



2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 6 Abraham's Seed

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read memory text, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” 1Peter 2:9 NKJV).

What does this text mean to you? Does it help you know who you are?

Are you a royal—a prince or princess? Are you chosen by God as His special child? Are you a priest—whether male or female?

Do you experience these facts as part of your identity, your sense of self, or are they just words?

What difference does it make in how you live to be a royal prince or princess of God's celestial government and a priest of His court?

What is the function of a priest? To minister—to minister what? The text tells us, marvelous light—what is the marvelous light we are to minister?

Isn't it the truth of reality—which is first and foremost the truth about God Himself—His character of love, Him as Creator, His laws as design laws, how life is constructed to operate upon love, and the marvelous light of healing truth found in Jesus that delivers us from sin and death to eternal life?

SUNDAY

Sunday's lesson pulls out another descriptor of God's people besides royalty and priesthood, but a holy people, just as Peter does.

What does it mean to be holy? What is holiness?

- Set apart? Set apart from what? The world, from sin?
- So if we are set apart from sin would that be the same as being restored to righteousness, being healed, being transformed, being made at-one with God again?
- When Moses went to the burning bush he was instructed to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground—what does that mean?



- The Bible repeatedly says that the Sabbath is holy—a holy day, which is not an object, but time—how is the Sabbath holy?
- When Israel went to Sinai a boundary was put around the mountain and it was set apart as holy—what does that mean?
- When they build the sanctuary it had a holy place and a most holy place, what does that mean?
- The high priest wore on his turban a plate of pure gold with the inscription “Holy to the Lord”
- The golden altar and all the utensils used in the sanctuary service were holy to the Lord
- Anything that was touched by the blood of the sacrificial animal become holy

So, what is holiness, what does it mean to be holy? How can objects and time be holy? Is it merely an arbitrary declaration by a rule-making God, or is there something objective, something based in reality that is going on?

- What was different about the burning bush and the ground around from every other bush and ground in the region?
- What is different about the time of the Sabbath hours from every other day of the week?
- What was different about Sinai than every other mountain in the region?
- And what was different about all the elements of the sanctuary then any other instrument or blood of any other animal?

Everything that was holy was set apart to reveal truth about God in a way that the similar could not:

- The burning bush and ground where God met Moses revealed to Moses truth about God and His presence that the other bushes and ground did not and could not do—God’s presence was literally there, the bush was shining literally, the ground was impacted by God’s physical presence. This was not a declaration—it was a reality of God being there and manifesting truths to Moses in that place. Exactly the same reality at Sinai.
- The Sabbath was created as a day which reveals God’s methods and character. Days 1-6 of Creation Week, reveals God’s power to create, but Day seven reveals God’s character and how He wields power—He presents truth, in love, and then leaves His intelligent creatures free to think for themselves. God rested, God stopped using power in the face of an assault on His right to rule. Thus, the Sabbath is set apart at Creation as a time that is invested with God’s character and principles and a time for us to rest, reflect, and remember God and His methods and practice those methods in our lives.
- The Sanctuary and all its elements were set apart as teaching tools and object lessons to reveal truths about God and His plan to heal and save.

So what is holiness—being set apart from the profane, the worldly and being united with God in His kingdom of love to fulfill His purpose and live in harmony with Him and His methods. Thus His people are called a holy people a holy nation.

Here is one historic quote do you agree or disagree?

Those whom God accepts and **sanctifies** to Himself are called to be diligent and faithful in His service, **being set apart** and devoted to Him. It is not a form of godliness, nor a name upon the



church records, that constitutes “a living stone” in the spiritual building. It is being renewed in knowledge and **true holiness, being crucified to the world and made alive in Christ**, that unites the soul to God. The followers of Christ have one leading object in view, one great work: **the salvation of their fellow men**. Every other interest should be inferior to this; it should engage the most earnest effort and the deepest interest. 2Testimonies 168.1

What is holiness?

It is being set apart from the profane, what is worldly, sinful and being united with God, cleansed by Christ.

I want to suggest that holiness is perfect harmony with God, ultimately in every domain of existence—thus holiness is healthiness. Anything that violates God’s design laws for life is unholy and damages and destroys. God, through His agencies, is working to restore us to holiness, which restores us to harmony with God and results in eternal life.

Would being holy mean that we live in harmony with God’s laws—and what type of laws are those?

Consider this historic quote:

At this time the church is to put on her beautiful garments,—“Christ our righteousness.” [What is this describing? Now it is very interesting that in 1888 a message was presented to SDA church that was about moving away from a legal accounting to actual transformation, to becoming the righteousness of God as 2Cor 5:21 states, but the church leadership didn’t like that advancement in truth and when EGW endorsed that message, leadership shipped her away to Australia—the farthest point from North America one can go and still be on planet earth, and leadership chose to teach that righteousness by faith is a covering over sinfulness in a legal way so the Father cannot see our unrighteousness—that we are declared righteous even though we are not. But EGW wrote in Christ’s Object Lessons that “When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.” COL311] There are clear, decided distinctions to be restored and exemplified to the world in holding aloft the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. **The beauty of holiness is to appear in its native luster in contrast with the deformity and darkness of the disloyal, those who have revolted from the law of God.** Thus we acknowledge God, and recognize His law, the foundation of His government in heaven and throughout His earthly dominions. [What does this mean? What is God’s law? What kind of law? Is it related to the final message of mercy, to worshipping Him who made the heavens, earth, sea? Is it connected to holiness? Is it beautiful to be restored to God’s perfect design for life? Can one be perfect, sinless, flawless, without any defect or deformity while violating God’s law? Is any defect, deformity or flaw beautiful? So, what is the beauty of holiness? Restoration to God’s design, harmony with God’s law, healing! Holiness is to appear in its native luster—what does this mean? Native luster? Its original beauty and setting and where did God originally place His law? In the hearts of Adam and Eve!



God's law is a living law, the protocols of life, and holiness is having God write His law again on our hearts and minds.] His authority should be kept distinct and plain before the world; and **no laws are to be acknowledged that come in collision with the laws of Jehovah.** [What does this mean? Does it mean a specific commandment change or does it mean the entire concept of law, that we are not to embrace and teach God's law as functioning like human law, imposed rules requiring imposed punishments? Do you think it is beautiful to imagine a god that would use power to torture and kill his creatures? But isn't that what all of Christianity teaches that a holy God must torture for all eternity or kill the unrepentant sinners? Why? Because they have accepted the lie about God's law. When we return to worshipping the Creator and present the 3 Angel's message as we were called to do, then we will glorify God and call people out of that fallen system of confusion.].... Christian Experience and Teachings 207.2

So, what is holiness? Restoration of the law of love into the heart and mind of the individual such that we love like God loves, Jesus said:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, **that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.** He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. [Notice in the context of love Jesus uses the example of design law in nature] If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect** (Matthew 5:43-6:1 NIV84).

The law of God is a living law—a parameter of life. Love cannot be understood, or function in the dead. It doesn't operate on stone. Rocks don't love. **Love requires life and life requires love.**

Consider this historic quote from the SDA BC 1117:

Holiness is the gift of God through Christ. [What kind of gift? Is it a gift that is legal, registered in a book in a building in some remote corner of the universe, or is it a gift of life, a gift of transformation of the inmost being? Those who receive the Saviour become sons of God. They are His spiritual children, **born again, renewed in righteousness and true holiness. Their minds are changed.** [What is described here as true holiness? Being reborn, renewed—this is actual, literal, just as Scripture teaches in 2Cor 5:21] With clearer vision they behold eternal realities. They are adopted into God's family, and **they become conformed to His likeness, changed by His Spirit from glory to glory.** [What is happening? Healing, regeneration, transformation—we are to be holy—which is a change in our living reality] From cherishing supreme love for self, they come to cherish supreme love for God and for Christ. . . . {6BC 1117.13}

Accepting Christ as a personal Saviour, and following His example of self-denial--**this is the secret of holiness** (ST Dec. 17, 1902). {6BC 1117.14}



So what is holiness? Having God's living law of love written on the heart, which is the same as the New Covenant. And this law is the law of life, the protocol life is built upon and always results in healing and happiness. Thus, holiness is healthiness, which brings happiness.

thoughts?

Read first paragraph, "There is no question..." What of the idea that this choice was a total act of God and there was nothing in the people that deserved this grace?

This is very poorly stated and mixes up ideas that cause confusion. Let's see if we can clarify the issue:

- God's actions are always 100% God's action
- God's choices are always 100% God's choices
- So, God choosing Abraham's descendants was 100% God's choice, no question about that
- But, does that mean Abraham didn't have to make a choice, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants through the generations—does God choosing them as His representatives and to be the avenue for the Messiah mean that they didn't have a choice in the matter?
- Or does history show just the opposite, that millions in fact did choose to reject God's choice and instead made idols their gods? But God foreknew a remnant of Abraham's descendants would remain a faithful avenue for the Messiah and retain the Scriptures for the rest of humanity.
- They use the word "deserve" and by that I believe they mean Abraham and his descendants didn't get chosen as a reward from some good work, it wasn't compensation, it wasn't pay, it was not something they had a right to by some righteousness in them or some action they created.
- But, it doesn't mean that God's choice to call Abraham's family was devoid of something in them—it wasn't. God chose Abraham and his descendants because God knew Abraham and many of his descendants were not beyond healing, and many would respond to Him and be restored to trust and be saved and thus be the avenue for the Messiah.

God made promises to Abraham that his descendants would form a great and mighty nation and God repeated the promise to Isaac and Jacob and told Jacob that the promise would be fulfilled in Egypt (Gen 46:3).

What is the significance of this? What does it mean? How do you understand it?

First it an evidence of God's foreknowledge! Here is another example that God does actually know the future, including the future choices of people. Some who hold to open theism and teach God doesn't know the future choices of people, fail to acknowledge that events like this cannot occur without people making choices:

- Joseph's brothers choosing to sell him into slavery
- the traveling slavers choosing to go to Egypt and sell Joseph there



- Potiphar choosing to buy Joseph and then choosing not to kill Joseph when his wife made false allegations against him, but instead to imprison him.
- Pharaoh's decision to imprison the baker and cup bearer.
- Then God intervenes with dreams for the baker, cup bearer and later for Pharaoh, but God's interventions are happening around all the freewill choices of people that God foreknew and thus God told Jacob they would grow in Egypt.
- Then Pharaoh chooses to give land to Joseph's family, Jacob and the family decided to move to Egypt and accept Pharaoh's offer.

Why did God actively worked to bring this about? What is the context in which these events are playing out?

- The working out of the plan of salvation—the coming Messiah
- Satan was working to stop God's plan to save humanity, God was working to bring Jesus to save us.
- God had told Abraham that it was through his descendants that the Messiah would come. What does Satan do? Does he go on vacation or seek to destroy this branch of the human family?
- What actions can you see that are works of God's enemy and if not countered would have resulted in interfering and obstructing God's plan to be realized through Abraham's Seed?
 - Sarah's temptation to take Hagar and fulfill the promise
 - Sodom, Gomorrah and the other cities—their perversity and corrupt cultural influence if not removed would be a seducing and destructive influence on Abraham's descendants and thus God excised them
 - Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, dishonest dealing with the Shechemites, which would incite hostility in the various nations around them to seek to destroy them
 - Joseph's brother's jealousy—where did that originate, who was the inspiring source?
 - The famine—without God's intervention, what would have likely happened to Jacob's family? Who would have wanted that outcome? Is there evidence from Scripture that Satan can affect weather?
 - Then their captivity in Egypt—who inspired Pharaoh with jealousy to turn on the Hebrews and enslave them? And what was the goal of the enslavement? To degrade them, to destroy the image of God in them, to corrupt them and harden their hearts and thus close the avenue for Messiah.
 - Why did God allow the captivity? Why didn't God intervene sooner and send someone like Moses at the very beginning of the enslavement to lead them out? Because Satan had other human agents, states, nations, groups, that would have attacked and destroyed them and the children of Israel needed to grow their numbers large enough to be a sustainable population and group. Thus, while in Egypt they were protected by the Egyptian government from all the other nations and could increase and grow until the time was right to leave Egypt. This view of why God permitted them to be slaves in Egypt is held by many Jews.



MONDAY

The lesson focuses on Deuteronomy 28, the promises and curses to Israel depending on what Israel does.

Read the second paragraph, “The first part...” How do you understand this?

If you read Deuteronomy it says God will bless and God will curse—what does this mean? Does it mean that God uses His power to injure, to harm, and I am not talking about discipline here, I am not asking about a therapeutic intervention. I am asking, Does God use power to inflict curses or harm that if God merely restrained Himself from acting the sinner would not otherwise reap? Is God the source of pain, suffering and death?

Then why does the Bible read like it does as if the Lord is causing this and is bring this upon them?

What is the purpose of these promises and warnings?

At what level of maturity are most of these people?

Does a parent talk differently to a 4-year-old than a 24-year-old?

Might a loving parent threaten to inflict pain onto a child who plays in the street? Why? In the child’s mind what would be wrong with playing in the street? Why does the parent allow the child to think the problem with playing in the street comes from the parent?

This is what we read in the OT, God stands between His children and the reality of breaking design law and allows Himself to be viewed as the inflictor of pain and suffering and punishment to prevent them from destroying their souls in idolatry and rebellion, so that they can grow up and realize that God was never the actual source of pain and suffering, any more than the parent who threatens to spank the child playing in the street is the source of destruction. But sadly, many never grow up and even today still teach that God in order to be just must punish sin.

TUESDAY

Read Jeremiah 11:8: “Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.” (NKJV)

Read first paragraph, “Look at the above text...” How do you understand this? Is God doing something bad? The lesson suggest it is something bad—is it?

- Is it bad for a parent to discipline an unruly child?
- Is it bad for a dentist to pull a rotten tooth?



- Is it bad for a surgeon to excise a cancer?

Does our understanding of what is transpiring make a difference?

What happens in the character of people if they sin without negative consequence?

What happens to a person with leprosy? Why? Leprosy damages the nerves that signal pain, thus when a person with leprosy touches a hot stove, or cuts themselves, they don't feel it and do much more damage to themselves. The pain we feel with a burn or cut alerts us something is wrong and we minimize the damage.

Leprosy is a metaphor for sin because sin sears the conscience, it makes us insensitive to the damage sin causes us and we engage in more destroying more and more of our souls, debasing more of our character.

So, God bringing increasing amounts of painful consequences to people acting outside His law of love is evidence of love, designed to get them to repent, to turn around to be saved.

But all of this wisdom requires we reject the imposed law lie, the idea that God's law functions like human law and embrace the truth that God is Creator and His laws are design laws.

If we hold to the imposed law lie, then we see sin as merely bad deeds, breaking rules, and rule-breaking requires external enforcement and infliction of punishment to uphold the law. Thus God is the source of pain and suffering as law enforcer.

But design law realizes that the pain and suffering comes from sin itself and God may artificially intervene with discipline and therapeutic boundaries like a loving parent or doctor, seeking to heal and restore.

The lesson asks us to compare the pre-flood world and God's actions in bringing the flood and God's curses on Israel—what are the parallels?

What is the overall landscape or context? Humankind is dying of sin and God promised to send Jesus as our Messiah to save us and Satan is working to obstruct God's saving plan. That is the context—that is the theme of the Bible.

In that context what do we see and learn?

The lesson says, "for the most part, the history of national Israel was repeated pattern of apostasy followed by divine judgments..."

What do you understand this to mean and be? How do you hear "divine judgments"?

What law lens do you hear this through?



What does “judgments” mean in the human law world, when law functions like we make up, rules that require enforcement?

What does “judgments” mean when we see God as Creator and His laws are the laws life is built to operate upon?

Understanding this reality, then what is the “judgment”? Is it a legal judgment or is it the accurate diagnosis of what happens when we violate God’s design laws?

The question of judgment is confusing because in the Bible there are at least four judgments:

The First Judgment:

- “Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: ‘That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when **You are judged.**’” Romans 3:4 NKJV
- Satan lied about God.
- Jesus reveals the truth about God.
- **We must judge: Is God like Satan says—or is God like Jesus revealed?** (Elijah Carmel)
- This judgment of ours determines whether we choose to trust God and open our hearts or not.
- “I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because **the hour of his judgment** has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.’” Revelation 14:6, 7

The Second Judgment:

- “‘Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will **come to his temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,’ says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **he will purify the Levites** and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. **‘So I will come near to you for judgment.’**” Malachi 3:1–5
- This is the Judgment of the Great Physician, diagnosing what is wrong and determining the best therapeutic intervention.
 - God bringing “judgments” upon rebellious people throughout history to alert, to convict, to redeem, to protect, to redirect, and to keep open the avenue for Messiah (Flood, Sodom, captivity).
- Jesus’ work in the heavenly sanctuary to determine (judge):
 1. Who has trusted Him and given Him access to their hearts and
 2. What residual elements of sin remain to be removed in order to perfect them for the resurrection and second coming



Third Judgment:

- “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to **judge**. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4–6
- “Do you not know that we will **judge** angels?” 1 Corinthians 6:3
- In the future, the saints review the history of what transpired and the lives of the lost and of angels, and judge God’s actions in saving who is saved and not saving who is not saved, which confirms that every lost person is lost because they actually don’t want to be in heaven, so that no doubt is left in any mind as to why the unrepentant are not in heaven.

Fourth Judgment

- “I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were **judged** according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” Revelation 20:11, 12
- And what is recorded in the books of heaven?
- The names are written there, and in the Bible what does name represent? Character! And what determines our character? Who we have chosen to trust—either opening our heart to Jesus and allowing Him in or clinging to fear and selfishness.
- “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on **the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken. **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**” Matthew 12:33–37 NIV84
- What is being described? Character—the actual condition of each heart, a diagnosis of what actually is.
- The end of the 1,000 years:
 - New Jerusalem is on earth and the gates are open and no one comes in.
 - The wicked acknowledge they were wrong and God was right—but they attack the city anyway.
 - They then experience the fire of unveiled truth and love and cry for the mountains to fall upon them, reaping what they have sown: eternal non-existence.
 - And all the saved judge that God could have done nothing more to save them.
 - There is no human law court determining guilt or innocence and imposing punishments—that is Satan’s lie.

So how do you understand judgment?



Read fourth paragraph, “This brings up something...” Well said, the covenant is not a legal agreement, it is a holy relationship of love and trust in which we surrender self and experience the indwelling Spirit that infuses us with new motives, desires, attitudes, methods, principles—the character of Christ.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson focuses on the remnant. What is a remnant? Who are the remnant?

Read second paragraph, “The purpose of God...” Do the remnant reveal God’s glory? And what is God’s glory? His character, which is what?

What is the message for the world today?

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (Rev 12:17 NIV84)

What does it mean to obey the commandments of God?

What does it mean to hold to the testimony of Jesus?

What was Jesus’ testimony? “If you have seen me you have seen the Father”

So the true remnant will give the same testimony about God Jesus gave, which means the true remnant will teach what about God’s law and government?

What did Jesus teach about God’s law and government?

Below is a review of some of Jesus’ parables which demonstrates He taught God’s law as design law:

The Lamp | Matthew 5:14–16

- If one lights a lamp and allows it to do what it does naturally, it shines and illuminates. What kind of law is revealed in this parable? God’s truth and love will always shine out through the lives of those who possess it, brightening the world around them. And if one tries to hide the light, they are working against how reality operates.

New Cloth on Old Garment | Matthew 9:16, 17

- What happens when new cloth is sewn onto an old garment? The new cloth tears the old fabric. Why? Does a ruling authority inspect the garment and issue a decree that is enforced by government agents, who tear a bigger hole? Or is it design law—how reality works? This is the same lesson taught in the story of the new wine in old skins, which [one of our class members](#)



[wrote an excellent blog about](#). The good news about God—the gospel—cannot be sewn onto the old garment of legal religiosity; it requires a new heart for the new truth.

The Sower | Matthew 13:1–23

- Why do the same species of seeds grow differently? Is it because God uses His power to miraculously make the seeds grow differently? Or are the seeds equally healthy when planted and receive equal amounts of sunlight and rain, but the soil in which the seeds are planted is different? Which represents what? The hearts of people into which the seeds of truth are planted; again, what kind of law is involved?

The Leaven | Matthew 13:33, 34

- What is the lesson of leaven? How does leaven work? Is it that God inspects the flour and, if the flour contains leaven, then God uses miraculous power to make it rise, but for those who don't use leaven, God refuses to perform the miracle so that their bread doesn't rise? No—it is a natural result of design law at work, how these various substances function in harmony with the laws that God built life to operate upon. It is the kingdom of God's reality.

The Net | Matthew 13:47–50

- What determines which fish are kept and which are discarded? It is the condition of the fish themselves—there is no jury, no prosecutor, no defense lawyer, no judge. It is all based on the actual condition of the fish. So too, in the end of time, people will be separated by their condition of heart: having accepted Jesus and been renewed in love—or rejected Jesus and been hardened in selfishness. This is design law and not a penal/legal issue at all!

What Comes Out of the Mouth | Matthew 15:10–20

- Why is it that what goes into a person's mouth does not determine his cleanliness, but rather what comes out of his mouth? What kind of law is involved? Is the person who speaks evil unclean because someone hears what they say, reports it to authorities, which causes a judicial review and a legal ruling that declares them unclean? Or do the words and actions of a person reveal the actual unclean nature of their character?

Laborers in the Vineyard | Matthew 20:1–16

- This is a great parable because it powerfully exposes the fallacy of imposed law—the lie of penal (legal) salvation. The workers who worked one hour got the same pay as those who worked all day. What did those who worked all day think? What do you initially think when you hear this story? What if we added to the story that those who worked all day were people of color while those who worked only one hour were white—and they all got the same pay? Is that fair?

It is totally unfair *if we have an imposed-law view*, but if we have a design-law view and understand how reality works, we immediately see just how fair God's kingdom is.

The payment is eternal life; this is the reward. The field is the earth, where we work with Jesus to save souls. Those who worked all day had salvation early in their lives and the privilege of working with



God and, therefore, coming to know Him and His truths more fully and growing in character and skill in God's methods. They applied His methods early in their lives and became more skilled in laboring for Him and applying His principles, which means they became more mature than those who worked only an hour. The thief on the cross came at the last hour and got the same pay (eternal life), but he did not have a lifetime of growing with God. But if one holds the human-law model, the penal lie, then this parable appears unfair. This is why the Pharisees hated what Jesus taught!

The Two Sons | Matthew 21:28–32

- One son says he will work in his father's field but then doesn't; the other son says he will not work in his father's field but then does. What is the lesson? That actions speak louder than words. It is what we ultimately do with our lives that matters, not what we initially say. How many are being duped today because they go merely on the words people say and don't look at their actions? Lies are words; truth is how reality works. Thus, the parable is another example of the application of design law revealing the truth in spite of the words spoken.

The Ten Virgins | Matthew 25:1–13

- What makes the difference between the wise and foolish virgins? Why don't lamps give light without oil? Is it that God performs a miracle for those who have oil but refuses to perform a miracle for those who don't? Or is it how reality works—that lamps do not burn without fuel? Can any human have the light of God's character shine forth from their life without the oil of the Holy Spirit in their hearts? We can have the Bible (lamp) without the oil (Spirit), but we cannot have light (godly character) without the oil. So who decides who are the wise and who are foolish? Who has the oil—and who doesn't? What law is involved?

Ten Talents or Gold Coins | Matthew 25:14–30

- This parable beautifully describes the law of exertion! What happens if you don't use the talents you possess—if you don't use it, you lose it. But if you apply yourself, you gain more abilities. No jury, no presentation of evidence, no judge passing sentence—it is the reality of the outcome of our choices.

The Good Samaritan | Luke 10:29–37

- In this parable, which person is right with God: the priest, Levite, or Samaritan? What determined who was right with God? How many Sabbaths did the Samaritan keep? How many sacrifices did he make at the temple? How much tithe did he pay? How many kosher meals did he eat? Do you see what mattered was not a list of rules—but having God's love in the heart. What law is this?

The Beaten Servant | Luke 12:47, 48

- The servant who knows his master's will but doesn't do it receives many stripes, but the servant who doesn't know his master's will receives few stripes. Is this, as the penal/legal adherents claim, proof positive that God's law is imposed and functions like human law, with God inflicting different amounts of punishment upon sinners?



Not at all! Jesus did not say that the servants were beaten by the master—only that they would receive differing amounts of blows, or stripes or pain or suffering, depending on how much they actually knew. Jesus is again describing how reality works—we actually experience differing amounts of guilt, shame, regret, and sin-damage to our hearts and minds depending on how much truth we know and choose to reject. It is simply how reality works and how I paraphrase it in *The Remedy*:

“The aide who understands the Master — his design, the problem being addressed, and how to apply the Remedy — and either doesn’t heed his instructions or applies a false remedy will suffer many blows: a guilty conscience, warped character, damaged reason, broken relationships and ultimately, a destroyed soul. But the one who doesn’t know about the Remedy or how to apply it and therefore doesn’t share it, or applies a false remedy will suffer few blows — regret, disappointment, and grief.”

In all of these parables, Jesus revealed that the kingdom of God is based upon the laws that our Creator built into the fabric of reality—and that these are an expression of His character of love. Jesus never taught penal/legal theology! God’s law originates in His being, and emanates from Him. All creation is sustained by Him. It is Satan’s lie that God’s law functions like human law: imposed rules that require imposed punishments.

At this time in Earth’s history, God is calling for His people to come out of the confusing systems of religiosity based on imposed rules and inflicted punishments. So reject the penal/legal lie and worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and fountains of water.

The remnant teach call people back to worship Him who made the heavens, earth and sea, design law worship!

THURSDAY

Who is spiritual Israel?

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29 NIV84)

Who is an heir of the promises made to Abraham? All those who have faith like Abraham!

It is about character, not genetics, Jesus made this plain when He told the Jewish leaders that they were of their father the devil.

The lesson says, “By baptism we acquire kinship to Christ and through Him acquire the right to participate in the promises made to Abraham.”

What baptism?



What does “the right” sound like? Does it introduce a legal connotation?

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “No distinction...” Why does God make no distinction regarding nationality, race, cast? Where do such distinctions come from?

How many races did God create? Would the various races in the world today be a result of sin impacting God’s creation?

Would the physiological changes we see in the world today, such as shortening lifespan, wrinkles, aging, shortened height, obesity, diabetes, cancers be a result of sin altering God’s physical design for human beings?

What about differences in skin color?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vision for Come and Reason: In February Come and Reason Ministries board met and prayerfully considered our vision, how to reach more people with this life changing message. We decided that our ability to do more is limited by our lack of space and facilities and we have decided to begin looking for a permanent facility for our Ministry—whether renovating a property or building on. The goal will be to build a professional recording studio with auditorium for our weekly class and other events, where we can begin producing more materials—possibly more live programming and live call in or interactive programming.

It is not our way to do fundraisers and we will not do a fundraiser or send out donation requests, however, several people have recently approached us and asked if our ministry has any needs and recommended that we make our vision and plan to have our own facility public so that anyone who want to support us in this endeavor can do so. We also are resistant to going into debt, so we are quite cautious and have already turned down a couple of options because the cost would have required significant debt.

So, please keep us in your prayers that the Lord will lead us to find the right property and bless the process that any resources we use will be spent wisely and most economically.

New Member's Section is now open: This is FREE but will require a sign in and will contain member's only content. You will have the option of making your contact information available to our other members—over 240 people have already done this and we have members from all over the world, currently 20 different countries, and most with multiple people signed up. There is a search engine where you can search to find people close to you to network with.

The Remedy Audio and *Could It Be This Simple?* Audio are both available in the members section to stream or download and listen.

Our website is filled with free resources:

- Our weekly Bible Study Video, Audio, and notes
- Healing the Mind in a Broken World Seminar
- The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course
- Weekly Blogs
- The Remedy
- Useful search engine