



2019 Q4 Ezra and Nehemiah: Lesson 8 God and the Covenant

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

Before we get to the lesson I received an email this week from an online listener in Australia, Stephen Gurban. He writes:

Hello Come and Reason ministries

I have a question regarding the [Bible] study of Nehemiah and Ezra for this quarter.

Did the leaders (Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah) needlessly invite conflict?

In Ezra 4:2 the Israelites who never went into exile claim to worship the same God yet their help is refused by Zerubbabel.

Ezra exhorts the exiles to follow the Torah and then tells the Israelite men in inter-racial marriages to separate from their families (but in Malachi 2:13-16 God says marriage is a covenant that should not be broken).

Nehemiah tells the people who aren't Israelite that they have no part in the rebuilding of the wall.

It seems from reading these two books that while the leaders were dedicated to God they were being exclusive on the basis of race. This has mixed results with some greater commitment but also greater opposition. By the end of Nehemiah people are still ignoring the Sabbath so he threatens them.

Do these two books teach indirectly that being partial and coercive will not lead to a change of heart? Their approach seems to be the opposite Jesus' methods and God's call for Israel to be a light to other nations. Wouldn't it have been more effective to accept these folk and teach them the truth of God's love through words and actions? Truth, love and freedom to choose.

I would be very grateful to hear your perspective on the lessons we can take from these situations.

Thank you for your ministry. It throws new light on God's love and mercy.

What are your thoughts? How would you answer his questions?

What law lens do you answer through? And how does the law lens help with these questions?



The law lens sets the context of what is happening. Is the problem God is dealing with in the OT times a judicial legal one or the condition of humanity being sinful and in need of healing?

Could the human race be saved without Jesus becoming human and fulfilling His mission? No!

So, do we understand, that much of what is recorded in the OT is a record of God's work to provide our Savior while Satan is working to obstruct God's plan?

If we understand that framework then we get insight into things like the flood, God keeping open the avenue for the Messiah.

Then after the flood Satan doesn't have to destroy the entire human race to stop Messiah because he knows Messiah is coming through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so if he can just destroy this branch of the human family he can obstruct God's plan.

With that in mind, is there insight into why Satan would want to infiltrate Israel with non-believers, not just as neighbors, but to marry into their families?

Was it effective—was marrying non-believers into Israel families effective in undermining their mission and calling?

- Did Samson have a problem with this?
- Did Solomon have a problem with this?
- Could marrying non-believers undermine the ability to fulfill God's cause?

Yes! So, do we see one aspect of the instruction to divorce the non-believing spouses was God working to keep open avenue for Messiah and not trying to exclude the non-believers. In fact, the actions in this case were because God was working to save the entire species and Satan was working to undermine God's team.

Further, God directed this not just for the purpose of the Messiah—which is mission essential—but also to be a blessing to the nations around—meaning other races.

The first rule of care-giving is the health of the caregiver, because if the caregiver goes down, then no care is given.

Israel, was to not only be the avenue for Messiah, they were to be welfare agents for God teaching the world principles of healthy living physically as well as spiritually. But Israel could not do this if they rejected God and embraced false gods.

So, were God's instructions to get rid of their foreign wives about race or about heart devotion to God?

Evidence it was not about race—who did Moses marry? An Ethiopian. Who were Rahab and Ruth?



So, why were these non-Jewish women allowed into Israel, and two of them became progenitors of Jesus, and yet in Ezra's day they are making Jewish men divorce their non-Jewish wives?

Because Zipporah, Rahab and Ruth all *assimilated* meaning they all converted and became part of the tribe giving their hearts to Yahweh and living in accordance with Jewish law and custom.

The wives Ezra was having them put away were not on God's team, they were not part of Israel in heart, they were not working for God's kingdom, and in fact were undermining God's plan.

So, is God being racist? No! Are Ezra and Nehemiah being divisive? No!

The last paragraph in SUNDAY's lesson reads:

“Unfortunately, the world embraced evil more than it did God, and the lineage of the faithful became very small, creating a real possibility of eliminating any family through whom God could fulfill His Word by sending the promised Seed to save humans. At that point, God intervened with the Flood.”

Wow—I am so happy to see this idea expressed in the quarterly. This is exactly correct, seeing the larger reality of what was transpiring in OT is a key to understanding the meaning. And this is based on design law.

Second point to understand the questions is to understand that the Bible records real people who did real things and is historically accurate, yet those real lives not only record their history, but are object lessons to a larger reality.

And this gives insight into some of the other questions. Why would Nehemiah not allow non-Israelites to participate in building the wall?

- Could those who were not of Israel be trusted? So in its most immediate sense those not of Israel would be more likely to sabotage and undermine the mission.
- But, in object lesson, what does the wall represent? It represents the law of God—and we are to be repairers of the breach. Can we have people join our team to repair the breach who don't agree with us on God's law being design law, who continue to teach that God's law is imperial/imposed and God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering for law breaking? Why not? Because they are perpetuating the breach—the lie that God's law functions like human law. So, in the object lesson aspect it makes sense that only those who are on God's team are actually capable of doing God's work.

What about the threatenings to keep the Sabbath and other laws? It is an evidence of the level of maturity of the people. A loving parent or God will intervene with artificial threats to protect children from injuring themselves (parent threatening punishment for playing in the street), longing for them to grow up and no longer need the threat.



There is also revelation of how reality works as well—that threats, the use of might and power, don't actually achieve what God wants.

- Flood didn't result in holiness of humanity but building tower of Babel
- 10 Plagues of Egypt and Red Sea didn't result in holiness but worshipping a golden calf
- Miracles of taking Canaan (Jericho, sun standing still) didn't result in holiness but more idolatry
- Fire at Carmel didn't result in holiness but more rebellion

Such interventions *did* work to keep open the avenue for the Messiah, which was required in order to save humankind. And, these interventions also revealed that God cannot win the war with might and power, but only by the way the Spirit works.

Thus, once Jesus arrives as a human being, God doesn't need to use might and power to keep open the avenue for Messiah any more. Might and power was used by Jesus to heal, feed, deliver, and restore but not to overthrow the Romans—as the Jews wanted.

How many Christians today want to use might and power or teach that when Christ returns He returns to use might and power and force His way?

Do you see how design law view puts everything into perspective?

SABBATH

Memory text:

And because of all this, we make a sure covenant and write it; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it. We will not neglect the house of our God. (Nehemiah 9:38 and 10:39 NKJV)

What is the covenant?

The lesson in the first paragraph says it is a “legal establishment of a relationship between God and His people.”

What are your thoughts on this?

If it is a legal establishment then:

- In what court do we find legal redress?
- What are the legal consequences for breaking the covenant? Is it an infliction of punishment from the court?
- What binds one to the covenant—is it external threat of being sued, of being punished? If so, what happens to love when one is threatened?
- How is the covenant enforced?
- If it is a legal contract with the judge, then wouldn't the judge have to recuse Himself from any disputes over the contract?



I see the idea that the covenant is a legal establishment as evidence of the imperial/imposed law paradigm. My view is that the covenant is the covenant of grace and is an expression of God's character and methods of love and has nothing to do with legalities.

People who want it to be legal do so because in our fallen world the law makes them feel safe:

- No one is above the law
- The law is a neutral standard
- The law gives protections and rights
- So, if the covenant is a legal establishment then it makes the immature feel safe

This is also why many get upset when we suggest salvation is not legal, because they feel we are throwing out the rules. To many it would be like saying we are playing baseball but with no rules, no fair or foul lines, no direction established in which to run bases, no balls or strikes just do what you want. Some people try and hit bats with gloves and catch gloves with balls. It is total chaos.

This is how those who don't understand design law hear what we are saying. They fail to realize that baseball is a made-up construct, thus rules are necessary.

But, not so in God's kingdom. God builds reality and His laws are the constants upon which reality operates.

So, there is only one covenant and it is God's love to us, God's promise to be true to Himself and never waiver; it is what God covenanted to do—it is the covenant of grace, yet God has manifested this covenant various ways at various times for various circumstances.

For instance—a parent has a child, if the parent is a godly parent, will the parent love the child? Does the parent have a covenant with that child? How would you describe it? Could you say the loving parent has a covenant of grace to do what is best for the child? How might that be manifested? Could the actions of such a loving parent be manifested by:

- discipline if the child is unruly?
- hugs to a hurting or frightened child?
- promises to reassure a doubting child?
- sacrifice to provide remedy for a dying child?

Is the parent giving different covenants through the child's life or merely communicating and demonstrating the same covenant—love and welfare for the child but in different ways as the situation dictates?

Go to **MONDAY's** lesson and at the top the lesson states: "The Bible identifies seven major covenants that God has made with people:



- First Covenant—Adam (*Genesis 1-3*)
- Second Covenant—Noah (*Genesis 6-9*)
- Third Covenant—Abraham (*Genesis 12:1-3*)
- Fourth Covenant—Moses and the Israelite nation (*known as the Sinaitic or Mosaic Covenant; Exodus 19-24*)
- Fifth Covenant—Phinehas (*Numbers 25:10-13*)
- Sixth Covenant—David (*2Samuel 7:5-16*)
- Seventh Covenant—New Covenant (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*)

Are these seven different covenants or one covenant communicated to different people, at different times and in different ways?

Are they not all manifestations of the same covenant of love and grace?

God promised to Adam the covenant of grace, that the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head. That a Savior, from God is promised. That Adam, though now out of harmony with God's design for life and thus suffering with a terminal sin-condition, can be saved by trusting God to provide the remedy. This is the covenant of grace.

This same covenant was given to Noah—a worldwide flood is coming and all who trust me can be saved. The purpose of the flood was for the fulfilling of the covenant of grace, of keeping open the avenue for the Messiah. God's promise that He would not again destroy the world with water was also an expression of the covenant of grace. It wouldn't be needed and He will provide remedy.

The same covenant is expressed to Abraham that the Seed, meaning Jesus, will provide the remedy to our terminal sin-condition and we can be healed/saved if we trust God, which Abraham did.

The fourth covenant—from God's side was the same—delivered His people from slavery (metaphor from delivering from bondage of sin), reveals His glory, provides His law, gives the instruction for the temple and sacrifices all designed to teach them of the plan of salvation—the grace of God, that God is providing remedy and deliverance and we merely need to trust and choose to live in harmony with God and follow His instructions.

But the fourth covenant was perverted by the people—so instead of accepting in on faith and trusting God to heal and restore, the people took upon themselves the responsibility to fix the problem by their obedience or law-keeping. Thus, this covenant was not a trust faith covenant as God intended, but a **legal transaction** or contract in which the people said, “We've got a deal God. We will keep your rules and you will bless us with health and wealth.”

This is often referred to as the old covenant or the first covenant and was powerless to heal because it was not entered into by trusting God to provide remedy, but by trusting themselves to keep the rules and then **holding God legally accountable to fulfill the agreement**.



This is the problem with penal/legal theologies today. They also claim to be based on faith, but in fact are legal constructs in which the adherents hold God legally accountable and this is the source of their security. In other words, they trust the binding requirements of the law upon God because they don't trust God.

The fifth covenant was when Phinehas stood up for God and God chose the Levites to be His priests and thus the object lesson that God will work through those who trust Him and follow His instructions. God will provide the remedy and the priests will share that remedy to bring healing to others—and we, of course, are the priesthood of believers to share God's remedy to heal hearts and minds.

The sixth covenant, again the covenant of grace, expressing to David that the Messiah will come through David's family tree to bring remedy and cure and eliminate all sin and rule for all eternity.

The seventh or new covenant is the fulfillment of the covenant of grace promised to Adam and communicated throughout history. Jesus coming and curing the condition and providing a free remedy to all who trust Him.

So how many covenants to we have? Two—one true the covenant of grace and one false covenant of legality. The true covenant is an agreement with God that we enter into by faith or trust and thus Hebrews reads:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb 11;1
NKJV

The Greek for substance is *hypostasis*, the first half *hypo*, as in *hypoglycemic* or *hypotensive* means low or under and the last half *stasis* means standing, was translated into the Latin as *substance* the first half, *sub*, as in *subway*, *submarine*, *subterranean* means under and the last half *stance* means standing.

Translated into modern English faith is our *understanding* and this has two meanings, both of which apply. Our faith is our comprehension of reality, the reality of God's character, methods, design laws, what sin is, our terminal condition, our inability to save our selves etc. and with that understanding we enter into an *understanding* with God an *agreement*, which is the covenant of grace. *We understand* God is love, that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to provide the remedy to cure our condition, *we understand* that we cannot save or heal ourselves, so, we enter into an *understanding* with God that says, “God I trust you and surrender myself to you and you will heal me and I will honor you by cooperating and following your instructions.”

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote the following:

The spirit of bondage is engendered by seeking to live in accordance with legal religion, through striving to fulfill the claims of the law in our own strength. There is hope for us only as we come under the **Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus.** The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is



preached to us today, through which we have hope. Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the Author and the Finisher of our faith (The Youth's Instructor, September 22, 1892). 6BC 1077.7

As the Bible presents two laws, one changeless and eternal, the other provisional and temporary, [what law is temporary? What law was added because of sin?] so there are two covenants. The covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden, when after the Fall, there was given a divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. To all men this covenant offered pardon, and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. It also promised them eternal life on condition of fidelity to God's law. [why? Because the law is the protocol life is built upon] Thus the patriarchs received the hope of salvation. {FLB 77.2}

This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Gen. 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ. So Abraham understood it, and he trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was this faith that was accounted unto him for righteousness. The covenant with Abraham also maintained the authority of God's law. [meaning that the Messiah would fix broken humanity by restoring God's design law into the human species] The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." The testimony of God concerning His faithful servant was, "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Gen. 17:1; 26:5. . . . {FLB 77.3}

The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, [meaning it was accomplished. Before Christ died it was a promise of what Christ would achieve, but at the Cross Christ actually achieved the remedy to sin and thus the promise was fulfilled or God ratified His covenant] and it is called the "second," or "new," covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. {FLB 77.4}

The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant. {FLB 77.5}

There is hope for us only as we come under the **Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus.** The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today. . . . Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the author and the finisher of our faith. FLB77

This is important today because Satan is the author of imposed law, legal/penal and works oriented religious schemes.

It is commonly believed in Christianity that the genetic descendants of Abraham operated under a different covenant that we do—that is a lie. God so loved the WORLD that He gave His only begotten son. Abraham is the father of “many” nations.



In other words, there is this idea that the covenant of grace is for everyone but the Jews and they were saved by the works of animal sacrifices and one day in the future Christians will leave the earth and the Jews will again return to the OT covenant of sacrifices in order to find salvation. This is all fraudulent.

God is Creator, His laws are the laws upon which life is built. Adam deviated from God's design and corrupted his being and became terminal (dead in trespass and sin) and all humanity is descended from Adam—one human species, terminal. We all have the same condition and need the same cure and that cure comes through what Jesus accomplished for us. There is no other way than being restored to harmony with God and His design laws for life.

SUNDAY

At the end of the third paragraph the lesson states, “Sin is the antithesis of creation, bringing de-creation (death) instead.”

This is well said—and why is this true?

What kind of law is the basis for this truth?

What does God have to do?

If this is true then how has God been using His power through history?

God has been holding back death and destruction—God left the sins committed before unpunished (Romans 3:25)

But, how has God's use of power been portrayed? As holding back death and destruction or as the cause of death and destruction?

This is the distortion we get when we replace God's design law with human imposed law.

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Bible scholars...” What do you think of the idea that God communicated with people in ways they could understand, according to their culture and expectations etc.?

Would this include the use of law—including the 10 Commandments?

In other words, were the 10 Commandments in existence in their written form and with the specific language recorded in the Bible prior to God writing them at Sinai?



- **It [the law] was added** because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. (Galatians 3:19 NIV84)

Here are a few historic quotes from one of the founders of the SDA church—see whether you agree or disagree and why?

- The law of God existed before the creation of man or else Adam could not have sinned. **After the transgression of Adam the principles of the law were not changed, but were definitely arranged and expressed to meet man in his fallen condition.** EG White *Selected Messages vol. 1* p. 230.1
- **The law of God existed before man was created.** The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. **It was not then written,** but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah. EG White *The Story of Redemption* 145.1
- The law of Jehovah, dating back to creation, was comprised in the **two great principles**, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." These **two great principles** embrace the first four commandments, showing the duty of man to God, and the last six, showing the duty of man to his fellow-man. **The principles were more explicitly stated to man after the fall, and worded to meet the case of fallen intelligences. This was necessary in consequence of the minds of men being blinded by transgression.** EG White *Review and Herald*, May 6, 1875 par. 13

Why was it necessary to give the written law? Does the written law establish it or codify and communicate it? What type of law is God's law?

When Isaac Newton wrote down the law of gravity—did that establish it?

WEDNESDAY

The people made the following pledges:

- 1.No mixed marriages (no marriages to an individual who could lead one to idolatry.)
- 2.True Sabbath observance (no business transactions)
- 3.Debt cancelation
- 4.Financially supporting the temple

Why? What was the purpose of these pledges?



What is God trying to achieve? Salvation of humanity which requires the Messiah to come.

Are any of these four actions connected to God's purpose in providing Messiah to save humanity?

Any object lesson applications to us today?

1. No mixed marriages (no marriages to an individual who could lead one to idolatry).
 - Marriage to unbelievers undermine usefulness
 - Marriage to believer enhances usefulness
 - Consider any team with players not united toward the same goal
2. True Sabbath observance (no business transactions)
 - What is the purpose of the Sabbath?
 - It was made for man as a gift from God to assist in God's treatment in restoring us to holiness
 - Thus the Sabbath was part of God's healing plan and the holier people are the more effective in God's cause
3. Debt cancelation
 - Does being in debt obstruct ability to engage in any mission?
 - So would debt cancellation enhance people's ability to work for God? Both have more time to volunteer for God's cause and have more free resources to give to God's cause.
4. Financially supporting the temple
 - The Temple is the object lesson, the stage, the lesson book, as well as a wonder of the world. It would draw people from around the world to it and be a source of truth enlightening the world to God's plan to save and heal.

Do we see that these actions were in fact, all directly connected to God's plan to save the world and have Israel be His helpers in reaching the entire human family with the truth of salvation through the coming Messiah?

THURSDAY

The lesson asks why the Temple was so important for the faith as a whole?

Was the Temple and its services necessary for salvation?

Were the people during this time in history saved by observing the Temple service?

What was its purpose? It was theater, object lesson, teaching tool—to teach what?

Let's unpack some of the symbolism—I am not going to repeat all the lessons in our DVD on the sanctuary but try to bring out some other elements not in that presentation.



The Laver:

- The washing of the HS and Truth
 - Only the Priests and High Priest washed in the laver
 - The laver was made out of solid bronze with no wood and filled with water. The water is symbolic of God the Holy Spirit, which fills the laver. The laver represents the Word of God. The laver was constructed out of the mirrors the women brought out of Egypt (Ex 38:8). This aptly represents the purpose of God's Word to expose our defects and diagnose our condition. (James 1:22-25)
 - Titus 3:4-7 "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." Individual sacrifice
 - Eph 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, **cleansing her by the washing with water through the word**, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Corporate sacrifice

We find this theme of washing with the word of God to cleanse our characters carried over by Jesus in the foot washing service.

- Our feet symbolize our journey through life
- Naked feet symbolize revealing truthfully our life journey to our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Washing by another symbolizes others, directed by the Holy Spirit, using God's Word, methods and principles to help us clean up our journey, removing the impure practices from our lives and to experience cleansing of character
- Washing other's feet reveals our willingness to help others who reveal their life journey and share how they have gotten themselves dirty with sin, clean up their lives and characters by the application of Gods' Word, methods and principles

The Covering of the Sanctuary

- Goats hair curtain
 - Symbolic of human sinfulness, fallen human nature
 - Goats were often symbols of deception (Rebekah used a goat to deceive Isaac. David's wife Michal used goat's hair pillows to deceive Saul's messengers. In the judgment metaphor the wicked are describes as goats. Christ who became sin though He knew no sin was represented on the Day of Atonement as a goat, but the other days as a lamb)
 - It was made of eleven curtains sewed together into two groupings, one of six and one of five (eleven in Bible numerology represents chaos of sin)
 - The one of six (six is the number of fallen man) was doubled and hung over the opening to be seen from the court – symbolic of our sinful nature in constant and daily



- need of Christ's healing presence. It is to remind us that on this earth we are still in our fallen "tent" and in daily need of the renewing of God's grace.
- The one of five (five is the number of grace) is symbolic of Christ who took our fallen condition upon Himself in order to cure and overcome. In eleven instances goats were used as sin offerings, thus symbolizing Christ taking our sinful condition upon Himself to cure it.
 - The combination of the five curtains (grace) and the six curtains (man), make eleven which is symbolic of the chaos of sin overcome by the grace of God through Christ
 - Rams skin dyed red
 - Rams were the animals offered to consecrate the priesthood
 - Jesus is, of course, our High Priest who brings the healing solution.
 - The Rams skins were died red, symbolic of the perfect life of Christ, which He surrendered in order to become our remedy to sin. This red rams skin covered the goats hair curtain, symbolic of Christ's righteousness which will become our character and overwrite our sinfulness, when He writes His law on our hearts and minds—the New Covenant!
 - Badger skin
 - A tough, durable, impenetrable covering which withstood all that nature could throw against it, heat of the sun, rain, storms. Thus representative of Christ our righteousness and our shield of faith which withstands the attacks of the enemy. No matter what the prince of this world throws at Christ He withstood it, and no matter what Satan throws at us, when we are surrendered to Christ His victory will sustain us.

The Boards in the sanctuary:

- Consider the symbolism and lesson: to make boards for the sanctuary, trees had to be cut down, severed from their roots in the earth and stripped of all their branches, i.e. earthly fruits. The board represent the saved who become part of God's sanctuary, the building blocks of it (analogous to the stones in the temple, the living stones). They must be cut away from their roots in the sinfulness of this world, and stop producing fruits of sin.
- The boards, representing the believers who compose the sanctuary, are wood, earthly, but covered in gold symbolizing being purified by Christ. We must be purified by Christ, have our roots in this world severed, and cut away our self-righteousness then be renewed in Christ's perfect character, in order to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
- There were 10 boards on each side of the sanctuary, symbolic of completion. On one end were six boards, with two corner boards. Six symbolic of man, two symbolic of unity with Christ, equals eight, the number 8 is symbolic of New Beginning. Thus, man (6) is united in Christ (2) has a new beginning (8). The other end had two corner boards, representative of unity with Christ.
- The boards were to stand upright, which is symbolic of those renewed in Christ to stand upright for God's kingdom.



- Each soldier when registered had to give a half shekel of silver to the temple (regardless of whether the soldier was rich or poor). Silver is symbolic of at-one-ment. Being united back with God.
- It took 3000 shekels to make one talent, which was the weight of the sockets into which the board stood. Each board stood upon two sockets, which was the atonement money of 12,000 soldiers. Symbolically, that atonement, bringing us together again and unites us to God cost God greatly. And we are only able to stand upright as we are anchored in what Christ has done for us.
- The boards were then held together with five bars made of shittim wood covered in gold. Symbolic of Christ's dual nature, human/divine. The five bars symbolized grace.
- The middle bar actually shot through the boards from one end to the other, a fitting representation of "Christ in you the hope of glory."

FRIDAY

read first paragraph and explain through design law



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Questions: If you have questions please email them either at requests@comeandreason.com or topics@comeandreason.com. If you post on Facebook it is likely they will not be answered as I often miss questions posted on Facebook.

The New Paradigm about the Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment Has been Changed: Thanks to your feedback I have rewritten portions of this document making it friendlier and less likely to cause offense. The new title is *The Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment for the Modern World*. It has a new cover, new introduction, the call to action section has been removed and other edits to clarify potential misunderstandings have been made throughout. It is already up on our website and print versions will be available November 14. **Please throw away any of the first edition you may still have in your possession and use this version going forward.**

PODCAST: Come and Reason with Dr. Tim Jennings weekly Podcast is now broadcasting, please follow us.

November 15-17, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Norwegian SDA Health Worker's Retreat in Oslo, Norway.

November 24, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Aachen Germany.

January 17-19, 2020: The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly. Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport). See events.comeandreason.com for more details and to sign up.

March 27,28, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>

April 17,18, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH.