



2021 1Q Isaiah: Lesson 5 Noble Prince of Peace

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read memory text but let's read Isaiah 9:6 and verse 7:

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (NKJV)

What does this verse mean to you?

What does this verse say about the divinity of Jesus?

- Who is the Counselor? The Holy Spirit
- Who is the Everlasting Father?
- Who is the Prince of Peace?
- How can all three be said of Jesus?

Does this mean there is only one individuality and Jesus is that one individuality, or rather that the three individualities are so united in perfection of Their character of love that when you see Jesus you see the Father and the Spirit?

What does the idea of "Prince of Peace" and "His government and peace" mean to you?

In this world today do we need more peace? Do we need the kingdom of the Prince of Peace?

How does one achieve peace? Can we achieve peace through war? Yet the Bible says "And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back." (Rev 12:7 NIV84)



How do we understand this? How is that we cannot achieve peace by prosecuting war, yet Michael and His angels warred against the devil and Jesus is the Prince of Peace?

What law lens are we understanding this through?

If we understand law and government to be like human governments then law is imposed, injustice must be punished, and war is won through conquest, through force and might, through power over, through killing one's enemies and forcing submission.

But if we understand design law then we understand that peace is achieved by destroying the elements that cause division and hostility. We destroy lies, fear, selfishness out the hearts of intelligent beings. Thus the Bible says:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Co 10:3–5 NIV84).

What kind of weapons do we use? Those that demolish lies about God and win hearts to love and trust—can you win hearts by force and violence?

This all fits perfectly as the word in Revelation 12 translated “war” “there was war in heaven...” is:

πόλεμος [*polemos* /**pol**-em-os/] n m. From *pelomai* (to bustle); TDNT 6:502; TDNTA 904; GK 4483; 18 occurrences; AV translates as “war” 12 times, “battle” five times, and “fight” once. **1** a war. **2** a fight, a battle. **3** a dispute, strife, quarrel.¹

In English we get the word *polemic* which means:

“a controversial argument, as one against some opinion, doctrine, etc.”

God fights the war with the weapons of truth, love, freedom, evidence, revelation—Satan fights with lies, deception, flattery, coercion, manipulation, propaganda, and violence.

We can never get peace using Satan's methods—never!

n **n**: noun or neuter

m **m**: masculine

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

TDNTA Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume

GK Goodrick-Kohlenberger

AV Authorized Version

¹ Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.



Do any other Bible texts come to mind when we consider the Prince of Peace forming a government that built on peace and never end?

Does Psalms 119:165 have any bearing? If so what?

Great peace have they who love your law,
and nothing can make them stumble. (NIV84)

Why do those who love God's law have great peace?

Do we create greater peace through more legislation? By greater authoritarianism—rules over and enforcement of rules? By getting the right judges or politicians in office?

Does this text in Isaiah about the government being on Jesus' shoulders mean that He takes over a human government and reigns over earthly kingdoms?

Far too many Christians read this text through the lens of human law and think that Jesus will come and set up a kingdom that runs just like earthly kingdoms, with power over and infliction of punishment for disobedience? Who is going to come and give them such a kingdom?

This is Satan's grand strategy, infect minds with the lie that God's law works like human law, rules over that require legal action and external enforcement. That idea corrupts everything:

- The cross is corrupted into God legally executing His Son and Jesus dying to pay a legal penalty to a god who is the inflictor and source of death
- The wicked are tortured and killed by God and God is feared rather than loved
- Theologies are taught that are designed to hide us or protect us from God (covered by robe of righteousness, intercessor pleads to the punishing god not to punish etc.) because we don't trust Him—we don't have faith in God we have faith in the legal payment of Jesus!
- Holiness is perverted to rule-keeping, performance, obedience to law
- Churches fracture as they fight over the right definition, of terms or understanding of texts, or the right mechanics for worship or the right rituals
- Justice is distorted into accurate record keeping and "just" infliction of punishments
- People are deceived into believing justice can be achieved through human governments if only we get the right laws passed or officials in office
- The beastly system of Revelation will not arise seeking injustice. It will not arise by claiming to promote evil. It will arise pursuing justice—the specific justice doesn't matter—it might be racial justice, economic justice, gender justice, environmental justice, justice for the unborn—but whatever justice is pursued it will be advanced by using human governments to pass laws that will be enforced by fines, sanctions, revocation of business licenses, restrictions of freedom such as travel, assembly, speech, canceling of memberships, imprisonment and eventual death penalty. All of this in the pursuit of justice, of doing what is right to save the planet, to save lives, to protect the innocent, the down trodden, the oppressed. But all through



Satan's kingdoms, methods and principles. This is all Satan's deception to infect hearts and minds with his methods and it deceives if it were possible the very elect.

We can never achieve God's goals through Satan's methods. We can never have justice via Satan's kingdom and every kingdom, government of this world is Satan's.

Remember, Jesus said His kingdom was *not* of this world, the kingdom of God is within you. God's kingdom is the kingdom of truth, love and freedom. Think about these three elements and the use of force and power—the methods of the world:

- Can you get people to believe and accept the truth by force—by threatening them with punishment if they don't believe? "A person convinced against their will is of the same opinion still." This is why the Bible says "every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind." (Romans 14:5). Truth cannot win hearts by threatening to kill those who won't accept the truth. We cannot advance truth with Satan's methods.
- Can you get people to love you or others by threatening them with punishment if they don't love you or others?
- Can you get more freedom by imprisoning people and punishing people who don't value freedom?

Understand the great trap of Satan than millions of Christians have fallen into—that God's law functions like human law and justice can be achieved by right human laws, justices, politicians or legislation—it is a lie.

Consider this historic quote from one of the founders of the SDA church:

In these days it is Satan's determined purpose to intensify sin by making it legal in the children of disobedience. **He is to reveal to the world and to heaven what is the order and result of a government carried on according to his ideas of administration and law.** He is working with secret yet with intense zeal in **both Church and State**, to cause men to throw off **all the restraints of God's law**, and take a decided stand with him in the ranks of rebellion; but when his work is accomplished, the Lord will interpose, and vindicate his honor as the supreme Ruler of the universe. ST April 28, 1890, par. 8

Do you see the trap? We only have a government of peace from the Prince of Peace by restoring God's law into hearts and minds of people so that they love others more than self and every citizen in God's kingdom is completely trustworthy!

But some object: are you saying we should not care about social injustice or doing social justice? Should we just ignore abuse to our fellow human beings, should Christians have just ignored slavery?

And slavery is a great example of the difference in God's methods of advancing justice—and the world's method.



Those who see the world through the lens of human imposed law look at the New Testament and don't find a statement condemning slavery. They don't find instructions from Jesus or the Apostles directing for slaves to run away, in fact what is found are directions for slaves to return to their owners and to stay with their masters. We don't find in the New Testament any calls for new laws to do away with slavery, or any advocacy for abolitionist senators or governors in Rome—and thus those who read the Bible through human law find the Bible unjust, they falsely think the Bible was not attacking slavery. But it did and continues to attack all injustice—how? Through God's law, through God's methods, through the only means that actually ends human suffering, including slavery, and brings genuine peace—through changing hearts and minds by writing God's law upon the hearts and minds of people.

What happens to slavery and every other human abuse, if EVERY person loves you and others as much as they love their own spouse or children or self? Slavery is eradicated! God was absolutely working to eliminate slavery, but not through human governments because all human governments are part of Satan's kingdom and operate on Satan's methods and when we embrace those methods and use those avenues our hearts get corrupted—we open a door to our hearts for Satan's laws and methods to be written into our characters. And no matter how righteous our intentions, when we write laws and enforce them injustice to some people will occur.

Understand there is a difference in being a Protestant—a person who stands up to the injustices in the world and speaks the truth in love and those who get seduced into pursuing righteousness through legislation. Protestants in the truest sense advance God's kingdom by promoting the truth in love while leaving others free. Their primary focus is changing hearts and minds away from the methods of Satan to the principles and methods of God. As the people change the community and society changes. So we have a responsibility, which is what we are doing in Come and Reason Ministries to Protest all human injustice, but via the methods of God, truth, love and freedom, focused on healing hearts and minds.

So, what do we understand the government of Peace to be and how is it that those who love God's law have great peace?

SUNDAY

Read Isaiah 8:19-22:

When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. 21 Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. 22 Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. NIV84



What is happening in this text? What is spiritualism? It is the pursuit of knowledge without the investigation of evidence or the use of reason—

- Saul talking to the witch of Endor—wanted knowledge of the future
- Tarot cards
- Palm reading
- Astrology
- Tea leaves or chicken bones
- Seances
- Ouija boards
- Automatic writing

What is wrong with pursuing the occult or using these methods?
What happens to people who utilize these practices?

Why do people who turn to the occult end up in darkness? Because there is no light there, it is simply how reality works. It doesn't matter their intention—if a person with good intention seeks to get healthy by drinking poison, thinking, hoping, praying that the poison will cure them, will they get healthier? If a person puts on a blindfold attempting to see more clearly will they?

Rejecting truth and embracing lies NEVER enlightens, it only darkens. The occult is the domain of the father of lies and his minions and will only darken, confuse, pervert, damage and destroy.

As I was thinking about this moral darkness that covers the minds of the people, I was reminded of an article in the *Signs of the Times* January 20, 1890 entitled *God Made Manifest in Christ* by E.G. White.

Before we read some of this—what kind of war are we in? What are the weapons do we use? They are to demolish what? As we approach the second advent, consider this description of the situation at the first advent of Christ:

At the first advent of Christ, **darkness**, covered the earth, and **gross darkness** the people. [Darkness about what? Did darkness cover only the non-Jewish people, or were the Jews in darkness? Does this have any parallels for us today?] **Light** and **truth** seemed to have departed from among men, and Satan appeared to reign in undisputed power. [How was Satan reigning? Was he on a physical throne or was he reigning in the hearts and minds of people through his lies, his methods and principles—which are imposed rules which increases injustice after injustice though legal means. Remember slavery was legal. All the abuses of the Pharisees were legal. They hated Jesus because He broke their laws.] **Rival sects existed**, and among those who professed to be the servants of God were displayed **love of preeminence and strife for power and position**. [Do we see rival sects in society today, or could we say rival political parties? Do we see those rival sects claiming to be promoting the “good of the people” but in reality they love preeminence and fight for power and position over others?] Souls who were desirous of **light** were filled with perplexity and sorrow. [Are many people today desperate for light, searching for what is right?] Many were sighing, "**What is truth?**" [How many today are



saying “What is truth, there is no truth, your truth is your truth my truth is my truth?”] **Ignorance** prevailed, but many were looking for something better, looking for **light** that would illuminate the moral **darkness** of the world. [Does ignorance about God and God’s design law for life prevail today? And many are looking for something better, for light that will illuminate the moral darkness of this world! But where will they find it when the churches are infected with the imposed law lie and collude with governments practicing imperial methods of coercion—just like the Pharisees 2000 years ago.] They were thirsting for a **knowledge of the living God**, for some assurance of a life beyond the tomb... [What was the darkness over? What was the light the people were desperate for? What about today? This same author describes the darkness enshrouding the world today in COL 415:

“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 the revelation of His character of love.**”

Just as at the time of the first advent so now at the time of the second advent. People are hungering for the knowledge of the living God and God is calling for a people to tell this end-time message, which is the truth of His character of love, rejecting imposed law and returning to worshipping the Creator whose laws are design laws!] {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 1 }

Christ came just as prophecy had foretold. He was the "way, the **truth**, and the life," and the beams of the Sun of Righteousness dispelled the moral **darkness** so that the honest in heart might see the **truth**... [And Christ will come a second time just as prophecy has foretold:

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the **sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings**” (Mal 4:1-2 NIV84).

And consider if you were in a dark cave and were brought out at noon on a sunny day, versus you came out before dawn and watched the sun rise. The Sun of Righteousness rises with healing in His rays or beams or wings, those who love truth, love light, and are embracing the truth and assimilating it into their hearts are being healed, transformed, renewed, so that when He appears in all His glory we live in His fiery life-giving glory. But those who have rejected the ever-increasing truth and light, remain in darkness and when He appears in glory the beg for the mountains to fall them and hide them from Him. But for those of us who love the truth, embrace the light, **we become the lights of God** in the world of darkness. We are the ones who are God’s final witnesses—the ones who reveal God’s love and truth are contrary to the methods of this world!] {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 3 }



The Saviour of the world proposed that no attraction of an earthly character should call men to his side. **The light and beauty of celestial truth alone should be the drawing power.** [And so today God cannot win hearts and minds to love and trust by might, power, intimidation, great signs and wonders or miracles. Only by truth presented in love and leaving people free can He win this war, why? Because His goal is to heal hearts and minds and that requires our participation. We must think, reason, weigh out the evidences and decide. If God were to use might over us, it would intimidate us and we would lose our individuality. Thus, God uses the power of love and truth to win His case!] The outward glory, the worldly honor, which attracts the attention of men, he would not assume. He made himself accessible to all, teaching **the pure, exalted principle of truth as that which was only worthy of their notice...** [But the methods of Satan, the ways of this world are not truth, they are lies, deception, pomp, wealth, intimidation, power over, coercion. Do we find this is still true today?] {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 4}

Christ came to represent the Father. We behold in him the image of the invisible God. He clothed his divinity with humanity, and came to the world **that the erroneous ideas Satan had been the means of creating in the minds of men, in regard to the character of God, might be removed.** [What is the central issue in this war? The truth about God's character of love! This is why an angel could not come as our Savior because the lies of Satan were not about angels, they are about God. And only God can fully reveal the truth about God.] We could not behold the glory of God unveiled in Christ and live; [Why? Is this a rule or is it a function of reality? And if those who Christ came to save couldn't behold God's unveiled glory and live, what happens to the wicked in the end when His glory is unveiled? Is this an infliction by God or a result of unremedied sin in their hearts and minds—of how reality works? What kind of law is this?] but as he came in the garb of humanity, we may draw nigh to our Redeemer. We are called upon to behold the Lord our Father in the person of his Son... {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 5}

Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; [And how did Satan attack Christ? 1st, by deception and lies pretending to be an angel from heaven; 2nd, by false theology misusing Scripture—himself and then his human agents doing this multiple times as recorded in the Gospels. 3rd, by bribes and inducements offering the rewards of this world; 4th, by coercion, threat, abuse, and ultimately torture and death through the application of human laws that were easily manipulated to bring about the execution of Jesus. Notice the methods of Satan—these are the methods of earthly governments—they lie and deceive, they financially incentivize and bribe with tax incentives, with power, position, privilege, they ultimately coerce with imprisonment and even execution and the laws are easily manipulated by those in power to destroy the righteous.] for the enemy knew that when **divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him.** [What divine strength and power? What are the divine weapons? Break away from the captivity that binds us—what does this mean? What keeps us captive? Lies bind us—so truth destroys lies and sets us free. And fear/selfishness, the carnal nature with its me-first survival drives, enslave us, so love destroys fear and selfishness and sets us free. As we embrace the



truth about God's character, design laws, methods, as revealed and fulfilled in Jesus we are won to trust, then, in trust, we open the heart and the Spirit brings God's love and pours it into our hearts which casts out fear. We are set free to love our enemies and pray for those who abuse us. Jesus came to give us His power of truth and love so we could break free. But notice what the author writes next in Satan's warfare] **Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God. He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge of God might become extinct in the earth.** [Is this also the situation today? Has God been forgotten? Is it considered reasonable by the world to still believe in God or do only the uneducated, the foolish still believe in God? And what about those who do believe in God, are the churches presenting God's true character or are they presenting Satan's view of an imperial dictator—a legal religion that is the shadow of Satan's kingdom and character, just like the Jews did 2000 years ago? Do you see why God needs an end-time people to call people back to Creator worship and reveal the truth of His character and design law methods!] He had caused **truth** of vital importance to be so mingled with **error** that it had lost its significance. [What might that truth be? What is the error that is mixed in? Hear what comes next!] **The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions,** [What was the error? The design law of God was burdened with needless exactions and traditions—how? By accepting the lie that God's law is imposed rules. Design law has no needless exactions or tradition, it is human law, made up rules that multiply and multiply and become ever more burdensome. Just look at all our societies and governments and the myriad of laws and regulations we have and how legislators continue to pass more and more all the time and what is the result? Continuing the quote:] and **God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary.** [Why? Because when God's law is pictured as rules made up, then He necessarily must be the one who enforce those rules, which are arbitrary, and therefore God is viewed as the arbitrary, revengeful, severe—the punisher of rule-breakers.] He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. **The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God.** [How did Satan achieve this? By getting people to believe the lie that God's law is imposed law. Once we accept that lie then we present God as functioning like Satan. When we embrace the lie that we can get justice in society through human governments and pursue this we open our hearts to be stamped with Satan's stamp, Satan's character and we become like the evil one. We become marked either in our forehead or hand.] **Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent him before the fallen children of earth.** Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. **The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes.** [What is another way to say setting and keeping right? Justification and sanctification The **only** way to do this was to reveal the truth about God which wins us to trust. Notice, this author didn't say one of the ways, or, in addition to the necessary legal payment to pay for your sins to set men right... No! The **ONLY** way to set and keep men right is through revealing the truth about God, why? Because of reality—what is being set right? Not records, not legal accounts, but hearts and minds of people. And that is the reality of justification—a heart that is at enmity or distrusting God can only be set right with God by truth and love! There is nothing legal about it.] **That men might have salvation he came directly to man,**



and became a partaker of his nature... [In order to reveal the truth and procure the remedy!]
{ST, January 20, 1890 par. 6}

The Father was revealed in Christ as altogether a different being from that which Satan had represented him to be... [How does Satan represent God to be? A rule-maker and legal enforcer whose law and government operate like this sinful world. Jesus revealed something completely different. What is happening in the world today? Is the Christian world presenting God as Jesus revealed, or is the Christian world presenting the false god of imposed rules who is the inflictor of pain and suffering and thus the Christian world seeks to achieve its goals through human governments?] **The men of his own nation, the leaders of the people, were so ensnared by the deceptions of Satan that the plan of redemption for a fallen race seemed to their minds indistinct and unexplainable...** [What about today? Is the plan of salvation indistinct and unexplainable to the leaders of the world? What about the leaders of the church? When they explain it as Jesus paying a penalty to the Father so the Father won't be legally required to kill us, are they demonstrating a knowledge of the truth or showing that they are confused and don't understand?] {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 7}

Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of **the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,--to set men right through the revelation of God.** [Set us right, justify us, through a revelation of God, not through a legal payment, why? Because the problem is not legal, the problem is not a problem with God's law or God's attitude, or God's forgiveness, or God's government, but the problem is a problem with our hearts and minds—We believe lies about God and don't trust Him and are infected with fear and selfishness. Thus, the way we are set right with God is to dispel the lies, the darkness with the light of truth that wins us to trust and then when we trust He infuses us with His presence and His love overcomes our fear and we are renewed to be like Him in character.] **In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father.** In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, "I have manifested thy name." "I have glorified thee on the earth; **I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**" **When the object of his mission was attained,--the revelation of God to the world,--the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.**

Do we see the very same issues going on in the war today as when Christ first came? Do we see that our Prince of Peace restores peace in us as we love His law, which is design law, which is an expression of His character, which destroys the lies of the enemy and restores us to trust, which takes away our fear and brings us peace?

MONDAY

In the fifth paragraph it states, "He [Jesus] received all authority in heaven and on earth, and He is with us always (Matt. 28:18-20). While retaining His divinity He also has become human for all time, ever able to sympathize with our weaknesses (Heb 4:15)..."



He is with us always—for how long has Jesus become human? Realize this sacrifice of Jesus to become incarnate, to become human is an infinite sacrifice something we will never fully appreciate. Jesus, prior to His incarnation, lived as an infinite being—a being of infinity. He could enter and leave infinity. He could manifest in physical form, but He wasn't restricted to physical form. He was still an infinite being who lived in all points of time and all places simultaneously. But when He became incarnate, He surrendered His infinite powers and became one with us—for all eternity future. This wasn't just for 33 years, but for all time He remains human—He no longer is in all places at all times simultaneously—that is why the Holy Spirit is His representative now. This is why Jesus told His disciples He would send the Comforter. This is why Jesus said the Comforter would not speak on His own but only what He hears. The Comforter communicates to each of us the pleas of Jesus calling us to come home, to let Him heal us, to let Him take away our fear, our pain, our heartaches, to let Him come in and sup with us!

But what about this idea of Jesus sympathizing with us? Could an infinite God not sympathize with us without becoming human?

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. (Heb 4:15 NIV84)

My view is this is about our infinite God demonstrating to us His infinite love by becoming one with us, by surrendering infinite power, by becoming human, by becoming a helpless infant, by becoming powerless and being abused and tortured and killed—to reveal to us the truth that was always true about His character—that He truly does know all of our weaknesses, struggles, infirmities, temptations and is able to provide everything we need for victory. It isn't so much He learned in the sense of being enlightened, but that He achieved **as a human** what none of us could achieve and simultaneously revealed to us the truth about God.

And we are tempted from both outside ourselves and by our own humanity, fear and selfishness. Jesus was tempted outside Himself, but the humanity He assumed also tempted Him with fatigue, pain, and then with fear of death and the desire to save self and not die—as seen in Gethsemane, but He overcame all temptation by perfect love and perfect trust in His Father.

TUESDAY

What do you think of the title for today's lesson: The Rod of God's Anger?

Is this the same rod that David wrote about in Psalms 23, that “your rod and staff they comfort me” or is this a different rod?

Does God get angry? At what and about what? What is the focus of His anger?



What is the difference between righteous anger and sinful anger?

What law lens do we understand this through?

- Design law understands that righteous anger is always motivated by love for people and focuses on destroying the disease of sin in order to heal and save people. Like a doctor's anger at disease which destroys but not at the sick patient who is dying. So the doctor's anger is taken out on the virus, the cancer, the sickness, not on the patient.
- Imposed law promotes sinful anger which is motivated by selfishness and the desire to retaliate and focuses on punishing, hurting, or destroying people, while perpetuating sin and selfishness. It is the anger of not getting our way, or being hurt, injured, treated unfairly and instead of seeking to destroy the sin through truth and love, we want to destroy the sinner through inflicted punishment.

Thus the rod of God's anger through imposed law is the rod of punishment, of God inflicting, God making people suffer or God killing to punish sin which is Satan's lie.

Under design law the rod of God's anger is God's agencies, work, power interfering with sin in order to eradicate sin and save people. Thus for the righteous the rod and staff comfort because they destroy the disease of sin and restore us to godly spiritual health.

But for the unrighteous, who remain in a false worldview and believe lies about reality, they misconstrue the rod as an instrument of punishment that God wields to inflict pain. They fail to realize that their suffering actually comes from their refusal to let God do surgery on their hearts and cut out the fear, selfishness and evil habits.

WEDNESDAY

The description of Jesus as the shoot or sprout that comes out of the stump of Jesse. What does this mean?

The line of David was to be a great tree of righteousness, but it became corrupted and that tree was cut down but a remnant remained from which Jesus was born, a small sprout to shoot. And Jesus grew and became the King of kings and Lord of lords.

How is Jesus both the Root and the Branch of David? Because Jesus is the Father/Creator of Adam, and Adam is the father of all humans, so the father of David, yet Jesus became incarnate and took His genetic humanity from the family line of David. So Jesus is both the Root and Branch of David.

The lesson asks in what way will Jesus, the new Davidic Ruler reverse all the evil effects of sin and apostasy?

The lesson answers with this: "He thinks and acts in harmony with the Lord, judges fairly, punishes the wicked, and brings peace."



Do you agree or disagree? Why is this incorrect? Because this is Satan’s lie about justice—that justice is based on the right laws, the right judges and the right punishments being inflicted. This idea corrupts all who embrace it and it undermines God’s ability to heal hearts and minds because it incites distrust of God and keeps people from trusting Him. Further, it causes people to embrace, under the umbrella of godliness, the methods and practices of Satan so that people pursue justice through legal means, either by rule-keeping, legal pardon, lists of sins being confessed, claiming legal payments of a substitute, or through law keeping, legal behavior, right beliefs and doctrines, or through human governments to bring about the right laws to bring about social reforms. But all of this legal activity corrupts the hearts of people who seek righteousness through them.

Read bottom green question, “What did Jesus accomplish at the First Coming that gives us such assurance about the Second Coming?”

THURSDAY

Read third paragraph, “Not only does the Lord...” What do you think of these elements?

- Bestow salvation but is our salvation? What do you understand this distinction to be? The human species was saved in the person of Jesus Christ. He singly and alone overcame the infection of sin, confronted and defeated the temptations of Satan, lived out and produced a perfect sinless human character, revealed the truth about God, exposed Satan as a liar, and restored God’s design law for life into the humanity He assumed. As a human, using only human abilities Jesus did all of this. Thus in Jesus the species is perfected, but Jesus also procured the remedy, truth and a new character that He offers to give to all who trust Him. Truth restores trust and a new heart and right spirit to all who accept them.
- God is with us—how?
 - God is with us in heart
 - God is with us in substance, human, like us
 - God is with us in struggle, pain, suffering
 - God is with us in overcoming
 - God is with us to comfort and encourage
 - Who is “us”? Is it Israel? Is it all humanity? Is it only those who believe?
 - What is the difference between God is with us and God is for us?
- What is the distinction between bearing our sins and become sin for us?

The bottom green section says that “Only the works that Christ did, which He credits to us by faith, can bring redemption.”

What does this mean?

Through what law lens to you hear these words?



If you have the human law model then this becomes legal accounting in ledgers—God whitening out the sins and writing in Jesus’ historic victory to your legal account.

It is a fraud—based on the lie that God’s law works like human law, it is also contrary to the Greek, as that is not what the Greek means for accounted or accounting in Romans.

The word actually deals with reality—you cannot account something that isn’t first so. You don’t account that you have \$50 in your bank unless you actually have \$50, the account only records what is.

So, Jesus’ setting us right or justifying is by faith happens in us by removing distrusting and restoring us to trust, removing selfishness and writing in us His law of love and the records of heaven merely register that reality, or not.

FRIDAY

Read second paragraph, “Christ was the one...” what does this mean? What does the language offering for sin mean?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Healing the Mind in a Broken World, videos, mp3s, podcasts power point slides are all now available on our website!

SHARING campaign. BE SURE TO USE OUR WEBSITE STORE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER—DON'T SEND AN EMAIL.

Australia—if you are in Australia be sure to check out the Come and Reason Australia Facebook page where there is unique content and local events.

Multi-Languages: Check out our multi-language section, it is growing every month. There are now more than 30 blogs translated into Polish as well as *Could It Be This Simple?* all available on our website—thank you Mirra Huber!

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

Power of Love Training and Equipping Course is now available online at comeandreason.com All presentations are available video and also in MP3, the power point slides are available with and without the Come and Reason Branding logos and the Syllabus, with its reference guide and study questions is available for download. We encourage you to use this material in small group Bible studies or use the slides and present the series at your church.