



## The Book of Revelation Lesson 4 1Q 2019 Worthy is the Lamb

by Tim Jennings

### SABBATH

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Read second paragraph, “The vision of chapters 4...” What does this mean, “God’s control of history and of the plan of salvation.”

Does God control history?

In what way does God control history and in what way does God not control history?

Are people puppets on strings that God pulls and makes them do what He wants?

As we read about the rise and fall of nations as foretold in Scripture, does that mean God made it happen this way? Does it mean that the rulers of Babylon had no desire for conquest, for riches, for domination of others, but God inspired and moved on their hearts to incite them to war, pillaging, rape, killing, enslaving and abusing others as all nations did during war?

So, if God did not inspire them to such acts, what do we mean by God being in control of history?

Is there a difference between God being in control of history and God being in control of the plan of salvation? Yes, why? Because the plan of salvation is God’s initiative, God’s action, God’s intervention and thus originates and flows out from God. It is God in governance of Himself.

But what about human history—does God control it? Has God make history happen the way it has happened? Was God in control of Adam and Eve’s rebellion into sin? Was God in control of the violence before the flood and the refusal of all but 8 to get on the ark? Was God in control of David’s seduction of Bathsheba and murder of Uriah? Was God in control of Egypt enslaving the Hebrews?

Consider this quote from EGW in the *SDA Bible Commentary*:

The Lord is regarded as cruel by many in requiring His people to make war with other nations. They say that it is contrary to His benevolent character. But He who made the world, and formed man to dwell upon the earth, **has unlimited control over all the works of His hands**, and it is His right to do as He pleases, and what He pleases with the work of His hands. Man has no right to say to his Maker, Why doest Thou thus? There is no injustice in His character. He is the Ruler of the world, and a large portion of His subjects have rebelled against His authority, and have trampled upon His law. . . . He has used His people as instruments of His wrath, to punish wicked nations, who have vexed them, and seduced them into idolatry (Ibid., 50, 51). {1BC 1117.2}



So, is God in control of the nations? If so, then why not just have the wicked nations be holy nations to start with and avoid all the conflict, war and need for any type of wrath?

Doesn't the fact that nations rebel against God indicate He is not in control of what they are doing?

Then what does it mean he has unlimited control over all the works of His hands?

While God is not in control of what *the people* are doing, He remains in control of all the laws upon which the universe operates, which enables them to do what they do. One of those laws, is the law of liberty—God grants His intelligent beings genuine freedom—even if that freedom is a violation of His design, law, will and purpose.

So, God is in control of reality—the laws and protocols upon which it all operates, but does not control the actual choices of people.

From the same author:

**God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience, and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God. {GC88 591.3}**

What kind of law is being described that Satan uses to achieve his ends? Imperial, imposed law.

Is there a theology that uses force and fear to rule consciences? Penal Substitution Theology—the god of penal theology uses power to punish, torture, kill and calls it justice, this incites fear and coerces the conscience. Thus, Satan sets himself up in God's temple—the hearts and minds of people—proclaiming himself to be God.

How are we to mature, to grow, to train and teach our children to obey? Are we to teach them to live in an imperial law model, in which they fear breaking a rule lest some punishment be inflicted upon them? To learn the right lists of do's and don'ts so that they no longer think of how reality works, but merely abide by a codified system of conformity?

Consider these quotes:

**The discipline [which means education, discipling] of a human being who has reached the years of intelligence should differ from the training of a dumb animal. The beast is taught only submission to its master. For the beast, the master is mind, judgement, and will. This method, sometimes employed in the training of children, makes them little more than automatons. Mind, will, conscience, are under the control of another. {2MCP 707.1}**



**In matters of conscience the soul must be left untrammelled. No one is to control another's mind, to judge for another, or to prescribe his duty. God gives to every soul freedom to think and to follow his own convictions.** "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). No one has a right to merge his own individuality in that of another. **In all matters where principle is involved, "let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind"** (verse 5). **In Christ's kingdom there is no lordly oppression, no compulsion of manner.**--DA 550, 551 (1898). {2MCP 707.3}

**In the work of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom.** {DA 466.4}

So, in what way is God in control?

- In control of Himself, His actions, designs, methods and the sustaining of His laws
- Because His laws are the laws upon which reality exist, as people pass beyond the point of responding to the movements of God (truth and love) and God releases them to their choice, they suffer the results of being out of harmony with God and His design for life and ultimately, all deviations from God's design (sin) will be eliminated and God's perfection restored through God's methods of truth, love and freedom.

## SUNDAY

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Read second and third paragraph, "The apostle looked through..." In Ezekiel 10 we see the throne of God, which is a sapphire throne and below the sapphire throne are cherubim and wheels within wheels.

What does this symbolize?

Remember that the Ten Commandments were initially written on Sapphire:

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. Exodus 24:9, 10

Note two verses later:

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." Exodus 24:12

Literal reading, "Tablets of THE stone..."



What stone, *the* only stone referenced in the text, which was two verses before, the sapphire stone.

Now, note Numbers 15:37-39:

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>38</sup> “Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a **blue thread in the tassels of the corners.** <sup>39</sup> And you shall have the **tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them...**

What was the thread to remind them of? God’s commandments! and Why blue thread? Because the 10 Commandments were written on Sapphire, blue stone!

And the commandments were not imposed, imperial laws like humans make, but the communication of the law of love, God’s design law for human health and happiness. It is Satan who has clouded the minds of men to consider that God’s law functions like human law, thus He removes the law of love from religion and replaces it with imperialism.

The Harlot of Revelation:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

<sup>3</sup> So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> **The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold** and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. <sup>5</sup> And on her forehead a name *was* written:

MYSTERY,  
BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.  
Rev 17:1-5

The false church, the harlot woman is adorned in Purple, Scarlet and Gold:

But the High Priest of God wore four colors:

“They shall take the **gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread**, and the fine linen, <sup>6</sup> and they shall make the ephod of **gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread**, and fine woven linen, artistically worked. Exodus 28: 5,6



What color does the Harlot not have? Blue—which means the false church rejects the law of God, which means she rejects the law of love, design law and have imposed law instead.

But note what the breast plate of the High Priest, which contained the 12 stones which represents the peoples of the earth, tied to the heart, the chest of the High Priest, was bound to the High Priest by what?

They shall bind the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod, **using a blue cord**, so that it is above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and so that the breastplate does not come loose from the ephod. Exodus 28:28

Which represents the law of love! God's law of love is what binds us to Him, only His design does this.

The false religions of the world, including false Christianity deny God's law of love, they don't deny the Ten Commandments, but teach them as imposed rules rather than principles of love. Thus no blue thread.

So, what does a throne of sapphire represent? God's government of love—and what is the throne above, in other words, what is below the throne? A wheel within a wheel rotating, which are symbolic representations of what? The law of love in action, the principle of giving, the never ending circle of love.

And the cherubim—amongst the wheels symbolic of God's intelligent creatures operating in harmony with His law of love under the governance of God's kingdom of love.

The lesson notes that the central issue in the great controversy between God and Satan is about who has the right to rule.

How has Satan's attack on God's right to rule been advanced? What is the core, underlying issue that Satan alleged in heaven that caused disaffection and led angels and humans into rebellion against God?

Here is a commentary in the book *The Desire of Ages* what do you think?

**In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. {DA 761.4}**



What kind of law requires the infliction of punishment? Imperial/imposed law, the types we sinners make up. Breaking design law does not require punishment, it requires healing lest suffering and death naturally result.

But, if Satan is correct, and God's law does require God to use power to inflict punishment for disobedience, then from where does pain, suffering and death originate? From God, and God is the one from whom we must be protected. This is the lie of Satan.

It violates God's design law of liberty—love can only exist in an atmosphere of freedom. Threaten someone with punishment for not loving you and love is destroyed and rebellion ensues.

Understand this—rebellion from oppression, from coercion, from compelling of conscience, from threat that violate individuality is Godly! Because if we surrender to the oppression, the coercion we will have our individuality destroyed and be unfit for heaven, thus to rebel against such treatment that results in restored liberty and autonomy is Godly.

Consider if someone is drowning you, it is Godly to rebel against that, without seeking to dominate or destroy the other person, and get your head above water. If someone is submerging your individuality under theirs it is Godly to rebel against that treatment and get your freedom back.

This is design law, we cannot avoid the damaging consequences to being drowned, either in water, or under the unhealthy control and domination of another.

Consider this quote from EGW, notice the design law realities described, see if you agree or disagree:

If we mistake the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God we are led astray by the foolishness of man's wisdom. [I would submit the core to human wisdom is imposed law with is authoritarian control—all human systems operate in this way—this is man's wisdom, surrendering to some high authority for fear of punishment] Here is the great danger of many in -----. **They have not an experience for themselves.** They have not been in the habit of prayerfully **considering for themselves**, with unprejudiced, unbiased judgment, questions and subjects that are new and that are ever liable to arise. **They wait to see what others will think.** If these dissent, that is all that is needed to convince them that the subject under consideration is of no account whatever. Although this class is large, it does not change the fact that they are inexperienced and weak-minded **through long yielding to the enemy, and will always be as sickly as babes, walking by others' light, living on others' experience, feeling as others feel, and acting as others act.** They act as though they had not an individuality. **Their identity is submerged in others; they are merely shadows** of those whom they think [are] right. **Unless these become sensible of their wavering character and correct it, they will all fail of everlasting life; they will be unable to cope with the perils of the last days. They will possess no stamina to resist the devil, for they do not know that it is he. Someone must be at their side to inform them whether a foe or a friend is approaching.** They are



not spiritual, therefore spiritual things are not discerned. They are not wise in those things which relate to the kingdom of God. {2T 129.2}

So, what is God wanting for us and from us? For us to think, to reason with Him, to understand His character, His methods, His principles, His design laws and choose to trust Him and follow Him in how we live. This means we must reject the human law model, the imposed law model, the penal/legal model. This view has darkened the minds of humanity and has prevented the final message of mercy from going to the world. Thus Jesus waits for us to wake up from our slumber and embrace Him and His true kingdom of love.

## MONDAY

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Read Revelation Chapter 4:6 to 5 from NIV84:

<sup>6</sup> Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup> The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.”

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

<sup>11</sup> “You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.”

<sup>5:1</sup> Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” <sup>3</sup> But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. <sup>4</sup> I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. <sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> He came and took the scroll from the





right hand of him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased men for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation.

<sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they sang:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

What is being described?

Jesus is coming to take the throne, be recognized as worthy to rule, is being worshipped and he takes a book and opens it.

Does this sound familiar from some other previous description in the Bible?

Read Daniel 7:9,10, 13,14

<sup>9</sup> “As I looked,  
“thrones were set in place,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.  
His clothing was as white as snow;  
the hair of his head was white like wool.  
His throne was flaming with fire,  
and its wheels were all ablaze.  
<sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing,  
coming out from before him.  
Thousands upon thousands attended him;





ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,  
and the books were opened.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

What is being described?

Are both Daniel and Revelation are describing the coronation of Christ as the ruler of heaven and earth and the opening of the book with seven seals?

The lesson asks about the 24 elders, wondering what they represent?

Hmmm... Is there anything else in Scripture in which we have 24 elders or leaders of God's people mentioned?

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.** <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. <sup>14</sup> **The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.** Rev 21:10-14

We have New Jerusalem with 12 gates and on the name of each gate were the twelve tribes of Israel, 3 on each side—what is being depicted here?

In the OT Israel were the actors in God's system to act out the plan of salvation. The 12 tribes represented the peoples of the entire world, those from the East, West, North and South. God has people from the entire world, from all people groups, who are part of His church, the Holy City, represented by the 12 tribes.

But, the Holy City is also described as being built on 12 foundations:

The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Rev 21:14

And the twelve apostles represent all those who have founded their lives upon Jesus Christ.



Thus the Holy City is composed of the saved from all human history from all over the world who have been renewed into Christlikeness and the 24 elders may represent these people who have returned to God through the various human agencies that have taken the gospel to the world.

Then, what is the New Jerusalem?

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev 21:2

Who is the bride of Christ?

## TUESDAY

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What is contained in the book sealed with seven seals? Read second paragraph, "In the words of..." Do you agree?

Revelation 5:1-3 from *The Remedy*:

Then I looked, and I saw that he who sits on the throne had written out the history of the world before the world began, and sealed it up. It was symbolized by a book in his right hand, with writing within, and sealed with seven seals.<sup>2</sup> And I watched as a mighty angel asked in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the book of God's foreknowledge, and intervene in human history?"

My view is that the book is the book of God's foreknowledge, of what would happen before anything was created, which God recorded and sealed. Then God created angels and directed some of them to begin accurately recording history as it unfolded. Then, at the proper point in time, which I believe was in the recent past, Jesus began opening the book sealed with seven seals and revealing God's foreknowledge of history and all beings compare it with what the angels recorded and it is demonstrated that they are exactly the same.

Why would this be necessary? What might be a benefit of this?

To reveal that God's foreknowledge is perfect and yet we all still have absolute freedom. God's character, government, methods, design laws are all revealed to be perfect.

## WEDNESDAY

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Why is the Lamb found to be worthy? Because He was slain—what does this mean?

Why is the Lamb worthy because He was slain, yet Peter who was also slain or Stephen who was slain are not worthy?



Because, Jesus not only was slain, but had all power available to Him, the others did not.

So, what is revealed uniquely about Jesus being slain that is not revealed about other mere humans who have been slain?

Have you heard that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely?

This is true for all those who operate on Satan's principles of fear, selfishness and imposed law with coercive inflicted punishments. And Satan has alleged that God is just like this, requiring sacrifice from others, but not willing to sacrifice Himself.

Consider this quote from *The Desire of Ages*:

In the light of the Saviour's life, the hearts of all, even from the Creator to the prince of darkness, are revealed. **Satan has represented God as selfish and oppressive, as claiming all, and giving nothing, as requiring the service of His creatures for His own glory, and making no sacrifice for their good.** But the gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart. It testifies that the thoughts of God toward us are "thoughts of peace, and not of evil." Jeremiah 29:11. {DA 57.1}

What did Jesus' death reveal? That not only is God willing to sacrifice Himself for the good of His creatures but that all power does not corrupt Him. That He would even allow His creatures to torture and kill Him rather than use His power to stop them.

Is Jesus safe with all power? Is He worthy of all power?

Read first paragraph, "As Christ the Lamb..." All authority was given to Christ—can you think of another time in the Scripture when this was said to have happened?

Jesus knew that the **Father had given him authority over everything** and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. John 13:3-5 NLV

Some version say all power was given to Jesus, but regardless, when all authority, or all power was given to Jesus in this passage what did He do with it?

He washed dirty feet—what is this symbolic of? This is symbolic of washing away sin.

What do you think Jesus does in Daniel 7 and Rev 4/5 when all authority is given to Him?



He is in His heavenly sanctuary and begins washing away sin—what does this mean? He begins removing recorded history? No! He cleanses hearts and minds preparing us to meet God face to face. This is what Jesus does with His authority or power.

Second paragraph states, “With His blood, He has paid the ransom for fallen human beings and offers them all the hope of redemption and the promise of a future we barely can imagine.”

What does this mean?

To whom is the ransom paid?

Is it paid in red corpuscles? So, what does it mean?

Jesus said that unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood we don’t have any part with Him—what is He talking about?

Who receives the “blood” in this metaphor of Jesus’ in John 6? We do, does that give an indication of who gets the ransom price of blood?

What does a ransom do? It is the price necessary to set one free from captivity.

What holds human beings in captivity? Lies about God that we believe and our own carnal natures.

What is the price to set us free? The truth about God to destroy lies and win us to trust and a new perfect, sinless human nature. Jesus provides both of these to us as a free gift and His blood is a symbolic representation of this.

Thus, the ransom price was paid to us to provide us what was actually needed in reality to fix the sin-damage in us.

## **THURSDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “In the outpouring...” What does this mean?

What is Jesus working to save us from? Sin, where does sin occur or exist? Does it occur or exist in God or God’s law? Or does it occur and exist in our hearts and minds?

And what is sin? It is deviation from God’s law or design for life. So if Jesus wants to save us from sin, which is deviation from God’s law or design, which is occurring in us, where must He work?

And thus, the Holy Spirit is described as working or dwelling where? And taking what to whom?



The second paragraph states, “The outpouring of the holy Spirit meant that Jesus had appeared before the Father and that God had accepted His sacrifice on behalf of humanity.”

How do you hear this?

Do you hear it as, the Father required a legal payment and the payment of Jesus was sufficient for the Father now to be willing and legally able to dispense the Holy Spirit? That description is Baal worship. It is paganism gussied up in Christian language. It is a god who requires some payment be made in order to dispense blessings—paganism.

Or do you hear it as, God was satisfied that Christ had achieved what was necessary to heal and restore humanity to His perfect design and thus the Holy Spirit could be dispatched to take the remedy Christ had procured and apply it in all who respond in trust to the truth Jesus revealed?

## **FRIDAY**

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read and discuss questions

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**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.