain and temps down in the lower 20's. At that temp it isn't rain, it's freezing rain or sleet. In this part of the country that means a shut down of the state. Elkanah is a Northerner who doesn't know to stay off that kind of road. His sister's husband is also a Northerner who worked for several years as a truck driver. He also doesn't have a problem driving on ice. Originally my brother was going to take Elkanah to the hospital and stay for the procedure. He was told that if things went well he could come home that night. But if the roads were bad then Elkanah's sister's husband was going to take him. A Yankee former trucker is better equipped to handle icy roads than a Southern-bred good ol' boy.

People from the South don't know how to handle driving on ice. Going to the hospital on icy roads may not have been safe for Elkanah and bro-in-law. We'll find out Monday morning if there is any validity to my thinking.

And back to the missing wallet. Without his wallet Elkanah wouldn't be able to

legally drive, do our weekly shopping, take Mia to the vet, and go help his elderly dad with a bath. I couldn't take Mia to the vet because I can't handle a carrier and a walker. I also have difficulty getting into the building because I don't do well on ramps or steps.

When he finally found his wallet it was late enough that he did the shopping, came home and unloaded the car, then headed for his dad's house. While he was unloading I asked about Mia going to the vet. He said to try to get her an appointment but with it being that late in the afternoon I didn't think I would be able to do it.

When I called they said the vet was at the moment involved in an emergency surgery, could it wait until tomorrow? I told her that I didn't think it could. My cat was not eating and getting weak. The receptionist was able to find a spot late enough for Elkanah to get home, pick up Mia, and get to the vet's office. From there he had to sit and wait because they were working him in.

There is some concern because Mia has lost weight. She looks like a big cat and weighed 12 pounds. But when you pick her up you realize that with her, looks and the scales are deceiving. Underneath all that fur she's a small cat. Losing weight was something she didn't need to be doing.

An exam showed that she had lost weight and her blood sugar was elevated despite not eating. But the vet didn't want to diagnose diabetes yet. He checked and said she wasn't suffering from a hairball. He also admitted that he didn't know what was wrong with her. He gave her a shot for nausea and another shot of antibiotic. If she doesn't get better we're supposed to take her back.

When we have those Friday night Bible studies she always joins us. She is either in the brother-in-law's lap or curled up in her favorite basket that is built onto the kitty gym. But that didn't happen tonight. Instead she lay nearly listless on the kitchen stove. She was still there when I went to bed around 9. She wasn't there when I got up a couple hours later and I don't know where she is now.

My heart is also heavy with concern over my son's cat Hansel. Hansel is a big and beautiful tom who has the most delightful personality. He has brought us a ton of love and joy. Hansel is fighting to recover from a UTI. So far he has been unresponsive to antibiotics.

So, I'm asking prayers for our two pets, Mia and Hansel.

Now here I sit at my computer, doing what seems to have become a habit that I'm not especially happy about. During the week I'll wonder what I'm going to write about for the upcoming Sabbath, and I listen and watch for something that might be of interest as I study during the week. As usual I go to bed on Friday night not having a clue what I'm supposed to do and wondering how to get around even writing something at all. Then I wake up a couple hours later with the thought of what I should write about. But this time it was a bit different. When I woke I still didn't know what to write. I said a quick prayer asking what I should do and the word "clouds" popped into my head. I don't want to write this one and have in the past put it off. But the topic was interesting to me so I'll go ahead and share what I learned a few months ago.

While listening to a sermon somewhere in the archives at the Woodland Hills church, I heard Greg Boyd mention clouds. He said that clouds will hide things. When I heard that a text popped into my head.

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." – Acts 1:9-11

At the time all I had to go on was Dr. Boyd's comment that clouds hide things and here was a text saying that clouds had hidden Jesus from view and he would return in the clouds.

This intrigued me, but not enough to look it up. Instead I tried to shove it aside as unimportant. But the thought wouldn't go away. I finally decided to mention it to Elkanah and asked him to study it out with me. He wasn't interested so I let it go. A more accurate statement would be that I tried to let it go. But the thought that I needed to study into clouds kept niggling in the back of my mind. Eventually I was able to forget it.

Several weeks passed then something happened which brought the thought of clouds back to my mind. During the meeting that the SDA church hierarchy held a few months ago where they were trying to decide what to do with the Unions that had gone ahead and ordained women, someone made the comment that a particular person was nothing more than a small, dark cloud. So there it was

again, clouds. I really needed to look into it.

I went to biblegateway.com and did a search for the word cloud. From that I made a list of texts to study. When Sabbath afternoon came I asked Elkanah to go over the list with me. He sat there dutifully while I began, then got up and left the room while I was talking to him. He didn't have any interest in this subject and wasn't going to help me. I'll admit, that hurt my feelings. I picked up my list and tossed it into the trash.

More time passed and again my thoughts were turned to the topic of clouds. OK, so something is going on with the clouds and I realized I wasn't going to get any peace until I did the study and came up with an answer. Elkanah has a good memory and understanding of what the Bible is teaching. I need his guidance with a lot of my studies but this topic of clouds was something he wasn't going to help me with. I was going to have to do it myself.

In the end I'm glad I studied it through. I found that there is indeed something in the Bible that involves clouds. A few days ago I was watching a newscast and was reminded of what I had learned about clouds. And I'll tell you this, when I found my discovery, Elkanah heard it and was also intrigued by what I had learned. Thursday night I mentioned the above text and made a comment on it. He said that was interesting because that day he had also been thinking about the same text.

It's been a while since I did the study so I've forgotten a lot of it and may have some trouble finding the references that I found when I did the study, but I'll try. And I give you my apologies for not sharing this earlier. This was just too much for me to take in and I needed time to process it before I could share it. And let me say first thing that we'll look at the word "clouds" symbolically rather than literally and the information I'm going to give you will be relatively short. And when I say short, I'm meaning that I'm leaving out a lot and challenging you to pick up where I'm leaving off. Study this out with the view that I'm going to give you and see what you find.

When you are wanting to know the meaning of a word a good place to start is with the dictionary. I used dictionary.com and found the following as meanings numbers 3 and 5:

3. a dim or obscure area in something otherwise clear or transparent

and

5. anything that obscures or darkens something, or causes gloom, trouble, suspicion, disgrace, etc.

So, Greg was right in stating that clouds hide things. Does the Bible say they are hiding things? I still had that list of texts on my computer so I began looking them up. I'll admit I didn't look them all up, but I did find enough to support what I was wondering.

When I first ran across this I began writing about it but stopped. I still have my notes and I'll share part of them. Here's something from my notes:

A little food for thought and I am not in any way promoting this as gospel. But I ran across something this morning that caused me to stop and think about what I had heard. While doing a counted cross-stitch on Facebook and hoping to get sleepy, I was listening to a sermon that was presented by Dr. Greg Boyd of the Woodland Hills Church. The sermon is titled "Is God Angry?"

In his sermon he spoke of clouds. He said that in the ancient times the people thought of their gods as riding on the clouds. That is why you see pictures of these gods riding in the clouds with lightning bolts in their hands. It is representing their power and desire to maim and destroy. Those weren't his exact words but it was his meaning.

As I listened to him talking about how the clouds cover over the accurate meaning behind parts of the Scriptures, a passage kept going through my mind and that was "he is coming on the clouds."

I looked up the word "cloud" on dictionary.com. They indicate that the word is a Middle English and Old English word that came about before 900. It would be interesting to know what is the actual word that is used in the original text when speaking of Jesus returning in the clouds.

One of the definitions of the word cloud is that it is a dim or obscure area in something otherwise clear or transparent. Given that definition and the state of the religious organizations who teach a false picture of God, the political unrest, the weather, massive fires, rampant disease, lack of love... I can think of several words that could be used in place of cloud. Let's try some.

"At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in

clouds with great power and glory. – Mark 13:26

Try inserting one of these words where cloud is:

confusion
misinformation
false concepts
dim understanding
muddied water

What do you think?

What do I think? “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming amid the confusion and false concepts with great power and glory.” To me that makes sense. The social organizations that are masquerading as religious organizations are promoting a lot of misinformation and confusion. They have muddied the water, giving us a dim understanding of what the Bible really says about God. It's all very confusing.

There are multiple references to a cloud in the book of Exodus. We have been taught that God led Israel through the wilderness by means of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. But according to Exodus 14:19, the Angel of the Lord was not in that cloud. Take a look:

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, – Exodus 14:19 NIV

Could Jesus have been leading the Israelites who were filled with confusion about who God was and what was going on? Of course they were confused! They had been in slavery for 400 years. During that time they had lost sight of God. You can tell by the way that God treated them they were operating with a slaves mentality which is level 1 on the scale of moral development. They didn't know how to act properly. They were functioning on the level of doing what they were told to do in order to keep from being punished. (Sounds a lot like what the church wants its followers to do today. “If you don't stop sinning and do what we tell you then God will punish you with hellfire.” [Mumbling to self... Hannah, you're getting off track. Sorry.])

I guess my point is that Jesus was leading the Israelites but there was a lot of confusion about him. There was a cloud between Jesus and the Israelites that was covering his glory. It had to be there. If Jesus had revealed the truth about

his character they wouldn't have been able to withstand it and they would have died.

And those covering clouds still exist. If we were to see God in his full glory we wouldn't be able to handle it and we would have a meltdown that would kill us. However, this doesn't have to happen. When Jesus returns there will be a group of people who will be able to see God. They will be those who have allowed the Holy Spirit to work in their lives and change their characters to be like God's character.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. – 1 John 3:2 NIV

Now take a look at this passage and read it with the thought that clouds are something that is used as a hiding agent.

At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, “A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward my people, but not to winnow or cleanse; a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them.”

Look! He advances like the clouds,
his chariots come like a whirlwind,
his horses are swifter than eagles.
Woe to us! We are ruined!
Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved.
How long will you harbor wicked thoughts?
A voice is announcing from Dan,
proclaiming disaster from the hills of Ephraim.
“Tell this to the nations,
proclaim concerning Jerusalem:
‘A besieging army is coming from a distant land,
raising a war cry against the cities of Judah.
They surround her like men guarding a field,
because she has rebelled against me,’”
declares the Lord.
“Your own conduct and actions
have brought this on you.
This is your punishment.
How bitter it is!

How it pierces to the heart!”
– Jeremiah 4:11-18 NIV

So let's take a close look at this passage. God is passing judgment on Jerusalem. But remember that in Bible terms judgment is simply the act of making a correct diagnoses. God is proclaiming that there is nothing more he can do to try to rescue these people. This passage says that God is coming in the clouds, or he is coming amid their confusion, and they will die. He is begging them to stop rebelling and allow him to heal them. Yet they have brought this disaster upon themselves by refusing to take the remedy for their sickness of sin which leads to death.

The way he heals is to gradually lift the fog, or the clouds, that are covering the truth about him. As we begin to discern the truth about him, we begin to fall in love with him and our characters start to heal as a result. But when we refuse to accept the truth then we will be unable to handle the meltdown that we'll suffer when he removes that covering of clouds.

“But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

– Mark 13:24-26 NIV

Here's another passage that mentions clouds. It also mentions darkness. Just before Jesus returns this world will be in darkness, or will be in a state where the truth about God will be almost totally obscured. It is during this darkness that Jesus will return.

But wait, something isn't quite right here. This doesn't match what we have been taught. Let's think on this a bit. In those days the sun is darkened and the moon not giving any light. Traditionally the SDA church has taught that these are literal events that have already occurred. But what if they are symbolic of the darkness of faulty information about God's character?

With no light being shed on the character of God, the heavenly bodies are shaken because when the world reaches this point, Jesus begins to reveal the truth about God's character and God's people recognize his voice. The organizations that call themselves a church find that people begin to make their exit. They are leaving because they discover that they have been in darkness and they want the light.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. – Revelation 1:7 NIV

So Jesus is coming amid the confusion and every eye will see him. Now here is something that is startling. Take a look at what is happening in christianity today. People are exiting the religious organization en-masse. They are discovering that the religious organizations aren't telling the truth about God and are acting in ways that are not only deceptive, they are also controlling.

Do you need an Ellen White for this? When we read the following passage through the lens of a cloud being a covering rather than a literal understanding, we get a different picture than what we've been taught. This is taken from *The Great Controversy*:

Through a rift in the clouds there beams a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast with the darkness. It speaks hope and joy to the faithful, but severity and wrath to the transgressors of God's law. Those who have sacrificed all for Christ are now secure, hidden as in the secret of the Lord's pavilion. They have been tested, and before the world and the despisers of truth they have evinced their fidelity to Him who died for them. A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons. Their faces, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love. Their voices rise in triumphant song: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.” Psalm 46:1-3. – *The Great Controversy*, 638-640

This passage mentions a rift in the clouds. In this rift there is a star that is

bringing truth to those who are in darkness. This truth brings hope and joy to God's true people, but severity and wrath to those who transgress God's law. Here we need to remember that sin is transgression of the law and the law is a transcript of God's character. Also remember that in Bible terminology God's wrath is the act of letting go. He lets go because he reaches the point that there is nothing more he can do to reach you.

God's true followers experience joy and hope when they gaze into this light, or information that obliterates darkness, but the wicked experience the removal of God's protection and they are now having to live in that light knowing they are in the wrong and not being urged to do anything about it.

While these words of holy trust ascend to God, the clouds sweep back, and the starry heavens are seen, unspeakably glorious in contrast with the black and angry firmament on either side. The glory of the celestial city streams from the gates ajar. Then there appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. Says the prophet: "The heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself." Psalm 50:6. That holy law, God's righteousness, that amid thunder and flame was proclaimed from Sinai as the guide of life, is now revealed to men as the rule of judgment. The hand opens the tables, and there are seen the precepts of the Decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. Memory is aroused, the darkness of superstition and heresy is swept from every mind, and God's ten words, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of the earth. – *The Great Controversy*, 639-640

Here we have more symbolism. The lies are removed and the truth is revealed. The contrast between the truth and the lies are unspeakable. We were taught that there will literally be a hand appear in the sky with two stone tables containing the 10 commandments. I don't believe that's a correct interpretation. I believe that this is just more ways to express that God's Character is being fully revealed. His Character is being revealed as the way in which we were created to function and any divergence from his law of love leads to separation from the source of life. It leads to death.

It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God's holy requirements. The Lord gave them His law; they might have compared their characters with it and learned their defects while there was yet opportunity for repentance and

reform; but in order to secure the favor of the world, they set aside its precepts and taught others to transgress. They have endeavored to compel God's people to profane His Sabbath. Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised. With awful distinctness they see that they are without excuse. They chose whom they would serve and worship. "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." Malachi 3:18.

The enemies of God's law, from the ministers down to the least among them, have a new conception of truth and duty. Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. Too late they see the true nature of their spurious sabbath and the sandy foundation upon which they have been building. They find that they have been fighting against God. Religious teachers have led souls to perdition while professing to guide them to the gates of Paradise. Not until the day of final accounts will it be known how great is the responsibility of men in holy office and how terrible are the results of their unfaithfulness. Only in eternity can we rightly estimate the loss of a single soul. Fearful will be the doom of him to whom God shall say: Depart, thou wicked servant. – *The Great Controversy*, 639-640

Did you notice that Mrs. White used a lower case s when describing the sabbath? We should ask the question why the Sabbath is so important. For me it's important because we were created in a way that in order to be healthy we need to take a day off every 7th day. Am I going to argue with you which day that should be? No. Not at this point in time. I'll just say that we are breaking a health law when we don't take the rest that we need.

There is another reason the day is so important. On the seventh day God rested. But God didn't stop to take a nap. He continues to work during the Sabbath hours. If he didn't then we would cease to exist. There is another definition for rest than to have a snooze. If you view creation as a means of showing all created beings what God's character is like, then on the seventh day he finished his job of creating then he rested his case.

God is the one on trial, not us. We were born condemned to death and there is nothing we can do about that. But... that statement isn't entirely true. There is something we can do. God has been accused of having a character like satan's character. God has acted to present the truth about himself and what we need to do is to listen and use our own brains to make the decision who to believe, God

or satan. If we choose God and accept his remedy then we will be healed. If we choose satan then we will die. Plain and simple.

But she used the term spurious sabbath and used a lower case. I personally believe this spurious sabbath is the day that humans have created to be the biggest burden rather than a day of joy.

Look how sabbath is spent. For many they have to overwork themselves on Friday to be prepared for "the sabbath." When sunset arrives on Friday all bathing has to be already done, the house must be spotless, a feast should be prepared for sabbath lunch, the television and radio get turned off, only proper sabbath activities are allowed on the computer or as any kind of activity.

Manmade rules of behavior are put into place. You can't do this or that on the sabbath. We once visited a church that didn't allow people to speak in their building. Another church wanted all pot-luck meals completely prepared in advance and the only preparations they allowed to be done at church was the slicing of tomatoes.

The only rule that God gave in the 4th commandment was to refrain from working. That is all. The Sabbath is a day of rest and to get that rest we need to stop for 24 hours and not do any work.

But the church has taken it's focus off the rest and placed a focus upon deeds, or keeping the manmade rules. Who cares if your mantel isn't dusted by sunset on Friday? Who cares if you want to soak in a warm tub of God-created water during the Sabbath hours. Soaking in warm water is quite relaxing and restful.

(Point made, Hannah, get on with it.)

The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the

size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a "Man of Sorrows," to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. "Faithful and True," "in righteousness He doth judge and make war." And "the armies which were in heaven" (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light." Habakkuk 3:3, 4. As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. "And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords." Revelation 19:16. – *The Great Controversy*, 638-640

Here the cloud is mentioned again. According to Mrs. White, God's people recognize that this cloud, or this confused state of religion, is the sign that Jesus is coming. They watch the world as it struggles in the darkness and they see the darkness, or the cloud, disappearing as God's character is being revealed. As more information is revealed this cloud becomes a glorious consuming fire. This is the fire that destroys sin. This now glorious cloud continues to reveal more of God's character. And the true followers of God will be able to see God because they have accepted the remedy. Their characters have become like his.

There is so much more to say. So many more verses to share. But there is also a time to quit. I want this posted today and Elkanah needs to proof this first.

Before I quit let me give you a little update on Mia. At 3 a.m. I got up and went into my bedroom for a moment. When I walked past the kitchen I saw that Mia had returned to laying on the stove. Her head was up and she appeared alert.

She loves canned cat food. Usually she is fed dry but on occasion we will open

a can for her. Last week we gave her a can of a new brand of cat food. It was after eating that food that she got sick. We checked online to see if that food had been recalled but didn't find anything. Elkanah took an unopened can of the same stuff with him when he took her to the vet. The vet said she might have a food allergy. The way to know would be that if she started feeling better give her another can of it and see if she gets sick again. I'm not going to do that.

We usually put her canned food onto a paper plate then throw the plate into the trash when she is through with it. I remembered that her plate hadn't been trashed yet and there was a tiny bit of food still on it. I went into the kitchen to throw that plate into the trash. When she saw me reach for it she came to life. She was hungry and anxious to be fed. I gave her a can of food that she hasn't had any trouble with in the past. She had her fill of that then came in here and asked for some cookies. She appears to be healing. Prayers do help, even those that haven't been asked yet. So, please do keep praying for her to continue to heal, and also give thanks that she is getting well. Hopefully Hansel is also improving. I'll keep you informed.

And 15 pages is enough. Happy Sabbath to all! Get some rest.

With much love,

Hannah