

Garments of Grace Clothing Imagery in the Bible Lesson 13 2Q 2011

Clothed in Christ

SABBATH

Read second paragraph, “A fundamental law...” thoughts?

Why do we see this?

Did God design plants to die, people to age, houses to deteriorate? Did He design tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes? Did He design death? Or are all of these manifestations of the law of sin and death, of what happens when separation from God occurs?

What is the relationship between the second law of thermodynamics and the law of sin and death?

Hypothesis – God created everything and is the source of all life, energy, matter:

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:15-17

Therefore, it is only in connection with Him that the universe continues. The universe is designed to be perpetual, without decay, as long as connected to God – but when disconnection occurs, when energy from God does not go into the system then the system slowly decays.

Thoughts?

- Upon all created things is seen the impress of the Deity. Nature testifies of God. The susceptible mind, brought in contact with the miracle and mystery of the universe, cannot

but recognize the working of infinite power. **Not by its own inherent energy does the earth produce its bounties**, and year by year continue its motion around the sun. An unseen hand guides the planets in their circuit of the heavens. **A mysterious life pervades all nature--a life that sustains the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, that lives in the insect atom which floats in the summer breeze**, that wings the flight of the swallow and feeds the young ravens which cry, that brings the bud to blossom and the flower to fruit. {Ed 99.1}

The same power that upholds nature, is working also in man. **The same great laws that guide alike the star and the atom control human life. The laws that govern the heart's action, regulating the flow of the current of life to the body, are the laws of the mighty Intelligence that has the jurisdiction of the soul. From Him all life proceeds.** Only in harmony with Him can be found its true sphere of action. For all the objects of His creation the condition is the same--**a life sustained by receiving the life of God, a life exercised in harmony with the Creator's will. To transgress His law, physical, mental, or moral, is to place one's self out of harmony with the universe, to introduce discord, anarchy, ruin.** {Ed 99.2}

Thoughts?

So next paragraph quotes Isaiah 51:6 "And the earth shall wax old like a garment." Why? Could it be that the earth slowly decays as it is disconnected from God? And does this explain why we age and die?

- **God is the fountain of life, and we can have life only as we are in communion with Him. Separated from God, existence may be ours for a little time, but we do not possess life.** "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." 1 Timothy 5:6. Only through the surrender of our will to God is it possible for **Him to impart life to us.** {MB 61.2}

When Adam and Eve sinned they severed their connection with God, they immediately lost their robes of light, and started to die, the plants started to decay, death was introduced into the system.

But in the transgression of man both the Father and the Son were dishonored. Man committed sin, and sin is the transgression of the law, which is holy, just, and good. Through sin the **temple of God which he had builded for his own indwelling and glory, was reduced to ruin, was fallen and in decay.** Satan beguiled the holy pair to their own destruction, and **introduced an element of character that was antagonistic to God and to their fellow-creatures.** Before the entrance of sin, the hearts of God's children had been filled with love toward their Creator, and they were in harmony with his will; **but upon yielding to the tempter a warring element began to work in the human agent.** Even the earth itself shows the curse of transgression, and signs of enmity appear. **Darkness covers the earth like the pall of death,** and will continue to shroud the glory of God until death is swallowed up in victory. {ST, December 12, 1895 par. 7}

In the creation of God before the entrance of sin, every part of nature was in perfection; **God had nothing to take down as unnecessary to his plan. He needed to set into operation no power by which to dispossess; he needed to inaugurate no opposing force.** But through the calamity of sin, **the work of disintegration was begun, and the beautiful temple of God's building was defiled and laid in ruins. God no longer was a dweller in the heart of man. To oppose and bring to naught the work of the enemy,** the promise was given, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." {ST, December 12, 1895 par. 8}

What is that principle that Satan introduced into man?

All sin is selfishness. Satan's first sin was a manifestation of selfishness. He sought to grasp power, to exalt self. A species of

insanity led him to seek to supersede God. And the temptation that led Adam to sin was Satan's declaration that it was possible for man to attain to something more than he already enjoyed, possible for him to be as God Himself. **The sowing of seeds of selfishness in the human heart was the first result of the entrance of sin into the world.** God desires every one to understand the evil of selfishness, and to co operate with Him in guarding the human family against its terrible, deceptive powers. The design of the gospel is to confront this evil by means of remedial missionary work, and to destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence. {WB, September 9, 1902 par. 3}

Our only definition of sin is that given in the Word of God; it is "the transgression of the law;" it is the outworking of a ***principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.*** {GC88 492.2}

So God is the source of life – the law of love is the law upon which life is built. Harmony with God means His love/life flows through us and upholds and sustains all things. Sin is selfishness, a principle at war with the law of love, a principle that severs the connection with God and thus prevents God's love/life from sustaining His creation.

Therefore, the more sin and rejection of God the more separation from Him and the greater the decay and death.

As Satan gets more control then more calamities and destruction occurs because God's universe runs out of control, the law of sin and death takes over.

Rev 7:1-3 – four angels loose the four winds and destruction happens.

"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

Conversely, the closer the unity the greater the healing and restoration.

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit**, who lives in you. Romans 8:11

Thoughts?

Would this mean as we come closer to unity with God that decay, aging, and deterioration would lessen?

- Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. Dt 34:7

What do you think of the Temple references in this passage? Does it relate at all to the cleansing of the sanctuary?

Look at THURSDAY's lesson, read 2Cor 5:1-4, thoughts? What is it talking about? A house not made with human hands? Does that wording sound familiar?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “One of the great...”

Thoughts?

Is there disagreement on this issue in Christianity?

How do you think we should handle such disagreement? What is the appropriate attitude toward those who understand “how” differently than we do?

Isn't the Christlike approach to present our perspectives and understandings in love, and leave others free to come to their own conclusion?

If someone accepts Jesus as their savior and believes that we are saved through plasma energy transfers from God, through Jesus, to all who accept Him, what should our attitude toward that person be?

Should we require such a person to agree with us to fellowship with us?

Should we muzzle such a person? Should we allow them to present their understanding, evidence and perspective and leave each person free to think it out for themselves?

Read Galatians 3:26-29 – thoughts?

Next paragraph, “In verse 27...” thoughts?

Do we *claim* His character or do we *experience* His character?

Here are those same verses from my paraphrase:

Gal 3:26 Through the remedy established by Jesus Christ you reveal his character and are all sons of God, 27 for all of you who have immersed your minds and hearts into the truth of

God, as revealed by Christ, have had your characters changed, like a new set of clothing, replaced with the character of Christ. 28 Your station on earth is irrelevant; it doesn't matter whether you are Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one in character, method, principle and motive through all that Christ has done. 29 If you are Christlike in heart and mind, then you are one of Abraham's descendents and an heir to all the promises of God. (Dr. J's paraphrase)

Thoughts?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "For all of Paul's..." thoughts?

Notice how they state it is not "just" about our legal status – as if it ever were about our legal status.

She's not just a woman she's also governor.

The "not just" language assumes that the legal status is obviously what Christ came to do and the healing transformation aspects are less obvious.

Notice through this lesson they provide Bible text after Bible text documenting how being clothed in Christ is about an actual change and transformation in the believer, a healing and restoration. But they never provide one text that states our legal status needed to be or was changed.

Read last paragraph, "The context..." thoughts?

Again, nice job of accurately describing that it is about character building about transformation.

What is the darkness and light referring to? Darkness about what? What is the light we now walk in? Is it not the knowledge of God?

TUESDAY

Read last paragraph, “Notice the contrast...” thoughts?

Notice how they describe so nicely that salvation is about transformation – yet somehow they still get confused over legal status.

But, let’s speak in the language Paul at times used to communicate to those who prefer to see the issue in legal terms. What causes our “legal” status to change? It is fulfilling the requirements of the law. And, what does the law require?

- **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. 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." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}
- The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the thoughts and feelings; and it will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. **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}

- **The divine law requires us to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.** Without the exercise of this love, the highest profession of faith is mere hypocrisy. . . . {A New Life NL 32.1}
- **That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience, righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. God help us to render to Him all His law requires.** We cannot do this without that faith that brings Christ's righteousness into daily practice. {2SM 380.4}
- While the law is holy, the Jews could not attain righteousness by their own efforts to keep the law. The disciples of Christ must obtain righteousness of a different character from that of the Pharisees, if they would enter the kingdom of heaven. **God offered them, in His Son, the perfect righteousness of the law. If they would open their hearts fully to receive Christ, then the very life of God, His love, would dwell in them, transforming them into His own likeness; and thus through God's free gift they would possess the righteousness which the law requires.** But the Pharisees rejected Christ; "being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness" (Romans 10:3), they would not submit themselves unto the righteousness of God. {MB 54.2}
- The duty we owe to God is revealed in his word in unmistakable clearness. Here the obligation of man is declared so explicitly that the day of Judgment will reveal no excuse for not serving God. God's great moral standard of righteousness is to be met. **His law requires your heart's supreme affection for your Maker. It requires you to do unto others as you would have them do to you.** "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth," is a positive declaration; but "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," is equally positive. {BEcho, February 15, 1889 par. 8}

- 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}
- The Chinese New Year commences in February, and lasts one week. They have a custom of settling all quarrels between themselves and all outstanding debts; and if there are any who are unable to pay their debts, they are forgiven them. Thus the new year is commenced with all difficulties and accounts settled. This is a heathen custom that the Christian world would do well to imitate. **God's law requires all this of us, and more,--we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.** That is, we are to deal with our neighbors in everything just as we would wish them to deal with us. If we wish them to act fairly and justly toward us, then we should act fairly and justly toward them. We are simply to do as we would be done by. {RH, December 16, 1884 par. 4}
- Christ saw that that which prevented the truth from reaching many hearts was their misconception of the nature and claims of the law. They neglected to cultivate spirituality. They did not know the Lord whom they professed to serve and obey. They did not discern the relation of Jesus to the Father, neither did they know by experience the paternal character of God, or understand that **his law requires us to love God supremely, and our neighbor as ourselves.** If they would have emptied the soul of selfishness, pride, and self-love, and humbled their hearts to be instructed by the greatest Teacher the world ever knew, they would have recognized the grace of God in the gift of Jesus to our world to save those who were ready to perish. {ST, November 23, 1891 par. 5}
- **God's law requires that justice and right be exercised between man and his fellow man; it requires that we shall not injure our neighbor in his property, his feelings, his health, or his good name. It requires compassion for the afflicted, even if he be our enemy, that in all our associations with our fellow beings we shall show the same**

love and care that we would wish to have exercised toward ourselves. Who can stand before this great moral standard, and plead not guilty? {ST, January 7, 1897 par. 3}

- **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 did we not hear in any of these passages? Did we hear the weight of these passages talking about legal penalties being paid? Did we hear the law require a legal penalty or healing and transformation?

But what about this quotation?

- **Christ saw the helpless condition of the race, and he came to redeem them by living the life of obedience the law requires**, and by paying in his death the penalty of disobedience. He came to bring us the message and means of deliverance, an assurance of salvation, not through the abrogation of the law, but through obedience made possible by his merits. {RH, April 29, 1902 par. 10}
 - Does it say the penalty is a legal penalty? Or that there is a penalty and that penalty was paid? The law requires a life of obedience, there is a penalty for sin, but the law doesn't require sin be punished, only that the infection of sin be destroyed so that a life of obedience could be obtained. Thus lawlessness results in death and Christ could only restore a life of obedience into humanity by destroying the carnal nature He assumed – thus suffering

the penalty sin brought. In so doing He destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light (2Tim 1:10).

Thoughts? What does it mean to have a change in our legal status? It means that we have a change in our character so that we are in harmony with the law? Why? Because the law is the basis upon which life is built and only in harmony with it can we be united with God and live eternally!

FRIDAY

First paragraph, thoughts? What do you think about the idea of the sun burning 7 times hotter? Where does such an idea come from?

The Bible:

The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted. Isaiah 30:26

But how could this be without destroying the earth? By having a water canopy over the earth. In such a situation the two lights, one to rule the day, one to rule the night, would keep the water, which now constitutes most of our oceans, in a suspended state above the earth. The polar extremes would disappear, the severe weather would disappear, no more rain, hurricanes, tornados, thunderstorms, no polar caps, the entire earth a pleasant warm place.

What happened to the sun and the moon? Why are they not this way now? The water came down at the flood, and if the sun were seven times hotter now or the moon was as hot as the sun the earth would be destroyed.

Read question 2 – it is an error to rely on science divorced from scripture, but it is equally erroneous to study scripture divorced from science.

WEDNESDAY

Top sentence - "No question..." thoughts? Well said!