



Rebellion and Redemption 1Q 2016 Lesson 2 Crisis In Eden

SABBATH

Read memory text: “ ‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.’” (Genesis 3:15 NKJV).

What does the text mean? What is God actually doing? Is God acting to cause division, discord, disunity?

The key is to ask—between what? What are Satan’s principles? In what do Satan’s principles result? Then what action would God take to cause enmity?

It means God is instilling love, kindness, patience, peace, grace, forgiveness, mercy, gentleness, goodness, honesty, truthfulness, selflessness—God is working in the hearts of men to instill these virtues and such virtues are at war with Satan and his kingdom. Therefore, these principles cause one to be separated from Satan and his kingdom of sin, selfishness and death.

Any New Testament thoughts come to mind?

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ MT 20:34-36

What does this mean? Have you ever read this and wondered how could Jesus try to divide families?

It all depends on what law lens you look through and what you understand is actually happening. Here it is from *The Remedy*:

"Don't think I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of men.³⁵ I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law.³⁶ A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family.



Read second paragraph, “How did we...” What does the phrase “fairly early in earth’s history” mean? Does it mean early in regards to when the non-living matter on earth was made or when earth life was created on earth? Is there a difference?

Job 38:4-6 tells us that the angels were singing for joy when the foundations of the earth were created, but humankind was not around. What does this mean?

That the non-living matter found on earth was created some time before life was created on earth.

Note the description of earth in Genesis 1:2:

- “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” NIV
- the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. NRSV

What does this sound like? That something was here already, before the Genesis 1 account. We are not told for how many billions of years this ancient matter was in the dark in some corner of the Milky Way before the events of Genesis 1.

So, what does it help us to comprehend to realize that non-living matter was created sometime before life on earth?

That when scientists find evidence that the rocks, the geological foundations of earth are billions of years old, this does not undermine the Biblical account because the Bible doesn’t say Genesis is the description of creation of the universe, but that Genesis is the description of terraforming one solar system in a universe already billions of years old.

But if what I am describing is correct, what do we do with Genesis 1:14-19?

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. **16** God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. **17** God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.



The understanding that fits most consistently with all the pieces of evidence is that this is referring to our solar system, the stars would be Venus and Mars the brightest stars in the night sky, not all the stars in the entire universe.

SUNDAY

Read fourth paragraph, “Humans share with fish and birds the divine encouragement to be fruitful...”
Any thoughts on why the authors chose the word “encouragement?”

I find this interesting—is the instructive language to be fruitful and multiple significantly different than “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy?”

Was the instruction to be fruitful and multiple an:

- Encouragement?
- Instruction?
- Permission?
- Directive?
- Command?
- Description?
- Mission statement?
- Gift?
- Intention?

What is the lesson that earth was created to reveal? How do all living creatures on earth reproduce?
What is the one common principle to all reproduction—whether sexual or asexual?

All living creatures reproduce by *giving of themselves* to produce their offspring—mammals, reptiles, birds, helminthes, plants, fungi, bacteria, amoeba—all living creatures give of themselves to produce their offspring. What is the lesson? Life is built on the principle of giving—this is God’s law, God’s design and deviating from it brings death.

Can you think of anything in nature that violates this principle of giving of itself to reproduce and instead reproduces by taking?

Viruses—viruses invade a host cell, take over the machinery of the host cell, redirect the resources of the host cell to make more virus until the host cell is so depleted of life sustaining energy and resources it dies and spills the virus out to infect cells around it which are also taken over by the virus



which co-opts the hosts resources to produce more virus, killing the host cells, and ultimately, if something doesn't stop it, killing the host and thereby killing the virus.

What does this represent? This represents sin—the law of sin and death—taking for self rather than giving of self destroys and leads to death! This is all based on design law—either living in harmony with it or violating it.

Satan has infected the minds of humans with his virus of fear and selfishness and the entire penal substitutionary lie of salvation which further infects the hearts of humans and instead of bringing life and restoration brings suffering and death.

The lesson says, “Here we see a glimpse of the significance of being created in God’s image.”

What does it mean to be created in God’s image? How are we in God’s image?

What do you think of this quote from the book *Education*:

When Adam came from the Creator's hand, **he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker.** "God created man in His own image" (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that **the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image--the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator.** All his faculties were capable of development; **their capacity and vigor were continually to increase.** [What is capacity and vigor? Do our capacity and vigor continually increase? Why not? When we think of heaven, do we think of a place where our capacity and vigor increase eternally?] Vast was the scope offered for their exercise, glorious the field opened to their research. The mysteries of the visible universe--the "wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge" (Job 37:16)--invited man's study. Face-to-face, heart-to-heart communion with his Maker was his high privilege. Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever. **Throughout eternal ages he would have continued to gain new treasures of knowledge, to discover fresh springs of happiness, and to obtain clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, more and more fully have reflected the Creator's glory.** {Ed 15.1}

But by disobedience this was forfeited. **Through sin the divine likeness was marred, and well-nigh obliterated.** [How? How has God's image been nearly obliterated? In what ways?] Man's physical powers were weakened, his mental capacity was lessened, his spiritual vision dimmed. He had become subject to death. Yet the race was not left without hope. [What hope?



What do you think? What would be necessary to save a species deviant from the design and decaying into death? Does such a state sound like it needs a legal solution?] By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and **a life of probation was granted.** [Probation—what does this mean? Probation like legal probation, or something else? What was the purpose of the probationary existence?] **To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized--this was to be the work of redemption.** [Does this sound legal? In fact, does the legal theories of salvation bring the vision of restoration, recreation, regeneration more clearly to light, or does it obscure it? It is Satan's goal to obscure and obstruct God's true plan behind his lies and distortions—often presented in the guise of religious piety.] This is the object of education, the great object of life. {Ed 15.2}

Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. [What does it mean—love the basis of creation?] This is made plain in the law that God has given as the guide of life. The first and great commandment is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind." Luke 10:27. **To love Him, the infinite, the omniscient One, with the whole strength, and mind, and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being--the body, the mind, as well as the soul--the image of God is to be restored.** {Ed 16.1}

What do you hear? What does it mean to be in God's image? What is the basis of life? What is the basis of death? What is necessary to restore God's image? What type of law is being described?

Can we have God's image restored within us without having God's law of love restored within us?

Can we have God's law of love restored if we cling to and practice human imposed law constructs? Thus penal substitution, which is based upon human imposed law constructs, is an obstacle to restoring God's image within us! We must reject it and have this deep infection, this deep distortion purged from our theology, teachings, churches and schools if we ever want to fulfill our end-time mission to take the true picture of God to the world!

What about this quote:

Adam and Eve were formed in the image of God. **But Satan worked constantly to destroy the divine similitude. The holy pair yielded to temptation, and God's image was obliterated.** Christ put His hand a second time to the work. **He would recreate human**



beings. [How? What method? What was necessary?] When the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son. [Why did Christ come to earth? Why did He partake of humanity? To fix what Adam's sin did, to restore the species human back to God's original design. This is not penal legal, this is design!] Hear, O heaven, and be astonished, O earth! The appointed Instructor appears, and He is no other than the Son of God; His divinity was clothed with humanity. {Christ Triumphant 221.3}

Christ came to reveal perfection amid the imperfection of a world corrupted by disobedience and sin. **The eternal Word appeared in human form, bringing with Him all grace, all healing, all efficiency.** [What did He bring? What was necessary to heal and restore this creation back into God's original design!] He brought with Him the bread of life, which, if received, will be to us as the tree of life. The Inspired Word declares of this Teacher, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." {CTr 221.4}

The question of how to obtain a knowledge of God is to all a life-and-death question.[How? What method?] Read Christ's prayer to His Father, intended not merely as an important lesson in education for the disciples, but to come down through all time for the benefit of those who would read the Inspired Writings. "Father," He prayed, "the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. **And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**"Manuscript 15, 1898. {CTr 221.5}

Read last paragraph, "The third blessing given..." If the Sabbath was given at the end of creation week of planet earth, did it exist before that time? If it didn't exist before that time why do some people say the Sabbath is eternal? Why do some say the 10 Commandments are eternal?

What is eternal? God is eternal, and God's law of love, the protocols upon which all creation is built is eternal.

Why was there no Sabbath before earth was created? Because it wasn't needed, why wasn't it needed? Because the allegations about God, the war over God's trustworthiness had not started and therefore the Sabbath as evidence of God's methods was not necessary.



What does the Sabbath reveal? That God presents truth in love and leaves us free. The Sabbath is proof that God does not coerce, but leaves all beings free. The Sabbath is evidence of God's character, methods and our genuine freedom in His government. And, because of the war, the Sabbath will stand through all eternity future as evidence of God's character and His creation here on earth.

The lesson suggests the Sabbath is evidence that people are more than animals?

Were instructions given that animals were to also rest on the Sabbath?

Which is a bigger gap, the relationship gap between you and your dog, or you and God?

Were animals made, designed by God, for us to have relationships with?

Would the Sabbath be a day in which it is appropriate to relate to our animals as well as to God?

Did our relationship with God get broken? When?

Did our relationships with the animal kingdom get broken? When?

Is the Sabbath of any benefit in helping us move back toward God and experiencing life as God designed? How?

Adam and Eve were given responsibility to care for the earth and all the creatures in it—what does this reveal?

If we are in God's image and are to govern the earth as God governs the universe how will we treat the animals?

Consider this next quotation for two purposes, one for what it says about how we treat animals, and second for the description of the future of those who are cruel to animals—what do we understand the description to mean and why is it described like this?

Suffering and death were thus entailed, not only upon the human race, but upon the animals. Surely, then, **it becomes man to seek to lighten, instead of increasing, the weight of suffering which his transgression has brought upon God's creatures. He who will abuse animals because he has them in his power is both a coward and a tyrant.** {2MCP 514.2}



A disposition to cause pain, whether to our fellowmen or to the brute creation, is satanic. Many do not realize that their cruelty will ever be known, because the poor dumb animals cannot reveal it. But could the eyes of these men be opened, as were those of Balaam, they would see an angel of God standing as a witness to **testify against them in the courts above.** **A record goes up to heaven, and a day is coming when judgment will be pronounced against those who abuse God's creatures.**--PP 443 (1890). {2MCP 514.3}

Do we have a disposition to be cruel to animals? Why are we not to be cruel to animals?

What do you think about the language of a courtroom used here? Does that mean there is a legal courtroom in heaven and God's law functions like our laws?

No—to whom is such a description written? For those who are cruel to animals—and what level of moral development would such a person be? Level 1, and what is the only thing such persons respond to? Power and threats of punishment. This is not a description of the exact method and means of how heaven works, but a description penned for the reader who is cruel to animals to connote the idea that they cannot get away with such cruelty, that they will suffer for what they have done—but written in a way that will most likely bring a conviction and lead to repentance.

But it is true, there is a record, an exact record of each person's character recorded in the heavenly servers. Angels do stand witness in the royal courts of heaven to all that has transpired here upon earth. And there will be a day when all will be accurately judged—also known as diagnosed—let him who is wicked be wicked still and him who is righteous be righteous still.

MONDAY

The lesson title is *Test at the Tree*—what do you think when you hear this title? What ideas come to mind?

What kind of God is conveyed?

Which law lens do you hear this title through?

What was the purpose of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

What are the possibilities?



- Because God didn't know what they would do and thus God needed a means whereby God could discover whether they were loyal to Him or not? Is this the purpose of the Tree? Clearly NOT!
- Because God wanted to provide them a means to develop their capacities and solidify their characters.
 - God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; **but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton.** Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. **There could have been no development of character...** It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. E.G. White, Conflict and Courage 33

What law is involved in the issue of the Tree? Is it imposed law or design law?

- Those who look through imposed law lenses see an arbitrary test of obedience to rules, which requires infliction of punishment if one breaks the rules. Such a conclusion is false and is evidence that the one who holds it goes to the story with the false belief that God's law functions like human laws, rules imposed that require enforcement.
 - Thus they teach that God threw them out of the Garden as an imposed punishment for their disobedience—why is this horribly wrong?
 - Because it misrepresents God's actions of love, grace, mercy and redemption to be those of a brutal dictator and stern judge
 - God did not throw them out of the Garden to punish, but to redeem—how and why? What would have happened if sinners would have access to the Tree of Life? Would sin and suffering have been reduced? Would selfishness be cured? Or would the world be more horribly corrupted? Would suffering be extended? So, the expulsion from the Garden, was not punishment, it was therapeutic and merciful to REDUCE pain and suffering!
- The law involved at the Tree of Knowledge was not imposed law, it was Design law—it was the law of exertion:
 - **Strength comes by exercise.** All who put to use the ability that God has given them, will have increased ability to devote to his service. Those who do nothing in the cause of God will fail to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. **If a man should lie down and refuse to exercise his limbs, he would soon lose all power to use them. Thus the Christian who will not use his God-given powers, not only fails to grow up into Christ, but loses the strength which he already had; he becomes a spiritual**



paralytic. It is those who, with love for God and for their fellow men, are striving to help others, that become established, strengthened, settled in the truth. The true Christian works for God, not from impulse, but from principle; not for a day or a month, but during the entire life. {RH, May 23, 1912 par. 13}

Thus our Creator God, provided the simplest of means for them to think through the issues, exercise their abilities and mature and grow in godliness. But instead they believed a lie!

Thus the Tree was another manifestation of God's character of love!

Read last paragraph, "The division..." Do you hear the slant put on the quote? That God needed to see—as if God didn't already know. No, this was not for God to see, it was for them to exercise and grow, for them to test their abilities and choose the right thus strengthening their characters.

TUESDAY

What did Satan do to get them to fall? Was it a temptation of appetite? Adam and Eve were starving, hunger pangs were overwhelming and they just couldn't resist them?

Was it a temptation of intoxication—like psychedelic mushrooms? What was the temptation?

It was one of distrusting God's character—believing the lie that God was not good and could not be trusted and therefore they had to act to protect and promote themselves!

Eve believed the words of Satan, and the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors, and it was only by repentance toward God and faith in the promised Messiah that they could hope ever to regain the lost image of God. {RH, January 5, 1886 par. 8}

Through belief in Satan's misrepresentation of God, man's character and destiny were changed, but if men will believe in the Word of God, they will be transformed in mind and character, and fitted for eternal life. To believe that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16), will change the heart, and reproduce in man the image of God. {1SM 346.1}



The taking of the fruit was merely the behavioral outcome of believing the lie about God.

- Lies believed break the circle of love and trust
- Broken love and trust results in fear and selfishness
- Fear and selfishness results in destructive behavior (sins)
- Destructive acts damage mind, character, body—terminal condition

- Truth about God believed destroys lies and wins to trust
- Restored trust open heart and love poured in driving out fear and selfishness
- Restored love and trust results in acts of righteousness, sharing, giving, love and service
- Acts of righteousness results in growing in Godliness and witnessing God’s kingdom

But it all starts with coming back to the truth about God—which requires we reject the false imposed human law construct with its false legal salvation theology known as penal substitution.

WEDNESDAY

Read third paragraph, “Eve became overwhelmed...” Genesis 3:7 states, “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

What are the possible meanings to “they realized they were naked?”

- Their robes of light were gone and their bodies were not covered
- Their pure hearts were gone and they were conscious of guilt and shame and became self-focused thus noticing they were naked
- Under conviction of their own consciences they experienced fear and became self-focused and afraid and their souls/characters were naked and open without excuse, but this was displaced into their bodies and they tried to cover their naked bodies?

The lesson asks what they saw when their eyes were opened? What do you think they saw? They saw imperfection—why? Because all around them was filled with defects or because they now viewed reality through a different mental lens, one of fear and threat assessment, insecurity?

Why did they try and sew fig leaves together to cover themselves?

Why were they ashamed—was it because of physical deformity? Did they look in the mirror and see scars, lesions, deformity? What was deformed? Their characters! If they were still perfect in their minds, hearts, characters, would they have been ashamed?



How did God respond?

Did God condemn them? No—He called out to them and asked who told them they were naked—in other words God is saying, “Adam, you didn’t hear me mention you were naked. I am not the one pointing it out. It is your own conscience Adam!”

Then God went about initiating His plan to fix what Adam broke! How?

Read fourth paragraph in **THURSDAY’s** lesson, “There had to be...” Did anything strike you as questionable?

The lesson stated, “So, God provided an animal sacrifice to point to the Savior.” This sounds almost reasonable—in fact this is so close to being right that most Christians accept it without question. They even cite a Bible text to support this claim. But let’s check the Scripture for ourselves to see what it actually says:

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. Genesis 3:21

Does the text say God sacrificed an animal? Which is harder for God to do, create a living animal, or create a non-living skin of an animal?

If one wants to believe God sacrificed an animal here, one has to project that belief into the text because the Bible doesn’t actual say this.

Further, does the Bible even say it was an animal skin? If we want to project things into the text that are not there, we could just as easily project in that God provided a human skin, or an angel skin—I am NOT saying that is what happened, only that if we go down the trail of introducing ideas not in the text we can introduce all kinds of ideas.

Why would the authors, and so many Christians, assume that God killed an animal to provide them skins? What kind of God would kill to do this? Why would they think it would be done?

Because they have the view that God is the source of inflicted death as the just punishment for sin, and the animal would represent Christ and God would have to execute Christ in our place in order to provide us with salvation.



But this is all based on Satan's version of God's law. When one comes back to design law one realizes that God doesn't have to inflict death, God has to introduce life into a system that is already dying and it is not accidental that God provides a covering of skin WITHOUT God acting to kill. Jesus did not act to kill in order to provide us with a perfect robe of righteousness, Jesus surrendered Himself in love—Satan acted to kill! I do not think it is an oversight or accidental that the Bible describes God providing them a covering WITHOUT God acting to kill!

We must think critically, and question the so many deeply imbedding assumptions that sound so close to being true, but are yet based on the lie that God's law operates like human laws.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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