



First and Second Peter Lesson 12 2Q 2017

The Day of the Lord

SABBATH

What does the lesson title bring to mind? Do you think:

- Celebration—like the marriage feast described in the parable?
- Reunion—like the prodigal son returning?
- God’s exoneration—like Romans 3:4 says?
- Do you think punishment, judgment, vengeance and wrath? And if so, what law lens do you view these ideas through?
- Do you think the Lord’s Day—the day of rest and gladness?
- Is there any parallel between the weekly Sabbath and the Day of the Lord?
 - The weekly Sabbath came at the end of creation week, at the end of God finishing His work of creating planet earth, humans and giving the evidence to refute Satan’s lies
 - The Day of the Lord comes at the end of God finishing His work of redeeming and saving human beings and eliminating the infection of sin
 - The weekly Sabbath, for those who reject the truth about God is day of greatest violating of God’s design – either by partying or by legal enslavement to manmade rules that destroy freedom
 - The Day of the Lord will be the day that those who have lived in greatest violation of God’s design will come face to face with the truth of their condition, their history, their rejection of healing and reap the full consequences of their choices.
 - Thus, is the Sabbath and the Day of the Lord alike in that it all depends on whether one is right with God in heart and mind or not—if so then both are days of rest, celebration, rejoicing, but if not both are days of dread, suffering, destruction?

FRIDAY

A quote from the book *The Desire of Ages* says,

“The expectation of Christ's coming is to make men fear the Lord, and **fear His judgments upon transgression**. It is to awaken them to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth.”

What does this mean? What does it sound like to you? When you hear language like this what comes to mind?

Does such language cause you to think of God as heavenly physician seeking to heal the sick, but leaving those who refuse to reap what they have chosen, or to think of God as a judge and imposer of punishment?



The problem is not in the quote above, the problem is that most people think through human imposed law, and further don't even allow the author who wrote it to define what she means by the terms she used. She used the term judgments upon transgression.

What are the judgments of God?

Let's read some Bible texts:

- Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty... See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.¹⁰ The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.¹¹

I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.¹² I will make man scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir.¹³ Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of his burning anger. Is 13:6, 9-13

- Alas for that day! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Joel 1:15
- Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light.¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.²⁰ Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies.²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5:18-24
- “The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. Ob 15
- Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.⁵ You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a



breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thes 5:1-9

- But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 2Pet 3:10
- The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; Joel 2:31,32
- Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ¹⁶ The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Joel 3:14-16

How would you describe the day of the Lord?

So what is going on here? Is God going to use His power to inflict pain, suffering, punishment for sin? This is what is commonly taught, why?

Because people read these verses through imposed law and wrong believe these verses mean God inflicting punishment like earthly governments do.

However, under design law, these verses mean something entirely different—what?

- God's judgments are His accurate diagnosis AND His merciful/therapeutic interventions
- God's judgments always harmonize with His character and design laws, thus God never coerces

Consider these verses:

- Romans 1:18-34, God's wrath is letting go
- For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap calamities upon them and spend my arrows against them... But God says the wise will understand what his wrath really is: "If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be! How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, *unless the Lord had given them up?*" (emphasis mine). (Deut 32:22-23, 29-30)
- "When that happens, I will become angry with them; *I will abandon them*, and they will be destroyed. Many terrible disasters will come upon them, and then they will realize that these things are happening to them because *I, their God, am no longer with them*. (emphasis mine). (Deut 31:17 GNT)



Do we find harmony here or conflict?

So what are the judgments of God? From the author of *The Desire of Ages* quote read earlier:

"I was shown that the **judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them**, but in this way;

"They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, **if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.**

"It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of." Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

Are these judgments the same as the judgment of God in *The Desire of Ages* quotation?

What is the cause of the pain, the suffering, the death of the wicked in the end?

What is happening and why?

What is to be feared, God or unremedied sin in the heart and mind?

What is the source of pain, suffering and death—God or sin?

Why then do Bible writers use such harsh language when talking about the day of the Lord?

- What level of moral development is the primary audience?
- What activities is the primary audience involved in?
- What was the belief system of the people of earth in Old Testament times? i.e. polytheistic, meaning they had good gods and bad gods, kind beneficent gods and mean punishing gods. They would pray to the kind gods for bountiful harvest, health, children, but to the mean gods to punish their enemies. What did the true God want them to learn first and foremost—There is one God—so God allowed both good and evil to be attributed to Him rather than opening an opportunity for misunderstanding that Satan was worthy of worship.
- It was not this way in the immediate aftermath of the fall—it was only this way once the minds of men became so polluted with polytheistic ideas.



Read first two paragraphs **SABBATH's** lesson, "In ages past people..." Were you grieved as I was when you read this paragraph? How sad, how pitiful, how deeply the infection of Satan's lies about God have penetrated Christian thought that this could be put out as sanctifying truth.

So, let's examine their assumption, their hypothesis, that a belief in a god who will have a future judgment and therefore punish the disobedient is a godly reason that people should avoid doing evil and instead do good.

Consider the following people from history—did they believe in a god who would hold people accountable and inflict punishment for sin?

- Nadab and Abihu—Lev 10
- King Saul
- Balaam
- Annas and Caiaphas
- Popes and prelates through the dark ages
- Puritans who burned so called witches at the stake
- KKK and other groups who burn **crosses** in yards of black people and white supremacists who participate in lynchings?
- Mafia bosses—why do they go to confession?
- Islamic terrorists—do they believe in God and a future judgment?

All of these evil people, and millions more through history, believed in a judgmental god and a future judgment, yet carry out terrible acts of evil—so does the belief in a judgmental god and a future judgment prevent people from doing evil, or is it in truth, just the opposite? The belief in a punishing god causes more hardness of heart, destroys love and makes evil grow?

Which do you think would result in a more altruistic society, to believe in no God, or to believe in a judgmental punishing god?

- A recent study of 1170 children from six countries—United States, Canada, China, Jordan, South Africa, and Turkey—found that children raised in religious homes were not as good at sharing and more likely to be punitive when compared to children raised in more secular homes.
- The author of the study said in an interview, "In our study, kids from atheist and nonreligious families were, in fact, more generous. . . . Together, these results reveal the similarity across countries in how religion negatively influences children's altruism. They challenge the view that religiosity facilitates pro-social behavior, and call into question whether religion is vital for moral development—suggesting the secularization of moral discourse does not reduce human kindness. In fact, it does just the opposite." (J. Decety et al., "The Negative Association between Religiousness and Children's Altruism across the World," *Current Biology* 25, no. 22 (November 16, 2015): 2951–55.)



God's laws are design laws—one of them being the law of worship, by beholding we are changed. Understanding this, the study outcome is no surprise; it is the predictable and unavoidable outcome when the predominant worldview of God is that of an authoritarian dictator who operates on imposed law.

We really are transformed into the image of the god we worship. It is just as the prophet Jeremiah said, "They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves" (Jer. 2:5). Or as Paul said, "Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over to corrupted minds" (Rom. 1:28).

The sad truth is these ideas put out in our quarterly are obstructing the final mission of the church, obstructing the truth about God that is to lighten the world, keeping people trapped in the darkness of lies about God, undermining trust in God, and preventing people from experiencing the freedom that Jesus has provided.

What is the final true message that is to lighten the world before the great and terrible day of the Lord?

"It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth...**The last rays of merciful light, **the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love.**" Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Peter warned..." Can anyone summarize what we discussed last week about those who bring a false gospel/remedy promising freedom but that actually enslaves?

- What is sin—deeds or a condition of heart that leads to destructive deeds?
- So could one be a slave to sin because they are in a religion that teaches sin is a legal problem of bad deeds, that must be accounted for, so they confess bad deeds, seeking to get legal pardon, erasure from heavenly records etc, but never actually have a change of heart?
- In this situation they live in fear, fear of the judgment, fear of unconfessed sin, fear of people finding out what they have done etc.
- This is not the freedom Christ promised but the false gospel of the originator of lies.

It is this false picture of God which has defiled the Spirit Temple—or as Paul said to the Thessalonians the man of sin has set himself up in God's temple proclaiming himself to be god. This is why we have a message that the sanctuary is to be cleansed—but that message has also been corrupted by Satan's lies and instead of teaching the truth, which cleanses hearts and minds, the false law construct has



resulted in a false sanctuary message, with heavenly legalism, in which legal accounting is going on in books in heaven.

We must come back to the truth about God, which will result in the minds of people being cleansed from lies, hearts being transformed and the final message of mercy going to the world—the cleansing of the sanctuary!

Read the bottom pink section, “Why must the Word of God...” Any questions come to mind?

- How many Christians group are out there quoting the Bible as their source of authority yet arguing among themselves what it means?
- How can we understand the Bible if we don't reason and think?
- Why did God give us reasoning powers if He doesn't want us to use them?
- Why did God say, “Come let us reason together...” if we are not to think for ourselves?
- What does God want from us—blind unthinking behavioral obedience, or our love and trust?
- Can love and trust be obtained without a person being fully persuaded in their own mind of the trustworthiness of the other?
- Romans 14:5 every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind, why? What does this require?
- Did those who put Christ on the cross claim to believe the Scripture and also the Sabbath? Did that protect them from being God's enemies?

What do you understand is the purpose of the Sabbath?

Jesus said the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath—what does this mean?

If I said, McKee Baking Company built their fitness center for their employees, the employees were not built for the fitness center, what would you think this statement means?

Does this give any insight to what Christ was saying about the Sabbath?

MONDAY

Scoffers—those who ridicule the idea of God and the second coming—how do you deal with such people?

Why do you think Christ has not returned?

- Is the time of the second coming something God fixed and He is just waiting on the cosmic stopwatch to run down and then He is coming back—ready or not?
- Or, is the time of the second coming determined by events on planet earth, and those events are a result of the choices of humans and thus we are delaying His return by not choosing to prepare for His return?



Is there something happening on earth that is delaying Christ's return? What?

When Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom will be preached... has the gospel of the kingdom of love gone to the world, or has a false gospel of the kingdom of an imperial dictator gone to the world?

Revelation 7 God tells the 4 angels to hold back the four winds of strife until an event happens—what? Who are God's servants? What is the sealing of God's servants?

Could God be waiting for the truth about Him to be presented effectively enough to seal His end time spokespersons and then the four winds loose and these spokespersons present the truth about God and from their witness and great multitude will be saved?

Then what would be the effect of presenting God like this week's lesson does? Would it be to bring people to a true knowledge of God, or to obstruct the end time truth from healing hearts and minds i.e. delay the coming of the Lord?

TUESDAY

What do you think of the title?

Many people struggle with the concept of time—the lesson states in the third paragraph, “In other words, our conception of time is not like God's: so, we need to be careful in the judgments we make about time.”

Do you believe God made time? If God made time is God subject to time, or is time subject to God?

Could one of the aspects of Jesus saying He is Lord of the Sabbath also mean He is the Lord of time?

Is God constrained to a linear existence, or does God transcend time?

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote:

I AM means an eternal presence; **the past, present, and future are alike with God.** He sees the most remote events of past history and the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things which are transpiring daily. We know not what is before us, and if we did, it would not contribute to our eternal welfare. God gives us an opportunity to exercise faith and trust in the great I AM. . . . {TMK 12.2}

Do you believe this to be true? What does this mean for us today?

Could God not only be outside time, which allows Him to experience all points in time simultaneously, but could time move at different rates in different places?



The **Hafele–Keating experiment** was a test of the theory of relativity. In October 1971, Joseph C. Hafele, a physicist, and Richard E. Keating, an astronomer, took four cesium-beam atomic clocks aboard commercial airliners. They flew twice around the world, first eastward, then westward, and compared the clocks against others that remained at the United States Naval Observatory. When reunited, the three sets of clocks were found to disagree with one another, and their differences were consistent with the predictions of special and general relativity. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hafele%E2%80%93Keating_experiment)

Clocks that flew east, with the rotation of the earth moved faster than the clocks on earth and thus when compared to the clocks on earth, less time had past, they were behind the clocks on the earth. The clocks flown west, against the earth's rotation, flew slower relative to those on earth, and thus more time elapsed on those than the ones stationary on earth. Additionally the stronger the gravity the slower the clocks move, so clocks on the space station move faster than ones on earth.

Is it possible while thousands of years have passed on earth that only a few days have passed in heaven since Lucifer's rebellion?

WEDNESDAY

The lesson asks the question “So what does this have to do with me now?”

This is a great question—is the gospel merely next-life, life insurance? Or does it have application today, here and now?

Those with the legal view often fail to make the connection and end up saying things like in paragraph two, “our whole Christian faith would become meaningless without the return of Christ and all that is promised.”

Is this true? In other words, there is no meaning, no purpose, no benefit in living God's way except for the future life; God's way doesn't benefit us today, except as it ensures our future eternal life. Is this thinking correct?

Consider, if there is no second coming of Christ does that suddenly mean that selfishness, lies, betrayal, coercion, intimidation, abuse, murder, adultery, hatred, etc. are healthier ways to live than love, truth, honesty, integrity, freedom, kindness, mercy, loyalty and forgiveness?

Even if no future life, which methods result in better living here and now?

So what difference does it make? The difference between sickness and health, pain and wellness, life and death—why? Because God's laws are design laws and harmony brings health, here and now!



THURSDAY

Peter warns that Paul's writings can be misconstrued—thoughts? Have Paul's writings been misconstrued? How?

Paul's writings are the primary writings used by those who teach the penal substitutionary lie, built upon the human imposed law construct. Paul never taught penal substitution, sadly his writings have been used to support this lie. I believe Peter was warning against this.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Korean and Polish Translations: A publisher in Korea has contracted to translate *Could It Be This Simple?* (CIBTS) into Korean, and a publisher in Poland has contracted to translate *The God-Shaped Brain* (GSB) into Polish. We will let you know when these are available.

Currently CIBTS is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and German and GSB is available in English and Korean.

June 8-10, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Event The Struggle is Real in Naperville, IL.

June 23,24, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be doing a seminar for the Samaritan Counseling Service in Sarasota FL. For more information www.samaritangulfcoast.com
(T) 941-926-2959 (F) 941-929-0849

July 14,15, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Lakeport SDA church, in Lakeport CA.

August 18,19, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Celebration SDA church in Celebration, Florida.

Sep 5, 2017: Dr. Jennings' new book *The God-Shaped Heart* will be released by Baker Books. Here is a brief description:

Love is more than emotion, more than compassion, more than positive regard for another; love is power—the power to live, heal and be free. Love is functional, operational, with specific design parameters built into the fabric of reality. Love is intelligent and as we intelligently choose to harmonize with how love functions we not only experience greater health, fulfillment and wellbeing, we are transformed to become forces for good in the world. In *The God-Shaped Heart* Christian psychiatrist Dr. Tim Jennings explores the healing power of love, exposes a belief system infecting Christianity that obstructs love, and identifies eternal truths that open the heart to God's transforming power of love.

September 15,16 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Church in the Valley, Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada.

September 26-Oct 1, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC World Conference, Nashville TN, and our ministry will have a booth in the exhibit hall.

October 12-16, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Garden Grove SDA church in Garden Grove, CA. This will be a multi-speaker event focusing on the atonement. For more information contact:

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12702 9th Street
Garden Grove, CA 92840
Church office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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October 27, 28, 2017: Dr. Jennings will speaking at the Arlington SDA church in Arlington, TX. For more information contact: <http://www.arlingtonadventist.com/>