

Christ and His Law Lesson 13 2Q 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

June 21 Saturday – Jfest: Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth at J103's Jfest at Camp Jordan. We will give away our materials. **We will still have class on June 21 at our regular time.**

June 27, 28: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakeport, CA Community Church, at 1111 Park Way, Park Way & Hill Road, Lakeport, CA 95453. Friday Evening – The Model of the Mind; and Saturday – The God and Your Brain Seminar.

July 11-13: Dr. Jennings will be presenting at the *Rethinking Hell Conference: The Legacy of Edward Fudge and the Future of Conditionalism* in Houston, TX To find our more visit: <http://www.rethinkinghellconference.com/2014/>

Oct 2-4: Dr. Jennings will be at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Convention in Branson, MO. He and Dr. Curt Thomson, Christian Psychiatrist and author of *Anatomy of the Soul*, will be conducting an 8-hour workshop entitled, **Neurobiology and the Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders**. Dr. Jennings will also be a plenary speaker and Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth to give away our materials.

Oct 24/25: Dr. Jennings will be at Loma Linda University presenting a Spiritual Emphasis Weekend for the psychiatry residents and students. The Friday evening meeting will be open to the public

Nov 16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the First Baptist Church in Frisco Texas. Speaking for the three church services Sunday morning and then a seminar Sunday afternoon.

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

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

This is an email I received recently:

I'd like to report that I've used the DVDs you sent with great effect in the Jail Ministries and Earliteen. Many of the inmates are quite vocal about how it helps them understand their current situation, and after viewing the DVD one of the more "resistant" teens in my [class] ended up having an hour and a half conversation with me about some of the topics in the video.

Thanks, - CA

Christ's Kingdom and the Law

SABBATH

Read memory verse: "But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31:33, NKJV

What does this mean? What is the heart where the law gets written? What law? How is God's law

written on our hearts? Do we have any role in having it written there? What?

Read last paragraph, "Indeed, we have been..." What does it mean?

How do you understand it? What are the options?

- God destroys those which reject Him
- Sin is deviation from God's design and automatically results in destruction. God has been using His power to hold destruction at bay and in the end He lets go those persons who insist on being separate from Him and thus they are destroyed by sin, not by God.

Here is a quote from Oswald Chambers that Dean sent me recently:

"When we speak of the wrath of God we must not picture Him as an angry sultan on the throne of heaven, bringing a lash about people when they do what He does not want. There is no element of personal vindictiveness in God. It is rather that God's constitution of things is such that when a man becomes severed from God his life tumbles into turmoil and confusion, into agony and distress; it is hell at once, and he will never get out of it unless he turns to God; immediately he turns, chaos is turned into cosmos, wrath into love, distress into peace. "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord" we persuade men to keep in touch with Him."

Conformed to His Image, pg 363

Someone emailed me asking about the 7 last plagues, what about those? What do you think? Let's see if we can reason it out.

What is happening in the world when the seven last plagues occur? Is the majority of the world becoming more Godly, or are they closing their hearts to God?

And where is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit on earth? The hearts/minds of humans, so if people are closing their hearts permanently to the Holy Spirit what happens? The Spirit is slowly withdrawn from the earth. Then who gets more and more control? Satan and his forces.

What would this mean for nature? What will happen to the world when Satan is given freedom to rule on earth and affect the laws of nature?

Here is what our church used to teach about this:

"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, reprobates, 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

This is the exact same principle Oswald Chambers was describing.

There are others throughout Christianity who have understood it this way. It all goes back to how you understand God's law. If you know the truth, that God's law is design law, then you understand as Oswald Chambers and EGW did. If you accept the lie that God's law is like human law, rules put upon us, they you misunderstand and believe God is the cosmic executioner.

Consider this quote:

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 **are working in the same lines as the great apostate. They let Satan devise and plan for them.** He makes them apostates, disloyal to God, **rebels against His precepts and laws.** This brings severe, taxing labor upon the true Christian. He must convince the transgressor that he is a sinner, because "sin is the transgression of the law." {Christ Triumphant 247.2}

What does this mean? Sin is deviation from God's design, thus it injures, damages, taxes, burdens, exhausts, wears down and ultimately destroys. Satan tricks Christians into accepting the human views of God's law, as rules, and thus engage in religious and other rituals and legal processes for legal pardon and solutions, rather than actually participating with God for healing and transformation.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "When God..."

Any concerns about this paragraph? One minor concern, just a typographical issue, which no one would misunderstand, but we should clarify. God gave Adam dominion over all things *on earth*, not all things. But the bigger concern in this paragraph is the false conclusion that "ownership" of earth went to Satan.

This idea has led to all types of false conclusions about God and the plan of salvation. This is a false idea which fuels certain legal models of the atonement. The idea that Satan, after Adam's fall, had some legal claim, some "title" to earth, some actual legitimacy as ruler of earth that Jesus had to

confront and get back, i.e. earn the legal right to own earth again.

Not so. The earth was never Adam's property. Adam was steward, viceroy, governor, but Christ was owner. Satan "claimed" ownership but Satan is the "father of lies." It is a lie that Satan is the owner. Thus, when he presented himself in heaven, in the book of Job, claiming to represent earth, God rejected the claim – Not so fast, consider Job, he does not recognize you as the representative of earth. He recognizes my ownership and true Sovereignty.

Let's think about it and see if we can figure it out, understanding God's law ad the parameters upon which the universe operates.

- Could Adam create from nothing? Could Satan?
- Could Adam keep the sun, moon and stars in the sky? Could Satan?
- Could Adam control and balance all the forces of nature constantly? Could Satan?
- Then, all Adam's rule was subordinate to, under, at the behest of the One who actually uses His power to uphold and sustain all things. So too, what Satan stole from Adam was the subordinate governorship, now ownership.
- What would happen to nature if God let's go His sustaining presence? The disintegration of life.

Here is a quote from one of our founders:

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}

When the tempter offered to Christ the kingdom and glory of the world, **he was proposing that Christ should yield up the real kingship of the world, and hold dominion subject to Satan**. This was the same dominion upon which the hopes of the Jews were set. They desired the kingdom of this world. If Christ had consented to offer them such a kingdom, they would gladly have received Him. But the curse of sin, with all its woe, rested upon it. Christ declared to the tempter, "Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." {DA 130.1}

Thoughts? Sadly, the lesson, having accepted the false view of God's law, inadvertently present Satan's dream, to be the owner of earth and Christ be subordinate to him.

The idea that Christ had to achieve some “legal” victory is fiction, falsehood, lies based on accepting Satan’s lies:

- Every sin must meet its punishment urged Satan
- God must punish sin if God is to be just
- The earth is now owned by Satan
- Satan has legal claim to earth

Reality is that God is and always has been the owner of earth. Satan’s lies have impact in the minds of intelligent beings. Thus Christ didn’t have to do some legal accomplishment in His battle with Satan. He had to defeat the lies of Satan in order to set intelligent minds free and He had to overcome the infection of selfishness in the human being in order to destroy death and restore God’s design of love back into humanity.

Then, why does the Scripture, including Christ refer to Satan as either prince of this world or ruler of this world?

Because the primary operating principle of the world today is Satan’s principle of selfishness, thus he is credited with being the leader or owner of:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lies • Selfishness • Coercion • Disease • Pain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffering • Exploitation • Abuse • Domination • Death |
|--|---|

This is Satan’s kingdom and this is what God wants you to realize.

But in Christ we have a different kingdom, “my kingdom is not of this world” meaning the principles of how this world operates. Christ’s kingdom is the kingdom of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truth • Love • Freedom • Healing • Relief | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration • Self-sacrifice • Protection • Deliverance • Life |
|---|--|

Note the contrast.

KINGDOM OF CHRIST

- Truth
- Love
- Freedom
- Healing
- Relief
- Restoration
- Self-sacrifice
- Protection
- Deliverance
- Life

KINGDOM OF SATAN

- Lies
- Selfishness
- Coercion
- Disease
- Pain
- Suffering
- Exploitation
- Abuse
- Domination
- Death

We must stop attributing to God the very attributes of Satan and Satan's kingdom!

Read second paragraph, "What happened..." thoughts? Given what we have just discussed how to you analyze this paragraph?

Is it true Christ could only win earth by His perfect life and sacrificial death? Why? Why was His death necessary? Who needed it?

What did Christ come to take back? He came to reclaim the love, devotion, loyalty, trust of human beings, while securing unfallen beings in their loyalty. Can Christ get this love and loyalty by force or coercion? No, love awakens love, the only way to achieve His goals was to expose the lies with truth and demonstrate God's perfect character and design of love, while simultaneously eradicating the infection of fear and selfishness from the humanity He assumed upon Himself.

Thus as the Scripture says His death was necessary to:

- Destroy him who holds the power of death Heb 2:14
- Destroy death 2Tim 1:9,10
- Destroy the devil's work. 1Jn 3:8 And the devil's work which was to efface the image of God in man and put Satan's image where God's should be.

MONDAY

The lesson talks about how in human governments sometimes one can hold dual citizenship, then states in paragraph two, "There's no..." What does it look like to be true to God's kingdom?

- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Jn

13:34,35

- Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Jn 15:13

Chakomboka Chama – April 14, 2012 – 16 y/o Collegedale Academy student was at Harrison Bay State Park swimming with friends when several tried to swim across the lake. When one boy got tired and called for help, Chama swam out to help him, and is reported to have pushed his friend into the shallows, but then went under himself. I was told by one person he died of heart failure, as he had no water in his lungs. He had a known heart condition, but didn't let concern for himself stop him from helping another.

Is this what God's kingdom looks like?

Notice the stark contrast from what happened in Rwanda in 1994, where over 1 million people were killed in four months, predominantly by Christians, and with many Christian leaders and churches involved. In fact, many churches were used as killing fields, pastors, priests and nuns would lead people to their churches for sanctuary and then call in militia to kill them, or trap them inside and burn them alive.

The international war crimes tribunal of Rwanda convicted Elizaphan Ntakirutimana a SDA pastor for encouraging Tutsi to assemble in his church in Kibuye Prefecture, then leading a convoy of soldiers and civilian militia to his church where they slaughtered 8000 refugees. In 1998 a Rwandan court condemned two Catholic priests, Jean-Francios Kayiranga and Eduoard Nkurikiye for luring people to their parish where solders and militia massacred them.

"Believing that their actions were consistent with the teachings of their churches, the death squads in some communities held mass before going out to kill... People came to mass each day to pray, then they went out to kill. In some cases militia members apparently paused in the frenzy of killing to kneel and pray at the altar." Longman, Timothy, *Christianity and Genocide in Rwanda*, p. 6,7.

In Longman's book he documents that those who identified with authoritarian God concept took part in the genocide, while others who identified with a God of love helped protect the refugees.

Catholic or Protestant did not matter. Church members killed their pastors and priests and pastores and priests killed their own members. The churches were the primary killing zones throughout the country

By beholding we are changed. If you want evidence that the doctrines of the SDA church will not stop Adventists from participating with the beast of revelation to unite with state militia to abuse and kill, Rwanda is that evidence. Over 11% of the population in Rwanda is SDA. Yet our church has buried its head in the ground and continues its evangelism along the lines of unique doctrine rather than taking up and promoting the message which is to be our mission, the truth about God's character of love in

the setting of the Great Controversy.

Rwanda also revealed regardless of denomination, those who worshipped a God of love helped to protect. This is what will happen worldwide when the four winds are let go.

Read third paragraph, “Once people...” Notice what the lesson did – being part of the “commonwealth” of Jesus means we obey His rules, His laws and His commandments.

What does this lend itself toward? Toward division, toward what happened in Rwanda. This is an authoritarian God construct, which has rules we must keep and violators must be punished, either by us or God.

But in reality, Jesus said, “my kingdom is not of the world if it were my follower would fight.” We don’t use violence, coercion or the methods of Satan. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, no male or female, no Protestant or Catholic, no Adventist or Baptist... We are all united in our love for God and each other. We see the universe as it is, there are only two sides, the side of love truth and freedom, or the side of lies, selfishness and coercion.

We do follow the law of God and His law is the law of love. We seek to heal, save, redeem, not kill those who disagree with us.

We present truth in love and leave others free.

Jesus said, They will know we are His by our love for one another, not by our Sabbath keeping, not by our diet, not by our dress, not by our reading or TV watching, but by our love for one another. But we have lost sight of this and make demarcations based on the trivial and lose sight of what really matters.

And we wonder why the Lord hasn’t returned, we wonder why the non Christian world mocks us. Because we have a form of godliness but deny the power, which is the power of love!

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “The dominant...” How do you understand the language of “His love is revealed in the price that He Himself paid at the Cross.”

Can this language be misunderstood? How? How is it rightly understood?

Read second paragraph, “God’s love is...” How is God’s love related to His justice?

What is justice? Doing what is right – what is right? How do we know? What determines right and wrong?

God's law – which is what? An imposed list of rules, or the protocols upon which life is built, which is an expression of love?

Thus it is right to do that which harmonizes with God's character of love, that which is healing, restorative, freeing, truthful, kind, patient, beneficent etc.

Love will not force them into the kingdom of God – so true – why?

What happens to love when one tries to force it?

Is this ever NOT true? Is there ever a time, a place, a situation where one can threaten, use violence, force, coercion, intimidation and generate love upon people thus threatened? Could we generate love by acting as those murderers in Rwanda?

Then, why do so many say God does this very thing? They say, "God says, 'I love you! I only want your love, but if you refuse I will torture and kill you.'"

It is a lie and many don't see it all. Thus they don't think, their reason is damaged, the mind and ability to discern truth injured. Why? Because they hold beliefs that are opposed to each other and don't make sense. How do they resolve it? By more distortions – "I take that on faith" or "God's ways aren't mine, it must be love." Etc.

Read bottom pink section – "It is no arbitrary..." notice natural law, it is their actual condition that results in their exclusion, not a judicial proceeding.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "God created..." This is so true – so that perfection might be restored – what did Christ have to accomplish to restore perfection?

- Was the problem one of power?
- Was the obstacle to God restoring perfection that Satan has some power, might, force that physically obstructs or impairs God's ability to restore the universe to perfection?
- Was it a legal obstacle? Is there some heavenly tribunal, constitution, that must be met in order to be able to restore the universe?
- What was the obstacle? Was it the condition of God's intelligent beings?
- Angels needed what?
- Humans needed what?
- What is the remaining obstacle?

The next paragraph asks, "Could evil arise again?" Why or why not?

Read next paragraph – "When God created..." What were the conditions? What does the lesson

suggest? God's express commands, which makes it sound like what?

What might be their suggestion on why sin won't rise again? Is it that God is now in charge and any questions He doesn't like He commands not be asked? And anyone who persists He, now, in the aftermath of Christ's death, wipes out?

What is your answer as to why sin will never rise again?

Because all questions have been answered, all evidence is in, all intelligent minds will have been settled and have chosen God's methods for themselves, everyone will remember everything that transpired on earth and thus no lie, trick, deceit will in any way tempt the intelligences to ever again distrust God or deviate from His design.

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, "With the power..." How does one kill death? What is it that kills death? Life! Where does Revelation say death and Hades are thrown? Into the lake of fire

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.
Rev 20:14

How does that connect with destroying death? What fire is this? The fire of God's life giving glory, thus the universe in which God's presence is fully revealed and we live forever in the fire of His presence, death will never enter because no one will ever be severed from their connection with God again.

The next paragraph states, "There is no question, death is related to sin, which means it's related to God's law, as well; because sin is violation of God's law."

How is death related to sin? What is sin? Why does sin relate to death i.e. result in death?

James 1 sin when full grown brings forth death – death is the fruit of sin – why? Natural law – for the same reason your car engine will die if you put water in the tank – no manufacturer will punish you or your car, but it will be damaged and stop working. This is what sin does to the sinner.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss question 3