



## The Book of Luke 2Q 2015 Lesson 12

### Jesus in Jerusalem

#### SABBATH

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When you think of Jerusalem what comes to mind? What do you know about Jerusalem?

- Jerusalem is on a plateau in the Mountains of Judea between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea.
- One of the oldest cities in the world
- Founded around the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE
- First settled most likely by Canaanites, then was part of the Egyptian empire, then the Jebusites and David conquered it from the Jebusites
- Has been destroyed twice
- Besieged 23 times
- Attacked 52 times
- Captured and recaptured 44 times
- It is considered holy by three major religions
- The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QapGen 22:13) equates Jerusalem with the earlier "Salem" (שָׁלֵם), said to be the kingdom of Melchizedek in Genesis 14:18.
- The Bible sometimes refers to Jerusalem as Salem:  
His tent is in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion. Ps 76:2

The following description is consistent with several historical references I checked:

As soon as David was established on the throne of Israel he began to seek a more appropriate location for the capital of his realm. Twenty miles from Hebron a place was selected as the future metropolis of the kingdom. Before Joshua had led the armies of Israel over Jordan it had been called Salem. Near this place Abraham had proved his loyalty to God. Eight hundred years before the coronation of David it had been the home of Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. It held a central and elevated position in the country and was protected by an environment of hills. Being on the border between Benjamin and Judah, it was in close proximity to Ephraim and was easy of access to the other tribes. {PP 703.1}

In order to secure this location the Hebrews must dispossess a remnant of the Canaanites, who held a fortified position on the mountains of Zion and Moriah. This stronghold was called Jebus, and its inhabitants were known as Jebusites. For centuries Jebus had been looked upon as impregnable; but it was besieged and taken by the Hebrews under the command of Joab, who, as the reward of his valor, was made commander-in-chief of the armies of Israel. Jebus now became the national capital, and its heathen name was changed to Jerusalem. {PP 703.2}



The name Jerusalem has several possible derivations, but the one most likely is:

The form *Yerushalem* or *Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem) first appears in the book of Joshua and is thought to be a combination of Yhwh and Shalem, or Salem—God’s City of Peace.

What is the significance of Jerusalem today? Does it matter?

Does John 4:19-24 apply? Here it is from *The Remedy*:

Shocked and somewhat uncomfortable with such a personal revelation, the woman said, "Sir, to know such things you must certainly be a prophet.<sup>20</sup> So please help me with a problem. Our people have always worshiped God here on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place we must worship God is in Jerusalem; which is it?"

<sup>21</sup>Jesus declared, "Believe me, dear woman, the place where one worships God is not important; it is the condition of the heart of the worshiper that matters. Very soon you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship a confusing tradition of rituals that does not enlighten the mind and have no ability to heal the worshiper; we worship the Creator God and our minds are enlightened and healed by him because all he asks of us is sensible and reasonable. The plan to heal humanity from the infection of selfishness and sin is provided through the Jews.<sup>23</sup> The time has now come that all true worshipers will worship the Father with an intelligent reasonable understanding of who he is - loving, admiring and respecting the truth about his nature, character, and methods; these understanding worshipers are the kind the Father seeks.<sup>24</sup> God is intelligent and reasonable, and his worshipers must worship him intelligently and reasonably, appreciating and valuing the truth of God's methods and principles."

What do you think of the idea that geographic location in worship is important? Is it?

How do you compare the Jerusalem on earth today with the New Jerusalem?

What was the foundation of the Old Jerusalem, in other words, how did it get established?

- Violence, war, conquest, coercion

What is the foundation of the New Jerusalem, how does it get established?

- A different kind of war – a war with divine weapons to demolish strongholds – what are the weapons the new Jerusalem is founded upon?
- Love, truth, freedom

What type of worship happened in the Temple of the Old Jerusalem? Why did Jesus “cleanse” it twice?



- At its best it was shadowy, symbolic, ritualistic enactments
- At its worst it was penal, legal worship, in which sins must be punished and payments made to propitiate sin

What type of worship happens in the New Jerusalem?

- Open face to face relationship of love and trust in which beings damaged by defective thinking, selfish motives, are healed and restored to truth, love and freedom, genuine unity of the being with God. Living in reality as God designed it, no more hiding behind shadows and symbols.

## SUNDAY

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Read first paragraph, “He was born...” How does the death of Jesus reconcile us to God?

- Does it do something to God?
- Does it do something to God’s law?
- Does it do something in the species human?
- What is the problem that sin caused the plan of salvation is designed to fix?
- How does Christ’s death fix this problem?

Read last two paragraphs, “This amazing...” What happened that was according to God’s amazing plan?

- Was it God’s plan that Satan rebel?
- Was it God’s plan that Adam sin?
- Was it God’s plan that Judas betray Jesus?
- Was it God’s plan that the disciples run away and Peter deny Jesus?
- Was it God’s plan the Jews reject Jesus and crucify Him?
- What was God’s plan?
- Was it God’s plan to love always?
- Was it God’s plan to heal and save?
- Was it God’s plan to send Christ to fix that which Adam broke?
- Did God’s plan take into account what Satan, Adam, Judas, the disciples, the Jewish nation and others did?
- Does taking into account what others do, and thus plan accordingly what God, through Christ, does, mean God wanted the others to do as they did?

## MONDAY

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Read Luke 19:46, “It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but you have made it a den of thieves.”

What was the problem happening in God’s house?



What was it about what was happening that caused Jesus to be offended? How do we understand the story and Jesus' actions?

If we answer from the 7 levels note the responses:

1. Jesus is mad and seeking to punish them with a whip because they are not doing what God says.
2. They are breaking the deal they made with God by going off script, thus justice requires that Jesus, acting for God, must punish them.
3. All nations recognize the absolute power of its rulers. Jesus is ruler of God's house and thus he is demonstrating his right to rule.
4. They are breaking God's law and breaking the law requires punishment. Jesus as judge is stepping in to judge them and inflict just punishment.
5. Jesus is overcome with love for the people. He understands human beings are terminal in sin, and the Temple was designed to be a teaching tool leading people to God for healing. But, the religious leaders were doing the opposite; they were making it harder for people to come to God for healing. Thus, Jesus revealed God loves. Love refuses to collude with lies and always seeks to free us from falsehood and lead us back to him for healing. Love notes Christ never hit people, only furniture, and his demeanor was so full of grace, love and compassion that the children were not frightened, but stayed behind, along with the sick.
6. He contrasted God's law of love versus selfishness – the worldly system of selfishness was demonstrated by the moneychangers, and resulted in turmoil, anxiety, fear, stress, and division. He drove them out and then gave freely of himself to heal and restore—without charging the people, demonstrating how love works.
7. Understanding God's creation is built to operate upon love, and selfishness infects the heart of humans breaking the design resulting in death, Jesus used the object lesson of the Temple, filled with selfish, greedy people to demonstrate his purpose to cleanse the hearts of men from fear and selfishness.

Here is one view, from the book *The Desire of Ages*:

In the cleansing of the **temple**, Jesus was **announcing His mission** as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. **That temple**, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an **object lesson** for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God's purpose that **every created being**, from the bright and holy seraph to **man**, **should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator**. Because of **sin**, **humanity ceased to be a temple for God**. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, **the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled**. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the **heart of man becomes again His temple**. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high **destiny open to every soul**. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield **themselves** as holy



**temples** for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. In **cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul.** "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His **temple**, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall **purify the sons of Levi**, and purge them as gold and silver." Malachi 3:1-3. {DA 161.1}

What is the lesson? What was Jesus announcing? What kind of law is being described in Jesus true mission?

What do you think of when you think of cleansing the sanctuary? Do you think of cleansing the hearts and minds of people from sin, or something else? Here is another historic reference from the book *The Great Controversy*.

The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the **cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event;** and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25. {GC 426.1}

What does this mean? What is it Christ does when He comes to His temple as described by Malachi? He cleanses – what? The Levites, and who are they? The believers in Christ, the priesthood of believers—thus cleansing the sanctuary is the work of cleansing the hearts, minds, characters of God's people of lies about him and from fear and selfishness, establishing Spirit temples where God again dwells.

**This requires, while God is searching us to find any wicked way in us, so that He might create in us a clean heart and right spirit, i.e. investigating our characters to accurately diagnose, we are to be investigating the truth about Him, to be won back to trust, so that we will open the heart and allow Him in, in order to be healed by the Spirit, who takes what Christ achieved and reproduces it in us. Metaphorically speaking, it is the application of the blood to the temple to cleanse it from sin....**

## TUESDAY

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Read first paragraph, "The parable of the wicked..." What happens to the wicked? What is it the



owner does to them?

A week or so ago I was listening to local Christian radio in the car when the DJ read the following, in all seriousness. It is from *When Christ Comes* by Max Lacado:

Does hell serve a purpose? As much as we resist the idea, isn't the absence of hell even worse? Remove it from the Bible and, at the same time, remove any notion of a just God and a trustworthy Scripture. Let me explain.

If there is not hell, God is not just. If there is no punishment of sin, heaven is apathetic toward the rapists and pillagers and mass murderers of society. If there is no hell, God is blind toward victims and has turned his back on those who pray for relief. If there is no wrath toward evil, then God is not love, for love hates that which is evil.

To say there is no hell is also to say God is a liar and his Scripture is untrue. The Bible repeatedly and stoutly affirms the dualistic outcome of history. Some will be saved. Some will be lost... p. 117

Upon what moral level of development is this argument based? This is level four thinking – and what is the foundation of level four thinking? What type of law construct?

This is human law construct. This is the theology one gets when one rejects God's law of love, the protocols reality is built upon and instead teaches God's law functions no differently that what fallen human beings make, rules without inherent consequence.

Remember, God is the Creator, His law is the law upon which reality is built to exist, upon which the fabric of the cosmos operates. His law is Design law, and deviations from His law is incompatible with life. But, created beings cannot build reality, we cannot create – thus we make up rules without inherent consequence for breaking, and thus we use power over to enforce those rules and punish rule breakers.

Satan is setting the world up to accept his impersonation of Christ. How? By getting people to believe God functions like we do, and God's law and justice is like our own. When the false Christ comes he will ultimately say, if you won't obey me, justice requires I punish you. And those who accept the god like this will say, "This is our god we have waited for him."

## **WEDNESDAY**

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Some of the Jews in Christ's day believed that paying taxes was betrayal of their loyalty to God, thus they resented taxes and tried to trap Jesus with the question, should they pay taxes to Caesar.

Read last paragraph, "Christ's reply..." Do we find ourselves today torn between God and Caesar,



God and the government? How and where?

- Service in the armed forces?
- Use of violence in law enforcement?
- Removing headdress for passport and driver's license photos?
- Government laws requiring insurance companies to provide birth control pills?
- Governments requiring parents to get medical care, i.e. medications and/or vaccines for their children?

What is the balance in dealing with laws that impact a person's beliefs and conscience?

## THURSDAY

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Read first paragraph, "Jesus founded the Lord's Supper..." First, was Jesus founding a ritual, a sacrament, a new festival to be observed annually instead of the Passover? Did they, that night, have food/drink that was somehow different than what could be found in any home on any day of the week?

- The bread in the sanctuary, the loaves in the Holy Place, were different in recipe and with incense sprinkled upon them, that made them different than the bread one could get in the market. What about the bread for this last supper in the upper room?
- Was Christ instituting a ritual, a meal with special implements, or was Christ saying: "Whenever you get together and break bread and drink wine, remember me, think of me, think of my broken body, my shed blood, and think of why, think of what I am accomplishing for you."

What do you think about this sentence: "It was as impossible for Israel to free itself from Egyptian bondage as it is for us to free ourselves from the consequences of sin."?

Any concerns?

Why do you think they said, "free ourselves from the consequences of sin" rather than "free ourselves from sin"?

When one holds to the imposed law model, the problem with sin is the inflicted punishment, the consequences, thus it is falsely taught we must be freed from the consequences of sin. But, the Bible teaches something different, that Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the SIN of the world, not the consequences of the sin of the world.

In fact, will the consequences of sin ever be taken away?

- Why is there first death experience? because of sin – will that experience be taken away from the billions who have already died the first death? Not, will they be resurrected, but will their dying the first death be taken away?
- What about suffering, sickness, disease, injuries, wounds, assaults, rapes... why do such



- occur? Because of sin – will those historic events be taken away?
- Why did Jesus have to die? Was it a consequence of sin? Will the death of Jesus be taken away?

The consequences of sin will not be taken away – SIN will be removed, and the damage from sin will be healed, hearts renewed, biology perfected, the ecosystem restored to perfection, but our memories of these events, the historic reality will always remain.

Read third paragraph, “Jesus’ assertion that His blood...” What is meant by remission of sin? Which law lens?

If we view it through imposed law lens we stay stuck on the metaphor of the courtroom judge investigating books and rendering legal pardons and erasing records after pardon.

From the book, *When Christ Comes* by Max Lacado:

Imagine this event. You are before the judgment seat of Christ. The book is opened and the reading begins—each sin, each deceit, each occasion of destruction and greed. But as soon as the infraction is read, grace is proclaimed.

Disrespected parents at age thirteen. – pardoned  
Shaded the truth at age fifteen. – pardoned  
Gossiped at age twenty-six. – pardoned  
Lusted at age thirty. – pardoned  
Disregarded the leading of the Spirit age forty. – pardoned  
Disobeyed God’s word at age fifty-two. – pardoned

The result? God’s merciful verdict will echo through the universe. For the first time in history, we will understand the depth of his goodness. Itemized grace. Catalogued kindness. Registered forgiveness. We will stand in awe as one sin after another is proclaimed, and then pardoned. Jealousies revealed, then removed. Infidelities announced, then cleansed. Lies exposed, then erased. p 108-109

Again what law lens is this view presenting?

This is human law – not God’s law. This is the view of cleansing record books of sin, not cleansing hearts and minds of sin. This view doesn’t bring peace, it incites fear, it undermines trust. We must come back to worship the Creator, whose record books reveal something completely different – they reveal the accurate condition of each person, including the symptoms of our terminal condition (sins), but God’s records also reveal when the remedy is applied and who is cured. Thus the books reveal the incredible power of God’s love and grace to heal and restore all who let him.



## **FRIDAY**

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Read and discuss question 2

Are they suggesting there is no place for psychopharmacology? Are they saying that if you have a life as Christ designed, no one would ever need psych meds?

This would be like saying, if we live like Christ wants us to, we will never get any physical health problem—because depression is a physical health problem, which affects brain, immune system, and body.



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase** is now available on our website, BOTH the Android and Apple Version is not Available! First update for Apple Version now available – most glitches fixed, but if not let me know.

- This is a **FREE** app
- Please read the preface to understand the approach to this paraphrase
- We have cards available to share with others and will ship them at no cost
- Also, if you find typos please email those to us so we can fix any missed typos

**CARDS** – If you have any of our ministry business cards please check to see if they have our current address: PO Box 28266 Chattanooga, TN 37424. If they are the old ones please discard them. We will be happy to send new ones, just email us. Thanks!

#### Prayer Request:

Please Pray God will bless our efforts to share this beautiful message about Him at The General Conference of SDA in San Antonio Texas, July 1-12, 2015. Our booth is A481 and we are giving away DVDs and books. Pray God will make this an amazing event for the advancement of the truth about Him!

#### The Journal of the Watcher:

*The Journal of the Watcher* is an illustrated ebook available

For ANDROID in the APP

For APPLE in the iBooks store and in the APP Store – your choice slightly different controls and features.

**We are also having it rendered as a “movie” for itunes, for all those people who don’t have smart devices or Apple computers. Will let you know when it is available in itunes.**

**Come and Reason Ministries FREE APP** is now available for ios and android. The app allows access to our materials on your smart phones and tablets. Please download the app! **Be sure and type in Come and Reason Ministries** and search in your app store as another unofficial app with our logo is out there.

**Distribution:** Our materials now are available in South Africa. To request materials in South Africa email [comeandreason.sa@gmail.com](mailto:comeandreason.sa@gmail.com) Thanks to Samuel Jacobs who manages distribution for us.

And in Australia email [australia@comeandreason.com](mailto:australia@comeandreason.com) and Thanks to Simon Harrison who manages our ministry down under.

**June 20, 2015:** JFEST, Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth at JFEST to give away our materials. JFEST is at Camp Jordan. We will have class at our normal time on June 20. We need some volunteers to work our booth that day – please let us know if you are local and can help out.

**July 1-12:** GC session at San Antonio. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, booth A481. Please come by and see us if you are there. We will have class at our regular times here in Collegedale.

**August 1:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking to the Petaluma, CA SDA church.

**September 3,4:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Baptist Boomer’s Conference in San Antonio, TX.

**September 12:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Vallejo Dr., CA SDA church.

**September 23-26:** American Association of Christian Counselors World Convention at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, and Dr. Jennings will be doing a preconference workshop and regular conference presentation, as well as commencement speaker for Light University graduation.

**October 24:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Puyallup, WA.

**AMAZON Smile:** Amazon now has a program that a percent of all your purchases will be donated to support a charity. Come and Reason Ministries is a registered Charity. So, you can select us, and whenever you shop in their [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) site a portion of your purchase will benefit this ministry.

**NOTE: WARNING:** There is another ministry with a similar name called “Come Reason Ministries” and they are located in California. Please be sure and select **Come AND Reason Ministries Located in Collegedale TN.**