



Family Seasons Lesson 1 2Q 2019 The Rhythms of Life

by Tim Jennings

Before we get to the lesson I received an email recently:

I was so blessed by a friend that gave me your book, The God Shaped Brain, while I was sitting in church asking God to please help me learn more about Him and help me not to be so confused and scared. That was about 2 years ago. Your books have helped me to love God even more. I'm not confused or scared anymore!!! I have listened to all of your sabbath school classes and feel like I know the wonderful people that attend every week. I know their voices because I jog while I'm listening, and the five miles I jog feels effortless.

January 15th I found out I had cancer in my breast. February 14th I had them removed and implants were put in. God has blessed me so much through this time. I stand in awe of His love. The anesthesiologist, who is a good friend of mine, asked if he could pray with me while I was on the operating table. One of the nurses overheard him and asked if she can join us. Later after the surgery my friend came to visit and told me that he's never felt the Holy Spirit fill the operating room like that before. God's Love is absolutely amazing!

I am at home recovering now, and after my daughter's wedding I plan on taking a trip to come and sit in your class. Thank you for all that you're doing in spreading the true message about God and His law of love. God bless you and your whole Sabbath school class. With a heart full of love,

SABBATH

The lesson points out attention to Ecc 3:1-8, so let's read it from the NIV84:

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,



a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Is this true? Is this eternal truth? Or, is this a true description of the ebbs and flows of life in a world of sin? Is this describing the pull and tug of the battle between good and evil? Is it describing the tension between the forces of life and the forces of death, between the law of life and the law of sin and death?

So, these truths are truths for two reasons—which are?

- sin infecting God’s creation and...
- God’s grace not abandoning sinners in sin

Would there be any tension between sinful humans and sinful angels naturally, or is the fact we see tension an evidence of God’s interventions, grace, intercession?

EGW puts it this way, do you agree?

The Lord says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman." The enmity does not exist as a natural fact. As soon as Adam sinned, he was in harmony with the first great apostate, and at war with God; and if God had not interfered in man's behalf, Satan and man would have formed a confederacy against heaven, and carried on united opposition against the God of hosts. There is no natural enmity between evil angels and evil men; both are evil through transgression of the law of God, and evil will always league against good. Fallen men and fallen angels enter into a desperate companionship. {ST, July 11, 1895 par. 5}

When you think of God’s intercession, do you think through human law of Jesus interceding with His blood to a punishing Father, or do you think through design law and see the Father, Son and Holy Spirit united to intercede with the forces of evil for the healing of their creation?

SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1 states “In the beginning God created the heavens and earth...” Of what is this the beginning of?

John 1:1 says “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...” Is this a different beginning?

Which is the first?

To what is Genesis 1:1 referring?

Were humans in existence at the time of Genesis 1:1?



Were angels in existence at the time of Genesis 1:1? (Job 38)

Was sin in existence when humans were created? In other words, did Satan start his rebellion in heaven before or after humans were created?

Here is why I think Satan sinned first—because immediately, in a sinless world after Adam and Eve were created the tree of knowledge of good and evil is there along with Satan who tempts them. There is no history of living many years in perfection and then along comes the tempter.

EGW also holds this view:

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}

Humanity was the crowning act in God's creation, planned by God to possess and reveal the most abilities or qualities of God Himself—not only individuality, freedom of choice, capacity for reason, creative thought, capacity for art, music, industry, but also dominion to govern and ability to procreate beings in their image.

The earth was to be the pinnacle of all God's creation and this is one reason Satan specifically targeted earth over all other planets or species in God's universe. Realizing that human beings were gifted with the ability to adapt and change, and to procreate beings in their own image, Satan realized if he could infect humanity with the principles of selfishness and sin, then Satan could produce offspring with his attributes and grow an army of his agents to promote his kingdom.

Not only would Adam and Eve be recruited into selfishness, they become the progenitors of an entire planet of beings infected with Satan's principles.

But God was not taken by surprise and foreknew and already had a plan to destroy the infection of selfishness and heal and restore all human beings who would respond to truth and love and trust Him to heal and restore His perfect design into their being.

Read second paragraph, "Ellen G. White wrote..." From the article cited,

Order is Heaven's first law, and the Lord desires His people to give in their homes a representation of the order and harmony which pervade the heavenly courts. Truth never places her delicate feet in the path of uncleanness and impurity. Truth does not make men and women coarse or rough or untidy. It raises all who accept it to a higher level. **Under Christ's influence, a work of constant refinement goes on.** {ST, July 8, 1908 par. 4} **[what does this mean? growth, advancement, healing development, which means we always have more to**



grow, so we don't get discouraged or feel guilty when we discover areas we can do better or advance in. It is part of living]

We are living in the last days. Soon Christ is coming for His people, to take them to the mansions He is preparing for them. **But nothing that defiles can enter those mansions. Heaven is pure and holy, and those who pass thru the gates of the city of God must be clothed with inward and outward purity.** They must be without "spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." The charge to us is, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting [holiness] in the fear of God." {ST, July 8, 1908 par. 5}

What kind of law? Is this imperial rules, or design law?

Why can't we live in heaven with impurity? What would we experience in heaven if our hearts, minds, characters were selfish, deceitful, corrupt, vile, vain?

Would the presence of our infinite God, who emanates infinite love and infinite truth be a place of joy and pleasantness for those who are solidified in selfishness and deceit?

Consider this quote:

The principles of kindness, mercy, and love, taught and exemplified by our Saviour, are a transcript of the will and character of God. Christ declared that He taught nothing except that which He had received from His Father. **The principles of the divine government are in perfect harmony with the Saviour's precept, "Love your enemies."** [What kind of law is this? Keep this in mind with the next words] **God executes justice upon the wicked, for the good of the universe, and even for the good of those upon whom His judgments are visited.** [Through what law lens do you hear justice and judgment, human imperial law or God's design law? What does justice look like through human law? What does justice look like through design law?] He would make them happy if He could do so in **accordance with the laws of His government and the justice of His character.** [What are the laws of His government and justice of His character? Can love be forced? Can love be achieved by threat? Can God program a being, like a computer, to love Him? Can any law, that functions like human law, requiring external punishment for breaking ever bring greater love and trust?] He surrounds them with the tokens of His love, He grants them a knowledge of His law, and follows them with the offers of His mercy; **but they despise His love, make void His law, and reject His mercy.** While constantly receiving His gifts, they dishonor the Giver; they hate God because they know that He abhors their sins. [like a doctor abhors bubonic plague and the deforming lesions it produces] The Lord bears long with their perversity; but the decisive hour will come at last, **when their destiny is to be decided.** [By whom will their destiny be decided? If we think through human law what is the answer—by God—He judges; He decides.



But if we think through design law, who decides their destiny? Continue reading and see.] Will He then chain these rebels to His side? Will He force them to do His will? {GC 541.4}

Those who have chosen Satan as their leader and have been controlled by his power **are not prepared to enter the presence of God.** [What does this mean? Why are they not prepared? What law lens—are they not prepared because they haven't filed the proper legal briefs, or is there something about their actual state of being that unfits them to be in God's presence? Continue reading.] **Pride, deception, licentiousness, cruelty, have become fixed in their characters.** [How did these attributes become fixed in their characters? Who fixed them in their characters? Does this have any bearing on a decisive hour coming that decides their destiny?] Can they enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they despised and hated on earth? **Truth will never be agreeable to a liar; meekness will not satisfy self-esteem and pride; purity is not acceptable to the corrupt; disinterested love does not appear attractive to the selfish.** What source of enjoyment could heaven offer to those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests? {GC 542.1}

Could those whose lives have been spent in rebellion against God be suddenly transported to heaven and witness the high, the holy state of perfection that ever exists there,— every soul filled with love, every countenance beaming with joy, enrapturing music in melodious strains rising in honor of God and the Lamb, and ceaseless streams of light flowing upon the redeemed from the face of Him who sitteth upon the throne,—**could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God,** of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? **Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no; [Why not? What law lens do you use to answer and understand what is happening? Why can't they endure the glory of God because He gets upset, angry, wrathful and lashes out against them using divine power to hurt them, or that there is something in them that hates holiness and suffers in the presence of purity...continuing the quote]** years of probation were granted them, **that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire.** [What kind of law? Is this just on God's part, why? Is it an infliction?] They would long to flee from that holy place. **They would welcome destruction,** that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. **The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice.** [Who decided the destiny of the wicked? Was this a judicial decision made by God or a result of the choices of the wicked to reject the only healing solution that God freely provided?] **Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God.** {GC 542.2} [Why are they excluded from heaven? Who makes the choice for them not to be there? And God's role is to what? Grant them THEIR choice and let them go!] Like the waters of the Flood the fires of the great day declare God's **verdict that the wicked are incurable...** {GC 543.1} [What is God's verdict or judgment? That they are incurable, which means what? And why does God make this judgment? Because it is the reality or truth



of their condition. Does God's judgment make them this way? No—they made themselves this way by rejecting the only cure to their condition.]

Do you see why the imperial law lie with its penal substitution theology has obstructed and prevented the church from taking the truth about God to the world, has kept millions in the bondage of fear and selfishness and undermined our ability to trust God and experience His healing?

So a question that was sent in this week, which I think fits better here than at the end of class today is:

When we consider God's wrath, either letting go, or the unveiled glory consuming sinfulness, or Jesus on the cross experiencing God's wrath, does God's will play a role in deciding when to unveil His wrath and if so, wouldn't it be better for some law to determine this than some other mechanism?

How do we understand God's design law and why God's wrath, His willful choice to "let go" happens? Why did God let go of Jesus at the cross? Was it to punish Jesus? No, it was because God (F, S, HS) chose to save mankind from sin. In order for that to happen, Jesus had to become human, partake of our condition and cure it. In order to cure the condition He had eliminate the infection of fear and selfishness, the survival of the fittest drive by destroying it and restoring God's perfection of love into humanity. Thus, he "destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light" 2Tim 1:10.

So, the only way for Jesus to complete His mission to reveal truth to win to trust and destroy the death causing infection of selfishness and perfect the humanity He assumed, was to be tempted to act in self interest, but to love perfectly instead. Thus His death was the means to end sin; it was not a punishment, and the only way for Christ to develop a perfect humanity, was for the Father—the source of life to let go so He could die and destroy the selfish infection that tempted Him. God's wrath is letting one go to reap what one has chosen, and in this case God let Jesus go to reap what Jesus had chosen, which was to be our Savior and remedy to sin. This was in full harmony with design law, restoring the law of life into humanity—this is why Jesus arose because He restored the law of life into the humanity He assumed.

The wicked in the end are likewise let go by God based on design law as described above, they are fixed in their hatred and rebellion of God and all things holy and lovely and pure and they do not want God to keep them alive—they are incurable—so God set them free to reap what they have chosen.

So, design law is the most reliable, unwavering, unchangeable, consistent, law—any other construct which brings in imperialism and rules introduces confusion and misunderstanding and inconsistency.

MONDAY

The rhythms of life—all life operates in predictable patterns or rhythms. Examples:

- Earth's magnetic fields cycle every day
- Earth's rotation every 24 hours
- Moon's phases and cycles



- Seasons
- Human circadian rhythm—the natural cycle for the human body is every 25 hours, unless influenced by the sun which adapts to every 24 hours. The moon cycles in a 24 hour 50 minute rhythm, which is closer to the body's natural cycle. Which makes one wonder if the original rhythm of our creation was in harmony with the moon and not the sun, because the earth was made with a water layer over the earth and a worldwide temperate climate, with the moon shining as bright as the sun, and the sun 7 times brighter. (“The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.” Isa 30:26 NIV84) And it was only after the flood that the sun became the primary solar object to which we respond?
- Body temperature is lowest at 4 a.m. and highest at 4 p.m.
- Many more examples all through the natural world

What rhythms were part of God's creation and what are a result of sin and the battle between God's principles and Satan's?

Rhythms created by God:

- Each day, with an evening and morning
- Earth rotating around the sun and moon rotating around the earth

Assumed to be part of God's creation:

- Changes in biorhythms of living organisms throughout each day

Unknown

- Tidal changes—as oceans likely didn't exist as they do now
- menstrual cycles—likely but unknown
- sleep cycles—was sleep necessary before sin—unknown (Genesis tells of God causing an artificial deep sleep to come upon Adam and during this deep sleep Eve was created. Sounds like anesthesia, but it doesn't sound like nightly sleep).

From sin

- Seasons in which things die and decay
- hibernation of animals

TUESDAY

The lesson talks about unexpected changes and quotes a Greek philosopher who said, “there is nothing permanent except change.”

What do you think of that quote?



The lesson points us to examples of people who suffered unexpected painful change, Job, Joseph, Abel—pointing out that in this life change happens and sometimes that change is painful and destructive even to those who choose to do good rather than evil.

What is the lesson from these examples?

We live in a world currently infected with sin—a world that is not operating as God intended, but in which two antagonistic principles are at war. This current circumstance is evidence of God's grace refusing to allow sin to win and His interventions to cure the problem and in the end all pain, suffering and defects from God's design will be eliminated.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "The fact is that human..." do you agree?

EGW wrote:

Men and women of mature age are generally as insensible to impressions as is the hardened rock... {RH, March 30, 1897 par. 3}

Why is this so?

- Mindset—people of mature years have formed a mindset in which they are comfortable, in which they seem to have answers for their life's problems and to question their framework would cause a certain discomfort for which they don't want to experience
- Neurobiology—the older we get the more difficult to change and the more effort it takes
- Fear—fear of years of being wrong and the potential guilt one might have if one acknowledges new truth
- Pride—if one has gone on record promoting a certain belief or practice pride can obstruct acknowledging one was wrong

Read the second paragraph, "Indeed, we don't change..." What is wrong with this paragraph? Where is the wife placing the emphasis for change? Where does the wife have authority to make change?

Read third paragraph, "However, God is in the business..." How does God make this change? What method does He use? Can God make change in our hearts, minds, characters without our cooperation? Can we make godly change without God's participation?

- We are laborers together with God. This is the Lord's own wise arrangement. **The cooperation of the human will and endeavor with divine energy is the link that binds men up with one another and with God.** The apostle says, "We are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). **Man is to work with the facilities God has given him.** "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," He says. "For it is God



which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12, 13).--MS 113, 1898. {2MCP 694.3}

- **There are two grand forces at work in the salvation of the human soul. It requires the cooperation of man with the divine agencies--** divine influences, and a strong, living, working faith. **It is in this way only** that the human agent can become a laborer together with God. **The Lord does not sanction in any one of us a blind, stupid credulity. He does not dishonor the human understanding,** but, far from this, He calls for the human will to be brought into connection with the divine will. **He calls for the ingenuity of the human mind, the tact, the skill, to be strenuously exercised in searching out the truth as it is in Jesus. . .** Ye are labourers together with God. {OHC 310.5}
- And he who seeks to give light to others will himself be blessed. "There shall be showers of blessing." "He that watereth shall be watered also himself." Proverbs 11:25. **God could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work.** In order to enter into His joy,--the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice,--we must participate in His labors for their redemption. {DA 142.2}

So, while we are alive we are working in cooperation with God to grow in ever increasing godliness.

Are there people who have died trusting in Jesus who still had struggles for which they longed to experience victory, but they had not yet experienced victory in this life? What happens to them? They are saved—when they arise at the resurrection do they arise still struggling with sinful tendencies or are those eliminated before they arise? When and where are they eliminated? That is the doctrine of the IJ, Christ working in each person's individuality to perfect all who trust in Him so when they arise they arise perfected.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "The Bible is a book..." Scientific studies compared socially connected people to socially isolated people and found that those with social connections had gene expression differences which reduced inflammation and improved the ability to resist infections.

People who engage in volunteerism live longer, have less disability, depression, dementia and stay out of nursing homes longer than those who don't volunteer.

The science would agree with the Bible that we are designed for relationships.

Yet, even though this is true, our changing social media and world has resulted in ever increasing social isolation, with increased mental breakdown, drug and alcohol use disorders. Why?



My hypothesis is that the digital world has markedly increased the selfish tilt of relationships, where people can be voyeurs, bullies, project avatars or false images all designed to get for self and never really having to be open, honest, patient, compassionate or caring of another.

Read last paragraph, “In many ways...” Can we make up rules on kindness and compassion? Does context ever matter in directing what is the kind and compassionate action to take?

What is required to actually be nice, kind or compassionate toward another?

Before we can actually be nice, kind, or compassionate we must understand reality, understand God’s design law, and have love for people in our hearts. It is a combination of both truth and love that results in genuine kindness and compassion.

Examples:

- Your son has an addiction problem and refuses any treatment, denies he has a problem and is now unable to pay his bills and car is going to get repossessed and he will be evicted from his apartment and doesn’t have any money for food. What is the kind and compassionate action to take?
- You are a pastor and a member of your church comes to you telling you her husband has been physically abusive to her, but he hasn’t been sexually involved with anyone else. The abuse has been going on for many years and he refuses to acknowledge any wrong doing or get help. She wants to divorce, but doesn’t want to disobey God’s Word and wants to do the most loving thing she can for her husband. What do you tell her to do?

Jesus said:

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— man’s enemies will be the members of his own household... MT 10:34-35 (NIV84)

From *The Remedy*

"Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people.³⁵ I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law.³⁶ A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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

May 18, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be a speaker at the Love and Transformation Institute: The Epidemic Rise of Anxiety, Depression and Suicide at the Phoenix Seminary, in Scottsdale, AZ.

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.