



The Book of Revelation Lesson 8 1Q 2019

Satan, a Defeated Enemy

SABBATH

Remember:

- Revelation is highly symbolic—every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind.
- We don't have to interpret every detail of the symbols correctly to be saved
- Salvation is found in Jesus, trusting Him, opening the heart and being reborn by the indwelling Spirit—saved people can disagree on technical points of interpretation—it's okay
- No interpretation should be accepted that represents God in a character different that Jesus revealed, or which has God violating His design laws of love and liberty

Read Memory Text Rev 12:11:

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

What does it mean?

- Is the blood of the Lamb literal or metaphorical? Is it red corpuscles?
- Does the blood stand for life or death or both?
 - The blood is symbolic of the perfect righteous character—life of Christ that was developed as the Remedy for our sinfulness. This perfect sinless life was developed by Jesus, as a human, and the complete victory was achieved at the cross when love (the law of life) defeated fear and selfishness “by his death he destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light” 1Tim 1:9,10. The blood can also represent the truth about God as revealed in Jesus's life; the truth which dispels the lies which restores us to trust.
- How is the blood of the Lamb related to overcoming the devil?
 - We partake the flesh and blood (John 6), which is representative of the truth about God which wins us to trust and then receive via a real indwelling connection by the Spirit the life of Jesus—the motives, attitudes, desires, thoughts of Christ so that we love what He loves, we become like Him as we choose to identify with, cherish, value, embrace the life of Jesus.
- What is the word of their testimony?
 - Would they give the same teaching about God that Jesus gave?
 - Would they not only teach the truth about God and His character and methods of love, but also would they live out the principles of God in their lives?
- What is revealed by “they did not love their life so much as to shrink from death?”
 - Would it mean a change of heart from survival drive to love for others?
 - Would this be healing of their characters, restoring them to righteousness?



- Would this be taking away the damage of sin and restoring the perfection of Jesus?
- Would this be setting right that which is wrong? Which is called justification.

Is any of this possible by human willpower and human effort alone?

SUNDAY

Read Revelation 12:1-5:

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. (NIV84)

What does the woman represent? In this case, the people of God—God’s church of that day.

What is represented by the Sun and Moon?

The Sun represents the love and righteousness of Christ, but the Moon has a couple of possible interpretations. It can be interpreted to mean of the OT which taught about the righteousness of Christ, but it the Moon can also stand for the promises of God. In other words, the woman stands on the promises of God. This comes from:

Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness— and I will not lie to David—that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.” Ps 89:35-37

What does the crown of 12 stars represent? The twelve patriarchs, twelve tribes and alludes to the 12 apostles, all of whom were leaders/founders of God’s church of their time.

What is symbolized by a pregnancy and about to give birth? The incarnation of Christ.

Who is the red dragon? Satan

What is symbolized by the seven heads and ten horns?

The beast in Revelation 13 also has seven heads and ten horns, but the dragon has crowns on the seven heads, whereas the beast has crowns on the ten horns, why the difference? What is symbolized by this difference?



Well, what is symbolized by the heads and horns and the number 7 and 10?

Seven is a spiritual number, a number that relates to worship, to completion. Ten is a temporal number associated with nations and states: the ten toes of the multi-metal idol representing 10 nations. It represents a worldwide or complete number of national or temporal powers. Whereas, seven represents spiritual powers.

We have some indication of this in Revelation 13 where one of the heads have blasphemous names, which means they assume God's role or misrepresent God. One of the heads of the beast that receives a wound and is healed, not one of the horns, and we have multiple identifiers that we will explore in a later lesson, that indicate that head refers to the Roman Catholic Church and its wounding in 1798 when Berthier took the Pope captive at the end of the 1260 years.

So, if one head is specifically identified as the Roman church, what might the other 6 heads represent that are part of the dragon and the beast?

Further in Revelation 17 the seven heads are seven hills, and hills in the Bible were represented as places of worship. Ancient temples and shrines were built on hills and God called his place of worship "my holy hill" or Mt Zion. (Dan 9:16, Ps 2:6, 15:1, 24:3, Joel 2:1,

Could it be the other major false religious systems of the world that dominate and are part of the beastly system of deception?

- Paganism/Heathenism
- Atheism
- Eastern mysticism
- Judaism (after the rejection of Christ)
- Islam (which traces its origin back to Ishmael and his twelve sons and Muhammad was the last prophet or formally organized it)
- Roman Catholicism
- False Protestantism

If this is true, why does the dragon have crowns on the heads but the beast has crowns on its horns?

What is Satan's primary goal for rulership? Is it not to be worshipped as a god? But the beast system never claimed its rulers were gods to be worshipped; they claimed to be agents of their god and their power came not through seeking to get people to believe they were god, but through the power of coercion, the power of arms, the power of the state, by enforcing their false beliefs and practices.

So, the crowns represent ruling authority or power—Satan claims to rule as a god, who has the right to be worshipped, thus the crowns on the heads of the dragon beast. Whereas the beast of Revelation 13 claims to be the enforcer of its false god and thus the crowns on the horns.



If this is right, why did EGW in the last paragraph, say, “Thus the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.”

Because pagan Rome devolved into false god worship as a source of its power where the Caesars eventually claimed to be living gods and their power was derived from their god-status. So, in a lesser degree the dragon beast. with crowns on the heads, represents pagan Rome.

MONDAY

Read Revelation 12:7-9:

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ 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. (NIV84)

What kind of war was this? The Greek word for war is *polemo*, from which we get polemic, a war of words or ideas. Satan is the father of lies—he wars by infecting the minds of intelligent beings with falsehood in order to change loyalty, pervert hearts, damage minds, and corrupt characters. The war between good and evil has never a war over who is powerful.

And when was he cast to the earth?

Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; Eze 28:17 NIV84

When was Satan hurled out of heaven? There are two views on this:

- At the opening of the war in heaven
- At the cross

The Ezekiel text above, supports Satan was cast out of heaven and to the earth when he corrupted himself at the beginning of the GC in heaven—before mankind existed!

My view is that there are actually two castings out or down, one at the opening of the Great Controversy and the second at the cross. And both had a specific purpose in God’s plan to win the war of ideas and secure the universe in perfection.

The casting out at the opening of the Great Controversy in heaven.

What condition was the earth in at that time?

Consider this quote from EGW, does it fit the timeline we get from Scripture:



Angels on probation had been deceived by Satan, and had been led on by him in the great rebellion in heaven against Christ. They failed to endure the test brought to bear upon them, and they fell. **Adam was then created in the image of God** and placed upon probation. {Con 18.2}

If this is correct, then the timeline may go like this. Satan began his war of words undermining the character of God in heaven *before* the creation of earth. One of his allegations was that he was equal to Jesus and it wasn't fair that Jesus could go into councils with the Father that Lucifer wasn't invited into.

Why was Lucifer not invited into the councils that Jesus was included in?

- God lives in unapproachable light 1Tim 6:16, unapproachable by whom? By any finite being—God is infinite and finite beings cannot process infinity it would destroy us. This is why Lucifer was not allowed in.
- But why did Lucifer think he should be?
- If an infinite God, who is love, wants the closest intimacy and fellowship possible with His creatures and His creatures cannot enter into infinity, what must happen? A member of the Godhead leaves infinity and enters linear existence in the form of a physical created being—that member what Jesus. Jesus presented Himself in the form of an angel in order to bring the intelligent beings into the closest connection with God possible.

So, Satan alleges equality with Christ and that God is unfair and arbitrary in setting rules that prohibit Lucifer from going into the councils that Jesus can go into. If you were God in this setting what evidence might you provide?

Might Jesus, the member of the Godhead, whom Satan alleges equality with, begin to demonstrate He is not a created being but the Creator? But before Jesus does this, might God permit Lucifer the opportunity to demonstrate his claimed supremacy and equality to Jesus?

So, Lucifer is cast out to this earth and it is a formless void full of darkness—and Satan can do nothing.

Then Jesus comes and in seven days makes a world teeming with life, all operating upon the law of love a microcosm of the universe, with Adam and Eve, two new beings made in God's image with procreative powers governing the planet. All designed to give evidence that God is love, that Jesus is God and that God rules on other-centeredness.

Read first paragraph, "Satan was cast out of..." So, Satan is cast to the earth at the beginning of the rebellion in heaven and he is unable to create, but has a front row seat as Jesus creates. But after the creation of humanity, and Adam's fall, is Satan restricted to the earth, or is he able to travel to heaven?



The first chapter of Job demonstrates he is still traveling to heaven and tempting the angels there with his lies.

What about today—is Satan still traveling to heaven and tempting angels? Why or why not?

What happened that changed his ability to do this?

Jesus said, “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all **men (not in the Greek, supplied by translators)** to myself.” John 12:31,32

- Who is the prince of this world? Satan
- From where is he being driven out? –from the hearts and affections of all who embrace the truth Jesus reveals
- Who is drawn to Jesus when He is lifted up? Please note, the word “men” is supplied, it should read will “draw all to myself.” Who would that include?
- Col 1:20, “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

So, Satan was cast out of heaven at the beginning of the GC in order to demonstrate his claims, which he failed to do, and in order for Christ to demonstrate He is Creator. But Satan, was cast out of the affections of all intelligent beings outside planet earth at the cross.

Read second paragraph, “By His death...” So, is Satan restricted to earth by God using a force shield to keep him here, or is he restricted by the fact there are no intelligent beings anywhere else in the universe who will listen to his lies? In other words, all the other intelligent beings have been settled into the truth and won’t give Satan a moment of their time.

Is this restriction an arbitrary restriction, or a design law restriction?

And what was it that helped the angels in heaven come to this conclusion and close Satan out of their hearts? Was it not the truth that Jesus revealed and Satan being exposed?

Do human beings need to see this same truth?

But, do human beings need something more from Jesus than the angels needed?

What more do we need?

We need the truth to dispel lies and restore trust that the angels needed but we also need a new sinless nature or character operating in perfect harmony with God’s design law of love.

Can any human, other than Jesus, provide such a perfect character? No, but Jesus provides both to sinful humans. He provides the truth that exposes Satan as a liar and confirms God as completely true



and trustworthy, while simultaneously destroying, in the humanity He assumed, the infection of fear and selfishness, and by the exercise of His human abilities, He developed a perfect, sinless, human character that He offers to us as a free gift.

Heb 5:8,9, “Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.” (NIV84)

Wasn't He always perfect? He was always sinless. Bible perfection is about mature character and character cannot be created, it must be developed by the freewill choices of the intelligent being. Jesus, as a human, did this.

So EGW writes it this way:

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}

Notice what justifying is—it is building up in the believer a righteous character from the achievements of Christ. It is setting us right in heart and mind to love like Jesus loves.

What about the idea in the paragraph “Before the whole universe, the rule over earth was transferred from Satan to Jesus, and He was proclaimed the legitimate ruler over earth.”

Does this mean:

- That Satan was the legitimate ruler until the cross and at the cross Christ became the legitimate ruler OR
- That Jesus was always the legitimate ruler—even before the cross, but after the cross the intelligent beings *recognized* that truth and in their minds the rulership was transferred to Jesus from Satan?

EGW says:

When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but **Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator.** His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He



has committed all things to His Son. **Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King.** Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits. {DA 129.4}

TUESDAY

Read Revelation 12:13,14:

When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

What does this mean?

- Who is the dragon—Satan, as he was hurled to the earth
- Who is the woman that gave birth to a male child? The people of God
- What do wings represent? Speed ability to fly away, to flee
- What does the desert represent? places without water—which would be places without people. Rev 17:15 "Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. (NIV 84)
- So, if waters represent populated places, desert—a place without water—would represent unpopulated places
- What is the time, times, and half a time represent?

Read the third paragraph, "The period of Satan's..." A time would be a year, times would be two years, and half a time would be half a year. In Jewish timekeeping a year had 360 days, so $360 \times 3.5 = 1260$ days which is the same as what was described in verse six.

But, how do we get from 1260 days to 1260 years? Because this is Bible prophecy, not literal events. And in Bible prophecy, just as:

- the dragon is symbolic of Satan
- the woman is symbolic of God's people
- the male child is symbolic of Jesus
- the water is symbolic of seas of people
- the desert is symbolic of places with few people
- the wings are symbolic of speed to flee
- the days are symbolic of years
 - see Numbers 14:34 Israel spend 1 year in wilderness for every day the spies spent in Canaan;



- Ezekiel 4:5,6, the number of days Ezekiel was instructed to lie on his side, would be the number of years of punishment on Israel and Judah;
- Daniel 9:24-27 the 70 weeks map out perfectly to 490 years until Messiah

Why, after the victory of Christ at the cross, has the completion of God's plan to save humanity and rid the universe of sin taken so long?

Because, God's laws are design laws, truth, love, liberty, and God is Sovereign and runs His universe on these principles. And while Christ revealed the truth and procured the Remedy during His 33 years on earth, Satan counterattacked with other lies about the cross to misinterpret the cross and infect the minds of people with such gross distortions about God that the healing truth has been blunted in its ability to spread throughout the world. Paul describes it this way:

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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 NIV84)

What is described here? That Satan would counterattack the work of Christ and so misrepresent what Jesus achieved that the lies would become predominant and Satan would be established in the temple of God as the one people value and worship. How? By replacing design law with imposed law and thus teaching God is like Satan in character, a being who must use his power to torture and kill rule-breakers unless some legal payment buys him off.

This is the woman riding on the beast which intoxicates the entire world with her wine—the wine of these false ideas.

Minds are darkened by this false theology and the healing plan of God is obstructed. That is why God prophesied through Daniel that it would be 2300 years before the sanctuary would be cleansed, before enough truth was recovered to free the minds of people from these lies about God. And why has it taken so long? Because the lies initially obscure truth and it takes time for the corruption, abuse, darkness to be seen. In time, thinking people see the failings of the imperial law lie as coercive pressure, inquisitions, executions, dominations do not work to transform people to be like Jesus. Godly people eventually rebel against the lie and the truth slowly makes its way through the fabric of humanity—and we are in the midst of this reformation.

We are still fighting this war, fighting against these lies, but we have divine weapons to demolish the strongholds of Satan—truth love and freedom.



WEDNESDAY

Read Revelation 12:17:

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (NIV84)

What does this mean?

- Who is the dragon? Satan
- Who is the woman? God’s people—those loyal to Him
- What kind of war? physical or primarily spiritual, attacking their minds with lies about God?

Who are the “rest of her offspring” sometimes called the remnant?

They are identified with two identifiers—what are they?

Obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Let’s examine these two identifiers.

What does it mean to obey God’s commandments?

It is really very simple—they live in harmony with God’s design laws for life—they no longer live based on fear and selfishness, but on trust and love in harmony with God’s design for life.

The only ones who can do this are those who have had their hearts changed, such that they do not love their own lives so much as to shrink from death. Rev 12:11

Consider this for a moment, applying this principle. What would it mean to love one’s own life that we do shrink from death?

Consider the following scenarios and tell me how the righteous respond:

- Brought before counsel and told that when the music plays they must bow to the golden idol or be thrown in the fiery furnace?
 - How to the righteous respond?
 - The righteous don’t bow—they are not so afraid to die that they compromise their characters.
- How about they are told that if they work on a certain day of the week they will be imprisoned—say Friday or Sunday?
 - How do the righteous respond do they work or not work?



- They don't work on that day—there is no violation of God's command to rest on a day the state says to rest on. We do this now if the state shuts down businesses for certain holidays etc.
- What if they are told they must attend worship services on Sabbath and shut down their business or be imprisoned?
 - How do the righteous respond?
- How about the state passes a law that all citizens must be baptized into Jesus Christ?
 - How do the righteous respond?

Is it a violation of God's law for the state to create holidays and shut down businesses?

What is a violation of God's law? Coercive enforcement on matters of conscience.

God's law is design law, truth, presented in love, leaving others free—any religious laws that are matters of conscience that are enforced upon people are violations of God's law—regardless of whether the law agrees with Scripture or not.

The lesson says the main issue at the end of time is worship—what does this mean—does it mean the forms and ceremonies of worship, or the God we are worshipping?

What about the testimony of Jesus identifier?

Read the last paragraph, “Also, the end-time...” what do you think of this interpretation?

The SDA church takes the position that Ellen G. White (EGW) had the Biblical gift of prophecy. Let's assume for a moment that EGW did have the Bible gift of prophecy; that would then mean her writings are the writings of a dead prophet. What is the Bible? The writings of dead prophets.

So, does this indicator mean that the end-time remnant will be identified by possessing the writings of dead prophets?

Or, does it mean something more than this? Do God's end-time remnant have to have something more than the writings of dead prophets?

Did you notice that the NIV says “hold to the testimony of Jesus” rather than “have the testimony of Jesus.”

What is the testimony of Jesus, Revelation 19:10:

- For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” NIV 84
- For the truth that Jesus revealed is what inspires the prophets. GNB
- Worship God, because the message about Jesus is the spirit that gives all prophecy. NCV



So, one view is that the remnant are those who obey all 10 commandments, including the Sabbath commandment, and have had a historical person, who is now deceased, that possessed the gift of prophecy.

Another view, is that the remnant are those who live in harmony with God's design law in their lives, have the law written in their heart and mind and give the same testimony about God that Jesus and all the prophets gave because that truth about God is what the Spirit always brings.

THUS—this group become the spokespersons for God described in Revelation 7, represented by the 144,000 sealed and called the servants of God, which are his prophets or spokes persons. So, I propose that the remnant are the group of people at the end of time who have been renewed in heart to live in harmony with God's design law (keep the commandments) and give the truth about God that Jesus gave, thus have the gift of prophecy manifested in their lives as they are giving the Spirit inspired truth about God for the people in their day!

Could there be people who obey the Sabbath commandment and who are members of a church that has had a deceased prophet, yet those people do not love others, have not been reborn, are not like Jesus in character?

Would such individuals be part of the remnant? So, does the remnant describe an institution or does it describe people who have been restored to Godlikeness—having the law written on their hearts and minds (Heb 8:10) and give the testimony about God that Jesus did?

Now, have I just attacked any institution? No, I have merely focused the reality of God's plan of salvation to where it has always been—healing the hearts and minds of people to be like Jesus.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "Revelation 12:17..." What kind of war does Satan wage?

What are Satan's weapons?

How has Satan infected Christianity with his lies?

What is the root lie to all lies in Christianity? That God's law functions like human law and therefore requires the infliction of punishment by God.

What is Satan's end-time strategy?

Would it be to get people to become more fearful, and in fear they seek to take more control to enforce order, stop rebellion, put an end to evil—because they are frightened?

Can fear be vanquished by force, might, coercion, punishment of wickedness?



Can fear be vanquished by teaching God is coming back to punish the nations?

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”—Martin Luther King Jr., Strength to Love (1963)

Can love be restored by teaching God’s law require God punish law breakers?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FEB 23, 2019 We will not meet in the Courthouse—location for that day yet to be determined. We will announce on website and email to our email list, when we find a location.

Thank you to all of our supporters!!! We appreciate your prayers and financial support.

To let you know what is IN THE WORKS in addition to our weekly class:

- Audio Version of the Remedy is in production, we are about half way through and hope to have it by the first of April.
- The Power of Love Come and Reason Training and Equipping Course—is in production and more announcements will be forthcoming on time, place, and schedule
- A new sharing pamphlet to be out in March
- A weekly 15 minute radio show/podcast will start in April
- Exploring how to expand the Dr. Tim Jennings Television program

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.

May 10,11, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Barrie SDA Church, 140 Mapleton Ave Barrie, ON L4N 9N7 Canada

June 8, 2019: Dr. Jennings will present The Aging Brain Seminar at Mid Columbia Medical Center, in The Dalles, OR.

July 10, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the 3rd Global Health Conference, sponsored by the General Conference of SDA and held at Loma Linda University.

September 21, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown Delaware.

October 9-12, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth in the exhibit hall sharing our material with the attendees.