



Oneness in Christ Lesson 8 4Q 2018 Unity in Faith

by Tim Jennings

The lesson this week is about unity in our faith and specifically the lesson focuses on unity in doctrinal belief within the SDA church.

The lesson points out that in 1888 the SDA church went through a period of great debate over various doctrines and EG White emphasized a couple of points that the lesson highlights in last two paragraphs: “that we should NOT expect everyone in the church to agree on every point of interpretation on all Bible texts. But she also emphasized that we should seek unity of understanding when it comes to essential Adventist beliefs.”

I wanted to share EG White’s perspective on the aftermath of the 1888 GC:

In Minneapolis God gave precious gems of truth to His people **in new settings. This light from heaven by some was rejected with all the stubbornness the Jews manifested in rejecting Christ, and there was much talk about standing by the old landmarks.** [What is being described here? God was trying to reveal truth in new setting, a new perspective—what might that be? Design law—that was it! Righteousness by faith moving away from the legal declaration to the actual experience of heart change—being made righteous. But, many of the leaders refused to advance in truth, and they held the false legal view and shipped EGW to Australia. There she wrote her greatest works DA, COL, MB, SC, all of which teach design law. What was used to obstruct the advance in truth? A claim that they had to hold to tradition, the old landmarks of truth. We have had the same argument made to us. Note what EGW says next] But there was evidence they knew not what the old landmarks were. There was evidence and there was reasoning from the word that commended itself to the conscience; **but the minds of men were fixed, sealed against the entrance of light,** because they had decided it was a dangerous error removing the "old landmarks" **when it was not moving a peg of the old landmarks, but they had perverted ideas of what constituted the old landmarks...** {CW 30.1} {1888 518} [This false argument is still happening when we present the Sabbath, Sanctuary, Atonement, Second Coming, final end of sin and sinners all through the design law view, some accuse us of moving the old landmarks, but we are not removing the old landmarks we are elevating and refining them to be understood in their true light.]

One of the landmarks under this message was the **temple** of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. **The light of the Sabbath** of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. **The nonimmortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks. All this cry about changing the old landmarks is all imaginary.** {CW 30.2} {1888 518}



Now at the present time God designs a new and fresh impetus shall be given to His work. Satan sees this, and he is determined it shall be hindered. [What do you think the new and fresh impetus to be given to the work is? What is it that Satan opposes and how? It is the light of the 3 angels, the light of God as our designer, the light of design law overthrowing imposed law. And Satan opposes it by getting people to interpret all these doctrines through the imposed law lens. Thus, while we might be right on the fact, if we present it through imposed law lens, we still misrepresent God and His kingdom.] He knows that if he can deceive the people who claim to believe present truth, [and make them believe that] the work the Lord designs to do for His people is a removing of the old landmarks, something which they should, with most determined zeal, resist, then he exults over the deception he has led them to believe. The work for this time has certainly been a surprising work of various hindrances, owing to the false setting of matters before the minds of many of our people. **That which is food to the churches is regarded as dangerous, and should not be given them.** And this slight difference of ideas is allowed to unsettle the faith, to cause apostasy, to break up unity, to sow discord, all because they do not know what they are striving about themselves. **Brethren, is it not best to be sensible? Heaven is looking upon us all, and what can they think of recent developments? While in this condition of things, building up barriers, we not only deprive ourselves of great light and precious advantages, but just now, when we so much need it, we place ourselves where light cannot be communicated from heaven that we ought to communicate to others.**--Manuscript 13, 1889. {CW 31.1} {1888 518}

The men in responsible positions have disappointed Jesus. They have refused precious blessings, and refused to be channels of light, as He wanted them to be. The knowledge they should receive of God that they might be a light and blessing to others, **they refuse to accept, and thus become channels of darkness. The Spirit of God is grieved.** Never can the heart be stirred up with envy, with evil-surmising, with evil reports, but the intellect becomes unbalanced, and cannot decide correctly any controverted point. **The attributes of Satan which have found entrance to the soul, cannot harmonize with truth.** {1888 519.1} [What men in responsible positions was she referring to? Would these be ordained ministers, conference officials? Could this be true today? Could this state of affairs have altered the course and effectiveness of the SDA church? Could this be a reason for the delay in Christ's return that many SDA's believe has occurred? Then what does it mean in regard to allowing those in leadership to determine our beliefs and thinking?]

What are essential Adventist beliefs?

The lesson highlights five essential truths for our church—the five S's:

- Salvation in Jesus
- Second coming of Christ
- Sanctuary
- Sabbath
- State of the dead



The EGW quote above stated that these doctrines were to be presented in a new light: what is the new light into which these ideas are to be presented?

The light of our Creator God who designed His universe to operate in harmony with His character of love and whose law is design law.

What happens if we have these truths presented through imposed law lenses?

Then we still misrepresent God and promote the beastly system of coercion, this is the grand deception of Satan—not on the specific doctrine but the false legal way these doctrines are presented.

We will see that when we present any doctrine through the imposed law lens that we are not presenting the final message to the world, but are still presenting the lie of Satan, the beastly system. It is only when the doctrines are presented through God's design law that the truth about God is seen and Satan is exposed.

SUNDAY

Salvation in Jesus

Read second paragraph, “The Apostle Paul told...” This is well said—atonement is at-one-ment, God working through Christ to bring us back into oneness with Him.

How can the truth that salvation through Jesus alone be presented in such a way as to obstruct salvation through Jesus?

By presenting it through the imperial law lens, and teaching that Jesus had to die to pay a legal penalty, assuage or turn aside the Father's wrath and go to heaven to plead with His Father to prevent His Father from destroying us.

This view, commonly called Penal Substitution Theology is a lie and is based on the lie that God's law functions like human law and thus justice requires God to punish sinners for sin and Jesus took our sin upon Himself and God punished Jesus in our place. We then can claim Jesus' legal payment in our behalf and be legally declared righteous in heaven, even though we remain unrighteous on earth.

This entire theology is false and the SDA church was called to reframe the truth of salvation in Jesus alone through the design law reality of the 3 angels:

- When Adam and Eve sinned God was not changed, God's law was not changed but the condition of humanity was changed from being in harmony with God and His design law, to being out of harmony with God and His design law
- This change constituted a terminal condition for human beings—we are born in sin and conceived in iniquity, and are dead in trespass and sin
- No human born of natural descent could cure this condition



- Jesus was born in a unique way, the combination of a sinful woman and God the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus had a humanity infected with fear and selfishness, and could be tempted in every way just like we are. But He was able to resist the temptations and develop a perfect sinless human character thereby restoring God's design for life into the species human.
- According to Hebrews "once he was made perfect he became the source of salvation for all who obey him." (5:8) Wasn't he always perfect? No, he was always sinless, Bible perfection is about perfection of character and character cannot be created it must be developed by the choices of the sentient being. Jesus, as a human, exercising only the abilities of a human, with a human brain, developed a perfect, sinless human character and simultaneously eliminated the infection of fear and selfishness that was tempting Him. He rose in a perfected and healed humanity and now offers to share His eternal life with us. We can become partakers of the divine nature.
- For you computer geeks—Jesus restored God's original source code in humanity and eliminated the corrupted code.
 - Think about it—if you have corrupt code in your computer—no amount of external actions will benefit you—no review by a board of peers who make a proclamation of non-infected code will change what actually is happening within the computer. To fix the problem someone has to get into the code and eliminate the malicious script and rewrite the original operating system.
 - When an update comes to your computer and icon appears, "do you want to accept this update—yes or no." For the update to do any good it must be accepted. This is what we just read about truth coming to our minds—the truths must be accepted and incorporated into our minds and hearts and this is how we are individually updated, changed, matured, transformed. But if we reject the truth, say no—just like the computer, the infection gets worse.

EGW put it this way:

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. **The law reveals the attributes of God's character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition.** [Why? Because God's law is the law upon which life is built to operate. The law of respiration cannot be changed to meet a drowning man under water.] **God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption.** "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. {DA 762.1} [God was reconciling man to himself, not having Christ die to reconcile God to humanity. Nothing was wrong with God, something was wrong with humanity that needed fixing.]

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and **developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have **remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.** More than this, Christ **imbues men with the**



attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very **righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."** Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2} **Where is the righteousness of the law fulfilled? IN THE BELIEVER!!! What is God's justice? Doing what is right, and what is the right thing to do when a loved one is dying? To save them, to heal them, to provide remedy for their terminal condition!!!!]**

The legal lie of penal substitution theology cheats people from genuine healing. It teaches them that the problem is a legal one and the solution needs to happen, not in the heart, but in the courts of heaven, that God must have a payment made to Him. That in heaven you will be declared righteous but on earth you will not be made righteous, you will remain unrighteous. Thus, the penal view creates a false security, undermines trust in God, increases fear, and prevents genuine healing of heart and mind.

We must present salvation in Jesus through design law lenses if we are to fulfill our end-time mission!

MONDAY

Second Coming of Christ

The first paragraph states, "All who love Christ look forward with anticipation to the day they will be able to share face-to-face fellowship with Him."

What does the Bible say happens or occurs that enables us to share this face-to-face relationship with Jesus?

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him **purifies himself, just as he is pure**. 1John 3:2-3

We share face to face fellowship because we are transformed to be like Him!

The lesson points us to the parable of the 10 virgins, 5 wise, 5 foolish, all have lamps; all are looking for the coming of Christ (Bridegroom); but only 5 have oil in their lamps and are ready when Christ comes.

What is the right understanding of this parable?

What is the oil that the five wise virgins could not share with the foolish and why couldn't they share it?

Here is an historic SDA view—do you agree:



The oil of grace gives to men the courage, and supplies to them the motives, for doing every day the work that God appoints to them. **The five foolish virgins had lamps (this means a knowledge of Scripture truth), but they had not the grace of Christ.** Day by day they went through a round of ceremonies and external duties, but their service was lifeless, **devoid of the righteousness of Christ.** The Sun of Righteousness did not shine in their hearts and minds, and they had not **the love of the truth which conforms to the life and character, the image and superscription, of Christ.** The oil of grace was not mingled with their endeavors. Their religion was a dry husk without the true kernel. **They held fast to forms of doctrines, but they were deceived in their Christian life, full of self-righteousness,** and failing to learn lessons in the school of Christ, which, if practiced, would have made them wise unto salvation.-- Review and Herald, March 27, 1894. {Christian Service 263.1}

Now is the time for the careless to arouse from their slumber. Now is the time to entreat that souls shall not only hear the word of God, but without **delay secure oil in their vessels with their lamps. That oil is the righteousness of Christ. It represents character, and character is not transferable.** No man can secure it for another. Each must obtain for himself a character purified from every stain of sin. {Testimony to Ministers 233.2}

How can the truth of the righteousness of Christ be misrepresented through the legal lie?

By teaching that we are legally declared to be righteous in the courts of heaven but are not made righteous here on earth.

The design law truth is that God is working through Christ via the Holy Spirit to reproduce Christlike perfection in us.

Some ask, if character is not transferable then how can we obtain the character of Christ.

By beholding we are changed—this is a design law. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and love. Christ sends His Spirit to inspire us to a better life, to enlighten us with truth and then we must decide to choose to accept or reject the truth, when we choose the truth the Holy Spirit strengthens us to live the truth, our characters change, our brains rewire, and we are able to comprehend and experience more truth, we grow and develop to be more and more like Christ.

Thus, Jesus is the pattern that we behold and via the indwelling Spirit we become like Jesus as we choose to accept, agree, surrender, and apply Jesus and His design laws to our lives.

From *Our Father Cares* by EGW:

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18. {OFC 26.3}



When enlightened by the Spirit of God, the believer beholds the perfection of Jesus, and beholding this perfection, he rejoices with joy unspeakable. In self he sees sin and helplessness; in the Redeemer sinlessness and infinite power. **The sacrifice that Christ made in order that He might impart to us His righteousness**—this is a theme upon which we may dwell with deeper and still deeper enthusiasm. Self is nothing; Jesus is everything. . . . {OFC 26.4} [What was the purpose of the sacrifice of Christ? To impart His righteousness to us—what does this mean? To infuse us with His perfection—to actually change us back into righteousness—this is not legal it is actual.]

The transforming power of grace can make me a **partaker of the divine nature**. On Christ the glory of God has shone, and **by looking upon Christ, contemplating His self-sacrifice,** remembering that in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, the believer is drawn closer and closer to the Source of power. . . . {OFC 26.5}

How essential that we have the **enlightenment of the Spirit of God; for thus only can we see the glory of Christ, and by beholding become changed from character to character in and through faith in Christ.** . . . [How are we changed? Upon what law is this change taking place? The law of worship, we become like what we admire, love, adore, choose, partake of. And the law of liberty and love, we are left free to choose what we ingest, not just physically but mentally, what we take into our minds and hearts. This is why Jesus is called the Word, which was made flesh. We are to partake of His flesh and blood, meaning we partake of the truth (word) of who He is and accept His character of love!] He has grace and pardon for every soul. As by faith we look to Jesus, our faith pierces the shadow, and we adore God for His wondrous love in giving us Jesus the Comforter. . . . {OFC 26.6}

The sinner may become a child of God, an heir of heaven. He may rise from the dust, and stand forth arrayed in garments of light. . . . **At every step of advance, he sees new beauties in Christ, and becomes more like Him in character.** {OFC 26.7} [How do we become a child of God—a child who possesses the attributes of God, the qualities of God, the character, methods, principles of God and thus is recognized as being part of the family of God? By beholding, loving, and choosing Jesus!]

The love that was manifested toward him in the death of Christ, **awakens a response of thankful love,** and in answer to sincere prayer, the believer is brought from grace to grace, **from glory to glory, until by beholding Christ, he is changed into the same image.** {OFC 27.1}

TUESDAY

Jesus' Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

What do you understand this doctrine to be? It is often referred to as the Investigative Judgment—the investigation before Christ returns.



This is classically presented through the imposed law lie, which has God/Jesus in the role of a Judge examining record books in heaven of the recorded deeds of the people on earth and deciding who have had the legal application of Jesus' blood paid to their account, and if there are any sins that have not been paid for and thus not removed from the record. In that case, the person is unsaved and will be punished by God accordingly at the end of the 1000 years.

But what is actually recorded in the records? Since this is a unique SDA doctrine, why not let one of the founders of the church and developers of this doctrine tell us:

Remember, your character is being daguerretyped [photographed] by the great Master Artist in the record books of heaven, as minutely as the face is reproduced upon the polished plate of the artist. What do the books of heaven say in your case? **Are you conforming your character to the Pattern, Jesus Christ?** Are you washing your robes of character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb? "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as **his work shall be**" [Revelation 22:12]. . . . {TSB 62.1}

Every passing hour of the present is shaping our future life. These moments spent in carelessness, in self-pleasing, as if of no value, **are deciding our everlasting destinies**. [What decides our everlasting destinies? Is it a tribunal in heaven, God's review of record books, or the choices we are making here and now?] The words we utter today will go on echoing when time shall be no more. **The deeds done today are transferred to the books of heaven, just as the features are transferred by the artist onto the polished plate**. [Why are the deeds transferred? Is this suggesting a list of acts, or is it describing how the acts react upon the character and get burned into the heart, mind and character and they are in this way transcribed into the heavenly records? Keep reading....] **They will determine our destiny for eternity, for bliss or eternal loss and agonizing remorse**. [What will determine our destiny? The choices we make which determine the character we form. Do we choose to trust Jesus, believe God is like Him, accept the truth of His design law and choose to follow Him where He leads?] **Character cannot be changed when Christ comes, nor just as a man is about to die. Character building must be done in this life...** {TM 429.3}

What is recorded in the records of heaven? An exact transcript, copy, of our characters!

If you have a video camera taking a live shot of you and it is broadcast on live TV and we see that on the TV you have dirt on your face—what must occur in order for you to be seen with a clean face on the TV?

- Do we wash the TV?
- Do we record the image and then go in with a digital enhancer and photoshop the picture?
- Do we wash your face?

Thus, what must happen to have sinfulness removed from our record in heaven is to have sinfulness removed from our characters on earth!



This is known as the cleansing of the sanctuary, which is described in Daniel 8:14. But notice this description by the same SDA founder:

The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by **Malachi, are descriptions of the same event;** and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25. {FLB 207.4}

This is referring to the investigative judgment, the cleansing of the sanctuary, and Malachi 3:1-3 describes what occurs, what is being cleansed:

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will **purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver...**

The Levites—the priesthood of believers, we are being cleansed.

What does this have to do with investigation or judgment? Daniel seven describes the same event. In Daniel 7:13 Jesus is coronated but on earth a war is ongoing between the forces of evil (little horn) and the saints, Daniel 7 reads:

I beheld, and the same horn **made war with the saints**, and prevailed against them; 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. Dan 7:21,22

This has been misread through the imperial law lens to mean God pronounced a legal judgment in favor of the saints and thus a legal process is going on in heaven.

But that is not what is said, and is not what is meant.

The Daniel text tells us the horn warred against the saints and was defeating them. What kind of warfare was going on?



For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up **against the knowledge of God**, and we take **captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor 10:3-5

What kind of war? Where is it being fought?

This is a war between truth and lies, centering on God's character, and being fought in our minds! Amazingly, Paul makes the connection to the cleansing of the Temple even closer and shows how the Temple is connected to this war going on in our minds:

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he **sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God**. 2Thes 2:1-4

Paul is describing the exact same events as Daniel 7 in which evil powers war against the saints and oppose God. In the aftermath of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, did this man of lawlessness ride into heaven overthrow God, set himself up in God's temple in heaven, and proclaim himself to be God? No, where did this happen? In the Spirit Temple! In our minds!

Satan sets himself up in our minds and proclaims himself as God when we teach the penal substitutionary view of God—that God's law functions like human law and God is required to use His power to inflict pain, suffering and death!

The cleansing of the temple, as described in the Bible, is the cleansing of our minds from the lies about God, which wins us back to trust and results in our cleansing from sin.

Daniel is told in vision that an evil power would arise that would lie, distort, misrepresent God, and defile the Spirit Temple by getting humans to accept, worship, and teach a false picture of God. According to our understanding of interpreting prophetic time, it would take 2,300 years before enough truth would be recovered for Christ to empower His people on earth with judgment (discernment) to break free from the lies and be cleansed in their minds and characters.

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of **his judgment** has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Rev 14:7

Today is the time in universal history for people of God to reject the imperial law lies about God which have infected and contaminated the Spirit temple and make a right judgment about God! This



right judgment wins them to trust, they see Christ in His right light and by beholding Him they are changed, thus their Temple is being cleansed and God's character is reproduced in them. They give Him glory by revealing His character and worshiping the designer and rejecting the dictator views of God.

WEDNESDAY

The Sabbath

The commandment says, Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... what does this mean?

If we built a golden calf and had an orgy of pagan worship during the Sabbath hours, have we made the Sabbath less holy?

We cannot keep the Sabbath holy for we didn't make it holy and we can't make it unholy—we can only keep *ourselves* holy.

And can a person keep themselves holy only one day in seven?

The Hebrew translate "it" in the Sabbath commandment is: הוּא, הִיא [huw', beyond, Pentateuch), hiy' /hoo/] pron 3p s. A primitive word; TWOT 480; GK 2085 and 2115; 38 occurrences; AV translates as "that", "him", "same", "this", "he", "which", "who", "such", and "wherein". 1 he, she, it. 1a himself (with emphasis).¹

This allows for a completely different interpretation: "Remember the Sabbath day keeping *yourself* holy." Or, "Remember the Sabbath day *in order to stay* holy."

According to Jesus, the Sabbath was made for man—for what reason? Was it in some way to aide humankind in holiness, in keeping ourselves holy?

And what is holiness? Holiness is the state of being holy—which is what?

I would like to suggest being holy is being in harmony with God in all aspects of our being. Thus, being holy is living in harmony with God's character, protocols, methods—His design laws!

And how is the Sabbath related to this?

When was the Sabbath created (remember the Sabbath was *made* for man)?

At the end of creation of planet earth and this solar system.

What was happening in the rest of the universe during that week?

¹ Strong, J. (2001). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.



War—what kind of war and over what?

And there was **war** in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Revelation 12:7-9

The Greek translated “war” is **πόλεμος** [*polemos* /**pol**-em·os/], from which we get polemic—it is a war of words, a war of ideas. And Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44).

And what has been the focus or target of Satan’s lies and where is this war fought?

For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does.⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up **against the knowledge of God**, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2Corinthians 10:3-5.

The war is over the truth about God—whether we can trust God, whether God is worthy of our love, devotion, loyalty.

God wants our love, trust, loyalty and devotion—can any being get love, trust, loyalty from another by threat, by coercion, or by infliction of punishment for not loving?

In fact, what happens to love, trust, loyalty and devotion when threats are used? Love and trust are broken and rebellion ensues.

So, if Satan can get intelligent beings to believe that God is coercive, threatening, the source of inflicted pain, suffering, torture and death then love and trust break down and rebellion against God ensues.

How did Satan get intelligent beings to conclude this about God?

By alleging God’s laws are not the design protocols the Creator built life to operate upon, but instead function no differently than the rules enacted by human beings—imperial laws that require the ruling authority to inflict punishment for disobedience.

Then how does the Sabbath fit in?

What does it say about God, that in the context of an assault on His right to rule, rather than using His power to force all beings to bow to Him, He instead created a day of freedom to think?



Who was watching as God created planet earth?

“Where were you
when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you possess understanding!
Who set its measurements—if you know—
or who stretched a measuring line across it?
On what were its bases set,
or who laid its cornerstone—
**when the morning stars sang in chorus,
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?** Job 38:4-7

The heavenly beings were watching as God created earth and a war over God’s right to rule was raging.

Why would God create planet earth at this point in universal history? To demonstrate by actions (give evidence) that Satan’s allegations were wrong.

Earth was created as the pinnacle of Godliness, a world of procreative power to operate upon love. A place where angels could look to find answers to the questions raised by Satan:

“We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.”
1Corinthians 4:9

Adam and Eve were created in perfect love to give of themselves in love and create beings in their image and rule over the planet in other-centered love. In sinless perfection, Adam and Eve would not have had children to abuse or enslave, but to care for and nurture, thus the way they govern this world would a microcosm of the universe revealing how God lovingly rules His entire creation.

And after 6 days of creation God says to all the watching beings, “You have heard the allegations against Us, you have seen the evidence we have just given, now universe—I rest My case! Take 24 hours aside and think for yourselves, come to your own conclusions and decide who you are going to trust.”

Days 1-6 of creation week we learn God has power—day seven reveals the character of the One who wields the power: God presented evidence (truth), in love, leaving His creatures free to decide for themselves. No coercion, to intimidation, no pressure—freedom!

So then what is the Sabbath commandment about? It is about how one lives their life—in harmony with God and His design for life—do we present truth in love and leave others free or do we use imperial rules and coerce others with threats of punishment?



Do we present the Sabbath as evidence of God's character and each week we remember God as Creator and His laws as the laws upon which reality is built and do we love His character of love and choose to practice His methods in our lives? Or, do we accept the lie that God's laws are like Satan alleges, rules imposed which require inflicted punishments and thus misrepresent God and turn the Sabbath into an arbitrary test of obedience filled with restrictions and prohibitions, which incite fear of punishment and undermine our love and trust in God?

THURSDAY

Death and Resurrection

Read first paragraph, "At Creation..."

The first premise to be addressed with the question of the state of humanity is whether at Creation God created humankind immortal or were they created mortal?

What are the implications if God created Adam and Eve with immortality?

- Does God have foreknowledge?
- Did God know they would sin?
- Then what kind of god would give immortality to beings who would rebel and suffer for all eternity?
- If you say God does not have foreknowledge—He didn't know what would happen—then does He not have wisdom to know what might happen and take wise actions to prevent His children from placing themselves in a situation where some will suffer for all eternity?

Not only does the doctrine of immortality of the soul contradict Scripture it makes God out to be either a horrible being or an inept being—there is no other option. In other words, there is no possibility for God to be a perfect and good God if He created Adam and Eve with immortality.

What about the idea that at death nothing goes to heaven?

Hmmm.... what is recorded in the records of heaven?

Consider Paul's words:

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. [From where is Jesus coming? Heaven, and who is Jesus bringing with Him? The saved—then where are the saved after they fall asleep in the first death? In heaven with Jesus...but keep reading]** ¹⁵ 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 certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ 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.** [who are these that are arising out of the grave? These are the same dead that are coming down out of heaven. How is it they are in heaven and also in the grave? We are tripartite, body, soul, spirit/ soma/psyche/pneuma, matter/individuality/energy, like a computer to be operational need all three hardware/software/electricity At death the software/individuality is stored on the heavenly servers, Lamb's book of life, the body decays to dust and the life energy returns to God who gave it. At the resurrection God brings the servers with the individualities of the saved from heaven, creates new bodies and downloads their individualities/souls into the bodies and gives them energy and they live again] ¹⁷ 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. 1Thes 4:13-17

FRIDAY

read and discuss question 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Watch *The Dr. Tim Jennings Show* on WBTN.TV Network. Go to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

December 1, 2018: Aging Brain seminar in Arlington, TX at the LoneStar Auditorium on the UT Arlington campus, 9am-4:30pm, preregister @ tiny.cc/BriainRegistration

January 4-6, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking for the Florida Conference of SDA Women's Convention in Orlando, FL.

February 2-3, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking Christ's Church of Oronogo, MO.

February 22-March 9, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be in Australia speaking in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Adelaide, Avondale, Sydney, Livingston, Perth, and Melbourne.

April 3-6, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Sophia Bulgaria.

Mental Health Matters

Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing

In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church

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!