



## 2021 1Q Isaiah: Lesson 9 To Serve and to Save

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read the memory text: “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles” (Isaiah 42:1 NKJV)

Who is the Servant in this text? Jesus, and Matthew applies it specifically to Jesus:

Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations. (Mt 12:15-18 NIV84)

Do we have other New Testament passages that record Jesus as the fulfillment of this prophecy?

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Mt 3:16-17 NIV84)

What else do you notice about this prophecy?

Who are the various players in this text? Who is the speaker? Who is the Servant and who is the Spirit?

Behold! My [Father] Servant [Jesus] whom I [Father] uphold, My Elect One [Jesus] in whom My [Father] soul delights! I [Father] have put My Spirit [Holy Spirit] upon Him [Jesus]; He [Jesus] will bring forth justice to the Gentiles”

So here in the Old Testament we find the gospel prophet not only prophesies about Jesus coming, but rightly reveals the entire Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that they work cooperatively to achieve this outcome—our salvation.



Remember our class last week when we read the quote out of the book *The Desire of Ages* in which the author wrote that without the Holy Spirit the sacrifice of Christ would be of no avail because the Holy Spirit is the actualizing agent in us, it is the Holy Spirit that makes effective what Christ achieved.

And for Jesus, as a human being, He achieved the victory through the same power available to us—the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Jesus was tempted to use His own personal divine abilities (turn stone to bread) but He never used His own abilities. All He achieved as a human, whether miracles or His victory over all temptation was achieved through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Jesus not only reveals to us the truth about God, but Jesus reveals to us the secret to our own personal victory over sin. Consider this historic quote:

Christ lived a human life that He might be man's example in all things. He endured temptation even as every human being must endure. He believed God as we must believe. He learned obedience even as we are required to learn obedience. **And He overcame as we must overcome.** His path lay through manifold temptations; therefore He knows how to succour those who are tempted. BEcho September 3, 1900, par. 13

Do you agree? Disagree?

What about the last portion of our memory text, “he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles” or “he will bring justice to the nations.” How do you understand this, what does it mean?

What law lens do you understand justice through?

If we accept Satan’s lie that God’s law functions like human law, imposed rules and that according to Satan “every sin must meet its punishment” (DA 761) then what is justice? –under human law justice is always the infliction of punishment for disobedience—this is Satan’s lie about God from the beginning and it is the lie that is still taught in every government of the world and every religion that holds to Satan’s view about God’s law.

For those who have rejected the kingdoms of this world with their imposed law as being representative of God’s government and have returned to worship God as Creator, we realize that God’s laws are design protocols upon which reality is built to operate. Breaking these laws results in death unless the Creator heals the damage. All the laws of health demonstrate the difference between imposed laws and design laws.

The battle between Christ and Satan is a battle for our minds—Satan’s methods and principles damage our minds, God’s heals our minds.



In the Dark Ages the beast of Revelation that warred against the saints warred by getting people to believe things that didn't make sense and practice principles that were contrary to reality, to God's design for justice.

Things that didn't make sense like:

God is love but if you don't love and obey Him He will burn you in hell

- You can shorten people's suffering in purgatory with money
- You can have your sins erased by going on a crusade and killing people

During this time in history if people questioned the church and its teachings they were:

- accused of heresy called heretic
- ostracized
- had their fortunes, lands taken away
- fined
- imprisoned
- killed

Do we see these same methods being practiced today by the image to the beast of Revelation? after my recent blog where I discussed the downside of using modern day examples as some people get too emotional and I reflected that maybe it is better to use Bible examples, I received so many emails from people telling me that the modern day examples really help them learn to apply God's principles in our lives today and encouraged me to keep doing it. So, I am going to, but let me say, if you don't like the examples I am using, okay, substitute a different example of your own, but don't lose sight of the underlying principles and methods we are exploring, simply because you don't like the example that demonstrates the principles. Stay focused on the principles and methods, that is the key point.

Let's use the example currently impacting the entire world to demonstrate the fallacy of the two laws—COVID-19.

This virus, if it infects you, violates the laws of health by subverting your body's normal processes and inciting viral reproduction that damages the body leading to death if not stopped. This is true for all viral infections. Thus, violating the laws of health results in death unless the individual is put back in harmony with the laws of health by eliminating the virus. This is a metaphor for sin—which is a sickness of character that is terminal without remedy.

Many human governments have passed various made-up human laws in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus. This is like the Dark Ages church which passed many laws to try and stop the spread of sin. Now, let's examine what justice looks like when both laws are broken—design laws (laws of health) and imposed laws (made up rules).

And regardless of the good intentions (and let's give all those in government or the church who pass these made-up laws the best motives of only wanting to save lives and be helpful) but irrespective of



good intentions, the made-up human laws are not reality—they are simply made-up rules that require external enforcement and inflicted punishments and they do not guarantee protection.

If in the Dark Ages you comply with the church rules, go to mass, have your infants baptized, go to confession, say Hail Mary's, pray to the saints, go on a pilgrimage—does any of this mean you will be cleansed from sin and have eternal life?

If today you comply with an imposed law to wear a mask, shut down your business, and stand six feet apart, does this mean you will avoid getting infected with the virus and are guaranteed to live? And if you obey these laws but still get infected what happens if you appeal to the governor and say—“Hey, I wore my mask. I shut down my business. I obeyed all the laws. Can you please legally pardon me from this infection so I won't get sick and die?”

This is a great metaphor for what penal/legal theologies of have done. They have replaced the reality of sin being a spiritual condition of heart and mind that is deviant from God's design that results in death unless remedied, with a legal fiction that sin is a judicial problem that requires legal payment and pardon. They teach millions to claim legal pardon from God on the basis if the blood payment of Jesus, yet don't tell people how to experience actually renewal of heart and mind and freedom from the domination of fear and selfishness—sin.

Imagine during the Dark Ages someone lives where they are legally required to go to confession or have their infants baptized—the purpose of course is to ensure righteousness and to save their eternal life. But what if a person doesn't obey this law, yet still has a saving relationship with Jesus Christ? What is wrong with disobeying these laws? What would the church do and why?

Imagine today that your son or daughter lives in a municipality in which a law has been passed for them to close their business to reduce the risk of spreading COVID. What happens if your child opens their business and never gets exposed to COVID? What would be wrong with running their business if no exposure ever happens? But what would the state do? Why would the state need to do this? What kind of punishment is this?

Imagine you are the governor of that state and your child breaks the law and opens their business, and from that act a customer infects your child with COVID. You become aware your child is now infected as a direct result of disobeying the law that you imposed to protect them. If you do what is just, what is right:

- do you have your child executed for disobedience?
- If you do what is just or right do you seek to inflict punishment upon your child?
- Perhaps you think yes, the law must be upheld, regardless of whether it is my child or not, they need to be fined and their business license revoked—so you do that. Has that resolved your child's condition? Is your concern about enforcing the made-up laws or saving your child?
- What if as you enforce the law to fine or punish your child for breaking the law you imposed, his older brother intervened and said, “No, don't punish my brother. I love him, punish me in his place. I will pay his fine.” Would that be just for you to allow? And if you allowed the innocent to be punished in place of the guilty, how does that resolve your child's infection?



- What was the purpose of the law you passed, was it to close businesses or was it to prevent infection?
- And since the infection hasn't been prevented, how does imposing a fine on your child help your child? It doesn't.
- This is the fallacy of the penal legal model, the idea that inflicting punishment to uphold the law somehow resolves the sin problem. It doesn't because the sin problem isn't a legal problem any more than being infected with COVID is a legal problem—being infected is a health problem. Likewise, sin is a spiritual health problem and eternal health problem.
- So, if you do what is just or right, in harmony with the law of love and the laws of health what action do you take for your infected child? If you had a remedy that would cure your child, say hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin with Vit D and Zinc, would you give it to your child?

This is the problem with the world today—people are more invested in seeking some form of justice through human laws, through imposed rules, through sanctions and inflicted punishments than actually doing what is right—what is healing and restorative. Just look at all the changes in the made-up laws that are occurring between the Trump and Biden administrations—some people are happy others upset, but the people of God recognize it is all artificial and none of it is the justice of God's kingdom.

Worse, what is happening during COVID is an assault on your mind. Realize there are forces at work to destroy your capacity to discern right from wrong, healthy from unhealthy, as Isaiah wrote:

Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter. (5:20 NIV84)

Irrational and inconsistent messaging, contradictory and false positions, destructive and irrational ideologies are being promoted, repeated in words and images, and these lies infect minds getting people to believe things that don't make sense and are opposite of truth—just like the church of the Dark Ages did. Examples:

Logitech Superbowl commercial:

“we stand there in defiance, that's right We're the makers, the groundbreakers, we're the creators, the screamers, the dreamers, we defy expectations, perceptions and misconceptions, we defy what logic says we should look like, sound like, be like, we defy algorithms and entire industries, see we defy that little voice that says Oh no we can't with a roar back that says Oh yes we will, because to create the future we must defy the logic of the past WE MUST DEFY LOGIC.” <https://www.ign.com/videos/logitech-super-bowl-55-commercial-defy-logic>

What is the message? Logic isn't logic, it is anything we want it to be and in fact we can't succeed unless we deny logic, and we can't go into the future successfully unless we reject the logic of the past



past and what history has to teach us. Then we can become the makers and creators of logic and reality.

Whose message is this? Who is the father of lies and must deny truth and reality because, all truth, all reality exposes him and his methods as destructive?

But for those who love truth, what is the truth on the question of logic and history?

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. (Dt 4:9).

What are we to teach to our children? The history of God's actions in the past! Why? What happens if we forget?

Speaking about the history in the Old Testament Paul writes:

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. (1 Co 10:11).

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote:

We have nothing to fear for the future, **except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.** CET 204.1

Who wants us to forget history? Why? What happens to our minds when we disconnect them from reality, from facts, from history, from logic?

The Bible teaches that the mature are those who have developed by practice the ability to discern right from wrong. (Heb 5:14) This means that they have developed the ability to think for themselves, they understand how reality works.

But Satan and his kingdoms of this world don't want people to think, to discern, they want followers. They want people to believe on claims, proclamations, declarations; they want people who can't differentiate evidence and facts from fiction and fantasy. Then such people will follow whoever happens to tell them what they want to hear, regardless of whether it is true or not.

Our minds are under assault to accept lies as truth and lose the ability to reason, to discern. Examples, some of which have been going on for decades:

- Godless evolution, which generations are now taught in school and which all public universities adhere to and all government research centers, all research funding, and all peer review journals support. Yet this view must deny overwhelming evidence that refutes their godless worldview. And what happens to the mind? It is not simply that they believe a lie about life's origins, it is that their minds are conditioned to deny evidence, deny facts and





accept the view of the “authorities” the professors, the experts. But the experts have lost their ability to actually see reality, they are the blind leading the blind. This is exactly the same method of the Dark Ages church—deny evidence, reality, teach ideas that contradict the evidence, then ostracize, fine, and punish all who question the orthodox narrative.

- “There is no truth, your truth is your truth, my truth is my truth”—this idea is corrosive and teaches people that all views are equally valid—there is no objective reality. So, who do we follow in such a world—whoever has power and authority. It moves us away from maturing back to immature levels of functioning.
- “There is no male or female, gender is what one decides.” Consider the damage to the mind this lie creates. This lie isn’t actually about male and female it is about getting people to deny every-day reality, to deny objective facts. It is our modern-day example of the *Emperor’s Clothes*. And this leads to things like the new President’s ruling that male-to-female transgender individuals can compete in female sports. Objective reality doesn’t matter and if you try to point out reality you are accused of being a bigot, intolerant, and threatened with being canceled, de-platformed, being mobbed—a modern day heretic and treated just like the Church of the Dark Ages treated heretics. But what is the truth about this?
  - Biological males get testosterone production at puberty that cause marked physical enhancement of their bodies—they grow taller, their muscles grow bigger, their bones become denser, and they get larger hearts and lungs with greater oxygen carrying capacity than women. Additionally, testosterone provides muscle memory, so that muscles remember to regrow more quickly after a period of atrophy, as they have more nuclei that don’t go away when testosterone lowers. These physical benefits to athletic performance persist, even if a biological male person later identifies as a transgendered woman and artificially lowers their testosterone production.
  - But truth doesn’t matter, facts don’t matter—we must deny reality in order to be accepted—our minds are under assault. “Look, the Emperor’s clothes are beautiful!”

Let’s take another example from the Superbowl, in fact from the entire football season both college and pro; and that is the question about wearing masks. Now, let’s all just assume mask wearing reduces viral transmission—it is a question still being debated, but let’s for the sake of our discussion, assume that in fact mask wearing does work to reduce transmission of COVID.

What is the messaging about wearing masks?

- If you don’t wear a mask you are at high risk of dying. You must wear a mask in order to be safe!
- If we assume that the masks are effective and will reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19, and you don’t wear one is that the same thing as putting yourself at high risk of dying? No—if our assumptions about lowering transmission are correct, not wearing a mask merely puts one at greater risk of contracting COVID—but in order to be at high risk of dying the virus that you might catch has to not just contagious but virulent—and COVID isn’t. The risk of dying from COVID is based on other factors than the virus itself. Such as the age of the person, their baseline health status, and their genetics; in other words, is the individual in a compromised or weakened health status. Also, it begs the question of therapeutics—are there interventions that can be brought to bear that can effectively treat the COVID infection and there is a large body



of research that says yes there is. So even if one contracts COVID that doesn't necessarily put them at high risk of dying. Different people have different risks.

- And then what of people like my wife, who had COVID already, recovered, and have been tested, have antibodies, and donated convalescent plasma—does they need to wear a mask? But why is there no provision for the millions like her?

And this contradiction in the messaging was revealed in the Superbowl and all season long and our minds are presented with something that doesn't fit:

- We see players, week after week, team after team, up in each other's faces breathing on each other, sweating on each other and they are not wearing masks—And they are not dying!
- But then the broadcasters show us images of the coaches along the sidelines, standing many feet away from others and they are all wearing masks or the very same players who just came off the field after breathing all over each other in the trenches sit down by themselves many feet from others and put on a mask. Hmmm...why?
- Because we must be sent the right visual optics, the right visual images that reinforce the idea that if you don't wear a mask you are at high risk of dying—that you can't function safely in society if you don't have a mask on. If you don't have a mask on you should be afraid, you could die.
- We are being conditioned to deny history, to deny reality right before our very eyes, to accept authoritarian rule even if it doesn't make sense, to take it on faith that someone in charge knows better, they know what is right, don't ask questions, just believe and do it.
- Understand, these football players are not putting their lives on the line to play in these games—all season long, both professional and college.
- Some of you may remember a player named Ryan Clark who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He has sickle cell trait, and a few years ago when the Steelers were in the playoffs and had to play the Denver Broncos in Denver, he did not go to Denver and play in that game. Why? Because his life was really in danger. If these players lives were in real danger from not wearing a mask, they wouldn't be playing and we all know it.

Understand what is happening and this isn't about COVID. What is happening is our minds are being purposely manipulated to be less capable of thinking, more fearful, more willing to trust others to tell us the answer, more willing to accept authoritarian rules and this leads to intolerance

- Consider this, you are wearing your mask and you go into a store somewhere a patron comes in not wearing a mask. What is your response?
- Are you tempted to be irritated?
- Do you fear you are at risk?
- Do you want to report them and make them comply? But why?
- If your mask is protecting you how is it you become afraid if that person isn't wearing one?
- After all, if the mask really keeps you safe aren't you just as safe wearing yours whether they wear one or not?
- If you are wearing your seatbelt and see the person in the car next to you not wearing their seatbelt do you become afraid for your health?
- If your mask is protecting you why are you distraught that someone else isn't wearing one?





Jesus describing events leading up to His coming said:

Mark 13:12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” [Are we starting to see families divide? Are we conditioning people to become so fearful, so survival driven, so devoid of love that they will turn on their own church family, their own biological family and report them to the state? The first trickles are starting and it will only get worse. The mask **mandates** are part of this mental conditioning.]

Now I am speaking about misinformation and using that misinformation to impose mask MANDATES. I am not in any way criticizing VOLUNTARY mask wearing. In fact, I want to go on record supporting every person who wants to wear a mask voluntarily. Why? Because it is about you thinking, reasoning, and concluding for yourself what is best in your situation, which strengthens your reasoning ability—it is not ultimately about the mask it is about your mind! But those who want to break down your individuality, your ability to think and to act as an agent of God, **do not want you to decide to whether to wear a mask or not**. What they want is for you to comply, to surrender the choice to the higher authority—that is the point. Your agreement is not required, your compliance is. **That is the goal, condition you to accept lies as truth and irrational application of imposed laws by the ruling authority. Then when more irrational laws come down, you will be less capable of resisting them.**

How much better if we present truth and evidence to people, and then leave them free to make their own decisions?

We received this email from an online listener this week,

*Dr. Jennings reveals truth over and over again...here is a most recent example of what I'm referring to:*

*In this [week's] live class, Feb. 6th, he mentioned the enemy will come with some type of "justice" cause suited for a person's mindset; then he listed a whole list:*

*Economic*

*Racial*

*Etc.....*

*Well, I was amazed as I witnessed this very point being played out with some of my friends.*

*The topic was the "reality czar" Tim brought up. After class I verified it, gained an understanding of what it was and shared it with some of my Christian friends. Some of them actually thought it was a good idea!!!! Their thinking was, because of all the "misinformation," lies- someone should monitor what is put out there and it would be "just" to protect people from "misinformation"!!!!!!!!!!!!*



*I was dumbfounded, but it was an example in real-time of what Tim was talking about.*

*When I asked them about freedom of speech, they were willing to give up their freedom if it kept "misinformation" from being put "out there"!!! (For the good of the people!!!!!!)*

*Then I asked them whose reality they thought the "reality czars" would be promoting? Do you think they will dig into evidence for the truth or make declarations based on their own biases? Well, to that they stopped to ponder.*

Who should decide reality for you or me? Certain people in the media have constantly held up scientists—are you willing to listen to the scientists, should we listen to the scientists, or should we examine the evidence for ourselves—whether it be on global warming or COVID or anything else?

How many remember the science articles on the safety of tobacco, or the articles that said there was no association between tobacco and cancer back in the 1960's and 70's? What did we learn from that? That science can be corrupted by money and politics to misinform us. Do we think this stopped with tobacco?

I cited two articles a few weeks ago that were published in *The Lancet* and the *NEJM* that were both fraudulent and later retracted. But there are many more articles that are published that are not good science, that are funded by interest groups to give certain results and they do.

So, as we consider the question of justice—I hope you will realize there is no justice in human systems, human imposed laws, there is only punishment biasedly applied with various interests-groups perpetually vying for power in order to advance their view of justice. This is Satan's kingdom—and it is only going to get worse until Jesus comes.

Consider this historic quote from one of the founders of the SDA church, do you agree or disagree and why?

**"Because of Satan's accusing power, it was not the plan of God to deal with him as he deserved. The tempter would throw all the blame of his course upon others who were below him. He would make it appear that if he could have moved according to his own judgment all this demonstration of rebellion would have been avoided."**

**"The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy. He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God, claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault. Thus he takes his position on the judgment seat and declares that his counsels are infallible. Here his merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God."**

– Christ Triumphant (CTr) p. 11 and - Letter 16a, 1892



Remember a few weeks ago we went through the six powers of Satan and one of those powers is the power of accusation, another is the power of imposed law and coercive enforcement. Look at what is happening in society today—accusations without evidence and then punishment inflicted by the state.

God's methods are quite different. God's justice is always healing, restorative, and in harmony with the laws He built reality to operate upon. Thus God justly left Satan free to tell his lies and incite his rebellion, because that his how love and liberty work, while God went about revealing truth to destroy lies and win to trust. It is Satan and Satan's methods that don't leave free, that silence dissenting voices, that de-platform, that censor.

Consider this quote in light of God's versus Satan's methods:

Satan's representations against the government of God, and his defense of those who sided with him, **were a constant accusation against God. His murmurings and complaints were groundless; and yet God allowed him to work out his theory.** [Satan is a liar and accuser. His accusations are groundless because there is no truth on his side. Yet God gives real freedom. God did not censor Satan. God did not take down his Twitter account, or block him from social media. God left Satan free. Why? If you think it is right to censor, to de-platform, to silence opposition voices—for the good of the people to save lives—whose methods are you preferring?] **God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers** as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. **But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force.** [What is a precedent? An action that serves as justification for future actions. God would NOT do this. Why? What happens to love when force is used? Do you think it is right and just to use force to make people comply, to punish sin? Whose kingdom do you prefer?] **All the compelling power is found only under Satan's government.** [How much? All, why? What type of law is Satan's kingdom built upon? Made up rules, which can only be enforced by compelling power, infliction of punishment. God's kingdom is built upon design law, the protocols life operates upon—break them and you injure yourself.] **The Lord's principles are not of this order. He would not work on this line.** [God will not work by rule enforcement, only Satan does. How many Christians are eager to join the ranks of the enemy and support the state in enforcing rules upon others. But we can never win friends this way, we can never convert, we can never eliminate fear and selfishness and restore love in this manner.] **He would not give the slightest encouragement for any human being to set himself up as God over another human being, feeling at liberty to cause him physical or mental suffering. This principle is wholly of Satan's creation.** [Yet how many today in society believe it is right and just to have other humans be authority over us, and to punish us if we don't go along with the approved narrative?] RH September 7, 1897, par. 7

**The principles of the character of God** were the foundation of the education constantly kept before the heavenly angels. **These principles were goodness, mercy, and love.** [How do these principles operate?] **Self-evidencing light** was to be recognized and **freely accepted by all who occupied positions of trust and power.** [What does self-evidencing light mean? How reality works, it is obvious because its what actually transpires. Like football players not dying when they don't wear their masks exposes the lie that we can only be safe when we wear one.]



**They must accept God's principles, and, through the presentation of truth and righteousness, convince all who were in his service.** [What method is this? Truth presented in love leaving others free. This is what we practice. We never seek to coerce, to force, to compel. We might not be persuaded by an opponents argument, but we will leave them free to have it.] **This was the only power to be used.** [What is the only power the people of God are to use? Truth, love, freedom!] **Force must never come in.** [What must never come in? But what if we need to save lives? Shouldn't we use force then? Isn't it right to force people then? When God didn't use compelling power on Satan was He not concerned with saving lives? Understand reality—force can save individual lives in the short run, but can never end violence, conflict, and save lives in the long run. The use of force only perpetuates sin and ongoing conflict and continuation of the loss of life.] **All who thought that their position gave them power to command their fellow beings, and control conscience, must be deprived of their position; for this is not God's plan...** [Wow—too bad both church and state leaders don't know this. Understand, the role of earthly governments is not to promote righteousness, it is merely to restrain chaos and anarchy. Our Constitution is written not to grant us rights—our rights are inalienable and give to us by God. The Constitution is written to restrain the government from encroaching upon the principles of God for healthy living—in other words our God-given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But many now are using government to seek to command their fellow beings and control conscience—if you don't support and defend the popular views then you need to be silenced, be punished, be sent to reeducation camps, have your business shut down, be accused of inciting an insurrection, or being racist, or sexist and what do accusations do? They intimidate people into silence, using powers to coerce and pressure people to comply to false worldviews. Consider in academia how professors will be blackballed, lose positions, lose grants, lose research opportunities, not be published if they don't support the godless theory of evolution.] RH September 7, 1897, par. 8

**In the councils of heaven it was decided that principles must be acted upon that would not at once destroy Satan's power; for it was God's purpose to place things upon an eternal basis of security.** [What does this mean? How can things be put on an eternal basis of security? What happens in hearts when people are threatened with punishment to comply? Are they convinced? So what would be needed to successfully destroy Satan and his power and put things on eternal basis of security? Evidence revealed over time while leaving people free. Which method do you see human governments employing? Which method do you prefer and which will you practice?] **Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government.** [What are they? Lies, imposed laws, inflicted punishments, coercive enforcement, accusation, human economics, division and destructions and death] The heavenly universe must see worked out the principles which Satan declared were superior to God's principles. **God's order must be contrasted with Satan's order. The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, perfect, eternal...** [Where is this contrast between God's government and principles and Satan's government and principles made and most clearly seen? First and foremost, in the life of Jesus. Jesus revealed the truth of God's character, methods and principles and Satan exposed himself as a murderer



by shedding the blood of Jesus. But Jesus has sent us to be lights in the dark world. The second place this contrast is made is in the lives of those who are taken out of the world, who have the laws of Satan and the kingdoms of the earth cut out of their hearts and have God's laws written in. It is we who are to give glory to God at this time in history by loving God and others, and by practicing His methods and refusing to be deceived into pursuing justice through imposed laws, human governments and inflicted punishments.] RH September 7, 1897, par. 10

**The Lord allowed Satan to go on, and demonstrate his principles.** God did reveal that his principles were right, and he carried the worlds unfallen and the heavenly universe with him; but it was at a terrible cost. His only begotten Son was given up as Satan's victim. The Lord Jesus Christ revealed a character entirely opposite to that of Satan. [Satan's method is rules over. He sought to climb up and reign over by authority and power. Jesus, who being by nature God, did not think equality was to be grasped but surrendered...] As the high priest laid aside his gorgeous, pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress of a common priest, so Christ emptied himself, and took the form of a servant, and offered the sacrifice, himself the priest, himself the victim. RH September 7, 1897, par. 12

**By causing the death of the Sovereign of heaven, Satan defeated his own purpose...** He was allowed to go on until his administration was laid open before the worlds unfallen and before the heavenly universe. **By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he uprooted himself from the affections of the unfallen beings. He was seen by all to be a liar, a thief, and a murderer.** RH September 7, 1897, par. 13 [Who killed Jesus? Who is the murderer and is guilty of shedding Jesus' blood? Satan! Yet his lies have been so effective that the majority of Christians still teach that God killed Jesus at the cross to enforce justice and pay our sin debt. This is Satan's lie about law carried out in perverse theology. And we wonder why so many Christians are willing to accept the events that are happening in the world today.]

**God sees that the same course of action is being pursued the world over.** Men and women come to the place where the road diverges; it is either right or wrong...[And only the mature, those who have developed by practice the ability to discern the right from wrong know which road to take!] RH September 7, 1897, par. 14

**Today Satan is working upon human minds by his crooked principles.** These will be adopted and acted upon by some who claim to be loyal and true to God's government. How shall we know that they are disloyal and untrue?—"By their fruits ye shall know them." **God does not force any one. He leaves all free to choose.** [The principles of Satan are lies, imposed law, inflicted punishment, coercion. Even if you believe a lie about some topic, say COVID, you can still avoid joining Satan's team by refusing to embrace, support, or promote his methods of legal mandates, imposed punishments, judicial enforcements. In other words, God's people present the truth in love, live that truth in their lives, and leave others free. In the COVID climate, that would mean the people of God present the truth about COVID as they understanding it, practice the principles of health that they understand work best, but leave others free to believe differently and practice differently. Just like we do with eating meat or not, smoking or not, using marijuana or not etc.] But he says, "By their fruits ye shall know





them.” The Lord will not write as wise those who cannot distinguish between a tree that bears thorn-berries and a tree that bears olives. RH September 7, 1897, par. 15

**Individually, we are deciding our eternal destiny, deciding whether we shall enjoy the highest honor that can be given to man, even an eternal weight of glory, or be ranked with Satan by possessing his character, by dishonoring God because we profess to be Christians while misrepresenting Christ. Those who choose to reveal the character of the arch-deceiver identify themselves with him beyond the possibility of a change, because they choose not to see themselves as wrong. This was the course that Satan pursued. RH September 7, 1897, par. 16**

## SUNDAY

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The lesson focuses on the two servants—one Jesus the ultimate suffering servant, and the other the people of God, or as the lesson suggests the nation of Israel as a servant of God.

The lesson asks in the middle of the page, “What is the role of the servant nation?”

What was Israel chosen for?

- Were Abraham’s children chosen for exclusive salvation?
- Is salvation determined by genetics?

What were they chosen for?

For a mission—what mission? Consider this quote from the book, *Christ’s Object Lessons*:

So God had **chosen a people** from the world to be trained and educated by Christ. The prophet says, "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant." Isa. 5:7. Upon this people God had bestowed great privileges, blessing them richly from His abundant goodness. He looked for them to honor Him by yielding fruit. **They were to reveal the principles of His kingdom. In the midst of a fallen, wicked world they were to represent the character of God.** {COL 285.1}

What was their purpose? To reveal the principles of God’s kingdom and represent the character of God—for what purpose? To prepare the world for the first advent and be the branch of the human family tree through which Messiah would come.

So, the purpose of Abraham’s family was to know God, be faithful to Him and reveal Him and His character and design laws in word and deed to evangelize the world and prepare the world for Jesus.





## MONDAY

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The lesson asks “What is the role and character of God’s unnamed Servant, whom God chooses and upon whom He puts His Spirit?”

Well this is talking about Jesus—and what is Jesus’ role and character?

The lesson gives 5 options and wants us to choose them all:

1. He provides justice for the nations
2. He accomplishes His goals quietly and gently, but successfully
3. He is a teacher
4. He serves as a covenant between God and the people
5. He gives light or hope by healing blindness and liberating prisoners

What do these mean to you? Do any stand out? How would you explain them? Does the law lens we use make a difference in our understanding of each?

## TUESDAY

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The lesson points out that Isaiah prophesied that Cyrus would be the ruler who set the Jews free to return to Jerusalem 150 years before he lived. This is a profound prophecy demonstrating God knows the future before it actually happens.

who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd  
and will accomplish all that I please;  
he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,”  
and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.” ’ (Isaiah 44:28 NIV84)

Does the fact God knows Cyrus by name and calls Cyrus “my shepherd” mean that Cyrus was alive someone in the universe before Cyrus was born? Is this speaking about Cyrus being alive or about God’s foreknowledge and calling?

This is the same type of foreknowledge and meaning of

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5)

God foreknew Jeremiah—this text says nothing about when Jeremiah became a living being. Notice, the text says God knew Jeremiah *before* Jeremiah was formed in the womb.

Why are prophecies like these important? Turn to WEDNESDAY



Because they give us hope in the times of trial and difficult. Because of prophecies like these we know God is in charge and is working out His plan of salvation and we will be delivered.

## THURSDAY

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Read first paragraph, “God calls and names Him...” Who is Israel that is called back to God? Who are those that are considered descendants of Abraham?

Who did Jesus say was the father of the genetic Jews who opposed Him, while on earth?

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 NIV84)

How can this be? Is Jesus revealing a truth here?

Why was Abraham’s name changed from Abram? Because he would be the father of one nation—no many nations. Who are considered part of Israel?

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29 NIV84)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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**Notes Available on our website Bible Study Class > current quarter > current lesson menu for download**

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

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