



## 2021 4Q Present Truth in Deuteronomy To Love the Lord Your God

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

---

This week a group of Seventh-day Adventist Christians put out a public appeal to the SDA church entitled: To the Seventh-day Adventist Church: An Appeal in Defense of Liberty of Conscience.

It is extremely well done call for the principles of liberty of conscience, religious liberty that we have been advancing. It is open for anyone to sign onto this letter. I encourage you all to read it and if you agree sign it. The link is here.

<https://libertyandhealth.org/liberty/>

On Wednesday evening the group did a live webcast with Ben Carson to discuss the Biblical, moral, ethical and Constitutional principles of liberty. It was also well done.

But I noticed in the live comments going by that there were a couple of people who kept texting things like: “This isn’t about liberty. If you love people you get the vaccine.”

What is the problem with such a statement? Love cannot exist in an atmosphere of freedom. This is one of Satan’s traps—to set up a situation in which people believe it is righteous to advance a cause by taking away freedom, by mandates, by force, by threats, by economic or other pressures.

The memory text for today is: “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV4).

I had my lesson prepared on Deuteronomy and there was nothing in it about COVID, and I still have the notes and we will get to it. But, then I received an email this week, and I thought—what does love do? If I love the Lord don’t I love people too? And doesn’t love remain open to advancing truth? Here is the email:

*Please get back to the Bible and out of social issues and politics, such as Covid19, the Left and the Right, Afghanistan. Dr. Jennings, you are beginning to sound like a Fox News anchor. It's making me sick. I hate what you are becoming!*

*You should know that leadership requires difficult decision-making. Over 700,000 people have died in this country alone, so what do you do with a virus that is spawning variants by the day? If you are not around people, you do nothing; however, if you are working around others, you vaccinate for your own safety, your family's safety and for the safety of others until this thing is*



*finally under control. I can see your point if the government was merely forcing this on people for reasons of obvious control of its citizenry, or as a precursor to additional enforcements in the future, but be for real. We are in a pandemic that is taking thousands of lives by the day. And yes, you should know that with every vaccination and every medication, there will be side effects, but they pale in comparison to the number of people who are being saved from the worse of the virus and most of all, death.*

*So can we get back to the Holy Bible, our great commission, and sharing the love of Jesus as we prepare for the soon coming Savior? PLEASE!*

So what does love do? This person sounds frustrated, perhaps angry? Why? It appears they are concerned I am misperceiving the danger from COVID, listening to right wing talk shows, and not speaking about pertinent Bible issues.

Well, no wonder she is upset—I would be upset too if I thought someone I valued was being misled to the point they were no longer presenting truth.

So, if you are the one who emailed—thank you for reaching out. Can we agree that the solution to all of this is the truth? Jesus said “you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” This is a principle that applies to all aspects of life—not just spiritual life. Truth frees from lies and according to Paul those who are lost in the end are lost because “they did not love the truth and thus be saved.” (2 Thes 2:10).

If you go to the gym and work out with weights, your muscles will get stronger—are you then only able to use your increased strength at the gym, or can you use that strength anywhere? Likewise, when we exercise our God-given ability to reason, think, discern these abilities develop and strengthen and as we advance in discerning truth from error we are able to use our discernment skills anywhere. This is a spiritual exercise—loving truth, the discerning of truth, the moving forward in truth no matter the truth.

When I was in college and was presented with godless theories of evolution, I had to think them through and examine those theories in light of Scripture and choose what I would believe. Was this merely science, or was it a spiritual pursuit?

The righteous, the saved, are those who have minds that love truth, they are open to be corrected by facts, evidence and truth. They know they are finite beings and that their current understanding may not be 100% accurate and they are willing to examine new perspectives and evidences and update when the evidence is persuasive.

That is the type of mind I want and for which I have prayed, to grow in the truth at the earliest possible moment I can, not delay until the truth is unavoidable. This is part of what it means to be humble—a humble person is one who can learn, can update, can be corrected when they are wrong. I have not always been humble. I have believed things that were not true and had to change my beliefs and it



wasn't pleasant. And I learned—I don't want to cling to error, I want to follow the truth at the earliest possible moment my mind can comprehend it.

**Remember—we can never avoid the truth we can only delay the day we deal with it—and the longer we delay the worse the problem is.**

So, emailer—can we examine your concerns in light of truth and the principles of God?

You are concerned about what I have been saying because you have different *beliefs* about what has happened and what is happening. Is our *beliefs*, what we *believe*, in whom we *believe* and *trust*, why we *believe*, upon what we base our *beliefs* important? Is examining our beliefs and establishing them in harmony with truth and God's Word a responsibility of the Christian? If we pursue the examination of our beliefs, always seeking greater truth, are we practicing Bible principles?

So, you have some beliefs that are different from mine—why? I would suggest we are incorporating different data points, and perhaps we have different *methods* upon which we decide what we believe.

How have you come to believe what you have?

For instance—you have stated the following beliefs:

- over 700,000 deaths from COVID have occurred in the USA
- New variants of SARS-COV2 are spawning daily
- If you interact with others responsibly then you get the COVID vaccine for one's own safety and the safety of others
- Thus, your position believes the vaccines keep you and others safe from SARS-COV2
- You believe we need to continue vaccinating “until this thing is finally under control.” Suggesting you believe we can vaccinate our way to safety.
- You believe it isn't right to mandate or control people—but then say “But be for real, we are in a pandemic” which suggests you believe we are in a pandemic and that it is an immediate threat and that in such circumstances limiting freedoms by mandates is okay.
- You believe that vaccines do have side effects but they are insignificant to the number of deaths occurring from the virus.

I hope I have been able to accurately represent the beliefs you hold. It is the best I could do from the email.

How did you come to believe all of this? What method did you use?

- Did you go to the various sources and examine the data for yourself?
- Did you think it through for yourself and compare it to your understanding of reality—or did you allow an authority to tell you the answer?
- Did you base your beliefs upon what the government said, or the CDC, the FDA, the head of the NIH, or some other government official?



- Did you get persuaded because you watched interviews with people who sounded convincing and were affirmed by the talk show host?
- Is it because the legal authorities have used their legal powers to pass laws or mandates and you trust them to protect society and you accept what they say as true?
- Is it because you have a personal experience with someone who has died of COVID?
- Is it based upon a consensus of your friends, peers, neighbors? In other words, does it seem to you that the majority of people think this way so it must be true?

Understand, the issues around COVID aren't restricted to what we believe, it is also about what *methods* we use to decide what we believe.

The Bible describes *all* the governments and kingdoms of the world as being part of Satan's kingdom—and Satan is the father of lies.

- What do you think that means for human governments?
- Do you believe that our governments—any government including the USA—are honest with their people or do our governments lie to us?
- We can make a Biblical case, that since the governments of the world are Satan's and Satan is the father of lies, that human governments will not only use beastly methods of coercion, violence, force, but will also lie. Why are so many people so willing to place blind faith in their governments? Is where we place our faith a spiritual issue? Is this an end-time Bible issue?
- Why do people trust their governments? Why do they resist the idea that their governments are lying? Because they identify with their nation, their sense of self is tied up with it. "I'm proud to be an American" or whatever nationality is the patriotic attitude that impacts the self. We vote for our leaders in democratic societies and we want to believe that we are honest, so we choose to believe our government, which represents us, is honest. But our governments are not honest—they are manipulative and deceitful.
- We will not find truth by trusting the governments, what we will experience is our minds being damaged, our emotions being manipulated and our freedoms being undermined. But, if you trust blindly enough you may go into your prison believing you are being locked away for your own safety and thank them for it.

The Bible describes the Bereans (Acts 17:11) as being more noble in character because they wouldn't believe something just because one of the Apostles said it, they went home, examined Scripture for themselves and only believed when they were fully convinced in their own mind on the weight of evidence. If we shouldn't believe because one of Jesus' Apostles said it, if we still should check the evidence for ourselves if one of Jesus' Apostles said it, then how much more important for us to examine the evidence for ourselves when our government or the media tells us something?

This is a principle for all healthy belief formation. When I give a patient a copy of *Could It Be This Simple?* I tell them, "never believe anything just because it is in a book. I want you to read this and only believe that which you have thought through for yourself, considered, weighed, tested and concluded it is actually true. Don't believe just because I said it or it is in a book."



That is the only way for us to truly become the people that God has called us to become. There is a difference in believing  $2+2=4$  because the teacher said versus learning math and realizing why  $2+2=4$ . The person who believes because the teacher said it has their mind weakened, they might know the right answer but they can't problem solve. The person who hears the teacher and then thinks it through for themselves being fully persuaded in their own mind matures. This is what God wants for us.

So, we have different beliefs—do we have different methods upon which we formulate our beliefs?

God's method for leading people into truth is by presenting the truth, in love and leaving them free. That is the method we advance at Come and Reason. That is why we are against mandates. If the truth is so compelling, then it should be straightforward to convince people, mandates should not be needed. And when you see people employing the methods of mandates, coercion, bribes, intimidation, threats, censoring, accusations, withholding of civil liberties, restricting the freedom to travel, shop, assemble, worship, be employed in order to force a behavior, an injection—you can be certain that those using those using such methods don't have truth on their side—they are not working for God's kingdom because we can never win God's cause by using Satan's methods.

So having said all of this—let's examine your beliefs again in light of evidence, facts and truth.

You believe over 700,000 people have died *of* COVID.

- The 700,000 number is the number used by the government. However, this is purposely misleading and false. In order to maximize the fear of COVID, which allows those in power to use emergency powers to take more freedoms, the government changed the reporting from those who died *OF* COVID, to those who died *WITH* COVID.
- This is their first lie and it magnifies the number of COVID deaths being reported and makes it appear many more are dying *from* COVID than actually are. This was financially incentivized by the government paying hospitals significantly more if they reported any deaths as COVID deaths, and the rules allowed them to report the death as a COVID death if they were suspected of being COVID even without a COVID test. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvss/vsrg/vsrg03-508.pdf>
- Second deception is the way they determine who has COVID, the PCR Polymerase Chain Reaction test. It makes copies of genetic material and amplifies it multiple times until it has enough to turn the reagent positive. This is the test used to determine if someone is COVID positive.
- But the more times you cycle a sample the greater the amplification and the more false positives you get. The typical run historically was under 25 cycles, but for COVID the original government recommendations were 45 cycles which created many false positives and therefore artificially inflated the reported numbers of COVID cases.
- Another problem is the tests themselves, in order to be approved they had to have a 95% sensitivity and 95% specificity. However, its predictive value will depend on the number of actual cases in the sample population.
  - For instance if you have 10,000 people getting tested and 100 of them are actually infected with COVID and 9900 are not. “The test will detect 95 of the infected persons and five will be falsely negative. For those who are not infected, 9702 will be correctly



diagnosed and 198 will be false positives. The PPV is  $95/95+198$  or 32.4%. In this case, 2/3 of the positive results are false positives. For a prevalence of 0.1%, the PPV drops to 4.5%.” <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7934325/>

- According to the FDA:
  - For example, a test with 98% specificity would have a PPV of just over 80% in a population with 10% prevalence, meaning 20 out of 100 positive results would be false positives.
  - The same test would only have a PPV of approximately 30% in a population with 1% prevalence, meaning 70 out of 100 positive results would be false positives. This means that, in a population with 1% prevalence, only 30% of individuals with positive test results actually have the disease.
  - At 0.1% prevalence, the PPV would only be 4%, meaning that 96 out of 100 positive results would be false positives.
  - <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/potential-false-positive-results-antigen-tests-rapid-detection-sars-cov-2-letter-clinical-laboratory>
- So the government rolls out this test which, in an environment with low prevalence, will turn out 96% false positive rate. Then the government pays for free testing and pressures healthy people without symptoms to get tested, which creates up to 96% false positives results. And that is if the test is 98% specific. Some were only 95% specific which would make the false positives even higher.
- Then the media picks up on the number of positive cases and reports it. But the news only reports the number of new cases, they don't report how many of those were asymptomatic, went home, did fine. This is designed to create a false narrative of a pandemic to increase fear and keep their emergency powers in force.
- The FDA did a class one recall on the PCR test and it is no longer approved for COVID testing.
- The third lie—the number of positive COVID **cases** represent the number of **people** with COVID. Setting aside the inaccuracy of the test, there is another accounting trick the government has done to make it seem the number of people infected is greater than it actually is. And that is counting every positive **test** as a new **case**—if the same person gets tested more than once and the test comes back positive more than once then **each test** is counted as a **new case** even though it is the same person. This magnifies the count and makes it appear worse than it really is.
- So we have an artificially inflated number of cases and it is these numbers that are still being touted to create a sense of a terrible pandemic and horrible numbers of deaths from COVID. And it is those artificially inflated case numbers that justifies the mask mandates, social distancing, business and church shutdowns and vaccine mandates.
- According to the CDCs own report only 6% of the 700,000 deaths were due solely to COVID, all the rest were people dying from other illnesses but who also had COVID. The CDC acknowledges 94% of the deaths could have been listed as from another cause, but because they had a positive COVID test, or were suspected of having COVID without a test, it was



decided to list the death as a COVID death.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221475002100161X#>

- Then there is another problem with the number of COVID deaths. That is the CDC's treatment guidelines and recommendations. According to the guidelines, if someone tests positive they are sent home and told don't come back unless they get into distress. Then when they come back they are put on a protocol, recommended by the CDC, that includes getting Remdesivir. This is an antiviral agent that failed its studies for treating Ebola because the Remdesivir arm of that study had significantly more deaths than any other arm. And Remdesivir causes renal and other organ failure. In fact, 25% of those who have been given Remdesivir for COVID have died.
- Contrast this with what Uttar Pradesh, a state in India with 241 million people, that announced this week that 33 of their provinces are COVID free—and they have a 98.7% recovery rate from those who had been infected—how? They treated their entire population with prophylactic Ivermectin, which our government obstructs.  
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/lucknow-news/33-districts-in-uttar-pradesh-are-now-covid-free-state-govt-101631267966925.html>
- Why would the government do this? Could it be that Ivermectin treatment costs \$12 whereas Remdesivir costs over \$3000 per treatment? Could it be that more perceived sickness and more perceived deaths allows for more fear and more governmental control?
- Hundreds of studies have documented that early treatment protocols reduce hospitalizations and deaths up to 86%—yet our CDC, FDA, big pharma and the media continue to obstruct it.
- [https://journals.lww.com/americantherapeutics/fulltext/2021/08000/ivermectin\\_for\\_prevention\\_and\\_treatment\\_of.7.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/americantherapeutics/fulltext/2021/08000/ivermectin_for_prevention_and_treatment_of.7.aspx)
- <https://ivmmeta.com/>
- The government lies about the number of cases, the number of deaths and obstructs effective early treatments, pays hospitals more if a death is counted as COVID death, gives them legal permission to count a COVID death as long as it is suspected even without a positive test, and then if someone comes in to the hospital for treatment they are instructed by the government and CDC to use a treatment that increases the likelihood of death while being obstructed from using protocols with hundreds of studies that show reduction in death.

So your first belief that we have 700,000 COVID deaths is based on false information and therefore is a false belief.

The belief that we are in a pandemic—no, we are in an endemic. An endemic is when a pathogen exists in the environment and is never going away. So any idea that we need to keep up restrictions until this is under control is fraudulent.

You believe that if you want to protect yourself and others you get the vaccine—and you know what? I agree with you—we should get vaccinated with a safe, effective, and proven vaccines if and when we are in danger of being infected with pathogens that are virulent to us (unless there is a specific medical reason not to).



Someone not a risk of an illness doesn't need to take a vaccine. There are diseases that exist in other parts of the world that we don't need to get vaccinated against unless we travel to that part of the world. There are diseases that only certain groups in society are at risk for and only they will benefit from the vaccine, so we wouldn't give vaccines to people not at risk for the disease. And children are not at risk from COVID. When they get exposed their immune systems fight it and kill it very quickly and then they have long term immunity from all variants and they do NOT spread it to others. So, anyone making a case to vaccinate children against COVID are either terribly misinformed or are lying to you and have another agenda.

- 81 million people under age 18 in US (July 2020)<sup>1</sup>
  - Approximately 499 people under the age of 18 have died with COVID January 2020-October 2021<sup>2</sup> 22 deaths/month (most had serious medical problems like leukemia, cystic fibrosis etc.)
  - Influenza: 372 died in 2018-2019<sup>3</sup> 31 deaths/month
  - Suicide in 2019: 2,756<sup>4</sup> 230 deaths/month
1. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/241488/population-of-the-us-by-sex-and-age/>
  2. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1191568/reported-deaths-from-covid-by-age-us/>
  3. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/2018-2019.html>
  4. [Kids Data Link](#)

Let's talk about vaccines for adults. We have all had the polio vaccine—and everyone you grew up with did as well—how many cases of break-through polio have you seen?

If you have travelled to third world countries, you received a battery of vaccines for pathogens endemic in those areas. After you received the vaccines, did you then avoid those areas where the pathogens existed or did you go into those areas? In other words, did you need to be afraid of being exposed to the pathogens you were vaccinated against?

Actual vaccines prevent infection and transmission of an illness and once a person is vaccinated they don't need to fear or avoid exposure to the pathogen. According to the [BioNTech application](#) for the booster dose of Comirnaty (page 20) “An additional analysis appears to indicate that incidence of COVID-19 generally increased in each group of study participants with increasing time post-Dose 2 at the start of the analysis period.”

Those who have been vaccinated against COVID may actually be at increased risk of infection with COVID variants with every injection they get. This type of inoculation is very likely compromising the immune system and they become less capable of fighting it. Which means they need to get new boosters every year for the new variants the previous injection will not protect them from. Does this sound like wonderful money making machine for big Pharma? Worse, those who have had one of these vaccines become carriers that transmit the variants to others.

**These COVID injections are not vaccines**, not in the traditional understanding of vaccines—they do not prevent infection, transmission or reinfection!

A [CDC report](#) of a TX prison outbreak:





- 185 of the 233 or 79% of the inmates were fully vaccinated
- 74% or 172 inmates contracted the virus
- 42 were unvaccinated
- 129 out of the 185 fully vaccinated individuals got infected.

July 2021 COVID outbreak in Provincetown Massachusetts:


- 74% of the infected were fully vaccinated
- CDC director Walensky admits in an interview that the vaccines do not prevent infection or transmission and were not designed to do so <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-58065854>

England Public Health Study from February to September 2021 found that 63% of deaths from COVID were among the fully vaccinated.

**Table 5. Attendance to emergency care and deaths of sequenced and genotyped Delta cases in England by vaccination status (1 February 2021 to 12 September 2021)**

Variant	Age group (years)**	Total	Cases with specimen date in past 28 days	Unlinked	<21 days post dose 1	≥21 days post dose 1	≥14 days post dose 2	Un-vaccinated
Delta cases	<50	497,105	119,611	49,527	30,359	83,009	85,407	248,803
	≥50	95,587	35,596	7,602	314	7,129	71,991	8,551
	All cases	593,572	155,252	58,003	30,674	90,138	157,400	257,357
Deaths within 28 days of positive specimen date	<50	204	N/A	7	6	11	48	132
	≥50	2,336	N/A	32	11	138	1,565	590
	All cases	<b>2,542</b>	N/A	41	17	149	<b>1,613</b>	722

**2,542 DEATHS**  
**1,613 FULLY VACCINATED**  
**63.5% OF TOTAL DEATHS**

  
 Public Health England  
 Protecting and improving the nation's health

**SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and variants under investigation in England**  
 Technical briefing 23  
 17 September 2021



So the belief that we can keep ourselves safe and others safe by these injections is a false belief, not born out by the science or evidence. In fact, the documentation from the manufacturers never claimed they would prevent infection or transmission.

Your second belief that we can get this under control through vaccination is also false. The science/evidence demonstrates that because the injections don't prevent reinfection and transmission then there is no possibility of eliminating this virus through the current campaign of so-called vaccination. And in fact, the vaccinated are the vehicles for the growth and spread of the new variants.

Viruses mutate all the time, the [naturally recovered have a wide range of robust antibodies](#) that are effective at killing the variants so they don't generally reproduce or spread from the naturally recovered. The vaccinated however, have limited immunity with antibodies targeting the spike protein, when variants emerge with sufficient change in the spike protein it can evade the antibodies of the vaccinated and reproduce and then be transmitted to others. So one could say we are now in a pandemic of the vaccinated.

So why are hospitals requiring their employees to get vaccinated? Because of financial pressure from the government, NOT because doing so will stop the spread of COVID or protect patients.

If hospitals really wanted to protect their patients from being exposed they would identify the COVID recovered employees, who have broad, robust and lifelong immunity and who do not spread it to others and they would give them all the privileges and require the vaccinated to wear masks and limit contact with others.

You suggest that being vaccinated has less risk than getting the active infection—according to the government's own data in the CMS website 59 million Americans have Medicare, that is 18% of the population. Their medical information is tracked in the government's database and according to the government's own data, just within that 18% of the population, 48,465 people have died within 14 days of receiving the COVID vaccine (19,400 were under age 80 and 28,065 over the age of 80). Do you know how many of these deaths the government counted as a vaccine death? None—because according to the government you are not considered vaccinated until 14 days after the vaccine. This is another accounting trick the government uses to make it appear the vaccines are safer than they really are.

- Researchers, examining the studies that got the vaccine EUA discovered that the study populations did not represent the at risk from the virus population. The elderly are at greatest risk of dying from COVID, whereas children and young people are at low risk of dying from the illness. The studies that got the vaccines their approval were done on populations that were mostly younger only 4.4% were 75 y/o or older. This resulted in a marked decrease in the potential risks and deaths from the vaccines in the studies. These researchers concluded and I quote:
  - “A novel best-case scenario cost-benefit analysis showed very conservatively that **there are five times the number of deaths attributable to each inoculation vs those**



**attributable to COVID-19 in the most vulnerable 65+ demographic”**  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221475002100161X#>

And this is just a small sample of the evidence that exposes the multitude of lies being told to us by the government and media. Do you see why there is such strong censorship—these lies could not stand if the truth were fully revealed. If people knew that COVID:

- is no more lethal than a moderate influenza strain
- has extremely low risk for children
- is not transmitted by the unvaccinated COVID recovered
- that children are not a threat to their grandparents
- that masks are completely ineffective and useless to stop the spread
- that the injections don't prevent infections, transmission or reinfection
- that the injections weaken the immune system and increase variants

If people knew all of this what would happen to our fear? It would go down and if we were not afraid there would be no need for government control of our lives, shut downs, masks, mail in ballots, etc. etc.

So, emailer, we have different beliefs about what is happening—but are we both lovers of truth? Do we both want to follow the truth where it leads? Are we both looking to Scripture to embrace and apply God's methods to our own minds in how we think, how we determine what to believe, and how we treat others? Are we both following the principles of truth, love and freedom? Are we placing our trust in God, in truth, or are we trusting human governments to think for us?

Is this a Biblical issue to learn to discern, to think for oneself?

Let me say this as clearly as I can—when the government uses its power to compel conscience, to coerce people to go against their loyalty to their Creator in governance of their own bodies—then the government has crossed the line and is fulfilling Biblical prophecy and acting as an agent for Satan. And if you support the government in doing so you are aligning yourself with the enemy of God, whether as an individual or as a leader of a hospital, church or corporation.

Read memory text: “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV4).

What does this text mean?

What does it look like to love the Lord with all our hearts, souls and strength? Would one's strength refer to one's physical body? Are we to honor God with our bodies?

In the next verse, Moses says, “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts” (Dt 6:6 NIV84)



Love the Lord with all our hearts and souls and strength and the commandments given are to be upon our hearts. What does it mean to be upon our hearts?

What is the new covenant? God will write His law upon our hearts and minds. What does that mean?

A few chapters later Moses says this in chapter 11 verse 1,8-9, 13-14:

Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always... Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey... So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.

What does this mean?

What law lens are you hearing this through?

How did the Jews end up applying this? Through a behavioral legal lens of rules and rule enforcement—and where did that lead? To persistent rebellion and the eventual rejection of Jesus.

What is the design law view of this passage?

Why will observing God's law give strength? Why will observing God's law result in longer life and better health? And what is the meaning of having rain in due season—autumn and spring rains, to gather grain, new wine and oil?

What happens to our health when we live in harmony with the laws of health, get good nutrition, hydration, clean air, sunshine, exercise regularly, get appropriate sleep and Sabbath rest for the mind? We get stronger, healthier, live longer.

What happens to our mental, emotional and spiritual health if we forgive those who wrong us, rather than hold grudges, if we are peacemakers, rather than constantly in conflict, if we focus upon love rather than fear? We have healthier relationships, and less mental and emotional stress, which results in less inflammatory cascades in our body, lower rates of physical health problems and thus we live longer and have better health.

What is the meaning of the rain—is it merely physical water falling from the sky, or is there an object lesson in this? Does the rain symbolize something? And what about the grain, new wine and oil?



- The rain symbolizes the work of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and before the second coming of Christ—the first and latter rains
- The grain represents Jesus the seed of the woman, the wave sheaf, the bread of heaven, the Word made flesh, the truth about God that Jesus is
- The new wine represents the blood which represents the sinless life or perfect human character that Jesus developed and offers us as a free gift
- The oil represents the Holy Spirit applying in the life the truth and life of Jesus that heals and restores us to righteousness.

Consider this historic quote from *Review and Herald* October 8, 1901:

**The prosperity of God's people is dependent on their obedience.** [Why? What law lens? Design law, it is the only way for health to exist] The Lord declares, “It shall come to pass if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in the fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you.... RH October 8, 1901, par. 1 [Can you get love by command, by proclamation, by threat, by legislation, by rule-enforcement? So, what kind of law is God advancing when He links commandment keeping with love for God?]

“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day; and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but ... go after other gods, which ye have not known...” RH October 8, 1901, par. 2 [What does this mean and blessing and cursing? What law lens are you understanding this through? Is it God using divine power to dispense blessings as rewards, like a teacher giving a gold star and cursings as punishments like a teacher paddling an unruly student? Or is it describing reality—there are blessings from living in harmony with God’s design laws and there are cursings from breaking them?

These words should be as distinctly stamped upon every soul as though written with a pen of iron. **Obedience brings its reward, disobedience its retribution.** RH October 8, 1901, par. 4 [Why?]

God has given His people **positive instruction**, and has laid upon them **positive restrictions**, that **they may obtain a perfect experience** in His service, and be **qualified to stand** before the heavenly universe and before the fallen world as overcomers. **They are to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.** Those who fall short of making the preparation essential will be numbered with the unthankful and the unholy. RH October 8, 1901, par. 5 [What does this mean? Positive instructions and positive restrictions—what is



that? For what purpose? That we may obtain a perfect experience. What does perfect experience mean?

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect**” (Mt 5:43–48 NIV84).

What is the perfection? It is the perfection of love for God and others. It is living out God’s design law in heart, mind and character. It is not about task performance, but about attitude of the heart.

What does the blood of the Lamb have to do with our overcoming? The blood is a metaphor for the sinless life of Christ, His perfect human character of love lived out. When we trust Jesus we open the heart and the Spirit comes in and we receive the life of Christ “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.” We get new desires, motives, peace, joy and are empowered to succeed when we choose to love others. But we still must choose the right. And Satan will tempt us with strong feelings to choose the wrong. But God wants to free us from fear and selfishness. He wants us to grow strong in love and trust. So, if God wants us to grow strong in love and trust what will He do? Listen to the next words of the quote]

**The Lord brings His people by ways they know not, that He may test and prove them.** [Test and prove? What law lens do you hear this through? If imposed law, does it sound like a set up? Design law, what do you hear? What about the Tree of Knowledge in Eden—what was its purpose? To give Adam and Eve the place and means to choose what they would know—would they know love, truth, honesty, holiness, loyalty, fidelity, trust, faithfulness by choosing to live out the truth. Or would they know lies, fear, selfishness, pain suffering and death by choosing to believe and live out the lies? We are brought into circumstances where we must choose what we really believe and what we really value in the choices we make in how we live and how we treat others. This is how God’s law is ultimately sealed into our hearts. God cannot form our characters for us, but He inspires us with Christ’s desires, methods, motives, and then leaves us free to choose to live them in real circumstances and this solidifies Christ’s character into our own.] This world is our place of proving. **Here we decide our eternal destiny.** [Who decides our eternal destiny? How do we decide this? Is it primarily in a evangelistic meeting with a profession of faith, or in a public ceremony? To be sure these are important moments in the life when people choose to give their hearts to the Lord, but the real healing and sealing comes after surrendering to Jesus, when we choose day by day to live as Jesus would have us live, to face the trials, to experience the temptation and to seek God and act in harmony with His will relying on His strength as we reject the fear, stand faithful in the face of rejection, or loss of earthly reputation or wealth. Satan seeks to get us to betray God through loss of anything we might value more than we value God.] God humbles His people that His will may



be wrought out through them. Thus He dealt with the children of Israel as He led them through the wilderness. **He told them what their fate would have been had He not laid a restraining hand upon that which would have hurt them.** He speaks to them. Hear what He says: it is a revelation of the ministration of angels: “Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end.... [Do you see the metaphor of this to our lives, the wilderness of this sinful world, the fiery assaults of Satan and his agents, of sickness, disease, and sin? Of the drought in the world today of godliness, of truth, of love? And our only source of the water of life is not in the nations or governments of the world, but from Jesus, the rock, and our food, what feeds our souls cannot be found on Netflix, Amazon Prime, Facebook, Youtube, Twitter or any earthly source. We must feed our souls the bread of heaven, Jesus.] Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, **if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.** [Why will they perish? Because God will get mad and use His power to inflict punishment because they broke His rules? No! Because of design law—if they reject Him, the Creator, their protector He sets them free, in harmony with His design law of love and liberty, to reap what they have chosen—to be under the power of the god they prefer and there is no life outside of unity with God.] As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord.” RH October 8, 1901, par. 6

**It is a solemn thought that by our present course of action we are deciding our eternal destiny.** [Do you understand this? By our present course in how we live, what law we apply in how we treat others. Are we applying God’s eternal design law of truth, love and freedom, or are we being seduced by fear and selfishness to seek to save lives by applying Satan’s laws of imposed rules, mandates, coercive enforcement and thereby writing Satan’s law into the character?] Let those who **know the truth practice the truth**, remembering that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and is of more value than all the treasure which the world contains. [The mature are those who have developed by practice the ability to discern the right from the wrong Heb 5:14—we must practice truth for it to become part of our character. To know the truth cognitively is not how we become righteous. Just like the Tree of Knowledge was not the tree of facts or data, it was the tree where they would choose what they would know by action and function. So too, in the world right now in how we live, what law we practice in how we treat others, we are deciding what character we are forming.] The world is the Lord’s vineyard, and to each one of us He says, “Go work today in my vineyard. As I have cared for you, so you are to care for the honor of my name.” RH October 8, 1901, par. 7

**In His dealing with ancient Israel God has given us an illustration of the result of disobedience. Even as He punished the children of Israel, so He will punish all who cause His glory to be reproached....** [How did He punish ancient Israel? Was it an infliction of something they would not otherwise reap, or was it by letting them go to reap what they



**chose?]** They would not submit to God's way, so He permitted them to have their own way, to carry out the purposes of their unsanctified hearts. RH October 8, 1901, par. 8 [This is design law, those who sow to the carnal nature, from that nature reap destruction Galatians 6:8]

Christ warned the Jews of their danger, and entreated them to return to Him; but they were too proud to accept His overtures of mercy. **They persisted in their rebellious course, and as a result the protection of God's Spirit was withdrawn from them.** RH October 8, 1901, par. 9 [God is warning us today and if we don't listen, He will let us go to our destruction as well. And this is what we are seeing on a national scale. The governments of the world have rejected God and have rejected His methods of truth. They have embraced godless paganism and look what is happening. We are all reaping what they have sown.]

When Christ predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, **He predicted also the destruction of the world.** He saw that till the end of this earth's history **men would refuse God's mercy.** God has given men and women talents that they may work in His service; but many in their selfishness misuse these talents. **By a love of money and a desire for the supremacy they rob God and hurt their brethren...** RH October 8, 1901, par. 10 [Do you see one of the primary motivators that is happening in the world right now regarding COVID and the mandates is greed, the love of money and power, the desire for supremacy, the desire to rule over and control others?]

God's people are to maintain the elevated character of His work. They are to carry forward this work in His lines. Christ is their pattern, and He says, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Let us remember that we are laborers together with God. We are not wise enough to work by ourselves. **God has made us His stewards, to prove us and to try us, even as He proved and tried ancient Israel. He will not have His army composed of undisciplined, unsanctified, erratic soldiers, who would misrepresent His order and purity.** RH October 8, 1901, par. 13 [What is described here? It is through our choices in how we deal with adversity, how we deal with trials, how we deal with conflict that we are being healed and sealed. Do we embrace the justice of the world, do we seek to make others pay, to use the power of the state, to enforce mandates, or do we humbly go to our Creator and seek His wisdom, follow His directives, live out the truth in love while leaving others free?]

**Those who think that they can please God by obeying some other law than His, and by performing works other than those which the gospel has enjoined, are mocking God.** [Like forcing people to get medical treatments that they don't want under the guise of claiming it is necessary in order to save lives. All of you who keep saying "if you love others you will get the jab, don't actually know what God's love it. You have been deceived by this world and are being foolish. If you want to advance God's love then you say, "If you love other present the truth in love and leave each person free to decide in their lives what is the action God would have them take." God's love ALWAYS leaves free—it never manipulates or coerces. And it doesn't presume to know what is best for another to do in any given situation. ] They are insulting the Holy One of Israel. **Warning after warning is given in the last message of**





**mercy to the world.** Appeal after appeal is made. The worst of sinners are to hear the call. **All are to be given a final test.** [What is the final test? As you have done it unto one of the least of these you have done it unto me. We are all being tested right now, recognize the test. Will you live out God's law of love or will you join with the state the beast of Revelation to compel and coerce others. Will you for the sake of government funds mandate your employees get an injection they don't want? Your character is being determined by what law you apply to your life right now!] Loath to give up, sorrowful, yet hoping, Christ knocks at the door of the heart. RH October 8, 1901, par. 14

**When the Saviour saw in the Jewish people a nation divorced from God, He saw also a professed Christian Church united to the world and the papacy.** [How? By embracing the imposed law of the world, practicing the imperial methods of compelling, mandates, coercion of the world, violating the consciences of people repudiating the principles of Protestantism—religious liberty and Republicanism—civil liberty] And as He stood upon Olivet, weeping over Jerusalem till the sun sank behind the western hills, so **He is weeping over and pleading with sinners in these last moments of time.** Soon He will say to the angels who are holding the four winds, "Let the plagues loose; let darkness, destruction, and death come upon the transgressors of my law." Will He be obliged to say to those who have had great light and knowledge, as He said to the Jews, "If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes"? RH October 8, 1901, par. 15

So what does it mean to love the Lord with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength? To live out His design laws in all we do, trusting Him with the outcomes.

## MONDAY

---

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13:

And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? (Dt 10:12–13 NIV84).

What is the relationship between fear of God and love for God?

John wrote "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 Jn 4:18 NIV84).

Is this a contradiction?

Read second paragraph, "In one verse..." Well the lesson rightly describes fear as awe, admiration, respect for our infinite God. The fear we are to have in love is not terror, dread, the feeling of being



afraid. Fear as we normally experience it in our modern definition is a fear that is concerned for self, it drives us to be afraid of injury, rejection etc. Thus the modern definition of fear is part of the infection of sin and drives toward more selfishness and survival of the fittest instincts.

The perfect love of God drives this type of fear with its selfishness from the heart because when we experience God's love we lose sight of self. When we love God and others more than self we are not fearful for self, we are not focused on self.

I have given this example—imagine crossing the street and as you step into the crosswalk you look up to see a truck running a red light and it is about to hit you—what emotion do you experience? Fear—but now consider seeing your 3 year old child toddle into the street and a truck is about to hit them, you have just enough time if you act right now to reach them and shove them out of the way, but if you do you will get hit by the truck, what do you do? You shove them out of the way. And as you see your child land safely on the grass where you shoved them, what emotion are you experiencing? Joy—but wait, you are getting hit by a truck. In the first scenario there is only fear—in the second your love has cast out your fear.

Satan works to focus us on the threats, the dangers, the pain, the costs, the hurts, the risks, to incite fear to paralyze us, to destroy our love for God and others.

God works to focus us on the truth of who He is, His character and methods of love. To get us to trust Him enough that we will open the heart and then He pours His love into our hearts. This love casts out our fear. In love, with reducing fear, God inspires us to act, to act in harmony with His methods, to make changes, to say no to old habits, to say no to old partners in sin, to stand up for truth in love and then to experience His increasing presence of love for Him and others as we gain victories and our fears are overcome.

We gain ever increasing awe, admiration, respect, and love for God as our fear for ourselves goes down.

What about the idea that we have all broken God's law and therefore deserve condemnation?

What law lens do you understand this through?

How did each of us *become* a sinner? Psalms 51:5, we were born in sin, we didn't choose to be sinners. And what is the result of being born with a carnal nature, being born in sin? Isn't that we will all commit sin? Are the sins the actual problem, or are the sins the symptoms of the condition with which we were born?

Thus, we are not responsible for being sinners—we are responsible for whether we accept or reject the free Remedy of Jesus that gives us a new heart of love that casts out the fear and empowers us to live lives of love and loyalty to God or not. That is it.



We don't deserve condemnation in a legal sense, we have a terminal condition and if we refuse the Remedy we deserve to die from that condition, just like a person who purposely refuses to pull the rip cord on their parachute deserves to hit the ground at what is called "terminal velocity."

God has provided in Jesus the means for every person to be healed from sin. None need to die eternally, only those who refuse Jesus and what He provides will be lost. And it will be because they prefer to die than to live in God's universe.

Read the third paragraph, "Despite the fact that we were..." Wait, we should fear Him because of His wrath, but we are not to live in fear of Him if we love Him—is this a contradiction?

What law lens do we understand this through?

What does it mean to be children of wrath?

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

verse 24: **Therefore God also gave them up...**

verse 26: For this reason God gave them up

verse 28? And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind... (Ro 1:18–32 NKJV).

What is Paul describing?

What is God's wrath? Why does it come?

From *Hard Sayings of the Bible*:

The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32, is not something caused by God. The phrase "revealed from heaven" (where "heaven" is a typical Jewish substitute word for "God") does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the inevitability of human debasement which results when God's will, built into the created order, is violated. Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed "from heaven." It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God's truth (Rom 1:18-20), that is, the truth about God's nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom 1:21-22), idolatry (Rom 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom 1:24-27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom 1:28-32).



The expression “God gave them over” (or “handed them over”), which appears three times in this passage (Rom 1:24,26,28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, is to be understood ultimately as God’s punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves.

In light of these reflections, the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained... God loves us with an everlasting love. But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. The result is disintegration and death. (Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intersity Press, 1996, P 543)

So what does it mean to be “children of wrath”?

## TUESDAY

---

Read first paragraph, “Even amid rules...” How do you connect obedience with love?

Is the obedience God wants about performance or about heart attitude?

Consider two children, ages 4 and 14. You are weeding in your tomato garden and your 4 y/o comes up behind you and with a big smile says, “I want to help” and pulls up a tomato plant. Is this an obedient or disobedient child? Do you get angry and punish the child?

What about the 14 y/o who pulls only weeds but curses you the entire time under their breath because they aren’t out playing with their friends?

Which of the two are considered obedient in the Biblical sense? Which is considered obedient in the worldly sense?

Man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart.

Humans and Satan are legalists, rules, imposed laws, and behavioral performance and monitoring.

God is all about the motive of the heart, which will translate into choices, but may or may not translate into effective performance—the choices will become more consistently in harmony with God, but the actual skill in carrying it out will depend on practice. One might still misspell words, even though one studies hard and tries not to.

This is the difference between a person with Asperger’s and a narcissist.

Both people can appear on the outside, in the way they interact with others to be rude, abrupt, without compassion, blunt, seem to not care for the feelings of others. But the Asperger’s person actually does



care, has good motives, intentions to help, but has impaired social neural nets where they don't process the interpersonal cues and thus offend frequently. Whereas the narcissist is actually selfish and doesn't care about anyone but themselves.

Read second paragraph, "Again and again in Deuteronomy..." And we absolutely believe God is love and revealed His love to the people by His actions—but what do you say to those who object and say, "Yeah, God loved them so much that He would have killed them all if Moses didn't beg Him not do"?

If people teach the story of God threatening to kill the people and Moses pleading for Him not to, through imposed law, what impact does it have on how we see God? What is the design law way to see this?

Read fourth paragraph, "As Ellen G. White said it:..." Do you see design law expressed in this quote?

## WEDNESDAY

---

Read the first paragraph, "Israel..." We agree, if we love God we obey Him—no question about it.

But does our obedience change when we obey God through an understanding friend perspective versus an obedient servant perspective? John 15:15

Is there a difference between a serving friend and friendly service?

Who are the two people in the Old Testament described as God's friends? Abraham and Moses—were they obedient to God?

When God told Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom, why didn't Abraham say, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it. Who am I to question. I will obey." Or when God told Moses He was going to wipe out the people why didn't Moses respond with simple acceptance of what the Master said. Why did they both argue?

Were they being disobedient to argue as they did? Why not?

What does this tell us about Biblical obedience? What does God want from us?

Read the third paragraph, "This is why..." Do you agree that obedience to God means obeying the Ten Commandments?

Hmmm....are there times when we obey God by breaking the Ten Commandments?

So when king Saul chose not to kill king Agag was he being obedient to God or disobedient?



And what about Jephthah, when he sacrificed his daughter to the Lord and then we find him as one of the faithful in Hebrews, was he being obedient or disobedient?

How do we understand these stories?

Is it primarily about the deed, the behavior or the attitude of the heart?

## **THURSDAY**

---

The lesson again focuses our attention on the verse to love the Lord with all our heart and then states, “What could be more ‘present truth’ than this command? In the very last days, when the final events unfold and everyone will be called to choose one side or the other in a very dramatic way, the commands of God (Rev 14:12) will play a crucial role.”

Thoughts?

How will everyone choose?

Won't it be by the methods they apply to their heart when they decide how they treat others? Will they embrace and apply the methods of the beast, coerce and force others, or will they apply the methods of God, give of self to protect and bless others?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

---

My notes for each class are available for download on our website under our Bible Study tab.