

Origins 1Q 2013 Lesson 13

Creation, Again

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "One thing..." thoughts?

The lesson reports that in the science view "the same cold and mindless forces of chance" that brought the world into existence will destroy it.

Are they suggesting that the world is destroyed instead by an intelligent force?

Are they suggesting God is the destroyer?

Perhaps not because I do like how the lesson expressed it in third paragraph, "The new creation..." Thoughts? Isn't this well said, "sin brings death and suffering and God's law is the law of life"?

I have had many conversations with people who will say in one moment the law of God is the law of life, and sin brings death, but at the next moment talk about God punishing and destroying. So...

Who does Inspiration teaches is the destroyer?

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (JN 8:44)

I like to examine how our church founders saw things. Consider some of these quotations, who is the destroyer – do you agree?

Satan is the destroyer; the Lord is the Restorer. The Lord has not worked as a physician in the way that He desires to work, because, He says, Ye will not come to Me, that I may give you life. We look to every source for relief except to the One who proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, "I am the resurrection, and the life." ... {CTr 239.2}

Jesus Christ is the Restorer. Satan, the apostate, is the destroyer. Here is the conflict between the Prince of life and the prince of this world, the power of darkness. . . . The world's Redeemer did not design that His purchased inheritance should live and die in their sins. What, then, is the matter? Why are so few reached and saved? It is because so many of those who profess to be Christians <u>are working in the same lines as the great apostate</u>. They let Satan devise and plan for them. He makes them apostates, disloyal to God, rebels against His precepts and laws...{CTr 247.2}

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What do you think this might look like – working in the same lines as the great apostate?

What might it look like if Satan devises and plans the work?

Could it look like doing mission work, sending missionaries?

Could it look like building hospitals and schools?

What religious organization has the largest church run health care system in the world? The Catholic Church. What religious organization has the second largest church run healthcare system in the world? The SDA church.

What religious organization has the largest church run educational system in the world? The Catholic Church. What religious organization has the second largest church run educational system in the world? The SDA church.

What does it look like to work in the same lines Satan works, to let him devise and plan the work?

Could this be referring to embracing the same ideas about God's law and government that Satan devised? That God imposes law and imposes penalties? That sin must be punished, as Satan had urged?

Could this be referring to Christians accepting penal models of atonement with a wrathful God?

What happens in the mind if we accept lies about God's law?

What happens in the character if we believe God must punish?

Does Satan care if we run schools and hospitals as long as we enslave people into a fear based, self-centered religion of works that fails to transform the life and heal the heart?

I received an email this week from a friend in LLU. He told me that the Adventist Theological Society is going to be doing a presentation on the atonement in Loma Linda this weekend. He forwarded me this from their online journal:

Many world religions teach that when their gods are angered by the misbehavior (sin) of their followers/worshippers, the gods need to be appeased—usually through sacrifices. In this way the wrath/anger of the god or gods is turned away from the worshipper, and the god or gods are no longer displeased. This is called propitiation. [do you see the basis of paganism, the idea of appeasement, an angry wrathful god who must have something done to him to turn anger and wrath away from the sinner?]

But in Christianity, the sinner is doomed to face the wrath of God against sin. God gave Christ, however, as a substitute for the sinner. Because Christ carried our sins on Himself at the cross, He faced the wrath of God for all sinners. He became the propitiation for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2; 4:10) and therefore met the demands of divine law and justice.

His death satisfied and appeased a God who hates sin and is radically opposed to it. His holiness and justice demand that atonement be made to change the condemned condition of the sinner, who faces the wrath of God. **Ikechukwu Michael Oluikpe** (Perspectives Digest, A Publication of the Adventist Theological Society, vol 18, issue 1) http://www.perspectivedigest.org/article/91/archives/18-1/god-s-loving-wrath

Thoughts?



Do you hear any difference in the two gods being described? Both are angry, both are wrathful, both require something be done to the god in order for the god not to lash out and destroy the sinner. Yet the so called Christian version has a god who would be willing to vent his wrath on an innocent so that the guilty could get off. It is even more disgusting and revolting than the typical pagan view. Think about it – a human king has laws, if you break them he uncompromisingly will punish – but, there are penalties you can pay and if you pay those taxes, tariffs, fines, you can have your sins pardoned. But there is another king, he also imposed a law, and he is unwilling to allow any taxes or fines to pay him for your sin, but what he is willing to do is find an innocent person and torture them and kill them and allow the guilty to claim, that act of wrath and venting of fury be applied to the account of the guilty.

Which is a more horrendous view of God?

I thought a lot about this passage this week – and I noticed one reason this is so appealing to some and so offensive to others. If you focus on God, His character, how He is being portrayed, whether He is kind and trustworthy or presented on another light, then such portrayals are offensive and rejected.

But if you focus on self, focus on your fear of punishment, focus on how one can get out from under one's problems and escape from execution, then this penal model has appeal. Hey, I can be wicked, I can sin, I can do bad and all my sins are placed on Christ and he gets punished for me - cool. I get off.

When we consider the two antagonistic principles at war – God's character and law of love versus Satan's character and law of fear and selfishness, it becomes obvious that this penal model is built on fear and selfishness. It is exactly pagan. It is Satan's view of God and it infects our church, our minds, our families and the lies must be destroyed by the truth!

Here are a couple of quotes from early Adventist pioneers. The first is by EG White, the second by George Fifield:

Determined to keep the people in deception, the priests of Baal continue to offer sacrifices to their gods and to call upon them night and day to refresh the earth. With costly offerings the priests attempt to <u>appease the anger of their gods</u>; "PK 124

Did you notice this description is that baal required appeasement, and what did the ATS article say Christ died to do? "**His death satisfied and appeased a God** who hates sin and is radically opposed to it." This is baal worship.

At the 1897 General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor George E. Fifield, Secretary of the New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, gave a powerful sermon on this subject. Here is an excerpt:

"In Christ Jesus we...[are] the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone... This is as near to the Lord as we can get. This is the at-one-ment; this is why he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, that he might do that for us by breaking down all those things which separate hearts



from hearts, both human and divine. Notwithstanding this, we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted [Isa 53:4]. That was what we thought about it. **We said**, **God is doing all this; God is killing him, punishing him, to satisfy his wrath, in order to let us off. That is the pagan conception of sacrifice**. The Christian idea of sacrifice is this. Let us note the contrast. 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' That is the Christian idea. Yes, sir. Indifference keeps, hatred keeps, selfishness keeps... But love, and love only, sacrifices, gives freely, gives itself, gives without counting the cost; gives because it is love. That is sacrifice, whether it is the sacrifice of bulls and goats, or of him who is the Lamb of God. It is the sacrifice that is revealed throughout the entire Bible. **But the pagan idea of sacrifice is just the opposite. It is that some god is always offended, always angry, and his wrath must be propitiated in some way.**

"If it is an ordinary case, the blood of bulls and goats will suffice; but if it is an extraordinary case, the blood of some innocent virgin or child must flow; and when the god smells the blood, his wrath is appeased. We talk of pagan immortality, pagan Sunday, pagan idolatry, etc.; but it seems to me that the lowest thought is that men have brought this pagan idea of sacrifice right into the Bible, and applied it to the sacrifice of the cross. So the Methodist Discipline uses these words: 'Christ died to reconcile the Father unto us,' that is, to propitiate God so that we could be forgiven – paganism straight out. Why, brethren and sisters, it is the application of the pagan conception of sacrifice to the sacrifice upon the cross, so that that wonderful manifestation of divine love, which God intended should cause all men, all beings in the universe, to wonder and adore, has been turned around and made a manifestation of wrath to be propitiated in order to save man. (1897 General Conference Daily Bulletin Sermon Series number 1)

Thoughts? What view of God is presented in the ATS article?

With such a view it is no wonder some teach God is the destroyer.

THURSDAY

In Thursday's Lesson it talks about how sin broke down relationships, our relationship with God and with each other. After sin, man was afraid of God, Adam blamed Eve, Cain killed his brother, and people have been fighting each other since.

God has a plan to restore us to relationship - and notice before he comes there is a prophecy about restoring relationships - consider this and the connection in light of what we just studied regarding baal worship:

See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; Mal 4:5,6



What does this text have to do with restored relationships? What message would Elijah have that would restore relationships?

What undermines relationships?

Lies believed break the circle of love and trust – Satan lied about God and the lies about God broke our relationship with Him and each other.

The Elijah message, the message to go to the world before Christ comes will be a message that turn the hearts of people to each other again -how? Could it be by presenting the truth about God character and methods of love, which removes fear and restores trust and love?

What did Elijah call the children of Israel to do? To stop worshipping Baal, and who was Baal?

Baal was the son of El (i.e. El-ohim or El-Shaddai). He was the god of weather. Often called, 'Almighty' and "Lord of the Earth." Baal was the god who brought rain, thunder, lightening, who fertilized the earth, controlled the sun and brought the harvest. Baal fought the great serpent leviathan as well as battled against Mot, the god of death. And most amazing of all, it was taught that Baal died in his battle with Mot and was resurrected from the dead to bring life to earth.¹

So what was the problem with worshipping a god who was the "husband and protector of Israel," the son of El, who controlled the weather, who brought rain, sunshine, and fertility, who blessed with full harvest, who warred against the great serpent and death, who died and was resurrected to bring life to the earth? What was wrong with this god? What was Elijah opposing? What made Baal worship false?

That they had to provide sacrifices to appease the anger and wrath of Baal – the view in which Christ died to appease his Father is Baal worship and God is calling for a people to reject it, present the truth, demolish the lies that break love and trust and turn the hearts of the parents back to the children.

- Lies believed break the circle of love and trust
- Truth believed restores trust and opens the heart to love
- Broken love and trust results in fear and selfishness
- Restored trust results in love flowing in the heart
- Fear and selfishness results in acts of sin
- Restored love and trust results in acts of righteousness
- Acts of sin destroy
- Acts of righteousness heal

Who is the destroyer? Here are few more quotes:



Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would-He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them. {DD 33.3}

Thoughts? What is being described? Why would God withdraw his protective hand?

Upon coming up out of the water, Jesus bowed in prayer on the river bank. A new and important era was opening before Him. He was now, upon a wider stage, entering on the conflict of His life. Though He was the Prince of Peace, His coming must be as the unsheathing of a sword. The kingdom He had come to establish was the opposite of that which the Jews desired. He who was the foundation of the ritual and economy of Israel would be looked upon as its enemy and *destroyer.*.. {DA 111.3}

The Saviour's glance seems to penetrate heaven as He pours out His soul in prayer. Well He knows how sin has hardened the hearts of men, and how difficult it will be for them to discern His mission, and accept the gift of salvation. [Do we still today have hardened hearts and have difficulty discerning his mission? Do we still see God and Jesus as the destroyer?] He pleads with the Father for power to overcome their unbelief, to break the fetters with which Satan has enthralled them, and in their behalf to conquer the destroyer. He asks for the witness that God accepts humanity in the person of His Son. {DA 111.6}

Who is the destroyer? What does Satan destroy?

Satan destroys truth, freedom, goodness, health, and life, and brings death -

But doesn't the Bible teach God also destroys? What does God destroy?

- Christ took human flesh that "by his death he might **destroy** him who holds the power of death, that is the devil" Heb 2:14
- "by his death he **destroyed** death and brought life and immorality to light" 2Tim 1:9,10
- By his death he might "destroy the devil's work." 1John 3:8

Let's compare and contrast:

Satan destroys truth; God destroys lies and brings truth Satan destroys freedom; God destroys slavery and brings freedom



Satan destroys goodness; God destroys wickedness and brings righteousness Satan destroys health; God destroys sickness and brings health Satan destroys life; God destroys death and brings life!

- How does one destroy lies with truth who is the source of truth? Jesus!
- How does one destroy slavery with freedom in whom is our freedom found? Jesus!
- How does one destroy wickedness with righteousness who is our righteousness? Jesus!
- How does one destroy sickness with health who is our Physician? Jesus!
- How does one destroy death with life and who is the resurrection and life? Jesus!

So, in the end, when God destroys all that Satan brought, how does He do it? Does He do it by using power to inflict pain and suffering? NO! That is Satan's method. He does it by being Himself, full and unveiled. Listen to this:

The people who rejected Christ were soon to see their city and their nation **destroyed**. Their glory would be broken, and scattered as the dust before the wind. **And what was it that destroyed the Jews?** It was the rock which, had they built upon it, would have been their security. **It was the goodness of God despised, the righteousness spurned, the mercy slighted**. **Men set themselves in opposition to God, and all that would have been their salvation was turned to their destruction.** All that God ordained unto life they found to be unto death. In the Jews' crucifixion of Christ was involved the destruction of Jerusalem. The blood shed upon Calvary was the weight that sank them to ruin for this world and for the world to come. So it will be in the great final day, when judgment shall fall upon the rejecters of God's grace. **Christ, their rock of offense, will then appear to them as an avenging mountain. The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire. Because of love rejected, grace despised, the sinner will be destroyed.** {DA 600.2}

What do you understand this to mean?

How and why does destruction come to the wicked?

How did the crucifixion of Christ result in their destruction of those who rejected Jesus?

How was it that the salvation despised was that which destroyed them?

What happens in the hearts of people who reject Christ? To those who crucified him? Their hearts harden, they become more selfish.

What kinds of behaviors to such people engage in? Would they be peaceful, kind, gentle people, or would they be violent, rebellious, unruly?

What did the Jews do after the crucifixion and under the Roman rulership? The rebelled and what did that result in?



What was the cause of their destruction? Their own rebellion which resulted from their hardened hearts because they rejected Jesus.

Had they accepted Jesus they would have been renewed and lived in peace, seeking to love others and minister to the Romans. Just as Paul counseled the NT church to do. And that would not have resulted in their destruction as a nation.

Then how do we explain the persecution of Christians?

The persecution of Christians was the persecution of individuals, inspired by Satan to destroy all those who would not follow him.

That persecution was brought about by the growth in Christianity and by the selfishness and jealousy and fear in the hearts of the non-Christians in power, not because the Christians were antagonizing and inciting conflict.

Further, the persecution against the Christians was not targeted at a nation, and national sovereignty wasn't affected by that persecution.

So, how was it the Jewish nation was destroyed? By what? "the goodness of God despised, the righteousness spurned, the mercy slighted"

Will it be different in the end or the same? Here is another quote:

God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. [What law?] The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation, [What is that boundary?] and the Lord withdraws His protection, and leaves them to the mercy of the leader they have chosen. Satan will have power over those who have yielded themselves to his control, and he will plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. [What winds are let loose?] The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. {Mar 275.3}

In the midst of the time of trouble--trouble such as has not been since there was a nation--His [God's] chosen ones will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. [Is that referring to eternal or temporal destruction?] {Mar 275.4}

What is the cause of the destruction of the wicked? Unremedied sin! God's love despised, his methods rejected, his salvation and healing spurned, which results in what?

Why doesn't God just use His power to transport people into heaven anyway?

The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him. The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there—every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love—would touch no answering chord in his soul. His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy. {Hvn 65.3}



It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them.—SC 17, 18. {Hvn 66.1}

What law is described at work here? Natural law, it is the actual condition of the person that determines their destiny, not a decree on the part of God!

MONDAY

From dust to life – the lesson talks about God creating Adam from dust, breathing into him the breath of life and Adam became a living being, and then at death Adam returning back to dust.

But it also points out in that the Scripture describes a resurrection in which people will live again. Question – will the people who live again, who are resurrected be the same people, with their own identities, individualities, characters?

Did Adam's character, individuality exist before God breathed into Adam the breath of life?

So when Adam died and his body returned to dust what returned to God? Was it the same "breath" that God breathed into Adam, or modified in some way so that it was uniquely Adam?

The Hebrew word translated "breath" that God breathed into Adam is the Hebrew *neshamah*, the same "breath" of life the animals receive. (Gen. 7:21, 22; Eccl. 3:19) And, when a person dies there is "no breath [*neshamah*, life] left in him" (1 Kings 17:17). But, interestingly, even though this "breath" is no longer in the dead body, the Scripture uses a different word to describe what returns to God at death.

Ecclesiastes tells us that, at death, the *ruach* returns to God who gave it. (12:7) *Ruach* occurs 377 times in the Old Testament and is translated "breath" of the body 33 times as in Eze 37:5. So, on the surface, one could argue that God gave the "breath" of life and at death it returns to God. Yet, *ruach* is also translated as "spirit" or vitality 76 times (Jdg 15:19), "courage" (Jos 2:11), "temper" (Jdg 8:3), the seat of emotions 3 times (1Sam 1:15), moral character 16 times (Eze 11:19), and the "mind" 9 times (Eze 11:5). What this suggests is that the "breath" given to Adam became personalized and what returns to God is more than just life energy, it is the individuality of the sentient being.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 don't fear the one who destroy the body, but cannot destroy the soul. The Greek for soul is $\psi v \chi \eta$ *psuche*, from where we get "psyche," which is the root for words like psychiatry and psychology, and it means the individuality or consciousness of the person. And in first Thessalonians chapter four Paul says:

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall *asleep*, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that *God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him*. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, *will*

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certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and *the dead in Christ will rise first. After that*, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (vs 13-17) (emphasis mine)

Did you notice Paul says when God returns he *brings with him* those who have fallen asleep – they are asleep, but they are with Jesus and he brings them with him. What does this mean?

Could it mean the breath that return to God at death was more than life energy, that it was the unique identity of the person?

Perhaps this quote from one of the founders of our church will help:

Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. **The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved**. **In the resurrection every man will have his own character.** God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {6BC 1093.2}

This is exactly consistent with the Bible which uses the Hebrew *Ruach* as both breath and character.

How do you put all of this together? Consider a computer, with wireless backup to a server - if someone kills the hardware, and you get a new computer, connect it to the server and download your unique data, you have just resurrected your computer.

The Bible teaches that the Lamb's book of life is some storage device where the "names" of the righteous – what is the name symbolic of in the Bible? Character, where the characters of the righteous are stored. So when Christ returns he brings with Him the heavenly "server" "Lamb's book of life" and downloads the "characters" of the righteous into new bodies and they live again!

What is the implication when we put this together with the idea of destruction and God's actions in the OT?

What does the Bible teach is the wages of sin? Sleep awaiting resurrection, or eternal non-existence?

Who has died eternal non-existence? No one! Not even Jesus! He didn't have to because He destroyed death, the infection of sin and cured humanity thus he rose again, with His same character and identity. This same Jesus, the Bible says.



It is only if you accept Satan's version of God's law that it is imposed, that god must be appeased that one has to teach Jesus died the second death, because the penalty must be paid etc. But when we accept the truth, that God's law is the law of love, the design protocol upon which life was built to operate, then we realize Christ didn't come to appease His Father, but to cure and heal mankind. His death was the means of eliminating the infection of sin and cleansing the species, thus He rose again with His perfected character intact!

So, if no one has died the eternal destruction that is the wages of sin, what is the implication for the OT? God has not "destroyed" anyone! God, may have put some people to sleep – but sleep is not destruction!

Because God will not violate freedom, will not coerce, will not inflict punishment for sin, some go to extremes and suggest God never uses might or power for any reason. This is not true. God doesn't use might or power to heal to restore trust, but he does use might and power – in the same way a doctor does, or a loving parent does, in order to heal and protect.

A doctor may amputate to save, a doctor may commit someone against their will or medicate an insane person not punish but to protect and restore to sanity. A parent may discipline, God disciplines those he loves. And a parent may use the power of the state to incarcerate those out of control, not to punish, but to protect – all involved including the criminal.

TUESDAY

Read the first and second paragraph, "Adam was…" thoughts? Any questions or concerns about what is stated? What about the idea that "Jesus won back the earth from Satan's dominion"? Any questions about this? Is the earth Satan's legally? Who is the ruler of earth? God – how about after the fall?

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}

Christ didn't "win back" the earth from Satan – he won back the minds of intelligent beings from Satan's lies and is winning back human beings from distrust of him. But the earth has always been his.



God has permitted Satan to have some authority and freedom on earth to demonstrate his principles and methods. Thus on earth today we live in a dualistic pocket of reality – a pocket of reality in which two antagonistic principles are operating in conflict with each other?

But this is artificial – it is not how God created the universe and only exists because God actively sustains this artificial pocket of reality in mercy to give humans opportunity for healing, to win us back to him!

Read last paragraph, "Those who are saved..." thoughts? What does it mean that we will be given authority as kings and priests?

How does Christ rule? By service – by love, by self-sacrifice, which means will are given authority to love others more than self, to rule by the law of love, to humble ourselves to serve others. This is what we will do in heaven!

WEDNESDAY

More restoration – what more will be restored than we have already talked about? What about our pets, animals? And how will they relate to one another? What animals are you looking forward to petting the most?

FRIDAY

Read first two paragraphs, "And the years..." thoughts? A non-dual state, a state in which only good exists and no evil.

Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. Carthage, a history, Serge Lancel, p194

¹ Wood, D. R. W., & Marshall, I. H. (1996). *New Bible dictionary (3rd ed.)* (108).

Miller, Patrick (2000), *Israelite Religion and Biblical Theology: Collected Essays*, Continuum International Publishing Group, p. 32. <u>ISBN 184127142X</u>

Moscati, Sabatino (2001). The Phoenicians, Tauris, p. 132. ISBN 1850435332

Walbank, Frank William (1979). A Historical Commentary on Polybius, Volume 2, Clarendon Press, p. 47 Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary (1976) ISBN 0-310-23560-X.

In 1899, the Encyclopædia Biblica, article Baal by W. Robertson Smith and George F. Moore states: