



2021 Q4 Present Truth in Deuteronomy Lesson 3: The Everlasting Covenant

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SABBATH

Covenants today:

My mother lives in a subdivision that has covenants. For those of you who are not familiar with this type of covenant, it is a lengthy list of items you can and cannot do if you are going to live there....what you can have in your yard, what type of animals you can have, what type of changes you can make to your house, or the size of the house you build....and on and on. Why would anyone want to live where there are so many rules, you ask?

Mostly, people who agree to this list want to maintain their house's value and live among other people who share this outlook. They are willing to agree with each other to accomplish this purpose....retain and enhance value.

5 years ago, when my father needed a ramp, we elected to put it inside the garage, which was big enough to accommodate a ramp. It has been a real lifesaver! Why didn't we put it outside the house? Mainly, we didn't want to have to get permission from the leadership of the subdivision to make changes to the outside of the house. But also we didn't want to advertize that disabled people live there that they might be a helpless target for criminals, so that the ramp would not have to undergo degradation due to weather, and so we wouldn't have to be in bad weather while getting into and out of the car.

A covenant is a very valuable tool. We agreed, we promised. We kept our covenant promise.

What happens if we break that promise? Consequences! In a subdivision, fines and poor relationships with your neighbors who know we signed the covenant agreement and are now breaking it, which lowers the value of their houses. They don't want to live with our mess.

My husband and I live out in the country where no covenants are in place. Guess what? Neighbors can do anything they like to their property and behave any way they like. So, where there was once neighboring woods now holds a house with a yard full of trash and toys. If our neighbors want to shoot their guns, they do. My sister and her husband built a home in the country, only to have industrial chicken coops built just down the road.

A covenant is very valuable.

Marriage is a covenant, when we make promises to another person that we plan to keep, but these days, often don't. Why is it so easy to break our promises?



God considers Himself our husband and we believers are His bride. We look down at the Israelites and think to ourselves that we wouldn't turn away from Him like they did, we wouldn't complain about everything like they did, we wouldn't worship anything else like they did. But is that true? Are there ways we do that very thing....are we too busy, are we focusing on and complaining about the behavior of the "others", and are we spending much more time with entertainment, politics, business or hobbies, etc. than we spend with God? Just keep track of how you spend your time for a week, and you will have your answer.

Today, let's take a real look at our covenant with God. As Elijah asked on Mount Carmel, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal (or anything else that has your primary attention) is God, follow him!"

How can you be commanded to love someone you can't see, hear or touch? Does this bring out the rebel in you?

How can we love and trust someone we cannot see, hear or touch...an invisible being? Ideas?

- Letters that share the thoughts and feelings, questions and concerns
- Stories other people share about what that being has done for them
- Seeing a requested response actually occur (God helps with not only big problems, but gives you "flowers")
- Experiencing healing changes in your mind and heart, and at times your body

Psalms 34:8-9, 12-15: "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack no good thing....whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;"

It's harder for some to love and trust God because they have been hurt and betrayed by people here on earth that promised to love and protect them, or gave birth to them. God has to find a way past all of that hurt, anger and distrust, though He had nothing to do with causing it.

To me, one of the most poignant texts in the Bible is Isaiah 65:1,2, where God says: "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me. I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations'."

Hosea 11 describes God's perspective on His relationship with His people Israel, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me....It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms, but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them....My people are



determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?...My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man – the Holy One among you.”

Covenant is mentioned 334 times in the Bible. It must be very important to God!

This week’s memory text is: ““And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you’ ” (Genesis 17:7, NKJV).

From the middle section of the first page: “God out of His saving grace and love offers you a salvation that you do not deserve and cannot possibly earn; and you, in response, love Him back “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30, NKJV), a love that is made manifest by obedience to His law: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments” (1 John 5:3, NKJV).

Do we not deserve to be saved? To be healed of our terminal condition of sin? Are we not God’s children...even the bad ones? Did we choose to be born terminal? I would submit that God could do nothing less than what He did to accomplish our salvation, not only because he loves us that much, but because we do deserve to be healed, to have a chance to make a different decision than Adam and Eve did. We didn’t ask for this. We can’t be held accountable for what Adam and Eve did to our species.

We can be held accountable for not taking the medicine that Jesus died to produce. His character and love replacing the selfish thoughts and actions that we do even at the expense of others.

The Covenant with God IS how you take your medicine and become healed. He promises to be Your God, your Healer, your Savior. You promise to love and trust Him enough to open that door He is knocking on and let Him into your heart. There, He will make the changes inside that we are simply unable to do on our own. Christ IS our substitute; His life, like a transfusion, replaces ours, which He sacrificed His life to make possible. His human life was made perfect IN the sacrifice.

As a nurse, I find it interesting that the Bible uses the metaphor of “Blood”. The DNA in our blood and how it is expressed holds the instruction manual for who we are, how we are different from others. Jesus’ DNA was uniquely human and Godly. What an amazing swap He offers us! A transfusion of holiness! A complete removal of the virus of sin from our brain’s computer!

John 17:25, 26: Jesus prayed for His disciples and for all of us when He said, “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”



SUNDAY

The Covenant and the Gospel

First Paragraph:

All through the Bible, the covenant and the gospel appear together. Though the idea of covenant existed before the nation of Israel (for example, the Noahic covenant), and though the covenant promise was made before the nation of Israel existed, it was expressed prominently through God's interaction with His people, starting with their fathers, the patriarchs. And even from the start, the central truth of the covenant was the gospel: salvation by faith alone.

From the second half of the page:

Abraham believed God, believed in God's promises to him, and thus he was justified before God. Abraham sought to uphold his end of the covenant by obedience (basically, doing what God told him to do), such as seen in Genesis 22, when he showed the whole watching universe that he totally trusted God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac at Mount Moriah. "His faith is accounted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:5, NKJV).

That's why, Paul would use Abraham as the example of what it means to live by the covenant promises God had made with His people. This theme echoes throughout the Bible. Paul brought it up another time in Galatians 3:6, where he again quotes Genesis 15:6, about Abraham's faith being "accounted . . . to him for righteousness" (NKJV), and he refers back to the promise first made to Abram about all nations being blessed in his seed (Gal. 3:8, 9).

The covenant promises are made to all, Jew and Gentile, who "are of faith" (Gal. 3:7) so they are justified by faith without the deeds of the law, however much they are obligated, because of the covenant, to obey the law. I found this confusing.

Our favorite question: What law lens are we looking through? God's laws are the foundation of life and breaking them takes life away. Much like staying underwater longer than you have air causes death unless you come up for more air. Breaking God's law of respiration causes death.

How does faith and law work, if we are saved by faith alone? By opening up our hearts to take in all that Christ gives us, including a desire to keep the law.

When Jeremiah talks about the new covenant, he does so in the context of the law: " 'But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people' " (Jer. 31:33, NKJV), reflecting language that goes back to the book of Leviticus: "I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people" (Lev. 26:12, NKJ)



In today's society, "saved by grace" has come to mean, that if you say you believe in Christ, you are saved. But according to Jesus' brother, James 2:18, 19. "But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good? Even the demons believe that...and shudder!"

And looking toward the very end of time, which is where I believe we are, Revelation 14:12 says, "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus."

Even when you look at how the Bible says the good and bad people are separated, in Matthew 25: 31-46, it is the actions of help and love toward our fellowman that enable us to be saved (we have the compassionate heart of God living in us). The second death has no power over those who rise in the first resurrection. Ignoring the needs of our fellow man shows we do not have the love of God in our hearts or love others as we love ourselves, and results in eternal loss of life, the second death. Revelation 20:6, 15.

MONDAY

The Covenant and Israel

I really like this: " 'It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob' " (Deut. 9:5, NKJV; see also Deut. 9:27).

Here the covenant of grace appears: God worked for them— despite the constant mistakes. When they begged for a king, God warned them that a king would take all of the best stuff from them, but they still wanted a king. What did God do? He helped them find one. He valued a relationship with them, even when they were wrong, and insulting to God's ability to be their leader.

How do the covenant promises work?

- Exodus 2:23-25 says that God hears his people, remembers his promise/covenant and was concerned about them.
- Exodus 6:2-8 details His promises, made with "an uplifted hand" with his identity "I am the Lord."
- Leviticus 26:40-46 says God will remember His covenant when their "uncircumcised hearts" are humbled.

The last two paragraphs reflect this:

The exodus from Egypt, the great symbol of God's saving grace, also was based on the covenant the Lord had made to their fathers. That is, even before the beneficiaries of the covenant were born, the promises were made in their behalf. Through no merit of their own, they received the promised deliverance, which God did for them through the miracles and



events of the Exodus. They went from Egypt to Sinai, where the covenant with them was “officially” established (see Exodus 20). Central to that covenant was gospel and the law, the Ten Commandments, which they were called upon to obey, a manifestation of their saving relationship with the Lord, who already had redeemed them (the gospel). Hence, again and again in Deuteronomy, they were called to obey that law as their part of the covenant, which had been ratified at Sinai.

We don’t earn salvation by law. God’s law describes life itself, it protects and promotes life. Jesus saves us, but the law connects us to him and to others.

We were created for life, but we deviated from the plan and found ourselves alone, separated. The law is the pathway God gave us to return to life.

How does the law connect us? Any ideas?

- Opening up to the flow of God’s life through us, we become part of the river of life again.
- Seeing even an enemy as beloved of God and in need of help, healing and salvation
- Allowing the river of life to flow out to others in good deeds, caring acts, self-sacrificing actions to reach out to the separated, hurting and lonely.
- Opening up even more to God to allow even more resources to flow through us to others

TUESDAY

The Book of the Covenant

In the Middle section, Deuteronomy 5:1–21, when Moses was trying to encourage the children of the Israelites that left Egypt, but would not go into the promised land, and ended up out in the desert for 40 years. Have faith in God this time, so that doesn’t happen to you:

Not long after the children of Israel were redeemed from Egypt, God established the covenant with them, at Sinai, just before they were supposed to enter the Promised Land. Then, after a 40-year detour, just before they are again to enter the Promised Land, which was a central part of the covenantal promise (see Gen. 12:7, Exod. 12:25), through the mouth of Moses, the Lord again gives them the Ten Commandments, a way to re-emphasize just how important it was for them to renew their covenant obligations, as well. The Lord was going to fulfill His covenantal promises to them. Now, they are obligated to uphold their end of the deal: “ ‘So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone’ ” (Deut. 4:13, NKJV).

He did it at Sinai, and now He was doing it again, in Moab, just before they were to take the land promised to them through the promise made to the fathers centuries earlier, a manifestation of the “everlasting covenant” that preceded even the existence of the world. “Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn



pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 834

Deuteronomy 5:29 says, “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever.”

What is difficult about the 10 commandments as listed in Exodus 20? The first 4 are how we show our love for our creator, and the last 6 are how we show our love for other people...by not hurting them in any way.

The only commandment people seem to have trouble remembering is the 4th commandment that ironically starts with “Remember” the Sabbath day to keep it holy...the seventh day (which we call Saturday in English, or Sabado in Spanish)...the day created by and commemorating our creator and His character of love, truth and freedom. He could have created the world in 6 days, then said, “Alright! You have seen my power! Kneel before me and be my slave always.” But instead, he allowed us a day of freedom to consider the character of the One yielding the power.

This seventh-day period showed His genius because it cannot be owned, bought, or kept from anyone. We all pass through this glorious day once every week. We have the privilege of reconnecting with our Savior in an ever deeper way throughout our lives, and honoring Him as our God and creator!

But we may not understand what it means to “keep the Sabbath”. In Luke 18:18-30, Jesus shed light on that in His discussion with the rich ruler, who asked him, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered, “You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’” The ruler said, “All these I have kept since I was a boy,”

Jesus responded, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” The ruler was sad, because he amassed a lot of wealth which he did not want to part with. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” People thought that if you were rich and healthy, you were blessed by God, so this came as quite a shock!

Jesus’ answer shows that though the ruler THOUGHT he had kept the commandments all his life, he had not. He showed that he did not love God with all his heart because he wouldn’t follow Him. He showed that he did not love others because he hoarded his good fortune instead of sharing it with others. If the shoe had been on the other foot, he would have wished a rich person would share some of his abundance with him.

Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”



Bearing that in mind, why do you think many Christian people today have such an aversion to keeping the law, and say that we are saved simply by what Jesus did for us? Especially when the saved deeds are pointed out in the Bible as well as knowing God?

- What kind of faith does nothing to heal you of your sin?
- Do we really want to go to heaven the way we are?
- Do we expect God will miraculously change everything about our characters and who we are when we arrive in heaven?

Matthew 7:21-23 What about these people?"

Jesus said," Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

WEDNESDAY

His Special People

In the first section, this information is reviewed:

It's hard for us today to grasp much of what the ancient world was like at the time in which Israel was wandering the wilderness. If whole empires have come and gone, with only ruins (if that) remaining, what can we know of many of the smaller pagan nations that lived in the same area as Israel did? Not a whole lot, but we do know one thing: these people were steeped in paganism, polytheism, and some utterly degrading practices, which included child sacrifice. Try to imagine just how degrading and evil a culture and a religion would be that would do that to their own children, and do so in the name of some god! No wonder, again and again, all through the history of ancient Israel, the Lord had warned His people against following the practices of the nations around them. " 'When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations' " (Deut. 18:9, NKJV). And that's because God had called out this nation for a special purpose. By having entered into the covenant with God, they were to be a special people, a witness to the world of the God who created the heaven and the earth—the only God.

According to Deuteronomy 27:9-26 and Exodus 18:5-30, the people had sexual and behavioral practices that not only contaminated their minds and bodies, and sometimes their livestock, but "even the land was defiled."

We can tell this by the different instructions the Israelites were given when taking over a group of non-Israelites. Numbers 31 indicates they could take the spoils, and the virgin girls (after a purification process), but kill everyone else. I think we can gather that the adults had sexually transmitted diseases.



Other times they were told to destroy everything and take absolutely nothing from the town. Or they were to kill the people, but could keep the livestock. God was trying to limit the issues brought into the Israelite camp.

The bottom section asks us to consider the idea of “this day” committing to God and to His covenant requirements.

To put off decisions for God is to take our eternal life in our hands. The longer we go without Him, the further away we will be and the harder it will be to return to Him. Nothing is stagnant about this life....we are moving through space and time...and we don't get that back.

The philosophy I live by is, “Plan as if you are going to live forever, but live as though you are going to die today.” We can talk about when the “end of time” will come, but truly for any of us, our end of time could be today. Satan tries to get us to procrastinate, and we are oh-so-good at that. I am. But it is a deadly mistake.

Looking at it from another perspective, the sooner we join forces with God, the sooner we experience all the benefits of healing, balance, maturity of character, depth of compassion and love, and connectedness to our creator and all people. All this and preparation for life in heaven, too!

THURSDAY

Other Images

In the bottom section, we look at this:

“In Deuteronomy 4:20 and Deuteronomy 32:9, there is the idea of family, which, ideally, should be the closest, tightest, and most loving of bonds. God has always wanted this kind of relationship with His people. Even after their shameful rejection of Jesus during the time of the cross, Jesus said to the two Marys after He had been resurrected, ‘Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.’ (Matt. 28:10, NKJV). Even as the resurrected Christ, He referred to the disciples as “My brethren,” an example of love and the grace that flows from love for those who certainly didn’t deserve it. That’s essentially what the relationship between God and humanity has always been: grace and love given to the undeserving.”

What?

Once again, let’s look at this concept of “undeserving.” Does a child filled with cancer deserve treatment? Put another way, do we, as God’s children, filled with sin deserve treatment?

John 3:16, 17, “For God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”



John 15:9-17, Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit; Fruit that will last, and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

Zechariah 2:8 “For this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you...for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye.’”

Does that sound like God considers us undeserving? Or does that sound like we are so precious to Him that He would do anything to give a chance to know Him, open our hearts to Him, so He can heal us?

FRIDAY

Further Thoughts

“The spirit of bondage is engendered by seeking to live in accordance with legal religion, through striving to fulfill the claims of the law in our own strength. There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus. The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today, through which we have hope. Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the Author and the Finisher of our faith.”—Ellen G. White Comments, The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1077.

“Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, ‘It is finished,’ He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, ‘I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.’ John 19:30; 17:24.”—Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 834.

Discussion Questions:

1) As the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in what ways should we fulfill the role that ancient Israel should have fulfilled in its time? How can we learn to avoid the mistakes that they made?



- Be in the world, but not of the world – don't distance from those who need help
- Realize that it is not because of our righteousness that we have this great treasure of truth, but because God wants us to grow spiritually, while spreading the good news to everyone
- Don't hoard the truth...it isn't "Ours"...
- Proverbs 24:11, 12, "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' does He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay everyone according to what they have DONE?"

2) Why are the gospel and the promises of the gospel so central to the whole idea of the new covenant? What texts can you find in the New Testament that show how the law and obedience to the law were not abolished under the new covenant, as commonly taught by other Christians?

- Romans 8: 7, 8, 13 "The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."...For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."
- Romans 13:8-10, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' Love does no harm to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."
- Hebrews 4:8-11, "For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience."
- Isaiah 66: 22-24, "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the Lord. "And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

3) Why do you think so many Christians say that the gospel nullifies the need to keep the Ten Commandments?



- There are many texts in the New Testament that talk of salvation by faith and not the law.
- But I like to think of the Law like an MRI. It can show you what is wrong, but it cannot heal you. You MUST go the Great Physician for healing. This healing comes by faith in the Healer. That He actually has a remedy that works, and then you actually allow Him to give it to you in daily doses!
- The devil has no interest in our healing. In fact, if it weren't for our angels, we would all be dead. Look at Job. As soon as Satan was free to do anything, what did he do? Destroyed! So, he gives the ideas to leaders of churches that salvation doesn't include actual healing to perfection. When that though it adopted, there is no effort to connect to God for the purpose of healing and becoming more and more like Jesus each day.
- “Therefore the Lord, the Lord Almighty, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: ‘Ah, I will vent my wrath on my foes and avenge myself on my enemies. I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities.’” Isaiah 1:24, 25
- “Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Isaiah 35:3,4 What is the best retribution for a person who has been killed, diseased, deceived, etc? Healing and restoration – Salvation!

Revelation 14:6,7, “Then 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.”

What is the good news here?

- This is for all eternity, not just temporary
- No one on earth is excluded
- God has given us the ability to use good judgment to identify the truth about God
- What gives glory to God is following the truth about this awesome God to the point where you understand, love and worship Him without fear (Luke 1:74 – John the Baptist's father, Zechariah's prophecy that part of the mission of Christ is to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”)
- The same judgment we make about God and others, will God make about us as being healed or not healed. Unselfishly loving, or judgmental and misjudging of others and God? He makes an accurate diagnosis. Matthew 7:1,2 Matthew 25: 31-46 Isaiah 11:1-4
- The sign or banner of this creator God is the brilliant choice of a period of time (the 7th day Sabbath), rather than an icon or item (like a wedding ring). He created this 7th day as the last day of creation, where He “rests His case”. A day for us to consider how He uses his mighty power, and who we are in relationship with Him. A day to keep ourselves holy through staying connected to and healed by Him. Gen.2:1-3 Exodus 8-11



E.G. White, *Desire of Ages*, pg 308, “‘Till heaven and earth pass,’ said Jesus. ‘one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.’ The sun shining in the heavens, the solid earth upon which you dwell, are God’s witnesses that His law is changeless and eternal. Though they may pass away, the divine precepts shall endure. ‘It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.’ Luke 16:17. The system of types that pointed to Jesus as the lamb of God was to be abolished at His death; the but precepts of the Decalogue are as immutable as the throne of God. Since ‘the law of the Lord is perfect,’ every variation from it must be evil. Those who disobey the commandments of God, and teach others to do so, are condemned by Christ. The Saviour’s life of obedience maintained the claims of the law: it proved that the law could be kept in humanity, and showed the excellence of character that obedience would develop. All who obey as He did are likewise declaring that the law is ‘holy, and just, and good.’ Romans 7:12. On the other hand, all who break God’s commandments are sustaining Satan’s claim that the law is unjust, and cannot be obeyed. Thus they second the deceptions of the great adversary, and cast dishonor upon God. They are the children of the wicked one, who was the first rebel against God’s law. To admit them into heaven would again bring in the elements of discord and rebellion, and imperil the well-being of the universe. No man who willfully disregards one principle of the law shall enter the kingdom of heaven.”

E.G. White, *Desire of Ages*, pg 309, “The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ’s day was that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. The darkest Chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists. The Pharisees claimed to be children of Abraham, and boasted of their possession of the oracles of God, yet these advantages did not preserve them from selfishness, malignity, greed for gain, and the basest hypocrisy. They thought themselves the greatest religionists of the world, but their so-called orthodoxy led them to crucify the Lord of glory. The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence it is a curse to the world.”

E.G. White, *Council to the Churches*, pg 261, “Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that he had made He pronounced ‘very good.’ Genesis 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing. ‘The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.’ Job 38:7. Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men a knowledge of Himself. He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and



that through knowing Him we may have life and peace. When The Lord delivered His people Israel from Egypt and committed to them His law, He taught them that by the observance of the Sabbath they were to be distinguished from idolaters. It was this that made the distinction between those who acknowledge the sovereignty of God and those who refuse to accept Him as their Creator and King. 'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever,' the Lord said. 'Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.' Exodus 31:17, 16. As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors."