



Rebellion and Redemption 1Q 2016 Lesson 1 Crisis in Heaven

The third paragraph in the introduction states:

Satan's efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love; his endeavors to set aside the divine law, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements; and his persecution of those who dare to resist his deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages. They may be traced in the history of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, of martyrs and reformers. {GC 12,13}

This is the central issue in the war—our conception of God, do we view him with love and trust or with fear and hatred?

The quote mentions that Satan has endeavored to set aside the divine law, to lead people to think themselves free from its requirements?

How? How has Satan actually done this?

SABBATH

Read first paragraph:

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. [why? what law lens are you thinking through? Are you thinking like a child, level 1-4 moral development that if you disobey you are unhappy because the ruling authority has to punish you? Or are you thinking like a mature friend of God who understands God's law is design law, and deviations from it injure and destroy the deviant and this is what destroys our happiness?] God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. **He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience;** and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. {PP 34.3} [What kind of law compels, forces, coerces? Imposed law, so if you understand how these various laws function then you can recognize in this statement alone the difference between God's law and man's law]



If God takes no pleasure in forced obedience, if all are granted free will, what action is therefore excluded in regard to the function of God's law? – Coercive enforcement—inflicting punishment upon lawbreakers.

So, with this in mind, what does it mean that Satan has tried to get people to set aside the divine law and think themselves free of its requirements?

What does God's law require? Why does it require this? Which law lens do you answer the question through?

The divine law requires us to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. {A New Life NL 32.1}

This is the voice of God to you, my brethren and sisters who profess to keep the law of God. **That law requires that you love your neighbor as yourself.** Are you doing it? {RH, March 11, 1884 par. 10}

But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.--RH, Apr 5, 1898. (2SM 211.) {2MCP 564.1}

Christ came to this world to live the law and represent the character of God, that the delusions which Satan had brought upon the world might be dispelled. In the sermon on the mount, He who gave the law became an expositor of the law. That sermon, so full of what it means to love and obey God, is the unfolding of His character. **The law is shown to be a representation of God's character,** that man may see that he must render obedience to the law if he would become a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. **This law requires nothing short of perfect spiritual obedience.** {ST, February 24, 1898 par. 5}

What does the law requires? Love—why? Because this is the basis of life—this is like saying the law of respiration requires you to breathe—and what happens if one refuses to breathe?

So, how has Satan gotten men to think they don't have to live in harmony with the law of God? By getting them to believe they have to obey the law—did I just confuse you?

Yes, Satan wants people to think they have to live in harmony with God's law—*only Satan replaces God's true law with his own perverted version of that law.* Daniel 7:25 prophesied that a little horn



power would seek to change God's law. Satan has seduced the world, including the Christian world, into believing God's law functions like human law, rules imposed requiring imposed punishment, thus Satan gets people to set aside God's law and instead adhere to a false law construct which distorts God's character and obstructs His plan to heal and restore His creation.

Steve Morris brought an article from our Chattanooga Times Free Press last week, let me share it with you. And you tell me, has God's law been set aside?

Chattanooga Times Free Press, December 5, 2015 page E-1.

God isn't looking at us with an angry face

I once hurt a person. Badly, The pain I caused elicited an unforgettable response—eyes flashing fire, nose compressed like a spring under pressure, jaw locked, teeth grinding. It was an angry face.

We have all seen the angry face at one time or another. It's nearly impossible to avoid, considering that we are bound to make somebody mad eventually. In my situation, the person I had offended was no mere acquaintance, which made matters worse. Grief is compounded when we hurt someone close to us, like a spouse or a parent or a friend. We don't want those we love to be angry with us. We especially don't want God to be angry with us.

Have you ever been burdened with the feeling that God is looking at you with an angry face? If you're like many people, you do. "God must be angry with me" or "I think God is punishing me" are statements I hear frequently as a pastor. Though we have been taught that God is love, many of us go on quietly believing that God is also mad.

Certainly we deserve God's anger. Our thoughts and affections and behaviors often reveal that we prefer our own way over God's. And we know, if God cares about justice at all, that he must punish our sin. Therefore, it isn't unreasonable of us to imagine a dark shadow of wrath on God's face. Our sins are many, God's judgment is certain; hell is real; and we are by nature children of wrath (Isaiah 59:12; Revelation 20:11-15; Ephesians 2:1).

And yet (what hopeful words). And yet the Bible says that there is a way to know with absolute certainty that God is not looking at you with an angry face. How can you know? Look at the cross of Jesus. The cross wasn't merely an example of love—it was a substitutionary act of love. Jesus was "pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah



53:5). Instead of turning his angry face upon us, God turned his angry face upon his Son. God's eyes flashed fire, his nose compressed like a spring under pressure and, with locked jaw and clenched teeth, he poured out upon Jesus the wrath we deserve. "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16)

Jesus, the sinless substitute, absorbed in himself every ounce of God's anger over our sin, fully and finally. Therefore, there is now "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Can you believe it? No condemnation. No angry face. If you are in Christ Jesus—that is, if you are trusting in Jesus for salvation—you can be absolutely certain that God is not angry with you. You will still grieve God with your sin and experience his fatherly discipline, but God will never look upon you in anger. All his anger has been spent in Jesus.

No wonder the birth of Jesus was accompanied by such a happy angelic announcement: "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). Good news of great joy, indeed. Through faith in Jesus, you can look into the face of God and see nothing but love.

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What law is being described? What system is God being relegated to? Whose law is God being described as operating under?

This is evidence of the infection—the lie, the idea that God is an arbitrary being who imposes rules and then inflicts punishments. Do you see how deeply Satan's lies have infected the Christian world?

Jump back to the introduction the fifth paragraph states:

Yes, God has pledged to bear in Himself the full responsibility for all human rebellion and to suffer the consequences for every evil we have committed. Only in this way could God restore His relationship with the human race, relationships between humans, and humanity's relationship with the rest of creation.

What are they trying to say?



- Are they trying to say that God suffers in the way a parent suffers when they see their children engaged in behaviors that injure themselves? So all the human sin and evil causes God to suffer in His heart because He loves us and all sin damages and destroys that which He loves?
 - This is a healthy understanding of how God suffers over every individual sin
- Or, are they trying to say that all the sins ever committed by every person throughout all history are legal breeches in God's law and require legal accountability in the divine government, which means they must be punished. And thus all the individual acts of sin ever committed were placed upon Christ and God inflicted torment and torture upon Christ to cause Christ to artificially experience the legally proper amount of suffering for human sins?
 - In other words, would they agree with the article from the paper, that God vented His anger and wrath on His Son causing Jesus' suffering?
 - This is a destructive way to think because it is false, it is based on the lies of Satan, it reinforces lies about God's law and God's character and undermines our love and trust in God

The last paragraph in the introduction states, "Jesus has won a decisive victory at the cross."

What was that victory? What did He win and how did He win it?

SUNDAY

With our understanding of God's true law in mind, we turn to the question of the fall in heaven—how did Satan get 1/3 of the angels to rebel?

The lesson refers us to Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, both of which describe the rebellion in heaven when Lucifer the light bearer became infatuated with himself and sought to get for himself rather than to give of himself.

What issue did Lucifer raise in heaven?

He called God's character and justice (what is justice?) into question? He suggested God was unfair, played favorites, was arbitrary, made up rules—how? What issue did Lucifer use to suggest some unfairness on the part of God?

He suggested there was no difference between Lucifer and the pre-incarnate Christ, yet Christ was given privileges that Lucifer was not, and this was suggested as being unfair. How could Lucifer do this so successfully? In other words how could the angels not see through this easily?



1Tim 6:16 says God lives in unapproachable light—what does this mean? Unapproachable by whom?

God is infinite—can a finite mind enter, i.e. approach, infinity? Why not?

So if an infinite God wants the closest interaction with finite beings, what must happen if finite beings cannot enter infinity? An infinite being must enter linear time—leave infinity and interact on the level of the created being. This person, this infinite divine being was Jesus. Jesus has always been the member of the Godhead who has been the go-between between infinity and finite creation, the bridge-builder, the connecting-link, also known as . . . the mediator!

What form did Jesus take when, before the earth was created, He left infinity to interact with His angelic host?

What would make sense? Would Jesus want them to feel comfortable, to feel a kinship with Himself? Then what form would He take? The form of an angel—is there any Biblical evidence to support this?

- Exodus 3 where God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, but it says the angel of the Lord spoke to Moses
- When Samson's parents saw the angel of the Lord, but they saw God
- Whose voice did Jesus say the dead would hear and come forth from the grave? His voice! And whose voice does Paul say in Thessalonians will raise the dead? The voice of the archangel
- And who was it that did raise Moses? The archangel Michael
- And what name did Jesus share with Lucifer? Greek Phosphorus, which means light bearer, or bright and morning star, and translated from Greek to Latin—Lucifer! (2Pet 1:19)

So what did Lucifer allege? That he was no different than Jesus, but Jesus received special privileges that Lucifer did not get, thus Satan alleged God was arbitrary and unfair. Here is what one of the founders wrote about how sin began in heaven. It is in the book Patriarchs and Prophets:

Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:17. "Thou hast said in thine heart, . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . . I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13, 14. Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all



created beings, **it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.** {PP 35.2}

To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels. {PP 36.1}

Leaving his place in the **immediate presence** of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with **mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws** that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, *angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err.* [what is Satan's tactic here? He is planting seeds of pride, selfishness, trying to get them to think about themselves and their rights, turning their minds away from God and His goodness] **The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer,** who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor. If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to secure freedom for all. **But now even the liberty which they had hitherto enjoyed was at an end;** for an absolute Ruler had been appointed them, and to His authority all must pay homage. Such were the subtle deceptions that through the wiles of Lucifer were fast obtaining in the heavenly courts. {PP 37.1} [what type of law is Lucifer alleging God uses in this specific situation—liberty is ended, an absolute Rule appointed?—imposed law—always part of Satan's lies.]

There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer's envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; but this had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions. {PP 38.1} [how many humans remain blinded by these lies? How many church leaders are not only blinded, but leading others into the darkens of these lies?]

MONDAY

Read last paragraph, "Walking 'to and fro...' The question at the top of the lesson states, "Why does Jesus call Satan the prince of this world?"



Does title *prince of this world* refer to territories—physical locations, or the world of selfishness, sin, disease, decay and death—the prince of *this sick* world?

Does Satan have some “legal” right to this world? What legal right? Based upon what? This is commonly taught in Christianity, but such an idea is borne out of Satan’s lies about God’s law. Can Satan create? Can Satan sustain the operations of nature and the laws of nature—which are God’s laws? No! Satan has no legal right to this planet, all such ideas are a result of thinking through the false law lens.

But even if one were to operate in that legal law view—in order to speak to the children—does Satan have a legal claim? So let’s use an example of imposed law and see: Say the Mayor of Chattanooga decides to sign the city over to a foreign power—would that be “legal”? Would that stand? Why not? Because the city charter is subject to a higher governmental authority—what about Adam?

When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. **Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King.** Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits. {DA 129.4}

So, when Jesus was referring to Satan as the prince of this world was He speaking about territory, property, physical boundaries, or about the world of selfishness and sin?

What is Satan truly the prince of? Satan is the originator of evil; Satan is the father of lies, the murderer from the beginning, the instigator or rebel and thus the progenitor of pain, suffering and death—not God. Thus Satan is the prince of this sin-sick and dying world.

This is why it is so offensive, outrageous, wrong and destructive to teach God to be the source of inflicted suffering and death upon the wicked—it takes Satan’s attributes and puts them on God. We also give Satan power and authority he does NOT possess when we teach that he has some legal claim to earth that Christ needed to reclaim.



TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “We have no idea...” I am at a loss as to how they could write something like this—there were no physical battles in heaven—ever, how do we know?

First in Revelation 12:7 that says, “there was war in heaven...” the Greek for war is πόλεμος [*polemos* /*pol-em-os*/], from which we get *polemic* which means: “a controversial argument, as one against some opinion, doctrine, etc.”

The war in heaven was not physical, but was mental, it was over ideas, concepts, beliefs, focusing on God’s character. This is supported by 2Cor 10:3-5: “We do not wage war as the world does...”

I found a journal article, in the *Review and Herald* September 7, 1897 which is profound with insight into this, see what you think:

Satan's representations against the government of God, and his defense of those who sided with him, were a constant accusation against God. His murmurings and complaints were groundless; and yet God allowed him to work out his theory. **God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force. All the compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** He would not work on this line. He would not give the slightest encouragement for any human being to set himself up as God over another human being, feeling at liberty to cause him physical or mental suffering. This principle is wholly of Satan's creation. [Is the Christian world clear on this? Or has Christianity been teaching just the opposite, that justice requires God to use force? Can you see how the Christian world, with it's false idea that justice requires God to use force to kill is preparing the way for Satan to impersonate Christ?] {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 7}

The principles of the character of God were the foundation of the education constantly kept before the heavenly angels. **These principles were goodness, mercy, and love.** Self-evidencing light was to be recognized and freely accepted by all who occupied positions of trust and power. They must accept God's principles, and, **through the presentation of truth and righteousness, convince all who were in his service. This was the only power to be used. Force must never come in.** All who thought that their position gave them power to command their fellow beings, and control conscience, must be deprived of their position; for this is not God's plan. [When we choose church leaders do we choose people who refuse to use



coercive tactics? Do we choose people who refuse to teach God uses force and coercion?]
{RH, September 7, 1897 par. 8}

These principles are to be the foundation of education in God's church today. The rules given by him are to be observed and respected. God has enjoined this. His government is moral. **Nothing is to be done by compulsion. Truth is to be the prevailing power.** . All service is to be done willingly, and for the love of God. All who are honored with positions of influence are to represent God; for when officiating, they are in the place of God. In everything their actions must correspond to the importance of their position. **The higher the position the more distinctly will self-sacrifice be revealed if they are fit for the office.** Every heart that is controlled by these principles will be loyal. But when those who profess to be in God's service resort to accusation, they are adopting Satan's principles to cast out Satan; and this never will work. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 9}

In the councils of heaven it was decided that principles must be acted upon that would not at once destroy Satan's power; for it was God's purpose to place things upon an eternal basis of security. [What is necessary for eternal security? The agreement and solidification into the character of God's methods—which requires sentient beings to understand and choose the right for themselves.] Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government. **The heavenly universe must see worked out the principles which Satan declared were superior to God's principles. God's order must be contrasted with Satan's order.** The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, perfect, eternal. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 10} **What were the principles of Satan that needed to be exposed? Imposed law with coercive enforcement, versus God's law of design law the law of love!**

The Lord saw the use Satan was making of **his powers**, [what powers?] and he set before him **truth in contrast with falsehood.** Time and time again during the controversy, Satan was ready to be convinced, ready to admit that he was wrong. But those he had deceived were also ready to accuse him of leaving them. What should he do?--submit to God, or continue in a course of deception? He chose to deny truth, to take refuge in misstatements and fraud. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 11}

The Lord allowed Satan to go on, and **demonstrate his principles.** [what are they?] God did reveal that his principles were right, and he carried the worlds unfallen and the heavenly universe with him; but it was at a terrible cost. **His only begotten Son was given up as**



Satan's victim. [what does this mean? How? Why?] The **Lord Jesus Christ revealed a character entirely opposite to that of Satan.** As the high priest laid aside his gorgeous, pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress of a common priest, so Christ emptied himself, and took the form of a servant, and offered the sacrifice, himself the priest himself the victim. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 12}

By causing the death of the Sovereign of heaven, Satan defeated his own purpose. [According to this author who caused the death of Jesus? Who do you believe killed Jesus? God did not kill Jesus at the Cross. Those who teach such an idea misrepresent God and support Satan's lies about God.] **The death of the Son of God made the death of Satan unavoidable.** [Why? If one operates under an imposed law construct this is hard to understand—unavoidable, as if the Sovereign of the universe could not avoid it? Why could it not be avoided? Design law makes this clear—because God would no longer NEED to hold back the results of Satan's choice—separation from God, which results in death. Before Christ's death Satan's death was avoided—why? Because it would have caused confusion over God's character, law, methods, and the reason Satan died. But now, God's actions and methods are clear, and God no longer needs to hold at bay what *Satan has chosen*—except for the humans on earth who are still confused and in the dark] **He was allowed to go on until his administration was laid open before the worlds unfallen and before the heavenly universe. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he uprooted himself from the affections of the unfallen beings. He was seen by all to be a liar, a thief, and a murderer...** {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 13}

Today Satan is working upon human minds by his crooked principles. [What are his crooked principles? Imposed law, coercive pressure, deception—and human minds in church leadership teach imposed law and coercive pressure are godly and just—how horrible!] **These will be adopted and acted upon by some who claim to be loyal and true to God's government.** How shall we know that they are disloyal and untrue?—"By their fruits ye shall know them." **God does not force any one. He leaves all free to choose.** But he says, "By their fruits ye shall know them." The Lord will not write as wise those who cannot distinguish between a tree that bears thorn-berries and a tree that bears olives. [What does this mean? The fruit of the method one uses when dealing with others—do you use God's methods of truth love and freedom, or Satan's method of coercive force?] {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 15}

Individually, we are deciding our eternal destiny, deciding whether we shall enjoy the highest honor that can be given to man, even an eternal weight of glory, or **be ranked with Satan by possessing his character, by dishonoring God because we profess to be**



Christians while misrepresenting Christ. [How? By promoting and practicing the methods of coercion, force, arbitrary rule and deception] Those who choose to reveal the character of the arch-deceiver identify themselves with him beyond the possibility of a change, because they choose not to see themselves as wrong. This was the course that Satan pursued. {RH, September 7, 1897 par. 16}

WEDNESDAY

Satan Evicted—when, how, what does it mean? What was Jesus talking about when He said: “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” Jn 12:31,32

Here are these verses from *The Remedy*:

“Now is the time for the infection of selfishness and sin in this world to be fully diagnosed and revealed as destructive; now, Satan, the prince of this selfish world, will be driven out into the open, out of the shadows, out from behind his lies and distortions about God and God's methods, out where all can see him as the murderer he truly is, and thus out of the hearts of all who love me.³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all intelligences throughout the universe to me.”

To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, "It is finished," had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory. {DA 758.2}

Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion... {DA 758.3}

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. **Henceforth his work was restricted.** Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. **The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.** {DA 761.2}



Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. **And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness.** He must choose whom he will serve. {DA 761.3}

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. {DA 761.4}

But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love.

Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. **For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.** {DA 761.5}

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; **but mercy does not set aside justice.** [what does this mean? What law lens do you understand it through? Does mercy set aside the right way the universe is designed to run? The right way is the just way, or justice] **The law reveals the attributes of God's character,** and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. [why? For the same reason the law of respiration cannot be changed to meet someone under water] God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. {DA 762.1}

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man,



lived a holy life, and **developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have **remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.** More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character,** a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. **[notice what is happening—healing, recreation, renewal!]** Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2}

God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10. {DA 762.3}

By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. Satan's charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love. {DA 762.4}

THURSDAY

What is the continuing battle with Satan and evil over on planet earth today? Where is the battlefield? What are the weapons?

What is our role? What is God waiting for?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We are very thankful to Gary Jones, who has spent the last 6 weeks here in Chattanooga researching properties for Come and Reason Ministries. This was an arduous task that none of the board members had time to do. Thanks to Gary's research we were provided with the information we needed to prayerfully review and make a decision. After reviewing all the variables involved (particularly cost factors), it was decided by the board that now is not the time for Come and Reason Ministries to purchase property. Instead, the board determined it was the time to continue to direct our resources toward producing free materials and expanding our distribution. To this end, Gary will be returning to Canada to establish a distribution hub for our materials in Canada, as Simon Harrison has done in Australia and Samuel Jacobs has done in South Africa. We are so thankful to all our Distribution Hub Directors. Please keep our ministry and team in your prayers.

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings' New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a HARD COVER book at Amazon as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

January 8-9, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, California.

January 29-30, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at The Haven Church in St. Helena, CA.

February 20, 2016: Class will meet at Hamilton Community Church due to the Courthouse being unavailable.

March 11-12, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Village Church, College Place, WA.

April 1-2, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Spring Branch Hispanic SDA church, Houston, TX.