



FEB 23, 2019 We will meet at Bake Crafters. See website for map.

The Book of Revelation Lesson 8 1Q 2019

Satan and His Allies

by Tim Jennings

I received this email this week from an online listener:

I will be the first to admit that the Remedy message is liberating albeit I still struggle with some concepts, but by God's grace the pieces will start to fit one day.

May I share the following,

I was once told that a father who confesses his sins to Jesus in family prayer is considered a noble act...

I did this saying Jesus please forgive my sins, thinking it was a learning that my children would get that Jesus wipes the record away. But no change took place.

But after hearing the Remedy message, I prayed that I knew my sin was harming my character and family, please forgive me and teach me to overcome my impatience and replace it with your patience. Whilst praying, I felt sooo humiliated admitting my sin to my family, humbling myself before my God and family, recognizing I needed change in my character. Yet after this prayer there has been transformation in my life and immediate impact on the family. Change takes place when it is applied correctly.

God bless the ministry of the Come and Reason team

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: "Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and he went to wage war with the remnant of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."



Who are the remnant?

These are the end-time people of God who:

- Live in harmony with God's design laws AND
- Who give the same testimony about God that Jesus gave—in other words, who have the same testimony that the Spirit inspired the prophets to give about God.

Who are Satan's allies?

Any and all who accept and spread Satan's lies, use Satan's methods, and develop Satan's character.

What are Satan's lies, methods and character? (the following is not a complete list)

Lies of Satan:

- God's law is imperial/impose and God therefore must use His power to inflict punishment for sin—i.e. sin must be punished, which leads to all the penal/legal lies about God, all the payment myths, and pagan distortions.
- You will not surely die—i.e. we are immortal so we can never die no matter what we do—which leads to...
- Eternal burning hell in which the unrepentant are tortured by God for all eternity or recycling through endless lives (reincarnation)
- There is no God, which leads to either godless evolution, or an amorphous force of energy that we can tap into and we become our own god.

Satan's Methods:

- Lies (in all their various forms)
- Flattery
- Bribery (remember offering Jesus all the nations of the world)
- Threat, coercion, force, intimidation—playing on fear
- Lawlessness—i.e. promoting violations of design law (unhealthy practices physically, relationally, psychologically, spiritually) and often under the guise of religious fervor

Satan's Character:

- Selfish, cruel, without mercy, without compassion, hateful, vengeful

So, who are Satan's allies? Those who promote Satan's lies, practice Satan's methods and develop Satan's character.

SUNDAY

Read Revelation 13::1-8:



And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. ²The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. ⁴Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”

⁵The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. ⁶He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. NIV84

Let's decode what the symbols represent in this passage?

- Beasts—nations
- sea—populated places
- horns—political powers—power of the state
- heads—religious powers
- crowns—the source of authority
- blasphemy—misrepresents God
- name—character
- leopard, bear, lion—Greece, Persia, Babylon
- dragon—Satan
- dragon's power—lies that lead to death (Heb 2:14)
- throne and authority—foundation of one's government i.e. the law upon which it runs (God's throne in Ezekiel 1 and 10 rests upon a rotating wheel inside a rotating wheel, symbolic of the law of love, the principle of giving i.e. design law. Satan's throne and authority rests on the principles or methods of imperial law with coercive force. This beastly power will practice the methods of coercion and promote God's law as imposed law—thus blaspheming God).
- Wounding and healing—a blow to the organization threatening to destroy it but with subsequent reemergence of its power
- Following the beast—accepting and promoting the methods of the beast, which are teaching God's law is imperial and enforcing issues of conscious by coercive pressure
- Worship—esteeming, valuing, looking up to, adoring, a frame of orientation that gives life direction and meaning
- War—what kind of war? 2Cor 10:3-5
- 42 months—time frame



- book of life—data storage system where individualities the saved are stored

What then is the message in these verses?

An organization will arise that combines various nation states and religious systems to misrepresent God as an imperial dictator. The power used will not be the power of truth, love and freedom (design law principles), but will be the power of lies, selfishness and coercion (rules—imperial law methods—which is the foundation and basis Satan’s power and kingdom). The entire world will come to accept Satan’s view of God and teach that God is a rule-maker and the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death for those who sin (drinking the wine of this harlot and beast)—thus giving honor to Satan—because they become like the god they worship and Satan’s image is reproduced in those who worship the system of the beast. All will become like Satan in character except those who have rejected Satan’s lies about God and worshipped Jesus the Creator and had God’s design law of love produced within them and thus their individualities/names are stored/written in the Lamb’s book of life.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Revelation 13:5 specifies...” What do you think of this time period?

There is a compelling case to be made for the historic view articulated here and I think it is reasonable. However, there are elements of the prophecy that are not addressed in the historic view and this leaves open the possibility that this prophecy is a dual prophecy with two applications—one historic and one yet future.

What is not addressed in the historic view is:

- If the Catholic church is one of seven heads and that head was wounded who are the other six heads and ten horns?
- The entire world wondered after the beast, yet the papacy impacted only Europe during this time frame
- If the entire beast represents the papacy why was the wound to only one head—why not say and the beast was wounded but the wound was healed?

So, in addition to the literal application of papal abuse from 538-1798 this, it is *possible* this prophecy could also have a literal application for a 3.5 year period of tribulation referencing the battle of Armageddon in which the world unites against God’s end-time saints. I am not saying it does have this application, but it *could* have this application and we won’t know until the future events unfold.

Read second paragraph, “The sea beast’s activities...” What does it mean to blaspheme God’s name? To misrepresent God’s character—and how has this been done within Christianity?

By replacing design law with imposed law, i.e. teaching the idea that God’s law functions like human law, a system of rules requiring judicial oversight and enforcement. This results in presenting God



with Satan's character and the entire world reacts to this view by either embracing it, teaching it, being deformed in character by it, or by rejecting God and teaching godless theories of existence.

What is the evidence or mark that the imperial view of God's law has indeed been accepted within Christianity? The change of the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday—remember this is only the evidence or mark, it is not the actual problem.

If someone have a fever or rash from a disease like scarlet fever, the rash and fever are the signs and marks—the rash and fever are NOT the infection, not the disease. Likewise, Sunday sacredness is not the infection or disease but the sign or mark of the disease—which is what? The lie that God's law is imperial, like human law and thus is subject to change, which leads to worshipping a god who is like Satan in character.

What church counsel ever voted to change the law of respiration so their members are not required to breathe on bad smog days? Why don't church counsels vote to do this? So, what does it mean if church a counsel does vote to change God's law—that they no longer recognize God's law as design protocols, but instead view it as imperial rules.

This is what happened historically and how the day of worship came to be changed from the Bible Sabbath to Sunday.

There is nothing evil in going to church on Sunday any more than there is evil in going to prayer meeting on Wednesdays. The evil is in accepting lies about who God is—thus believing God's law functions like human law and this means we see God in a distorted light and fail to genuinely know Him and His methods. Instead, in the name of God we end up promoting the methods of the beast.

Many SDAs, while promoting the seventh-day Sabbath, promote the false view of God by teaching that God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering for sin and must have His wrath propitiated by the blood of a human sacrifice—namely His Son. Thus, while they have the right day of worship they still have the wrong law—the law that is the basis of Satan's system of government.

How does the beast blaspheme the tabernacle of God?

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 2:3,4 NIV84

When in human history is the period described in this text? After the ascension of Christ.

- Who is the man of lawlessness?
- What does lawlessness mean? One who rejects the law, denies the law, steps outside the law—what law?
- God's law, which is what?



- Design law—so the man of lawlessness represents the powers that deny God’s design law and promote a system outside of it. This would be Satan the dragon and his beastly powers, those religious systems that teach God’s law functions like human law.

What temple? The Spirit temple—and this power sets itself up in our hearts and minds when we accept the lie about God’s law and then worship a God who is the source of inflicted pain and suffering. Thus, the beast blasphemes God’s tabernacle by defiling it with Satan’s character traits which automatically arise when we worship the false god-construct.

What is the meaning of blaspheming what is going on in heaven?

The lesson suggests it is by replacing Christ as our heavenly mediator with a system of human priests who claim to be the mediator between God and man. Is this the only way in which the heavenly work of Christ is blasphemed?

There is only one truth—but there are many lies that misrepresent the truth. One lie is the idea of humans replacing Christ as our Priest in heaven.

But another way Christ’s work in heaven is corrupted or blasphemed is to keep Jesus as our High Priest in heaven, but to teach a lie about what He is doing in heaven. To replace design law and Christ’s true work of writing His law in our hearts and minds (Heb 8:10), with the lie that Christ is doing a legal/judicial work in books in heaven all based on accepting the human law lie.

In other words, both the Catholic system and Protestant system teach the legal lie that salvation is a legal process based on rules like humans use. Thus, the heavenly work of Christ is blasphemed.

A few years ago, I received an email with a link to a Christian talk show on which a Catholic priest and a Protestant theologian discussed the Eucharist and transubstantiation. They went back and forth over several points, then the Protestant honed in on the allegation that transubstantiation sacrifices Christ again and again whereas the Bible teaches Jesus died once for all.

To this the Catholic priest responded:

There are two elements to any sacrifice: the immolation and the offering. The immolation is a bloody death. The lamb is slain. What is precious about that is the life in the blood of the lamb that is precious and pays back God. That’s how the Old Testament rituals used to work. The immolation happened once but the offering is something Christ does for all eternity. He is right now in the presence of the Father, in the holy of holies, in the eternal presence, offering himself to the Father for the forgiveness of our sins. . . . Christ isn’t killed again and again and again, he is offered [in the Eucharist] in the same eternal presence as Christ offers himself.



The priest said it was by this *offering* of his sacrifice over and over again that the sins were paid for. So each time we sin, we must take mass in order to have the sacrifice of Christ pay the Father for that sin.

How do you think the Protestant theologian responded?

He argued that Christ is in heaven not offering his sacrifice to the Father over and over, oh no! He emphatically stated that Jesus is in heaven offering his *merits* to the Father over and over again to remind the Father that he has already paid for our sins.¹

In the Protestant view, all human sins were placed on Christ at the cross and paid for there. When we pray for forgiveness, Jesus goes to the Father and reminds him of what Jesus has already done in paying for the sins and makes the *legal application* of his “merits” as the payment he offers to the Father into our individual accounts.

And how has the false legal idea infected the SDA view? It is taught that Jesus is in heaven opening legal record books and examining them and erasing from the historic record the recorded bad deeds of those who have been legally pardoned.

So many problems with this view:

- based on idea that God’s law functions like human law
- makes the focus on deeds and behaviors rather than character
- makes the punishment for sin coming out from God rather than from sin itself
- makes the problem God’s inflicted punishment rather than sin and thus we need to be protected from God which is what the priest and minister were both promoting. But the Bible teaches that:
 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 1Cor 15:56 NIV84
 - What does this mean?
 - Where does the power come from to kill someone who ties a plastic bag over their head or jumps into the ocean with weights on their legs?
 - Where does the power come from to kill someone who jumps off the Empire State Building?
 - Where does the power come from to kill someone who shoots up with heroin?
 - The power comes from the laws upon which life is built, law of respiration, gravity, physics, laws of health. Violating the design laws is where the power of sin to kill comes from.
 - Thus the problem is sin itself and God is the solution. But the legal lie makes God the problem as the inflictor of punishments for sin
- keeps us afraid of not being loved if our sins were ever known so creates a lie that Jesus is erasing history so no one will know our sins in heaven
 - Why will sin never arise again?
 - Why will we love God so much?



- Where does sin occur, in record books or in hearts and minds? Then from where does sin need to be erased?

Christ is not in heaven doing a legal accounting in a judicial system and erasing facts of history. What Christ is actually doing is so much more profound—Christ is healing His people.

On March 16, when I am back from Australia, we will release a pamphlet with a new paradigm which presents this unique SDA doctrine through the design law lens.

TUESDAY

Read Revelation 13:11: “Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.” NIV84

What do the symbols mean?

- Then—after the previous beast’s time or perhaps after it’s wound so after 1798
- another beast—a nation that is not the same nation as the first beast
- earth—unpopulated places
- lamblike horns—horns represent power, lamblike represents Jesus, Jesus’s power is truth, love and freedom—so this power would arise on the principles of liberty or freedom around 1798 in a part of the world that was previous uncivilized and undeveloped—any nations come to mind?
- dragon—Satan

What does it mean that this nation will eventually speak like a dragon? Despite its foundation on the principles of liberty—it will eventually practice the methods of coercive force and take away liberty.

Do we see any evidences of this happening?

WEDNESDAY

Read last two paragraphs, “When the early church...” What principles are being described?

What methods employed?

What underlying law system are being practiced?

What is most important, to identify the points of doctrines that people will eventually unite around, or to recognize regardless of the points of doctrines they unite around that these methods are not the methods of God?

- **We cannot win God’s cause by using Satan’s methods**



But, if we were to identify points of doctrines that Christians might unite around today, in order to seek to influence their legislators to pass laws that would enforce their beliefs on others, what points of doctrines in today's society, at least in America, might they be?

Do you think SDA Christians will unite with other Protestants to pass Sunday legislation? I don't think so, but are there other issues that all Christians might unite around in order to, as EGW says: "influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions... and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."{GC 445.1}?

- Sanctity of male/female marriage to pass marriage laws?
- Sanctity of life to pass laws to make abortion illegal?

Let me be clear—I am not speaking of the righteousness or sinfulness of homosexual marriage or abortion. I am speaking of whether either of these two issues might be used to unite various Christian groups (including SDA Christians) to impose laws to force people who are not converted in their heart to comply with those laws?

Would this be an image to the beast?

The last paragraph, quoting the GC 445, states:

The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.

Would uniting around the sanctity of marriage and/or the sanctity of life and passing laws to enforce such beliefs on others meet this description?

Does that mean we should support values that we do not agree with? No—what does it mean?

That we oppose values that we do not agree with by using the methods of God—we present truth, in love, and leave others free.

We educate about design law, the impact decisions and choices have upon character, how every violation of God's design reacts upon the person to damage that person and that only in harmony with God's principles of truth, love and liberty can the character be healed.

We also focus on character development and don't presume to judge another person's situation or circumstances when it comes to matters of conscience.

God promises that we can experience a new heart, right spirit, mature character here and now. We are not promised new biology until the second coming when this mortal and corruptible puts on the immortal/incorruptible. So, biological divergence from biological perfection is not sin, but is the result



of sin in the world and does impact how one lives today. Being born blind is not sinful, but blindness exists in the world because of sin and impacts how that person lives their life.

But despite the biological corruption with which we all struggle, character can be changed from selfish to love for others, from deceitful to honest, from cruel to kind, from brutal to merciful, from divisive to a peacemaker.

It is the transformation of character to be like Christ which is the greatest evidence of the working of God's Spirit. **And transformation of character cannot be accomplished by passing legislation—that is the devil's trick.** Get good people to think they are doing good by passing laws for good goals, but ultimately using Satan's methods to coerce people which will only cause more division and damage more character.

THURSDAY

What is the Mark of the Beast?

The lesson says, "The mark of the beast involves the substitution of a human commandment for God's commandment."

Is it really the substitution of human rule or the substitution of human law i.e. substituting imperialism for God's design law, of which changing the 10 Commandments are merely an evidence or sign or mark?

What does it mean to be marked in the forehead and hand?

Forehead is where God's saints are sealed—it is the place of the mind, of worship, of choice, of belief. Thus, the saints are sealed in their characters, minds, hearts to be like God—because they have accepted the truth from the Spirit of truth and are like God in heart.

The lost fall into two camps—those who truly believe the lies and value the methods of coercion and they are marked in their foreheads, and those who don't believe the lies, but still have hearts of selfishness so they choose to practice the methods of the beast to promote and protect themselves, thus they are marked in their hands.

Consider these quotes regarding the mark of the beast:

Why are men not interested to know what constitutes the mark of the beast? Exodus 31:12-17. The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. **[How does the entire world act a part? Will Muslims give up Friday and start worshipping on Sunday? What about agnostics and atheists? Or, is it these two days (Sabbath and Sunday) stand as signs of something more, and everyone will choose one or the other of two methods, of which these days stand as symbols?]** Revelation 13:4-17. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 3}



"Christ died to save sinners, not in their sins, but from their sins. [Imposed law constructs all teach that we are saved in our sins, from the legal penalty, but not saved from our sins, that we continue live sinfully until Christ returns. The truth is that God actually transforms us here and now and we stop living for self, and instead live to love God and others!] The warning given in Revelation shows us the terrible consequence of transgression. By lips that will not lie, God's law is declared to be holy, just, and good. **Our duty to obey this law is to be the burden of the last message of mercy to the world.**¹ **God's law is not a new thing. It is not holiness created, but holiness made known. It is a code of principles expressing mercy, goodness, and love. It presents to fallen humanity the character of God, and states plainly the whole duty of man.** {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 4}

"'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' This command contains the principles of the first four precepts. And 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Upon these two great principles, the Word of God declares, hang all the law and the prophets. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 5}

"These **principles** are made known by the third angel's message, which declares that **the Creator has always required and always will require obedience to his royal law.** [Why does the Creator require obedience? Why does the Creator require we breathe? Because that is how life is built to operate. Remember the law is not holiness created but holiness made known. The commandments did not impose a law, but made the law known] But this law has been disregarded and transgressed, and is now being ignored by the churches. **Human enactments are placed where God's law should be.** [What kind of law is replacing God's law? Enactments, this is by teaching in the churches that God's law functions like human law. One evidence of this is the belief that God's law can be changed like human law, of which the day of worship change is a sign] Sunday, a child of the Papacy, has taken the place of God's holy Sabbath. As Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image, and set it up to be worshiped by all, so Sunday is placed before the people to be regarded as sacred. This day bears not a vestige of sanctity, yet it is held up to be honored by all. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 6}

The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, **warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God.** {RH, July 13, 1897 par. 5}

¹ It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. {COL 415}



What does it mean to come to the same decision as the beast and to advocate the same principle as the beast? To teach God's law is imperial and that coercive enforcement is godly.

FRIDAY

Read first second paragraph, "No one..." What is described—a method, protocol, practice, which is imperialism with coercion that is what is beastly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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.

¹"Debate about the Mass and Transubstantiation," Amazing Discoveries, October 24, 2012, <http://amazingdiscoveries.org/12.10.24-debate-about-the-mass-and-transubstantiation> (transcribed by T. Jennings).