



## 2021 3Q Rest In Christ: Lesson 13

### The Ultimate Rest

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

#### SABBATH

---

Read first paragraph, “Have you ever felt...” We all recognize we are in a war—a cosmic war—but it is not only a war between Christ and Satan, Christ and Satan stand at the head of their two forces.

What is the core issue in the war?

Do Christ and Satan stand at the head of two opposing governments, two opposing systems, two types of law and rulership? And does choosing participation in either side impact us? Do we become like either Christ or Satan depending on whose side we identify with, methods we practice, and who we ultimately trust?

And what does that reveal about whose government is actual supreme?

Why do we become like either Christ or Satan? Is it a legal process or literal, transformational—by beholding we are changed? This is the law of worship. We become like the God we admire and worship; when we trust Jesus we open the heart and the Spirit enters bringing new motives, new desire, new insights, new strength and we act on these new insights, motives, desires with new strength and are transformed. But if we choose fear and selfishness then those attributes solidify in our characters and we become like Satan, eventually destroying the very faculties that are sensitive to truth and love—meaning the lost eventually move past healing and transformation, no amount of truth or love has any redeeming impact upon them anymore.

This is reality and thus, even in the war God’s supremacy is revealed. Satan cannot win, because Satan cannot create, Satan cannot sustain life, Satan cannot heal and restore, Satan can only break, destroy and kill. There is nothing legal going on, it is all actual.

Read second paragraph, “Life, then, is really...” We absolutely agree that the war is more than a human war, that there is a cosmic war, that there are angel armies involved, that God’s Spirit is at work, that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Eph 6:12 NIV84), meaning there are non-human forces operating outside of our space-time continuum—in some aspect of time or space we cannot see or move in and out of—but does this mean there is warfare still going on in heaven, in God’s dwelling place, where Gabriel and the loyal angels live? Or does it mean, that the heavenly beings are engaged in the war but the only place warfare is happening now is on Earth?



Prior to the Cross we have evidence that the war was still being waged in heaven—in the first chapter of Job, Satan goes to heaven and launches a propaganda campaign against God, spinning facts to try and undermine trust in God and recruit more angels to his side. The war was still being waged amongst the angels in heaven.

But is that still happening today?

Consider these insights:

**From the first the great controversy had been upon the law of God.** Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, **that His law was faulty**, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. **In attacking the law** he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author. In the controversy it was to be shown whether the divine statutes were defective **and subject to change**, or perfect and immutable. PP 69.1 [What kind of law is subject to change? So Satan's attack from the very beginning is that God's law is not design law, it is merely rules made up and enforced with external power, thus undermining the character of God, making Him be viewed as a dictator, and thereby undermine trust in God and turning angels and humans away from God.]

**To the angels and the unfallen worlds** the cry, "It is finished," had a deep significance. **It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished.** They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory. DA 758.2 [How do sinless beings share in the fruits of Christ's victory? How do they benefit from Christ's life, death, and resurrection? Did they need the cross? Yes, was it for a legal payment? What was it for?]

**Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds.** The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion... DA 758.3 [Christ was the truth, the Word made flesh, the living embodiment of God, the One who the fullness of God dwelt bodily. And what did Christ reveal in His human life? How did Christ respond to injustice? How did Christ wield power? From whom did Christ demand worship? Whom did Christ compel and coerce? Whom did Christ inflict punishment upon? Whom did Christ accuse? Do we see a different character lived out by Jesus than by any other human? Do we see a different law lived out? Do we see a different method of governing? Is this a lesson for us today?]

**God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love;** and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and **truth and love are to be the prevailing power.** DA 759.1 [This is one of the most important truths ever to be revealed and one for which all the saved will embrace and practice. Truth and love are the prevailing powers of God's government. God wants our love, trust, loyalty, devotion, friendship and this



cannot be achieved by legal means, by legislation and the infliction of punishment, by compelling and coercing. In fact, those means lead to more rebellion. All compelling power is found in Satan's government, the Lord never does this.]

**It was God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security,** [By having God's law of love written into hearts, where beings are settled into truth, love, liberty and are genuine friends of God, who would rather die than betray Him or live out of harmony with God's design] and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given **for Satan to develop the principles** which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.... DA 759.2 [What are Satan's principles that needed to be developed so their corruption and destructiveness could be revealed? The rule of law, imposed law, coercion, force, the governments of this world!]

**Satan saw that his disguise was torn away.** His administration was laid open before the **unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted.** Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. **The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.** DA 761.2 [What broke the last link of sympathy? It was the revelation of truth—Jesus revealing God's character, methods, principle and Satan revealing his. Why was Satan's work restricted to this earth after the cross? Was there a force shield? What kind of war is it? It is a war of ideas, of lies versus truth and the battlefield is the hearts and minds of intelligent beings. So, when the intelligences in heaven were settled into the truth about God, when all sympathy for Satan was lost, there were no minds or hearts willing to listen to Satan anymore, none of his ideas, distortions, lies, innuendos, or propaganda had any impact on heavenly beings anymore. Thus, his work was restricted to the hearts and minds of the only beings in the universe who still believed him, valued him, think like him and will follow him—human beings.]

Yet Satan was not then destroyed. **The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy.** [What else was there? Wasn't the issue only about who was telling the truth, who they needed to trust? No—it isn't enough to be eternally secure to believe Jesus is telling the truth, we must also **understand why this is so.** It isn't enough to be secure to believe your math teacher knows the answers to the problems, in order to be secure one must know how to do math, we must mature to be able to discern right from wrong, to not only love and trust God, but to be understanding friends of God.] **The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man,** Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve... DA 761.3 [For our sake Satan was to continue on longer—how is this for our sake? Because we must decide, we must see for ourselves the difference between the methods and principles of God and that of Satan. And if we can't see this difference in the subtle ways they manifest, then what will God allow to



happen? Won't He allow more and more evidence, more truth, more obvious differences to be manifested so that we can see the difference between the principles of God and that of Satan? This is the rise of the beast of Revelation—a system built completely on imposed law, coercion, infliction of punishment all under the guise of seeking to make a better world, to improve lives, to save lives. So what was the specific concept that we all needed to understand more clearly that required Satan's existence to be continued? Here is the next paragraph.]

**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.** [What kind of law is Satan describing? A law which created beings can make, a system of rules that require oversight and coercive enforcement. This is Satan's lie about God's law and as we look through history we see this repeats itself over and over again. And at the end of time, the beastly system of Revelation uses imposed law to force its way, to create mandates, to restrict travel, to force compliance, no one can buy or sell...] **...God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner.** [What is the basis of this allegation? What kind of justice is this? What law is this based upon? Again this is imposed law, and thus the allegation is that to not impose punishment is to not uphold the law. However, when we understand Design law, we realize that justice is not about punishment, but restoring or healing people back to harmony with the design-law.] {DA 761.4}

**But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan.** [Different position how? Different legal position? Or different position in objective reality? Note how] Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. **There was no more that God could do to save him.** [Why? Was Jesus unwilling to give His life for Lucifer? Was Jesus unwilling to pay a "legal penalty"? Didn't we just read that the death of Christ was for angels and the unfallen worlds as well as humans, so Jesus did die for angels—just as Colossians says, "all things in heaven and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross." Then, did God love Lucifer less than humans? Was God playing favorites? No! No! It was because Lucifer had destroyed in himself the capacity to respond to truth and love. He had seen, understood, and participated in God's love and rejected it. Thus he changed himself, hardened his own heart and corrupted his character. This again, is design law. Just the same way Pharaoh hardened his heart—when truth is presented a person must decide to accept or reject it, when we reject truth we harden, when more truth comes we have an opportunity to repent and be healed, but it requires humbling oneself and acknowledging where the lie was believed. If we refuse and instead reject the additional truth then we harden ourselves more until at some point we destroy the ability to respond to love and truth. This is what Lucifer did. Adam and Eve, while deceived, while infected with fear and selfishness, had not rejected truth that would win them to repentance and had not destroyed within themselves the faculties capable of responding to truth and love.] But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. **The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's**



**love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.** [What is it man needs? Is it a legal penalty paid? No, the legal solution is what people think up when they are operating under Satan's false view of God's law. But when we understand the truth, then we realize we need to be set right in heart and mind with God, meaning we need the lies removed and truth to win us to trust and love restored within the heart by the indwelling Spirit of God!] {DA 761.5}

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; **but mercy does not set aside justice.** [What does this mean? What law lens do we view justice through imposed or design? What difference does it make?] **The law reveals the attributes of God's character,** [which is what?] and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. [Why? For the same reason the law of respiration cannot be changed to meet a person drowning. God's law is the protocol upon which life is constructed to operate.] God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. **"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."** 2 Corinthians 5:19. {DA 762.1} [Which means that Christ was carrying out God's purpose to fix what sin did to humanity, set humanity back into harmony with God's law—design! Notice the next paragraph's description about justice.]

**The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give.** He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. **But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character,** a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. [Notice this is Christ, as a human, using human abilities, developing a perfect human character and then healing humans back to this perfect state. This is literal not metaphorical.] **Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ.** God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2} [If you see someone drowning, is it right and just to pull them from the water and administer CPR to revive them? What law are you operating under? Why, if you want them to live, must you do this? This is God's justice and what He accomplished for us through Christ. He pulls us from drowning in sin and breathes into us the breath of life, the Spirit of God Himself comes into us to give us new life with new motives and desires! We are resurrected from sin and death into a new life in Christ.]

**God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy.** [Mercy is God not abandoning sinners to die, not retaliating, not seeking to punish; Justice, doing what is right by sending Christ to destroy sin and restore God's law in humanity in order for us to be restored to life, to be set right or made right, justified, this is what is right or just. I just put up a blog this week in [Justification by Faith](#), if you have any questions about what that is through the design law view, I encourage you to check it out. Justice is the sustaining of the operations of God's laws, including the law of liberty, justice is giving people freedom to reject God's healing remedy and reap what they sow.] **Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice.** He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's





plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10. {DA 762.3} [How does Satan attempt to divorce mercy from justice? By getting us to believe the imposed law lie, which results in a split Godhead in which Christ in mercy dies to pay a legal penalty for our sins to a wrathful father who is the administrator of just punishments. Thus, justice is separated from mercy in the way we perceive and describe God—leading to theologies in which Jesus must protect us from the Father. 1. Jesus pleads His blood to the Father. 2. Jesus covers us with His blood so the Father can't see us. 3. Jesus applies His blood to our record books so the Father can't punish us for our bad deeds. 4. Jesus is our heavenly attorney to argue our case before the Father to protect us from His judgment and punishment. 5 Jesus took our place and was executed by His Father on the cross to pay for our sins. All of this is the divorcing of mercy from truth and justice by created a false caricature of the Godhead.]

**By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. Satan's charges were refuted.** [How? What was the just or right thing for God to do? Fix the problem, which was accomplished through Christ developing a perfect character. What charges of Satan were refuted? That every sin must meet its punishment, that transgressing God's law requires punishment. These lies were refuted at the Cross. But Satan still gets legal theologians to teach the lie when they teach that all sins, past, present, future were put on Christ and punished by God at the Cross.] God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love. {DA 762.4}

**Another deception was now to be brought forward.** [History now repeats itself] Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, **that the death of Christ abrogated the Father's law.** [What kind of law can be rescinded, changed, or abrogated? Imposed law, the kind of laws created beings make. Design law cannot be changed or abrogated. Thus Satan's allegations that began in heaven that God's law requires punishment, i.e. imposed law, now repeats itself and is accepted by the vast majority of humans, including Christians.] Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died...**It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross.** [Why? Because the law is the protocol of life, and only in harmony with it is there salvation, or healing!] **Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it.**[How? Twofold, one by declaring the law is no longer binding, which is only possible if the law were imposed rules. But, also, amongst those who claim the law is still binding, by tricking them into accepting the imposed construct, thus they claim loyalty to God's law and all the commandments, while they present it as imposed rules requiring God to inflict punishment. They, thereby misrepresent God, the Cross and God's law and ultimately practice Satan's methods of coercion as they will one day force other on some point of conscience or go along with governments that do, as long as it is for a good cause, perhaps to save lives.] **Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan...** [This is where we are today in Christianity, fighting a battle over God's law, not which day of worship, but which law—imposed or Design law. We are to call people back to worship Him who made the heavens... to Designer worship.] {DA 762.5}



**By substituting human law for God's law, Satan will seek to control the world... [How? Not simply by a change in rules, but a change in the entire idea of law from the law the Creator builds life upon, to imposed rules so that people will seek to achieve justice through human governments and enforce their beliefs upon others. Notice the next paragraph...]** {DA 763.1}

**Men will surely set up their laws to counterwork the laws of God. They will seek to compel the consciences of others, and in their zeal to enforce these laws they will oppress their fellow men.** [Here we have it—the use of compelling power, which is always used in imposed law systems. This is what is happening in the world today and far too many Christians are going along with it. But they will say, “Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name, we cast out demons and performed miracles in your name—we did this to save lives. And of course, in your name, to honor you and save lives, we forced people against their will to get the job because we know that you want to save lives and we know those people are ignorant, are not scientific and that the job isn’t a religious issue, it is a science issue. So we know you would want us to coerce, compel and force in order to save lives.” And Jesus replies, “Get away from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”] {DA 763.2}

**The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.** {DA 763.3} [Notice the paragraph, it is about developing character, character of love like Jesus, in which we sacrifice ourselves for others, present truth in love and leave others free. Or, character like the beast, where we use compelling power to coerce conformity! This is the test we all must face. And the final deception will be so subtle that if possible the elect will be deceived? How because it will be set up as a law for the good, for saving lives, for protecting others, for saving the planet. And those who won’t comply will be presented as the enemy of the good. But notice what this author says comes next, after these two classes have formed, after every character is tested.]

**Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch...** [Why? Mercy—God would not use His power to keep people in a place of torment, but grants them their choice to be separate from Him, the only source of life.] {DA 763.4}

**This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life.** [This is design law, not imposed penalties!] He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "All they that hate Me love death." Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. **God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice.** By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place



themselves so out of harmony with God that **His very presence is to them a consuming fire.** The glory of Him who is love will destroy them. {DA 764.1}

**At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this.** [What did angels not understand? God's law as design law, as an outworking of His character of love. They were confused by Satan's lies that God's law functions like human law. Thus history repeats itself as humans suffer the same confusion and many today are willing to use Satan's methods to coerce consciences in order to seek justice or save lives.] Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; **but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed,** to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe. [This is how many Christians, including in our own church, view things; they fail to understand the truth of God's law and instead teach the same distortion that God must kill the wicked, rather than the truth that unremedied sin itself results in death! And because they accept Satan's lie about God's law, they are willing to accept Satan's methods of compelling others for a good cause.] {DA 764.2}

But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, **the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable.** Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. {DA 764.3}

## SUNDAY

---

A Vision of the End—it is about the future, what the future hold for the believer, and refers us to Revelation 21:1,2, in which we are promised a new heaven and a new earth, free of all sin, death, disease and pain the home of the righteous.

What is the Biblical view of the future? What happens to this planet as we know it according to the Bible?

Is there anything we can do to stop the destruction and recreation of the Earth by God? Should we try to stop this?

Does that mean, because we understand the future will result in the Earth as we know it being destroyed and a new Earth being created, that we are free to exploit, abuse, pollute, and destroy the planet? No, we are to be good stewards in how we govern ourselves and manage the Earth God has given us.

But, despite the best management possible, what happens to this planet?





Is the future of the Earth in the Biblical worldview the same as the evolutionary, Green worldview?

For those who reject the Bible, who reject the belief in God, who accept the lie that human beings evolved from lower life forms, what does the future worldview look like? It looks like over-population, depletion of the planet's resources, global warming and a mass extinction event—we eventually kill ourselves.

So, if you hold the godless worldview, what would you want to do? Would you want to intervene to stop the extinction of the human species, the destruction of the planet?

Now, in the godless worldview, what is more important to protect, individual human lives, or the planet?

In the Biblical worldview, what is more important to protect, the planet or individual human lives?

If people with the godless worldview were in power and could advance actions and agendas based on their worldview that were intended to save the planet what might those actions look like?

- Would the rate of population growth need to be controlled?
  - If the godless view is truly believed in, would leaders be able to wait until the majority of the planet were convinced of the urgency and willingly cooperated with population control, or would leaders need to take actions that would curb the population regardless of individual willingness to participate?
  - What might that look like?
  - Would governments restrict the number of children a family is permitted to have? Have we already seen this in the world?
  - Would easy access to abortion be part of it?
  - Would birth control be part of it?
  - Would impacting human sexuality through whatever means possible, fertility or gender identity, or media and social media messaging targeting children and adolescents to increase same sex relationships be part of it?
  - Other actions?
- Would carbon emissions need to be controlled?
  - Would carbon emission controls be simply about environmental protection, or would these controls be used to restructure society, shift national autonomy, incite restrictions on resources, ultimately impacting population growth?
- What about wars?
  - Would wars be a means to kill more people and prevent opposition groups from gaining power?
- What about biological agents—human engineered viruses—and their treatments?
- Would resources need to be managed?
- Would people be valued each with inalienable rights to be protected, or would people be viewed as commodities to be managed for the benefit of the whole?



- Would there be investment in science designed to accelerate the evolution of human beings to higher form, either through genetic engineering or cybernetic enhancements?
- Would people who value the Biblical worldview be supported or vilified?
- Would the principles of autonomy and liberty be protected?

Do we view the future from a Biblical worldview, or from a godless worldview? How many of the various agendas and narratives of the godless have made their way into your worldview and are you aligning with while you continue to claim a belief in God?

## MONDAY

---

The Countdown to Jesus' Return—the lesson points us to Matthew 24 and other Bible passages that give us signs of His return. Let's look at some signs of Jesus' soon return:

### 1. Scoffers

First of all, you must understand that in the **last days scoffers will come**, scoffing and following their own evil desires. **They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised?** Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation" (2 Peter 3:3, 4 NIV84).

This sign was fulfilled in the late 18th and early 19th centuries during the Enlightenment, which directly opposed the Great Awakening. The Great Awakening was a religious movement that called people's attention to the nearness of the second coming of Christ. But this movement was countered by the Enlightenment, in which godless scientific views and human reason replaced a belief in God, and godless evolutionism spread throughout the world. In the wake of godless evolution came communism and other godless philosophies that scoff at the idea that Jesus is coming again.

Not only is the world today filled with scoffers, but the critics of God have come to dominate the scientific, educational, and media landscape, creating a societal attitude that those who continue to look for Christ's return are less educated, ignorant, or foolish.

### 2. Wars and rumors of wars

You will hear of **wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is not yet** (Matthew 24:6 NIV84).

Jesus here refers to the never-ending regional struggles, tribal wars, crusades, and conflicts throughout the Dark and Middle Ages prior to the "end times," which began in the 19th century with the Enlightenment. The end times come after these wars. Notice the shift from wars to nations and kingdoms rising against each other.

### 3. World wars, natural disasters, famines, pandemics



**Nation will rise against nation**, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great **earthquakes, famines and pestilences** in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven (Luke 21:10, 11 NIV84).

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are **the beginning of birth pains** (Matthew 24:7, 8 NIV84).

After the long history of wars and conflicts through the Dark and Middle Ages, after the Enlightenment and the rise of the scoffers, we enter the 20th century and experience WWI, WWII, nuclear weapons, wars in Vietnam, Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Syria, and terrorism around the world. The 20th century, with its two world wars and other military conflicts, saw more people killed by war than any other century in human history. And in the past fifty years, the world has seen massive famines, the threats of climate change, HIV, SARS, Swine Flu, COVID, and the increasing frequency of earthquakes, hurricanes, destructive storms, and other disasters. But all of this is *the beginning of the birth pains*.

When a woman goes into labor, the time of delivery has begun. In other words, she has entered the “end time” of her pregnancy—but the labor isn’t instantaneous. The pains get more frequent and more intense right up until delivery. We are now in the time of the end, the time of ever-increasing rapidity of events leading up to our Savior’s return!

Understand that no matter what we do, things on Earth are not going to get better until Jesus returns. And the worsening of conditions on Earth, **the increasing labor pains as the Earth itself groans under the weight of sin, will be used by the scoffers to incite fear, turn minds away from God, and promote their godless solutions that will solidify power into a global coalition that persecutes the righteous.**

#### **4. The promise of an era of peace and safety**

Paul also used the metaphor of a woman going into labor when referring to the return of our Lord, adding an interesting detail:

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman**, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled (1 Thessalonian 5:1–6 NIV84).

When those who don’t know God—the scoffers, the evolutionist, the humanists, those who are desperately seeking to save themselves and “save the earth”—are saying, “This is the way we can have global peace and safety,” sudden destruction will come, as labor pains on a pregnant woman.



They will be unaware that sudden destruction is coming, but why? Because they have given up a belief in God, they no longer trust Scripture, they have accepted the false narrative of godless evolution and secular humanism, and they believe peace and safety can be achieved through the implementation of their worldly agenda. This is the delusion of socialism, of globalism, of the Green movement—that we can save the planet. They claim, “We can create a new world order in which all nations come together to stop climate change, to stop the destruction of the environment, to eliminate poverty—all doable through a new globalism that we can create with new economic realities that will bring in a new era of peace and safety.”

But Jesus continues His warning:

### **5. Increased divisions in society, loss of faith, persecution of believers in Jesus**

Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and **you will be hated by all nations because of me**. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will **betray and hate each other**, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people (Matthew 24:9–11 NIV84).

Then, at the time of the end, at the time after the scoffers arise, at the time when the labor pains have begun, after the nations have had global wars, after the increase in natural disasters and pestilence, *then* those loyal to Christ will be persecuted, some put to death, and hated of all nations. Then people will betray each other to find security for themselves.

### **6. Love of most will grow cold**

**Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold** (Matthew 24:12 NIV84).

Because of the increase in wickedness—which is all the violations of God’s designs, laws, methods, and principles—the love in the hearts of most people grows cold. Because of the denial of God and the rise of the lies of secularism, humanism, socialism, evolutionism; because of the breakdown of families; because of the assault on our common heritage and community values, love is dying in the human heart.

The historic big three societal defensive barriers to this tidal wave of fear we are seeing today have been God, family, and country. But since the Enlightenment, since the rise of evolutionism and secularism, these three “other-than-me” values have been removed. The messaging today is that there is no God, families are the “misogynistic domain of the patriarchy,” and our countries are abusive relics of colonial exploitation and abuse. This leaves people with nothing greater than themselves, which results in increasing fear and a sense of isolation. This leads to a sense of hopelessness; there is no purpose to life other than survival, and people become increasingly fearful and concerned for their own safety and wellbeing. Fear of global warming, fear of economic collapse, fear of COVID and we see love growing cold. Thus, society devolves into ever increased pleasure-seeking, trying to numb the fear as love grows ever colder.



## 7. So caught up in entertainment and living, people are unaware

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, **people were eating and drinking, marrying** and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and **they knew nothing about what would happen** until the flood came and took them all away. **That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man** (Matthew 24:37–39 NIV84).

Incredible! The people before the Flood knew nothing about what was going to happen despite Noah preaching for 120 years and building a giant boat. How did they not know? Because they were consumed with pleasure-seeking, eating, drinking, and marrying. They were too busy either being entertained or living their lives to be bothered with eternal realities.

This is exactly the state of the world today: It is caught up in increasing consumption of mind-altering substances, or leaving reality behind for their preferred fantasy world of video games, social media activity, TV shows, movies, sports, concerts, amusement parks, or anything else to consume and distract the mind. This is the world today—ignoring the warnings of Jesus, ignoring the signs of the end all around, and living merely for the pleasures of the moment.

## 8. The good news about God’s kingdom of love lightens the world

**But he who stands firm to the end will be saved.** And **this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, **and then the end will come** (Matthew 24:13, 14 NIV84).

But those who stand firm for the truth of God’s kingdom of love will be saved! We will be the ones who take the good news about God and His kingdom of love to the world. We will advance the cause of liberty, for love only exists in an atmosphere of freedom. We will stand for truth in a world of falsehood and propaganda. We will glorify God by revealing His character of love in how we treat our neighbors. We will call people back to the truth of our Creator by teaching people God’s design laws—the laws our Creator built reality to operate upon, demonstrating that harmony with God and His design laws are the only way to health and happiness.

## TUESDAY

---

The lesson focuses on the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14—I wish we had time in the lesson to do a deep dive on this. But, we don’t today.

But I want to announce that we have a new Pamphlet, in production on the Three Angels’ Messages from the Design Law perspective. We will have that very soon, it is with the designer right now getting the layout and as soon as we get that back it will go to print, so hopefully within the next month or two.





And when we do, perhaps we ought to have a special 3 Angels broadcast, where we go over what is in the Pamphlet? What do you think? Let us know if you would like to have a Sabbath afternoon live broadcast on the message of the 3 angels when our pamphlet is ready?

## WEDNESDAY

---

The lesson focuses on our rest in the first death, the sleep death, that what we call death is merely a sleep and is not the death of sin, which is the second or eternal death.

Understanding this, is why we can know that God has never killed anyone, God has put many to sleep, put them into the grave, but every one will rise again in either the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation and each of the lost arise with the same train of thoughts that they had when they died, and will finish their lives by the exercise of their own choices.

If you would like more on the state of humanity, what death is, and the final end of sin and sinners, here are some resources:

- [The Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment for the Modern World Pamphlet](#)
- [Death and Resurrection lecture](#) in the Power of Love Training and Equipping Course

## THURSDAY

---

The lesson focuses on Philippians 4:4-7:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Php 4:4–7 NIV84).

What does this text mean to you?

## FRIDAY

---

Read and discuss the questions

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:



We will *not* have Bible Study Class on Saturday, September 18 as the team will be in Orlando, FL sharing free materials at the AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors).