



## 2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 10 The New Covenant

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SUNDAY

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The lesson asks us to read Jeremiah 31:31-34:

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the LORD.

33 “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,  
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,”  
declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.” (Je 31:31–34 NIV84).

What is the difference between the New Covenant and the Old Covenant?

- Was God different in the two?
- Did God offer something different?
- Does God do something different—for instance in the old He wrote the law on stone and in the new He writes it on the heart—why?
- What covenant did Adam, Enoch, and Abraham participate in, the new or the old?
- What about people after Sinai? What covenant did Moses and Elijah participate in—both already taken to heaven?



Read the first paragraph, “It is clear...” thoughts? What do you hear?

And this is so sad to read—it is again diagnostic that the authors of the lesson continue to operate under the false law lens—the idea that God’s law function like human law and that sin is rule-breaking, and salvation is legal adjustment of a blood payment to one’s account through faith.

They really don’t see that the covenant at Sinai is not the same as the new covenant because it was not based on faith but on works, it was not based on healing the heart by God, but based on obedience to rules. In other words, the New Covenant is the covenant of design law in which God heals the damage in hearts and minds. The Old Covenant is the covenant of human law in which sinners perform and obey rules and bring sacrifices to pay their way into the grace of an offended God.

Consider this historic quote from *Eternity Past*:

**The covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden.** After the Fall, there was given a divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. **To all men this covenant offered pardon** and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. **It also promised eternal life on condition of fidelity to God's law.** Thus the **patriarchs received the hope of salvation.** EP 258.6 [Hope of salvation based on what? The promised seed to come—which would destroy our enemy. This agreement or covenant offers pardon and grace to enable us to live in harmony with God’s law and eternal life is only available in harmony with God’s law—why? So, what is the covenant promising? To restore sinners to harmony with the principles, protocols, laws of life]

**This same covenant was renewed to Abraham** in the promise, “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 22:18. Abraham trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. **It was this faith that was accounted unto him for righteousness.** [What is this? What came first, the recognition, accounting, of Abraham as righteous or Abraham’s change of heart to trust God? And consider you have a spouse that doesn’t trust you at all, is afraid of you, suspicious, won’t listen, is constantly seeking to do their own thing—but then they have a genuine change of heart and come to truly trust you completely—what happens in your relationship? What do you recognize of them? What can now happen in your marriage that could never happen before? Do you see how corrupt the penal legal lie is that teaches that Abraham had faith in a payment that enabled God to legally account him righteous even though Abraham wasn’t set right or justified or made righteous? It is a lie. Abraham’s natural, sinful heart, which is at enmity to God, was transformed, put right, set right. When Abraham trusted God, the God of all truth recognized or reckoned or accounted it to be exactly what it was, a right heart, why? Because through trust Abraham was in dwelt with the Holy Spirit who healed and transformed Him, wrote the law upon Abraham’s heart and mind. This is another way of saying, having the mind of Christ, or circumcision of the heart, or receiving the character of Jesus.] **The covenant with Abraham also maintained the authority of God's law.** [What law and what authority? The law of life, the law of love, the law upon which life is built and its authority is over the operations of all life, including the mind. And thus, the



covenant was the restoration of God's law within the heart and mind of Abraham which resulted in Abraham living out his trust in application and following God's directives] The testimony of God was, "Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:5. Though this covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, **it could not be ratified until the death of Christ.** [What does this mean—ratified? Is this some legal stamp, some forensic execution of documents, some formal signing ceremony? Or is this ratification something actual, something real? Ratified simply means "confirmed" The promise to provide the Remedy to sin was made to Adam and to Abraham—the seed of the woman—but the promise wasn't "confirmed" "ratified" or "realized" until the seed of the woman, Jesus, actually came, lived sinlessly and destroyed "him who holds the power of death that is the devil" (Heb 2:14) and "destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light" (2Tim 1:10). In other words, the ratification was the actual accomplishment of Jesus living out God's law as a human, being tempted in all points like we are, exposing Satan's lies and developing a sinless human character thereby destroying the infection of fear and selfishness and becoming the connecting link that restores God's living law of love back into the species human.] **It had existed by the promise of God; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a new covenant. The law of God was the basis of this covenant, [What law? The design law of love] which was simply an arrangement for bringing men again into harmony with the divine will, placing them where they could obey God's law. EP 259.1 [What is the new covenant? An arrangement for bringing human beings into harmony with God and God's law. It is not a legal adjustment, a payment, a judicial process. It is the process of fixing in human beings the deviation from God's design sin has caused!]**

**Another compact—called in Scripture the "old" covenant—was formed between God and Israel at Sinai, and was then ratified by the blood of a sacrifice. [This "other" compact is not the New Covenant, it is something else, what?]** The Abrahamic covenant, ratified by the blood of Christ, is called the "second," or "new" covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. EP 259.2

**But if the Abrahamic covenant contained the promise of redemption, why was another covenant formed at Sinai?** In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. [What did they lose the knowledge of? What are principles? What kind of law are principles?] In delivering them from Egypt, God sought to reveal His power and mercy, that they might be **led to love and trust Him.** [How can you lead someone to love and trust you? Can you get love and trust by giving a list of rules and promising rewards for obedience and threatening punishment for disobedience? But isn't that what parents often do for children? And do children come to love and trust parents who may do this very thing? What is the difference when parents give rules with promises of reward and threats of punishment and when the state does it? Does it always work with children? Do some children rebel? If rules and rule enforcement cannot engender love why do parents set rules? Is it a greater evidence of love to have no rules for children or to have rules? What is the key for children to come to genuinely love and trust their parents who have set rules with promises and threatenings? Isn't it getting to know the heart of the parents and



coming to understand the purpose of the rules, i.e. how reality actually works, so that they eventually appreciate their parents setting the rules to protect them from themselves in their immaturity? But what if the parents set non-sense rules, rules that have no connection to reality, but are just arbitrary? Or at least the parents never understood the reasons and thus the children never learned the reasons and only obeyed for fear of punishment?] He bound them to Himself as their deliverer from temporal bondage. EP 259.3

**But they had no true conception of the holiness of God,** [What is your conception of holiness? I was not taught a conception of holiness that made sense to me. I was taught a concept that was mystical, fearful, threatening—but what is a more accurate view of holiness? Perfect harmony with God and God’s law which is the basis of life, so holiness is actually perfection, restoration God’s original design for life, to perfect eternal healthiness and happiness.] **of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God’s law, and their need of a Saviour.** EP 260.1 [They didn’t understand that sin is an issue of heart, mind, character, motive, not mere behavior and therefore salvation is healing the inner being, not adjusting the legal standing—how many still don’t understand this today and are teaching the New Covenant is merely an extension of the old? No, **the old covenant is a legal covenant based on the false law concept of the former slaves. The New Covenant is the restoration in the sinner of God’s law of life, that heals and transforms the being to live in God’s presence.**]

God gave them His law with the promise of great blessings on condition of obedience: “If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, ... ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:5, 6. **The people did not realize the sinfulness of their own hearts and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God’s law.** [Again, the old was based on external, behavior, performance, law, code, ritual, the New is based on the condition of the heart, dying to the old being reborn with a new heart and right Spirit received by faith.] **Feeling able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, “All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.”** Exodus 24:7. [And this is the basis of the penal legal theologies, we form a god that is the god-king, (If you haven’t been reading the current blog series *Who Created Whom— An Exploration of the Origin of Our Favorite God* I encourage you to read it. A guest blogger has written it and I have really enjoyed it. , part 2 went up Thursday and the final part will go up this Thursday), imperial dictator ruler, who makes up laws and teach that justice is the inflicting of punishment for law breaking, and then we make up the theory that salvation is getting legal adjustment through the right payment made to the heavenly judicial system. And in this way, we exert power over God by applying the right payment, the blood of a sinless human sacrifice, that restrains or legally prohibits God from killing us. We create a false priestly class who intercedes with sinners and this god navigating the complex and confusing theological legal landscape for us. But it is all based on Satan’s lie about God’s law. We must reject it and leave this old covenant behind and embrace the New Covenant of actual healing, having God’s design law of life restored into our hearts and minds] They readily entered into covenant with God. Yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant and bowed down to worship a graven image. Now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour



revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant. EP 260.2

## MONDAY

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The lesson asks us to read Hosea 2:18-20 and consider its implication in the New Covenant, but let's read verses 14-23:

14 So I am going to take her into the desert again; [This is a reminder of leaving Egypt, which represents bondage in sin. So God is saying, I will lead you out of the bondage of sin, to the desert where you will be free. But the desert is also where you cannot provide for yourself, where you will live and thrive only as you depend upon me and eat the bread of heaven I provide, which is the truth and drink the water I provide, which is the water of life—my love—the living law of love restored into humanity by Jesus.] there I will win her back with words of love. [What is it that wins us to God? Law, rules, threats, or love? As Paul wrote in Romans 2:4 “the kindness of God leads us to repentance.”] I will give back to her the vineyards she had and make Trouble Valley a door of hope. [vineyards represent life, thriving, development, living, productivity, fruits of the harvest—and in this case Jesus is the Vine we are the branches, as we are connected to the Vine, we who were dead in trespass and sin, receive the life of Christ and the dead branches come to life and produce fruits of righteousness—our lives blossom—despite the hardships and troubles in this life] She will respond to me there as she did when she was young, when she came from Egypt. [This is the end-time people of God who are called out of the world, out of Babylon out of the false legal systems, out of the slavery of this world and into true covenant relationship with God in which they love God and others more than self] Then once again she will call me her husband—**she will no longer call me her Baal**. I will never let her speak the name of Baal again. [Wow—what kind of a relationship is marriage? It is a covenant relationship based on mutual love and trust. This is a reference to the New Covenant, in which we come into unity with God, in which He writes His law upon our hearts and minds and we love and trust Him. And notice, when we genuinely enter into the new covenant, in which God writes His law on our hearts and minds, and we are united with Him, then we will not call God Baal—and who was Baal?

Baal was son of El; Baal was the god of weather, thunder, renewal, harvest. Baal fought against the great serpent the leviathan, and also against Mot, the god of death. In his battle with Mot Baal dies and rises again to bring life to the land. Now, what is wrong with worshipping a god who is the son of the father god, who is the creator and governor of the nature, who fights the great serpent, who fights against death and dies and rises again to bring us life? Baal required appeasement, payment, sacrifice to merit the blessings. Baal became Zeus to the Greeks, Jupiter to the Romans, Thor to the Norse people and Jesus Christ to all those who worship a god who requires the blood of a human sacrifice be paid in order not to kill us.

God is saying that when we enter into the New Covenant with Him and genuinely know Him (life eternal is knowing God John 17:3) then we will no longer call God Baal. We will finally



see the truth that the penal legal theologies are pagan and false and we will be united in heart with our God and when we finally do this, then Malachi's prophecy of Elijah coming again to call the people out of Baal worship is realized, notice what God says happens when we finally reject the imposed law Baal-god] **At that time I will make a covenant** with all the wild animals and birds, so that they will not harm my people. I will also remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, and will let my people live in peace and safety.

19 Israel, I will make you my wife;  
I will be true and faithful;  
I will show you constant love and mercy  
and make you mine for ever. [What does God do? He heals nature, He removes the survival of the fittest infection from His creation so the animals stop killing each other, and the people stop killing each other, and we are united in eternal union with our Creator God!]

20 I will keep my promise and make you mine,  
and you will acknowledge me as LORD.

21–22 At that time I will answer the prayers of my people Israel.  
I will make rain fall on the earth,  
and the earth will produce corn and grapes and olives.

23 I will establish my people in the land and make them prosper.  
I will show love to those who were called “Unloved”,  
and to those who were called “Not-my-People”  
I will say, “You are my people,”  
and they will answer, “You are our God.” (Ho 2:14–23 GNT). [And who is included in this promise? All human beings, from all races, nations, tribes, cultures, and languages!]

The lesson also asks us to look at Ezekiel 11:19-10:

**I will give them a new heart and a new mind.** I will take away their stubborn heart of stone and will give them an obedient heart. Then they will keep my laws and faithfully obey all my commands. They will be my people, and I will be their God. (Eze 11:19–20 GNT).

What is described? What kind of salvation is this? What kind of law is this?

I was reading in the book *Steps to Christ* this week and read the following, describing the New Covenant, what do you think is being described?

When, as erring, sinful beings, we come to Christ and become partakers of His pardoning grace, **love springs up in the heart.** [What is this? Is it a declaration, a proclamation, a legal adjustment or a living reality, an actual change in experience and function?] Every burden is light, for the yoke that Christ imposes is easy. **Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a**



**pleasure.** The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness, becomes bright with beams from the Sun of Righteousness. SC 59.2

The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God. Love to God, zeal for His glory, was the controlling power in our Saviour's life. Love beautified and ennobled all His actions. **Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it.** It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. "We love, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19, R.V. [What is described? Is this a legal process or an actual recreating of the heart, the wellsprings of action?] **In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action.** [What is described? Healing, regeneration, renewal, notice the next words] **It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections.** [This is not some legal accounting in books, this is the outworking of the law of life, of design law, of God's law of love, which is a living law rewriting the operating systems of the soul] This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around. SC 59.3

There are two errors against which the children of God—particularly those who have just come to trust in His grace—especially need to guard. The first, already dwelt upon, is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. He who is trying to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin. **It is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, that can make us holy.** SC 59.4 [What is described here? Is this saying it is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, that legally declares us holy even though we are not? No! It is describing real righteousness by faith, actually healing of the soul, heart, mind, character. We are changed. This is the truth!]

**The opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God;** that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption. SC 60.1 [Why is this dangerous? Because God's law is the law of life, the protocols upon which life is built, salvation restores us to live out the law, not violate it. And if we were to continue to break God's law such actions injure us and result in our death. It would be like an alcoholic with liver failure getting a liver transplant—a new lease on life, but the liver transplant that brings new life, doesn't give the person license to keep drinking because the alcohol violates the laws of health and will still result in their death. The person must live in harmony with the laws of health if they want to live. This is how it is with all of God's laws including the moral laws.]

**But notice here that obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the service of love.** [If it is not outward compliance what is it? What kind of law is focused on outward compliance? Imposed law, but God's law is not like this. So what kind of law is God's law?] **The law of God is an expression of His very nature; it is an embodiment of the great principle of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth.** [Where does God's law originate? His nature, His character, it is the expression of Himself that exudes from Him and is what life is built to operate upon. What law is the foundation of God's



government in heaven AND earth? Do you see how Christianity has failed to present the truth about God's law and government and how the message to lighten the world, the 3 angels' messages is the message of the truth about God's character, law and government? The First Angel is the message of the good news, the eternal good news about God and His design law for life—it is a call to worship the Creator to make a right judgment about who God is. The Second Angel is the message of the corruption of the Babylonian system of imposed law, the rule of law god is a lie and we are to come out of that system and back to worship our Creator whose law is design law. And the Third Angel gives the message of what happens when God's design laws are persistently violated and God sets people free to reap what they have chosen.] **If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul,** will not the law of God be carried out in the life? **When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled,** "I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." Hebrews 10:16. And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? [What is described here as the New Covenant? Is it legal or is it healing, recreational, actual? **No legality at all!**] Obedience—the service and allegiance of love—is the true sign of discipleship. Thus the Scripture says, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 5:3; 2:4. **Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience.** SC 60.2 [Why? Because faith results in renewal of heart to live in harmony with God's design laws of life!]

## TUESDAY

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Read the third paragraph, "Though the new..." God is the same yesterday today and tomorrow—so if we are saying about the old and new covenant that it is the same Creator God of love involved in both and who has the same goals and who heals through the same methods then that is, of course true.

But is the covenant to save individual sinners a one-sided arrangement?

God covenanted or promised to save the human species and did this in the person of Jesus without our help.

But, for individual sinners, does it require the active involvement, engagement, participation of the individual sinner to be saved?

So, if the Old and the New covenant are the same, why are they called Old and New, why not just one covenant?

While God is the same, the actual agreement or arrangement of the two are not.





In the New Covenant, which is the actual plan of salvation—the only treatment plan that actual heals or saves sinners—the law is written upon the heart.

If the old covenant was the same, why didn't God write it upon the hearts of the people at Sinai? Was God unwilling to write it upon their hearts? Or were the people unwilling to let God write it upon their hearts? And since they wouldn't let God write it upon their hearts, what was God's purpose in putting it on stone? Wasn't it to act as a promise and a diagnostic instrument and a protective hedge for children, for the immature?

- **The 10 Commandments as a Promise**—if you trust me and let me heal your heart, then you will not have any other gods before me, you will not make graven images, you will not misrepresent my name/character, you will remember the liberty and freedom of my methods by honoring my Sabbath, you will honor your parents, and won't murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness and covet.
- **The 10 Commandments as a Diagnostic Tool**—the law exposes the corruption of the sinful heart, how far from love we are, our terminal condition, and also leads back to Jesus who will heal us fulfilling the promise of what we will look like if we let Him write the law on our hearts
- **The 10 Commandments as a Protection**—even before the sinner trusts God and allows Him to heal the heart, if they choose not to murder, commit adultery, steal, worship false gods etc. they are protected from greater damage to their hearts, minds, characters, and consciences

But what was the problem with the old covenant? It was the people's false belief that it was a legal agreement with God that if they performed correctly, behaviorally, then they would get the blessings, but if they didn't they would be punished by God. It is all based on the false human law model, which gives them power over the deity through legalistic performance, ritual, sacrifice etc. They made it pagan and sadly Judaism, Islam and Christianity continue to operate on this false paradigm.

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph, "Yesterday..." Do you see the imbedded false legal distortions?

They say it is by the forgiveness of God that we enter into covenant relationship. Now let's be very clear—if God did not forgive, we could not be saved, we could not enter into salvation, or covenant with Him—this is absolutely true. But, was God's forgiveness ever an obstacle to our salvation? In other words, was God's forgiveness something that needed to be procured or was it always freely given, never unavailable, never an obstacle?

Pagan religions, those based on human law, the god-king idea of a supreme dictator all teach that the offended god must receive something—a sacrifice, a bribe, an offering, a legal-payment, in order to merit, earn, legally permit the god to forgive. This is a lie regarding our Creator God, this idea is what Baal required.



God forgives all freely—it is Satan who alleges God cannot do this, from the commentary *The Desire of Ages*:

**In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner.  
DA 761.4

It is always Satan's version of law that makes forgiveness from the deity the issue. But this is a lie. God forgives everyone, but not everyone is saved. Those who put Jesus on the Cross, were forgiven by Jesus, but they remained lost because the true barrier to their salvation was not removed and the true barrier is what? Sinfulness! Sin their own hearts kept them out of God's grace, their refusal to surrender in love and trust to Jesus, which is known as repentance.

So, when a wrong is perpetrated upon another, the wrong or sin causes injury to the wrong-doer's heart/mind/character and the bonds of love and trust within the relationship are damaged. The sinner experiences fear, guilt, shame. In order for reconciliation to happen, for the relationship to be actually healed, for the two to be at-one, two things need to occur.

- The injured party must forgive—which God does
- The offending party must repent—have a change of heart!

So, in order for the paragraph to be accurate it should read, “The bottom line is that salvation by faith is in God who forgives all our sin freely without any work or payment from us, and it is His kindness, His free pardon, His forgiveness that leads us to repentance. As a result of His forgiveness and our repentance we enter into relationship together in which He heals all the damage caused by sin and gives us the gift of eternal life.”

## THURSDAY

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Read first paragraph, “The book of Hebrews...” What does the idea of Jesus as our High Priest ministering in the sanctuary in heaven mean to you?

What law lens do you understand this through?

According to Scripture what is the building material of the sanctuary in heaven?

Paul says, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's house [sanctuary/temple], built on the foundation of the



apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building [sanctuary/temple] is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too [you all] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22.

And Peter says, “As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- you also, like living stones [building blocks of the Temple], are being built into a spiritual house [Temple] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet 2:4,5.

And Paul says, “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building [Temple]...Don't you know that you yourselves [the church] are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you [you all] are that temple.” 1 Cor 3:9,16,17.

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Revelation 3:12

From the commentary *The Acts of the Apostles*:

Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, **the building of God's temple has never ceased.** We may look back through the centuries and see **the living stones of which it is composed** gleaming like jets of light through the darkness of error and superstition. Throughout eternity **these precious jewels will shine with increasing luster, testifying to the power of the truth of God. The flashing light of these polished stones** reveals the strong contrast between light and darkness, between the gold of truth and the dross of error.

Paul and the other apostles, and all the righteous who have lived since then, have acted their part in the building of the temple. **But the structure is not yet complete. We who are living in this age have a work to do, a part to act. We are to bring to the foundation material that will stand the test of fire—gold, silver, and precious stones, “polished after the similitude of a palace” (Psalm 144:12).** To those who thus build for God, Paul speaks words of encouragement... : “If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” ... **The Christian who faithfully presents the word of life, leading men and women into the way of holiness and peace, is bringing to the foundation material that will endure, and in the kingdom of God He will be honored as a wise builder.—The Acts of the Apostles, 598, 599.**

Or consider this quote from the same author:

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple



in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

If the sanctuary in heaven is built out of living beings, is that a real sanctuary or a pretend sanctuary?

I ask this because many people ask me if I believe in a real sanctuary in heaven—and I do—but when I use the Scripture to demonstrate what it is actually constructed out of, they suddenly accuse me of no longer believing in a real physical sanctuary.

It is as if to them, inanimate matter, gold, silver, wood, which is what idols are made out of, which cannot sing, pray, worship, praise, love, trust, are somehow more real than living intelligent beings.

So, if the sanctuary in heaven is composed of living beings, what is Jesus our High Priest doing there?



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**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.

**SHARING campaign May:** *Fundamental Focus: A Closer Look At God*

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