



Rebellion and Redemption Q1 2016 – Lesson 13

Redemption

SABBATH

Think about how the final events in Earth's history make sense in the framework of "The Great Controversy". I think this is the only context that we can make sense of them.

“ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away’ ” (Revelation 21:4, NKJV).

If God will wipe away every tear, might there be some tears shed to be wiped away?

From the lesson:

“People often ask, why did evil arise in the first place? Central to the answer is freedom. True freedom, true moral freedom, involves risk, because if persons (or beings) are truly free, then they must have the option to do wrong.” *Option to do wrong? Imposed or natural law lens? Is speeding wrong if you're not caught? Does Newton's 3rd Law of Motion care if you're caught?*

“Fair enough, but the next question arises: Why then didn't God just blot them out when they did wrong and spare the rest of us the horrible results of rebellion?”

The answer gets to the heart of the great controversy. As we will see this week, the Lord runs a kind of “open” government, and though much about Him and His ways are mysterious, He will resolve the great controversy in a way that will forever end all questions about His self-denial, goodness, justice, love, and law.” *God's government is not “kind of open” – it's OPEN wide. Anything we don't understand about it is because we could not conceptualize, appreciate, tolerate, comprehend the truth of it. See John 16: 12.*

SUNDAY

Binding Satan

What is it that “binds” us to Satan's side in the controversy?

1. Lies Believed about God's Character, Law, Trustworthiness, etc.
2. Our genetic sinful “Nature” passed on from our 1st parents.

What breaks those bonds?

1. TRUTH.
2. Application of Christ's Character, Donning the Robe of Righteousness, Dying daily to self,



replacing the heart of stone with one of flesh, circumcision of the heart, etc.

What will “bind” Satan after the 2nd Coming of Christ?

We could say that Satan has been bound to Earth since the Crucifixion. Since Calvary, human beings have been the only species that would listen to him. With no more humanity on Earth [righteous in Heaven & wicked killed by the glory of the 2nd Coming], where would he go, and what would he do?

Have you ever heard the theory that God will “bind” Satan to Earth for 1,000 years to ponder his sins? Does this make sense, given Scripture’s account of what happens after the Millennium? Isn’t it more reasonable to consider that with the Holy Spirit completely withdrawn from Earth, that Satan will be “bound in darkness” just like before Creation? He may even be in a “sleep” like his human followers, we don’t know.

MONDAY

The “Why” Questions

The lesson asks us to read Revelation 20: 4.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Rev. 20: 4-6. NKJV.

What will our role in “judgment” be? What does it mean to have judgment committed to you? Any other texts coming to mind? Daniel 7: 22, maybe?

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. Dan. 7: 21-23. KJV.

NOTE the difference in translations:

21 “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. 23 “Thus he



said: ‘The fourth beast shall be □ A fourth kingdom on earth, □ Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, □ And shall devour the whole earth, □ Trample it and break it in pieces. Dan. 7: 21-23. NKJV.

Which one is correct? Which one has a legal connotation? Which one sounds transformational? I think the lesson is on point regarding us being able to get our “why” questions answered, however, I believe most of our “judging” will still be regarding God’s methods & principles and how they were applied or rejected [i.e. the medical record model].

TUESDAY

Final Judgment.

From the lesson:

“In Bible times, there were two places for judgment: the city gate and before the king’s throne. The elders at the gate decided all the small cases, but the king decided all the large issues. His was the final word in ensuring justice. Similarly, the Bible pictures God enthroned as King of the universe, guaranteeing that justice is finally done (Rev. 20:11–15).”

What’s wrong with this comparison? See John 18: 36.

Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now **My kingdom is not from here.**”

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20: 7-15. NKJV.



The lesson asks “how do we understand these momentous events?” I echo that question.

WEDNESDAY

A New Heaven and a New Earth

What will make Heaven, “Heaven” for us? Streets of gold? Pure clean air/water? Healthy food? A mansion? No sickness or death? The presence of Christ? What about being surrounded with people who love you more that they love themselves? People who would sacrifice their place in Heaven if it made you happier?

Read Isaiah 30: 26 below.

Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, □ And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, □ As the light of seven days, □ In the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people □ And heals the stroke of their wound. NKJV.

This is the prophetic text that some use to support the theory that the Flood was caused by mankind, and not a judgment from God & He simply warned humanity for 120 years via Noah that the calamity was coming. They believe that the Earth “made new” will be just as it was at Creation. I’m not so sure on this one, though it does have some merits.

Envision the Holy City landing on Earth. Revelation 21 tells us it will be the shape of a cube [12,000 furlongs = 1,500 miles]. Imagine a city 1,500 miles high [7,920,000 feet].

On 12, October 2012, Felix Baumgartner climbed in to a capsule attached to a weather balloon, rose to 127,851 feet [23.4 miles], and jumped. He reached a speed of 846.3 mph in his descent. He jumped from 1/100th of the height of the Holy City [? the 1st floor?].

Does this give any perspective?

We simply cannot picture what God has in mind for the restoration of Creation.



But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, □ Nor have entered into the heart of man □ The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” I Cor. 2: 9. NKJV.



THURSDAY

No More Tears

When Scripture tells us “God will wipe away every tear ...” [Rev. 21:4], doesn’t it make sense there will be some tear that need to be wiped away? If we spend 1,000 years in Heaven pouring over the medical records [the books], and being trained in the diagnostic process [judging humans & angels], we will, undoubtedly, have some questions, and some tears, when we see why some of our loved ones are absent.

I’ve been thinking that our time on Earth functions like medical school. Medical school provides a *foundation* to be built on. When physicians finish their didactic training, they still don’t know much about their eventual specialty.

Out time in Heaven will function like a medical residency / clinical training. Most physicians choose a specialty that entails another 4-10 years of clinical training. A lot of building on the foundation of medical school occurs here.

But the learning [hopefully] isn’t finished yet. Most physicians like to stay current with techniques/research, and attend continuing education classes. Also, by this time in their career, are starting to encounter other practitioners that need teaching along the way. This is how the rest of eternity will function – always learning and always teaching [angels and other intelligent “sons of God”] about the healing remedy Christ provided us in His life, death, and resurrection.