



2021 1Q Isaiah: Lesson 11 Waging Love

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

What did you think about the picture for the lesson this week?

- What comes to mind?
- What kind of war is depicted?
- Did you notice that the spearheads are in the shape of hearts?
- Can we win people to love by threatening to kill them if they don't love us?
- Is the war of love waged by violence, coercion, force or any compulsion to comply?

We are in a war—but what kind of war? How are we to wage it?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 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 are the weapons of the world? If you haven't been reading my blogs I am in the middle of a six part blog series on the powers of Satan and how to defeat them
 - Lies—we don't lie we wield the sword of truth
 - The kingdoms of the world with their imposed law with coercive enforcement—we don't coerce we live in harmony with design law, present the truth in love and leave others free
 - Worldly economics—we don't wage economic warfare, we don't seek to punish people financially, we seek to relieve poverty
 - Accusations—we don't accuse, we present the love of God the sacrifice of Jesus, the reality of what sin does
 - Temptation and division—we don't temp and we don't divide, we are peacemakers who through the power of the gospel unite
 - Death and destruction—don't kill or destroy

Any other texts come to mind on how we wage war?

"Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people. I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and



feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law. A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family.

"Those who love parental approval more than they love me are untrustworthy of me and the Remedy I bring; and those who love the approval of their children more than me are untrustworthy of me and the Remedy I bring. Anyone who refuses to die to selfishness and follow me — loving others more than self — cannot be trusted by me to distribute the Remedy I bring. Whoever seeks to save self remains infected with selfishness and will die of their unhealed condition, but whoever surrenders self in love to me will experience healing of heart, and will find eternal life. Matthew 10:34-39 Remedy

Read first paragraph, “A Jewish cantor...” Will this work in every situation? For the heart, mind and character of the one who acts like Jewish cantor’s—yes! But will all enemies respond positively? Consider Jesus and how some responded in love while others hated Him and sought to kill Him.

We are only responsible for being the lights of God’s kingdom in the world, we are NOT responsible for how things turn out, for converting others, for how people respond.

SUNDAY

Read Isaiah 55:1:

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
(Is 55:1 NRSV).

What is the message of this verse?

Does it remind you of a verse in the New Testament?

You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. Therefore I counsel you to **buy from me** gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
(Rev 3:17,18 NIV84).

Let’s examine these two texts. What are the various elements and what do they mean and what is described?

- There is a need—thirst, nakedness, poverty, blindness, wretchedness
- There is failure to understand the situation
- Water
- Gold



- White robes
- Eye salve
- Money—which we don't have
- Instruction to buy and to eat, be rich, dressed, and see

What do the various elements represent? From the book, *The Desire of Ages*:

As it was in the days of Christ, so it is now; the Pharisees do not know their spiritual destitution. To them comes the message, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Rev. 3:17, 18. **Faith and love are the gold tried in the fire.** But with many the gold has become dim, and the rich treasure has been lost. **The righteousness of Christ is to them as a robe unworn, a fountain untouched.** To them it is said, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Rev. 2:4, 5. {DA 280.3}

- Water—the water of life, which is the living connection with God—that we experience through faith and love and the more we drink the water of life this life of love wells up in us to be a fountain to others. The living connection we have with God flows out in a righteous life of truth and love that quenches the soul thirst of others leading them to Jesus the fountain of life.
- Gold—faith/trust and love
- White robes—the righteousness of Christ reproduced in our characters
- Eye salve—discernment we develop as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit and practice God's methods
- Money—which we don't have—and which is not needed to purchase all of this

How do we purchase faith, love, a righteous character, eternal life?

Read second paragraph, However, if you add..." thoughts?

Does this answer the question of how we buy faith, love, a living connection with God and Christlike character? Do you have a clear understanding from this paragraph?

Does God buy our salvation? From whom?

How is it God offers us forgiveness freely if He has to also buy it?

Do we buy salvation from God by offering God the blood of His Son?

How is the blood involved?



What does the blood represent?

What law lens do you use to understand these things?

If we have the human law lens—imposed rules with made up inflicted punishments, then we see things through the systems of this world. And the systems of this world are Satan’s kingdom, including human economics of buying and selling. And when we try to explain God’s kingdom through the lens of Satan’s systems, we pervert the truth.

God seeks to break our minds out of the systems of this world, the corruption of made-up laws that require imposed punishments, the corruption of made-up economy of buying, selling, owning, by describing **that we must buy without money**.

This doesn’t compute to us and that is the point, it is designed to get us to think—how can this work? And the only way it does work is to reject the lies of Satan, the systems of Satan, the falsehoods of imposed law and human economics and return to design law, how reality works. When we do this, we find our answers and all the metaphors fit reality perfectly.

The purchase price or ransom price is that which is necessary to free us from the bondage of sin. And what is it that holds us in the bondage of sin?

Through the lie that God’s law functions like human law, it is taught that what holds us in bondage is the legal condemnation and the impending death sentence that a god of “justice” (human law justice) must inflict upon us to uphold his made-up human-like law. Thus, in that view—it is fraudulently taught that Jesus died to either pay God or pay God’s law the legal price necessary to get legal pardon.

But if we reject human law and embrace design law then we realize that we are held in bondage by two things:

- the lies we believe about God that keep us from trusting Him, and
- our carnal natures

Then the purchase price is:

- the truth that destroys lies and wins us back to trust and
- a new, sinless, perfected, humanity that Jesus procured and freely offers to us.
 - I see this as a three-fold process
 - First, Jesus as a human in His own mind/brain lived a sinless life, was tempted in all ways like us, destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness, developed a perfect character and established a sinless perfected humanity, thus becoming the second Adam—the second head of humanity, our sinless Savior.
 - Second, we receive from Christ a new heart and right spirit, this is the gift of a new **character** that is reproduced in us through cooperation with God. We are yoked with Christ through the yoke of love and trust and the Holy Spirit brings the character traits of truth, love, peace, patience, kindness, self-control etc. to



us and inspires us with these, but we simultaneously choose them to accept and live them out. Thus we are reborn with new Christlike character that develops within us and it is “no longer I that lives but Christ lives in me.” We grow and develop. It is not our work to develop this character, it is our work to receive, accept, and choose to live out what the Spirit inspires and empowers within us through trust.

- Third, at the second coming we become partakers of the divine nature fully—this mortal puts on immortality and we are fully recreated into eternal perfection.

So, God forgives all freely, but forgiveness from God was never an obstacle to salvation; our **accepting** God’s forgiveness was the obstacle. God freely forgives—but God’s personal pardon was not sufficient to save us from sin because God’s personal pardon doesn’t fix the problem of sin in us. In order for us to actually be saved we must have our hearts and minds set right, this means we must be restored to trust in God and receive the victory of Christ applied in us by the Holy Spirit.

Without the truth as revealed by Jesus we would not believe God has freely forgiven. Even with the evidence Jesus has provided billions still don’t believe that God is like Jesus revealed; most Christians still teach that God was not free to forgive, that He had to pay a legal price to buy our pardon. But this isn’t true—God freely forgives (as Isaiah 55 tells us) and then sent His Son to pay the price of revealing the truth to destroy the lies and also fixing what Adam did to the species human. And to whom is the truth and a new human nature provided, or paid? To you and me and this is why Jesus said, about His blood payment that:

I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. (Jn 6:53–56 NIV84).

Where is the purchased price applied? In us! This is the truth that the penal/legal lie obstructs.

What do you think of these two texts, buy without money?

Any other text come to mind, particularly related to Isaiah 55, being thirsting and in need of water?

What about the woman at the well—was she thirsty? And did Christ offer her the water of life? But did she have to buy it? Was there a transaction? Yes, there was a transaction—the water of life was freely offered by Jesus yet, she still had to purchase it with something other than money—with what? What was the transaction?

Perhaps we could say it this way, the water of life could not be consumed until the woman did something—what? Stopped lying, she had to be truthful about herself and her need and accept that she could not quench her own thirst.



What is the transaction we are to have with God? With what do we purchase all that God offers?

- We make an exchange—we let go of that which we value most—self
- We exchange our lies for the eternal truth
- We exchange blindness for discernment
- We exchange foolishness for wisdom
- We exchange fear and selfishness for love and trust
- We exchange pride for humility
- We exchange guilt and shame for peace and honor
- We exchange evil for righteousness
- We exchange the poverty of soul for the richness of Christlike character
- We exchange war for peace
- We exchange division and conflict for unity and harmony
- We exchange imposed law for design law
- We exchange human governments that coerce with God's government that leaves free
- We exchange soul-sickness for spiritual-health
- We exchange death for eternal life

MONDAY

Read Isaiah 55:7-13:

Let the **wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.** [What difference between being wicked or evil and being sinful? Sinfulness is the condition of being infected with fear and selfishness—this is the sin condition, the me-first survival drive, the carnal nature that tempts us. This is what all humans have because of Adam's fall. But, wickedness or evil is not merely having the sin-condition, it is choosing to embrace sin and practicing the methods of selfishness, of pursuing to advance self at the expense of others, of willfully violating God's design laws for life. Evil is exploiting others! We sinners are to forsake this me-first method of the world and pursue God's methods of truth and love. And one of Satan's biggest deceits is promoting evil—exploiting others—through human governments. In other words, passing imposed laws by governments that exploit and injure others—so people can feel righteous, i.e. law abiders, while doing evil. Think about Corban during Christ's day. About burning people at the stake in the Dark Ages, and today the rising of the beast of Revelation which will advance its pursuit of justice through exploitation others—all done through passing laws. But the immature, those who believe God's law functions like human law are deceived into participating with politics and human governments to pass the laws they believe are right rather than living God's kingdom of love.] Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our **God, for he will freely pardon.** [Is this what you were taught that God freely pardons? Or were you taught that God cannot freely pardon, that God had to send Jesus to pay the legal price of the death penalty in order to enable God to be able to pardon? Do you see how accepting the lie that God's law functions like human law corrupts the gospel? Notice, right



after God says that He freely pardons, what He says next] **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,”** declares the LORD. [What is the way of this world when a wrong has happened? What is justice of human governments with imposed laws? It is always infliction of punishment. But God’s ways are not our ways, notice what God says next] **“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.** [How much higher is heaven than earth? It is infinitely higher—God’s ways are supreme, higher, better than the ways of earthly governments. When will we accept this truth and stop corrupting the presentation of the kingdom of God with earthly rule of law lies? Notice what God says next to illustrate how heaven is higher than earth] **As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,** so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, [What kind of law is this? This is design law—the laws of nature. This is the law of love, giving, built into reality. It is the law of sowing and reaping, it is the law of watering, it is the law of truth. You don’t get grapes from planting mustard seeds. God is the source of all life, truth, love and He sends the sunshine and the rain on the righteous and wicked. His laws do not make a distinction between people—people make a distinction in how they live in relation to God’s laws] so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed.” (NIV84)

What is being described? God’s methods being applied in hearts and minds result in healing and transformation, so that we stop producing fruits of sinfulness, the painful thorns of violating of God’s design for life, but instead having had His law written on our hearts and minds we are new creatures in Christ who bring forth the fruits of the Spirit and receive eternal life.

Read the last two paragraphs,

The theme of redemption is one that angels desire to look into; it will be **the science and the song** of the redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? ...

The subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, His **atonement sacrifice**, and **mediatorial work** will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last; and looking to heaven with its unnumbered years, he will exclaim, “Great is the mystery of godliness.” *My Life Today* 360

What does the phrase “the science and the song” mean?

What is science—something that is testable, evidence-based and reproducible. Thus, the plan of salvation is based in reality, on design laws, something that is testable and results in the same outcome every time it is applied. Salvation is scientific and will employ our intellectual study for all eternity.



And it is scientific because it is the outworking of design law being applied in living beings. The imposed law lie obscures reality and makes salvation mystical, magical, superstitious, nonsense (you must have ritual baptism done in a certain way, or a certain place, or by a person who has been ordained by the right organization or you can't be saved; you must have your body circumcised or you can't be saved; you must attend church services on the right day of the week; you must eat or not eat the right foods or wash your hands in the right way; you must believe God loves you but will torture and kill you if you don't love Him to uphold His law) and thinking people see the contradictions and reject God because of the false theories taught in world religions. We have a better message, a message that calls for people to worship the Creator and integrates Scripture with science and experience—testable, reproducible, scientific!

What is a “song”? Something that moves us, that is emotional, stirs the heart strings, that expresses passion and love. And while what God has done through Christ to save us is based on solid design laws and the construction protocols He built into the universe, so it is scientific...yet it is the most profound demonstration of love that moves the soul, stirs the heart and uplifts the spirit with the deepest appreciation and most moving song. So we will sing praise with never ending verse and developing melody through all eternity future.

Thus, our science and our song represents our entire being—our intellectual brain and our emotional brain—total and complete!

What does “atoning sacrifice” mean to you? Through what law lens to you hear this through? If human imposed law what does it mean? If design law what does it mean?

What does “mediatorial work” mean to you? Through what law lens to you hear this through?

- If human imposed law what does it mean?
 - Someone pleading or interceding with the ruling authority to show mercy and not punish. Thus Christianity has falsely represented Jesus as our Mediator standing in heaven pleading His blood to the Father to obtain mercy from a punishing and wrathful God
- If design law what does it mean?
 - Someone who intercedes between two parties to bring reconciliation, and works to fix the areas where the brokenness in the relationship has occurred. In our situation with God, where does the work need to be done, with God or in us? So Jesus mediates the truth of God to us and the love of God to us and works in us a change of character restoring us back into unity with God. This is His mediatorial work.
 - But did the unfallen angels have confusion that threatened their unity with God that needed to be removed? And who was the agent to do this for the angels?
 - One of the founders of the SDA church saw it this way, what do you think?

“While we rejoice that there are worlds which have never fallen, these worlds render praise, and honor, and glory to Jesus Christ for the plan of redemption to save the fallen sons of Adam, as well as to confirm themselves in their position and character of purity. The arm that raised the human family from the ruin which Satan had brought upon the race through his temptations, is the arm which has preserved the



inhabitants of other worlds from sin. Every world throughout immensity engages the care and support of the Father and the Son; and this care is constantly exercised for fallen humanity. Christ is **mediating** in behalf of man, and the order of unseen worlds also is preserved by his **mediatorial** work. Are not these themes of sufficient magnitude and importance to engage our thoughts, and call forth our gratitude and adoration to God?" {RH, January 11, 1881 par. 4}

Read the bottom green section, "Look at the bad things..." What do you think of this description? Are the bad things we have done the problem or are they symptoms of the problem?

If David never committed adultery with Bathsheba or murdered Uriah would that mean he was sinless? What was David's problem that needing resolving—a legal accounting of historic deeds of bad acts, murder and adultery, or a change in heart that caused him to commit these acts?

TUESDAY

Read Isaiah 58:1-8:

"Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the house of Jacob their sins. [The lesson points out that this passage is playing on the themes of the Day of Atonement. Ten days before the Day of Atonement the trumpet would blow, calling people to prepare for the Day of Atonement. What is this voice calling people to do? What is the reality that the Day of Atonement was to teach? Cleansing an earthly building? Cleansing a heavenly building? Legal accounting and record erasure? Cleansing the Spirit Temple, hearts and minds of sinners from sin to prepare them to meet God?]

2 For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions

and seem eager for God to come near them. [What is described? What is meant by "as if"? God is making the point that what they profess to be doing is not what they are actually doing. What do they appear to be doing? Seeking God, but what are they really doing? Advancing themselves—so how is this possible? They have exchanged design law for imposed laws, rules, regulations, rituals and are religious through legal means not through God's plan to heal hearts.]

3 'Why have we fasted,' they say,
'and you have not seen it?

Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?'

"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please



and exploit all your workers. [Notice the point, God exposes that they do religious ritual to get “credit” to get “gold star” from God, to get some advancement for self. But God says, that their so-called obedience or following of God’s instruction is false because, He says “you do as you please” in other words they are selfish. But they are more than selfish, they are evil for the core of evil is exploiting others. And they do evil while professing to be seeking God, representing God and promoting God’s kingdom. This is what happened when Jesus came, the Jewish leaders rejected and killed Him while claiming to be serving God. This is what the Dark Ages church did, and this is what Christianity does when it seeks to advance God’s kingdom by using Satan’s methods of law and human governments, OR when it teaches God’s law functions like human law and salvation is getting a legal payment made to a god who will kill you without it. Notice what God describes next that they do while they keep their religious fasts and holy days]

4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,

and in striking each other with wicked fists. [How much of Christianity is just like this? Divided and arguing, quarreling, striking each other with accusations and allegations—I don’t mean merely disagreeing on concepts, I mean labeling people and attacking them personally? And Christianity, when we practice Satan’s imposed law model, fractures and divides into more than 40,000 different sects arguing among ourselves. Worse, we seek to advance justice through human governments rather than via God’s methods of healing hearts and minds.]

You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed
and for lying on sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD? [What is God calling out? Their ritual fasts, religious bowing, covering of head, wearing sackcloth and ashes—as if some merit or good comes from rituals acted out without heart change. So the Lord makes it plain to them that what He wants is a change of heart to love each other]

6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, [What kind of light? Break forth where? Remember darkness covers the people and gross darkness the people—so the light of truth and love lived out shines into the hearts of people’s darkened minds]

and your healing will quickly appear; [What kind of healing? Is it merely physical as we tend to the sick, or is this spiritual healing as we practice the methods of God in our lives?]



then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. (Is 58:1–8NIV84). [What is it we are to do as part of the Three Angel's Messages of Revelation 14? Give glory to God—which means what? Reveal His character in our lives by living out His design law of love. And why are we to do this? Because the hour of His judgment has come—which is a reference to what? The Day of Atonement—which Isaiah 58 is referring to. And what is the Day of Atonement primarily about? It is about reconciliation, it is about removing sin from hearts and minds, or cleansing the Spirit Temple of the righteous from sin so we are ready to meet God face to face.]

If you haven't read our pamphlet [*The Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment For the Modern World*](#) you can get it at our website and I encourage you to read it.

WEDNESDAY

Read Isaiah 58:12

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. (NIV84)

What is this referring to? What is it we are to repair?

Consider this quote from a book called *Prophets and Kings*:

The spiritual restoration of which the work carried forward in Nehemiah's day **was a symbol**, is outlined in the words of Isaiah: "They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities." "They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Isaiah 61:4; 58:12. {PK 677.2}

The prophet here describes a people who, in a time of general departure from truth and righteousness, are seeking to restore the *principles* that are the foundation of the kingdom of God. They are repairers of a breach that has been made in God's law--the wall that He has placed around His chosen ones for their protection, and obedience to whose precepts of justice, truth, and purity is to be their perpetual safeguard. {PK 677.3} [What are principles? Design laws—we are to restore the design laws—why do they need to be restored? Where do they need to be restored? What has caused the breach? Where is the breach?]

In words of unmistakable meaning the prophet points out the specific work of this remnant people who build the wall. "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and



shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:13, 14. {PK 678.1} [If we identify the Sabbath as an arbitrary test of obedience and teach people that if they refuse to accept it they will be breaking God's law and God will be required to punish them—are we repairing the breach or doing just the opposite, make the breach bigger?]

In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. **The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired.** [Notice, the breach is not the change of the Sabbath, the breach was made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed—what was the breach? The concept of law changing from design law to imposed, which resulted in the change of the Sabbath. No committee votes to change the law of gravity, so the change of the Sabbath is evidence of the breach, but not the breach itself. The breach we must repair is how we understand God's law and government, which is design law, not imposed law.] God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show **that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform** [why? Because it is the law of life, the principles upon which life is established and operates. One cannot have health in violations of the laws of health] and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as **a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God.** [What do you hear when you hear this? Do you think might and power? If so, why does Zechariah say not by might nor by power but by the Spirit says the Lord? What power did God display on the 7th day of creation week? Is the Sabbath a memorial to physical power of to another power—the power of truth and love and freedom, the power of God's character, the power of the gospel, of design law. What did Paul say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Romans 1:16 NIV84. What kind of power is the gospel? What kind of war has Satan waged? A war of ideas, words, not a war of power. Then what kind of power is necessary to defeat Satan? The power of truth and love. Do we see the Sabbath as a memorial of truth, love and freedom? Or to we misrepresent it by promoting the idea of imperialism and force?] In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. See verse 12. {PK 678.2}

What was the breach made in the law **when** the Sabbath was changed? It was not the mere change of the day of worship—the breach was the idea that God's law is imposed law—this is the breach we are to repair.

Isaiah not only prophecies that God's people will be repairers of the breach but also **raise up the foundations of many generations.** What does this mean, the foundations of many generations?

What are the foundations of God's government that Satan has torn down in the minds and hearts of people that we are to raise up?



What is the foundation of any government? It is the law upon which it is built. So, would the foundation of God's government be God's law? And what type of law would that be, design law or imposed law? And how has Satan torn down the foundation and how do we raise it up?

Consider these historic quotes from one of the founders of the SDA church:

The law of love is the foundation of God's government, and the service of love the only service acceptable to heaven. ST December 15, 1914, par. 1

Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and **it must be the foundation** of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation. COL 49.1

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. [why? Because happiness is a by-product of healthiness in all domains, and healthiness is only possible in harmony with the laws of health—the laws upon which life is constructed to operate. So again, this statement reveals that God's law is design law, not imposed rules like humans make.] God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. **He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.** [What kind of law forces and compels? Imposed law!] GC 493.2

What is the foundation that we are to raise up? It is the same as the repairing of the breach, which is restoring the truth about God's design laws, which are all expressions of God's character of love.

Do you see the issue in the war has always been over God's character and Satan has always attacked God's character by attacking how we conceive of law, either design law or imposed law.

So the object lesson truth is that we are to repair the breach, to raise up the foundations, which means we are to restore the truth that God's laws are design laws and are always expressions of love.

We will not repair the breach by getting every person in the world to go to church on Saturday while teaching that God's law is imposed and God in order to be just must inflict punishment upon sinners.

THURSDAY

The lesson focuses our attention on Isaiah 58:13,14 which is about the Sabbath, and turning away from doing one's own pleasure and calling the Sabbath a delight.

Is the Sabbath important at this time in earth's history? Why? What difference does it make?



I am going to read a quotation, used by some to make themselves feel good about their behavior, and too often used to accuse or condemn people who worship on Sunday. But let's consider this quote carefully:

- The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation. . . . The mark of the beast is the opposite of this--the observance of the first day of the week.--8T 117 (1904). {LDE 224.3}

What do you understand this statement to mean? What law lens to you read it through?

- Is the issue in our salvation, in our preparation to meet Jesus, in our being ready to translate into heaven without seeing death as simple as which day of the week a person worships upon?
- If a person absolutely insists on worshipping on the Bible Sabbath does that guarantee they won't get the mark of the beast?
- Those who crucified Christ 2000 years ago wanted Him off the Cross by sunset why? So they could keep the Sabbath – does that mean they had the seal of God?
- Does Satan care if a group of people worships on Sabbath as long as they worship him?

Here is another quote from the same person as the previous quote, consider it in light of what we have presented:

Be sure the Sabbath is a test question and how you treat this question places you either on God's side or Satan's side. The mark of the beast is to be presented **in some shape** to every institution and every individual.--Ms 6 1889, p. 6. (Written Nov. 4, 1889.) {3MR 189.2}

If God's law is not imposed rules but design protocols, then how is the Sabbath a test question? How is the mark of the beast to be presented in **some shape** to every institution...Is it merely which day of the week one attends worship, or is it the methods employed and practiced by the worshipper and is it possible that these two days symbolize two different methods of governing?

What is a mark or sign?

A symbol that stands for or signifies something else:

- The sign of the cross stands for what?
- The goat's head symbolizes what?
- What is a flag? Is the US flag a sign or symbol of the USA? Is the flag the same as the United States of America?
- Could someone wear the US Flag and be working for another government?
- If someone wears a cross are they saved because it is the sign of our crucified Savior?
- If someone has a goat ornament hanging on their Xmas tree, does that mean they are condemned because a goat's head symbolizes Satan?
- If someone worships on Sabbath are they saved because it is a sign of God?
- If someone worships on Sunday does that mean they are lost?



Question, are these two days themselves the reality, or are they symbols, signs, marks of some deeper reality, just as a cross, goat's head or flag?

Is it possible the days mentioned are signs because they symbolize something that demarcates God's government from Satan's? Could they stand as signals, signets, of the mode of governing each side uses? Could these days, **in their origin as days of worship**, contain the very elements of the two types of governing – God's vs Satan's?

Here are some more quotes:

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

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

"These **principles** are made known by the third angel's message, which declares that **the Creator has always required and always will require obedience to his royal law.** [Why does the Creator require obedience? Why does the Creator require we breathe? Because that is how life is built to operate. Remember the law is not holiness created but holiness made known. The commandments did not impose a law, but made the law known] But this law has been disregarded and transgressed, **and is now being ignored by the churches. Human enactments are placed where God's law should be.** [Imposed rules take the place of designed reality] Sunday, a child of the Papacy, has taken the place of God's holy Sabbath. As Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image, and set it up to be worshiped by all, so Sunday is

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



placed before the people to be regarded as sacred. This day bears not a vestige of sanctity, yet it is held up to be honored by all. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 6}

Understand it is not about worshipping on Sunday—get that clear, just like there is no wrong in worshipping on Wednesday night, or Tuesday or Thursday. It is what the Sunday, within the religious system represents!

And what is the implication of changing the Bible Sabbath to Sunday? What does this act mean in regard to how God and his government are understood? How can a church vote to change the day of worship? What must first happen concerning God's law?

So what does it mean if an ecclesiastical board votes to change the Sabbath? That they believe God's law is imposed, and therefore believe God is like a Roman emperor a cosmic dictator. And accepting this change in the law is the root to the beast system.

And this lie comes out in the rest of Christian doctrines, like God is required to punish; penal substitution theology; eternal burning hell; Jesus died to pay or legal debt; etc. etc.

So let's review – what makes the Sabbath holy?

- What significance is it that the Sabbath was “made” or created?
 - It is not “legislated” any more than any other aspect of God's creation. The earth was made, the animals were made, angels were made, mankind was made, and the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
- What significance is it that the Sabbath was “made”?
 - When was the Sabbath made?
 - What was happening in the universe?
- What did God do? He RESTED – what does that mean?
 - If He RESTED what was God not doing? He was no longer prosecuting His war, His case. He wasn't pressing his agenda. He wasn't intimidating. He wasn't using his power to force his way!
- It is God's Sabbath – the day He rested, the day He revealed by action how He handles opposition, how He treats enemies, how He deals with allegations and rebellion. He gives us freedom!
- What does it reveal that God created the Sabbath in the context of an assault on his right to rule?
- The Sabbath was “made” as further evidence of God's character of love; truth presented in love leaving us free. The first six days of creation week we learn God has power, but the Sabbath reveals God does not coerce or pressure or threaten with His power, but leaves us free. The Sabbath is evidence of God's character of love, established upon the principles of truth, love and freedom.
- The Sabbath is evidence that Satan's allegations about God, that God imposes rules, that God imposes punishments, that God abuses power are all lies. This is why Satan hates the Sabbath, because rightly seen and understood it reveals Satan as a liar.



- Satan hates the Sabbath in the same way Richard Nixon hated the Watergate tapes or Clinton hated Monica's dress. Nixon would have loved to destroy the tapes, and in fact tried. Clinton would have loved to destroy the dress. And Satan tries to destroy the Sabbath, to distort and twist the evidence into something it isn't. How? By replacing it or twisting it into an imposed law test.

Therefore, the Sabbath stands symbolic, as a sign, of those who value God's law of love, and practice his methods of presenting the truth in love and leaving others free.

Then what is the mark of the beast?

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

What decisions did the beast make and what ideas did it advocate that are in direct opposition to the word of God?

That God's law is imposed, and as an imposed law it can be changed, amended, abrogated, altered, thus, under the imposed law construct Sabbath can be changed to Sunday. And, imposed laws require judicial proceedings, investigation, records, judgments, imposed punishments. Therefore, coercive pressure is used to punish law breakers and ensure obedience.

Thus the issue in the end, of which the two days stand as signs, is the issue of God's law of love, versus Satan's imposed law construct; God's rule of love versus Satan's rule of fear and selfishness; God's natural law versus worldly imposed laws. It comes down to the methods one practices and the two days are symbolic of two systems.

Here is another quote from the same founder who wrote the others we have read:

In striking contrast to the wrong and oppression so universally practised were the mission and work of Christ. Earthly kingdoms are established and upheld by physical force, but this **was not** to be the foundation of the Messiah's kingdom. **In the establishment of his government no carnal weapons were to be used, no coercion practised; no attempt would be made to force the consciences of men. These are the principles used by the prince of darkness for the government of his kingdom. His agents are actively at work, seeking in their human independence to enact laws which are in direct contrast to Christ's mercy and loving-kindness.** {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 2}

Prophecy has plainly stated the nature of Christ's kingdom. He planned a government which would use no force; his subjects would know no oppression. [no arrests, no detainments, no imposed punishments, no force] The symbols of earthly governments are wild



beasts, but in the kingdom of Christ, men are called upon to behold, not a ferocious beast, but the Lamb of God. **Not as a fierce tyrant did he come, but as the Son of man; not to conquer the nations by his iron power, but "to preach good tidings unto the meek;" "to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" "to comfort all that mourn." He came as the divine Restorer, bringing to oppressed and downtrodden humanity the rich and abundant grace of Heaven, that by the power of his righteousness, man, fallen and degraded though he was, might be a partaker of divinity. [which is healing and restorative, an expression of the law of love, the law life is built to operate upon]** {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 3}

Those who promote a god who acts like a Roman emperor, who imposes law, who inflicts punishment, are actively promoting the system of the beast—even if they worship on the Bible Sabbath!

Here is the problem regarding days of worship, of which Sunday is a sign:

But when the decree shall go forth **enforcing** the counterfeit sabbath, **and** the loud cry of the third angel **shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image**, the line will be clearly drawn **between the false and the true**. **Then** those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.--Ev 234, 235 (1899). {LDE 225.4}

Notice it is not about Sunday, but the “enforcing” worship, about the use of arbitrary power to coerce, this is beastly. This is Satan’s way.

And we are to repair the breach in the law by returning people to worship the Creator whose laws are design laws, of which Sabbath is a sign. And those who do this practice the methods of truth, love and liberty and will not use the governments of the world to seek justice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Notes Available for download <https://comeandreason.com/1st-quarter-2021-isaiah/>

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

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.