



Preparation for the End Time Lesson 2 Q2 2018 Daniel and the End Time

presenter: Tim Jennings (announcements at end)

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “The Lord had great plans...” What about today? Does any of this have application to us today?

They were to be a kingdom of priests—what about Christians today?

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1Pet 2:4,5

This is very symbolic language—let’s decode it:

- Who is the living Stone, which in the next verse is identified as the cornerstone upon which the temple is built? Jesus
- Who then are the living stones that accept or come to the chief cornerstone? Christians!
- What is a spiritual house called? A temple
- Who are this holy priesthood? Those who are like Jesus in character
- What are spiritual sacrifices? Sacrificing self-righteousness, selfishness, pride, greed, lust, all of the defects of character, our very selves to God to be purified and healed. These sacrifices can take on specific actions, like going without in order to help another, but it is primarily internal character transformation.

Ancient Israel was to be a nation of priests to witness to the world for what purpose? To bring people the knowledge of Yahweh, for what purpose? For all the people of the world to experience healing of their hearts and minds.

What about Christians today, what is our purpose as priests? To be witnesses of God to the world to reveal the truth about His kingdom in order to win people—by love and truth—to God for the healing of hearts and minds.

How did Ancient Israel do? And what happened to ancient Israel? They went into Babylonian captivity.

Does ancient Israel’s Babylonian captivity have any correlation and application to what has happened to Christianity? Has Christianity gone into Babylonian captivity?

Remember the message from Jesus to God’s people at the end of time?



What is the first message from the 3 angels in Revelation 14?

"Be in awe of God, and glorify him by living his methods of love, because the hour has come for everyone to make a judgment about God, and worship the Designer, Creator and Builder who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water– all of which operate upon his law of love." vs. 7 *The Remedy*

Then the second message:

A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." Rev 14:8 NIV

And then in Revelation 18 we read:

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "**Come out of her, my people**, so that you will not share in her sins... vss. 2-4.

So, the church is called to leave Babylon... The Jews went into captivity to Babylon, why? Because they worshipped false gods continually. And the priesthood of believers at the end of time, the Christians are called to leave Babylon, would this imply the church has also become a captive of Babylon?

How has Christianity become a captive of Babylon?

Well, the chief god of ancient Babylon was Marduk. This description of Marduk is from the Encyclopedia Britannica:

Originally, he seems to have been a god of thunderstorms. A poem, known as Enuma elish and dating from the reign of Nebuchadrezzar I (1119–1098 BCE), relates Marduk's rise to such preeminence that he was the god of 50 names, each one that of a deity or of a divine attribute. After conquering the monster of primeval chaos, Tiamat, he became Lord of the Gods of Heaven and Earth. All nature, including humanity, owed its existence to him; the destiny of kingdoms and subjects was in his hands...

Marduk's star was Jupiter, and his sacred animals were horses, dogs, and especially the so-called dragon with forked tongue, representations of which adorn his city's walls. On the oldest monuments Marduk is represented holding a triangular spade or hoe, interpreted as an emblem of fertility and vegetation. He is also pictured walking or in his war chariot. Typically, his tunic



is adorned with stars; in his hand is a sceptre, and he carries a bow, spear, net, or thunderbolt. Kings of Assyria and Persia also honoured Marduk... in inscriptions and rebuilt many of their temples.

Marduk was later known as Bel, a name derived from the Semitic word baal, or “lord.” Bel had all the attributes of Marduk, and his status and cult were much the same....

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Marduk>

What were the attributes of Marduk:

- Creator and supreme god
- He was the god of weather
- He was dragon-like and had a forked tongue—symbolic of a liar?
- He was the god of fertility

And, Marduk became known as 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, lightning, 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 rose from the dead to bring life to earth.

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 us life? What was wrong with this god?

Baal required appeasement—Baal required something be offered him in order to appease wrath, prevent punishment and engender blessings.

Baal became:

- Zeus to the Greeks
- Jupiter to the Romans—remember Marduk’s star was Jupiter
- Thor to the Norse people
- Jesus Christ to all those who worship a god that like Baal requires appeasement, payment, propitiation of a human sacrifice in order not to kill

This is why God prophesied through Malachi that before the second coming of Christ the prophet Elijah must come again. Why? Just like Elijah confronted Baal worship millennia ago, so too the



people of God today, must confront Baal worship and call people to choose between two versions of God.

Just like Israel went into captivity to Babylon—so too Christianity is today in the captivity of Babylon. Minds are held captive by Marduk, by Baal, by Satan himself when the lie is taught that God's law functions like human law and thus God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering unless He is paid the blood of a human sacrifice.

Today, we are to be like Elijah, calling people out of Baal worship, calling people out of Babylon, out of this false legal theological system of worship and back to worship "Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water."

So, the second angel's message from *The Remedy*:

"Don't trust Babylon the Great—a symbolic description of religions that misrepresent God—as it is fallen into the lies about God and intoxicates the world with its pagan views of God, maddening the people with its adulterous idea that God coerces and must inflict punishment if not properly appeased." Rev 14:8

SUNDAY

Read memory text at top then first paragraph, "He who is faithful..." What does this mean and how do we apply it?

Does it mean:

- If you compromise with a little makeup you will eventually become an adulteress?
- If you are a woman and you wear pants you will eventually become a lesbian?
- If you are a Christian and you drink a glass of wine or have a sip of champagne at New Year's you are going to become an alcoholic?
- If you drink coffee or eat meat or cheese that you are going to betray Jesus?

What does the text mean about being faithful in little things?

What about:

- If you are given 50 cents more than is correct in change and you knowingly keep it?
- You spread rumors about people?
- You flirt with people not your spouse?
- You teach that God is required to use His power to inflict punishment upon unrepentant sinners?

What is the difference between the second list and the first?



- The first list are all external behaviors, the things legalists and rule keeper like to focus on
- The second list are internal, motives, attitudes and beliefs of the heart

Read third paragraph, which is about Daniel and his three friends refusing to eat the king's meats and drinks the king's wines: "Although the text directly..."

Is the link clearly there? Was this issue primarily about dietary health issues? No, this was about worship, about giving honor to the God of Israel and ensuring that no honor was given to Marduk, the Babylonian god.

The foods given them to eat were first blessed by Marduk, thus if Daniel and friends ate that food, then any wisdom, health, or benefit that Daniel and his friends experienced would have been attributed to Marduk. Daniel wanted to make sure that Yahweh was honored, the only way to do this was to not partake of anything that was offered to Marduk.

So, this had very little to do with the laws of health and a lot to do with worship, loyalty, honor, and intention to be a good representative for God.

Do you think Daniel and friends were vegetarians before they became captives in Babylon? No! They would have faithfully participated in Passover and ate the lamb. This wasn't about vegetarianism, but about worship.

Does that mean a vegetarian diet is not beneficial? No, it is, but this text is not primarily about that, nor a very good text to support vegetarianism.

What is the most important reason God was able to work with Daniel and friends—as the lesson says because of their faithfulness, which resulted in what in them?

Faithfulness in them resulted in a *clear conscience*! They didn't have guilt, fear, doubt, shame plaguing their minds. Thus, they remained sensitive to the movements of God's Spirit and could hear the still small voice leading them.

The bottom pink section asks if we have been faithful to what we have been given?

Can we be faithful to God's kingdom if we are promoting the Babylonian view of God? No!

I would suggest what undermines faithfulness to God are any lies we believe that prevent us from knowing Him, that causes us to be afraid of Him, that causes us to seek to be protected from Him, that causes us to create theologies to hide us from Him.

Thus, the entire penal legal theological construct is pagan—it is part of the lie, it is part of Babylon, it is what Christians who are promoting the end-time message are to be refuting, rejecting and leading



people out of.

The legal message makes God's law out to be imposed rules which require imposed punishments. Not only do we create theologies to hide us and protect us from God, which keeps barriers between us and our Savior, but the legal view increases fear, increases doubt, increases insecurity, and causes much spiritual harm and injury—how?

Because the legal view ultimately puts rules over principles and thus constantly causes internal conflicts. It focuses on deeds, rather than motives of the heart, it focuses on legal accounting rather than restoration of hearts and minds into righteousness. Examples:

- Keeping Sabbath in such a way to destroy love and trust—wanting to crucify Jesus for healing on Sabbath
- Telling an adolescent girl who came to vespers that because she was wearing pants she could not stay for the worship service
- Calling a university student out for wearing jewelry
- Refusing to allow students who value this picture of God from receiving worship credits
- Telling high school students that a teen who committed suicide will go to hell and cannot be saved

Yes, the Christian church has been captive to Babylon—intoxicated with the view that God is like Marduk and Baal. We stand at the verge of eternity and have the privilege of standing up like Elijah and giving the true message about God, of calling people to reject the dictator views and come back to worship our Designer, Creator, Redeemer, and Healer!

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “All over the world...” Does God have real foreknowledge? Can God know the specific choices of people before they make them, or only the possible choices?

This has become a big divide in some theological circles.

There are those who teach God cannot know our choices because if He actually knows them, then, as they conceive of reality, we are no longer free, but programmed by God.

The various views on this that I have examined state that God can know what He will do before He does it, but that God cannot know what other intelligent beings will do. Thus, they don't have a problem with Christ choosing to die on the Cross and God predicting it because it was a choice Christ made. They don't even have a problem with the grand landscape of nations rising and falling because they conclude God took charge of His actions or choices behind the scenes to set up or overthrow nations. But they would state God doesn't know the specific choices of individuals until they make those choices.



I understand the concern of those who take the position that God doesn't know our choices before we make them. They want to protect the character of God—as a God of love. They want to promote the principles of God's kingdom—love and they recognize love can only exist in an atmosphere of freedom. And thus, they have concluded that to know our choices before we make those choices, in some way undermines our freedom and thus destroys love, thereby undermining God's character of love.

I empathize with their desire and understand their motive. The problem is that they have two errors in their position: first they have equated foreknowledge with causality—this is primarily because they don't understand what actually is causal in the choice, they think knowledge or awareness is causal, but it is not. Second, they have ignored evidence that explicitly demonstrates God does have specific knowledge of individual human choices before those choices are made.

Examples of God knowing specific human choices before those choices were made: genuine and God didn't know who would choose what, why didn't Noah build a fleet of arks?

- Joseph's dream about his brother's bowing down to him—how did God know that they would choose to bow to Joseph?
- The dreams of Pharaoh's cup bearer and baker, how did God know what Pharaoh would choose to do with each of them? These were Pharaoh's choices, yet God foreknew it.
- Isa 45:13: "I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty." How did God know, 150 years before Cyrus was born, what Cyrus would choose to do?
- Ps 22:18: "They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." How did God know what the soldiers would do with Jesus' garment? This was a specific choice made by those men at that time, yet God foreknew it.
- How did Jesus know Judas was going to betray Him and accurately predicted it before Judas did it?
- How did Jesus know that Peter would deny Him, not once, but three times before Peter did it?

No, the evidence is clear, God does know our choices before we make them—but the amazing, awesome, beautiful thing is—we are still free to make those choices and God doesn't treat us differently. Look at Judas, did Jesus treat Him differently than the other 11? No, Judas chose differently than the other 11, but Jesus was the same kind, gracious, loving, forgiving Savior to Judas as to Peter and the rest.

So Isaiah says:

(Isa 46:9,10) "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times **things not yet done**, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:



Here is an historic quote from the book *Patriarchs and Prophets* that I like:

He that ruleth in the heavens is the one who sees the end from the beginning--the one before whom **the mysteries of the past and the future are alike outspread**, and who, beyond the woe and darkness and ruin that sin has wrought, beholds the accomplishment of His own purposes of love and blessing... {PP 43.1}

If you believe God has the past and the future spread out before him in the same way, doesn't that mean He knows the details of the future choices of people as accurately as we know the choices of people recorded in the past?

TUESDAY

The lesson compares issue of the golden image to the beast of Revelation 13.

What are the similarities and lessons?

In both circumstances coercive pressure from the state is brought to bear to force people to worship.

Is coercive pressure a sign, an evidence, a mark, that we can utilize to identify Satan's false religious systems when and where they present?

Then what would that mean for Christian theologies that teach Jesus will one day return with a rod of iron to punish the nations, to inflict pain and suffering upon all the enemies of God?

Would such a teaching be in harmony with God and God's kingdom, or if we see such teachings do we recognize the mark of the beast?

Greg Boyd, writes in the book *Servant God*, the following:

The unique way Jesus was a social-spiritual revolutionary, we see, was rooted in his preserving the contrast between the Kingdom he came to establish and the reigning kingdoms of the world. To appreciate fully the importance of Jesus' unique way of revolting, we have to fully appreciate how absolute is the contrast.

This contrast was put on center stage when Jesus was on trial. Pilate asked him if he was the king of the Jews (John 18:33), to which he replied: "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders" (John 18:36, NIV). Jesus informed Pilate that the domain over which he was a king was nothing like the power-over governments of the world—it was on a completely different plane and from "another place" (John 18:36). And then, most significantly, he substantiated his claim by drawing Pilate's attention to the fact that *his servants were not fighting* in his defense.



The most fundamental feature of earthly governments is that they are willing to use whatever force is necessary to protect and advance their self-interests. As Jacques Ellul insightfully argued, violence is intrinsic to all power-over systems. Governments, states, and nations cannot exist in this fallen world without the use of violence. Any government that tried to love, bless, and serve threatening enemies rather than retaliate against them would not survive long. This is precisely why Jesus appealed to the absence of violence among those who were citizens of his Kingdom as proof that his Kingdom was completely different from the kingdoms of the world. Rather than using a sword against enemies to defend and advance its cause, the Kingdom “that is not of this world” relies on self-sacrificial love to advance its cause. p. 376,377

The author of the book *The Desire of Ages* understood this. Consider this quote and see if you agree or disagree?

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and **truth and love are to be the prevailing power.** {DA 759.1}

It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, **that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.** {DA 759.2}

What does this mean?

What is the prevailing power in God's government?

Truth and love—how are truth and love prevailing powers?

Where do truth and love have their impact? In hearts and minds.

What kind of war are we in? 2Cor 10:3-5 a war for the hearts and minds of intelligent beings.

What does God want? Love, trust, agreement, loyalty, understanding and friendship.

Can you get love, trust, agreement, loyalty, understanding and friendship by coercion, threats, infliction of punishment? No! What is the only way? To present truth in love and leave people free to decide for themselves!



Do you see again the deep lie, the enslavement of Christians into a false system, the system of Babylon and Marduk, the idea taught that God must inflict punishment in order to be just. This is Satan's view of God, this is Babylon, this is Baal worship—and it is to be rejected by the remnant, those who are preparing to meet Jesus!

This story of the three men not bowing to the idol, helps us understand what it means that the just, or righteous, shall live by faith.

The just, are those who choose, in governance of themselves to do the just or right thing, and then trust God with the outcome, i.e. live by faith or trust in God.

These three men had to choose, bow or don't bow, that was their choice, but how it turned out was not. What Nebuchadnezzar would do was his choice, and what God would do was God's choice.

WEDNESDAY

If the three men didn't trust God, if they didn't choose to do what was right and refuse to bow, would God have had the same powerful opportunity to reach Nebuchadnezzar with the truth?

Their faithfulness allowed God to intervene and reach Nebuchadnezzar—how about us today? Do we ever go through fiery trials or tribulations?

If we stay faithful, trusting God while we choose to do what is right in governance of self—can God use those circumstances to reach others?

If we have this perspective, does it help us in the midst of trials?

In the third paragraph it states, “The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God...”

Did Nebuchadnezzar keep Passover? Worship on Sabbath? Get circumcised? Sacrifice at the Temple in Jerusalem?

What does it mean that he was a child of God, but in OT times, didn't do any of these things?

Does it inform us that being a child of God is about circumcision of the heart, not the body, about renewing the mind, healing the inner man, not ritual?

That the entire Levitical system was not necessary for salvation—it was only theater to act out the reality of God's plan of salvation. Thus God says through Hosea:

I want your constant love, not your animal sacrifices. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me. Hosea 6:6



THURSDAY

The lesson is about Daniel's faithful and upright character and the fact that his enemies could find nothing against him, unless it involved the law of God. Thus the trap they set for him.

The lesson asks us to compare Daniel's loyalty to God and how his enemies sought to trap him by that loyalty, and the righteous at the end of time.

Can you see any parallels? What?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss question 3 about being born again...what does it mean?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW TV PROGRAM: Each Tuesday watch our new TV Program—The Dr. Tim Jennings Show on WBTN.TV Network. God to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

New Blogs—If you don't follow us on Facebook, then be sure to visit our website we are posting new blogs again, the go up every Tuesday, recently we posted:

April 6, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at PUC, Pacific Union College

April 6,7 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at St. Helena SDA church

April 12, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Hixson United Methodist Church: **Addictions and the Adolescent Brain**, Adolescence is a time of marked vulnerability to addictions. Explore the brain's reward pathway, healthy activities which activate this pathway and how addictions hijack normal reward circuitry and damage the brain. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

April 28, 2018: New Two Lecture Seminar: 3PM at Hamilton Community Church:
The Sanctuary & Feast Days: A Hidden End-Time Message

Talk 1: The OT Sanctuary: Decoding the Secret Meaning

Have you ever studied the Old Testament sanctuary and found yourself confused? Have you struggled to understand the meaning of all the various symbols and rituals? The OT sanctuary was a play, an acted out theatrical production directed by God for the purpose of revealing His plan to save humanity from sin. In this presentation we will decode the symbols of the sanctuary to reveal the reality of God's amazing plan to save humanity from sin.

Talk 2: The Day of Atonement and the Feast Days: God's Hidden Plan for Human History

Ancient Israel was instructed by God to celebrate annual feasts or festivals (holy-days, i.e. holidays) to which all the people were to participate. These festivals occurred in a certain order and were to be celebrated every year. Ancient Israel, in addition to being real historic people who did real events, were also God's people to reveal God, His kingdom, methods and plan for saving humanity from sin. In this presentation we will discover, God's plan for human history, hidden in the symbols of the ancient feasts.

May 4-5, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Grace Fellowship, York PA, in conjunction with the AACC

May 25, 26, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in London England at the Stanborough Park SDA Church, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL

July 27-28, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentation at New Life Church, Colorado Springs CO, in conjunction with the AACC

September 14,15, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be Keynote Speaker at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown, Delaware.

September 27-29, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

September 30-Oct 2, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at NAD of SDA Mental Health Education retreat for pastors at Kettering, OH.



Mental Health Matters

Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing

The Mind- God's Design & What Went Wrong Thursday, May 10, 2018

The human mind was designed with separate and distinct faculties to operate in a beautiful harmony. Something has damaged that balance and caused pain, suffering and illness. Discover God's design for the mind, what went wrong and how to restore balance to your mind.

The Aging Brain Thursday, August 13, 2018

What happens to the brain as we age? This presentation will examine the evidence-based lifestyle and non-pharmacological interventions which will protect your brain and diminish your risk of dementia. Copies of Dr. Jennings brand new book, *The Aging Brain*, will be available.

Fix for Failing Families Thursday, September 13, 2018

Families are under attack, more than 50% of marriages end in divorce, in the U.S. almost 900,000 children are victims of abuse each year, and 77% of childhood deaths are caused by one or both parents. Discover principles and practice to bring healing to your family.

The Science of Belief Thursday, October 12, 2018

In this seminar we will examine the science of belief and demonstrate how modern quantum understanding provides a scientific basis for the impact belief, including prayer, has on our physical health and can even impact the physical world around us.

Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt.

The God-Shaped Brain Thursday, December 13, 2018

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew!