



2021 4Q Present Truth in Deuteronomy Lesson 11 Deuteronomy in the Later Writings

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read Memory Text: “The LORD delighted **only** in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day” (Dt 10:15 NKJV).

What does it mean that God delighted *only* in the ancestors of the Jews to love them?

Does it mean God doesn't love all humans? How do you understand it?

Does this speak about God's attitude and affections or about God's ability to function in their lives, the power and function of love? In other words, it was the ancestors of these people, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who trusted God enough to surrender to Him, to allow God to transform their hearts, to allow God's love to manifest in and through them and thus become the progenitors of a people that would be the avenue for the fulfillment of God's promise to Adam that Jesus would come?

We must put this together with the entire inspired record where God is not a respecter of persons, where they were to be a kingdom of priests that were to witness to all the nations and that Abraham's descendants were to be counted from all the peoples of the world, the promised Seed was to bless all humanity, not just the Jews.

SUNDAY

The lesson focuses our attention on king Josiah, grandson of Manasseh, who took the throne at age 8 and initiated religious reform when the book of the law was discovered.

As we have discussed before, the Old Testament is not just a record of historical events, it is also object lessons to teach the larger reality of the war between Christ and Satan and lessons for us today. Thinking about the events in Josiah's time, how the law being rediscovered brought reformation in the battle for hearts and minds, let's see if we can discern the same forces at war in our day and how returning to the truth about God's law, God's methods, God's principles frees the people and brings reformation today. Let's think about this as we examine the commentary on Josiah from the book *Prophets and Kings*:

With the accession of Josiah to the throne, where he was to rule for thirty-one years, those who had maintained the purity of their faith began to **hope that the downward course of the kingdom** was checked; for the new king, though only eight years old, feared God, and from the very beginning “he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way



of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.” 2 Kings 22:2. [Are there faithful people in the world today hoping for someone to check the downward course of events in the world today?] Born of a wicked king, beset with temptations to follow in his father's steps, and with few counselors to encourage him in the right way, **Josiah nevertheless was true to the God of Israel.** Warned by the errors of past generations, he chose to do right, instead of descending to the low level of sin and degradation to which his father and his grandfather had fallen. He “turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.” As one who was to occupy a position of trust, he resolved to obey the instruction that had been given for the guidance of Israel's rulers, and his **obedience made it possible for God to use him as a vessel unto honor.** PK 384.1 [Is there a lesson for each of us? For our church? Despite errors of past generations, we have the responsibility for ourselves to NOT accept the views, beliefs, traditions, practices of previous generations, even our own fathers and grandfathers, but to study God's word for ourselves, to understand God's duty for our lives for ourselves, and to choose to fulfill that the duty God has given us even if it differs from what our ancestors have done.]

At the time Josiah began to rule, and for many years before, the **truehearted in Judah were questioning whether God's promises to ancient Israel could ever be fulfilled.** From a human point of view the divine purpose for the chosen nation seemed almost impossible of accomplishment. [Do many Christians question God's promises today? Are many asking, where is the promise of the coming Savior? From a human point of view does it seem almost impossible to accomplish?] The **apostasy of former centuries had gathered strength** with the passing years; ten of the tribes had been scattered among the heathen; only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained, and even these now seemed on **the verge of moral and national ruin.** [Has the apostasy of the Christian churches gathered strength? Do we seem on the verge of moral and national ruin?] **The prophets had begun to foretell** the utter destruction of their fair city, where stood the temple built by Solomon, and where all their earthly hopes of national greatness had centered. [Have some of us been foretelling of the apostasy of the principles of liberty of conscience and the erosion of civil liberties, of the abuse of powers and the support of this abuse by not just politicians but by religious leaders? Churches have begun to support the discrimination of people based on vaccine status. Some churches are refusing religious services, some nations are locking unvaccinated into their homes, denying them basic civil liberties. In Revelation 17 the woman on the scarlet beast is described as a prostitute or whore. What does a woman in Bible prophecy represent—the church, so a pure woman represents the true church, those faithful to Jesus. What does a prostitute represent? But what is the different between a prostitute and an adulteress? Both are unfaithful to their husband, so both would represent people who claim to be loyal to Jesus but are not. The difference is that the adulteress is deceived and joins with another because she gives her heart to another. The prostitute sells herself for money or gain. Now, in this current COVID crisis why have so many Christian owned hospitals and healthcare systems gone along with mandates on their employees and are still doing it today? It is not for the health of the employees or the patients—the safest people in society are those who are unvaccinated COVID recovered. They have antibodies to multiple sites on the virus. They have IgG and IgM in their blood and IgA on their mucous membranes, so when they get exposed to the virus their



immune systems kill it and they do not spread it. The CDC was forced to acknowledge that there is not one confirmed case of a COVID recovered individual spreading SARS COV2. But the most dangerous spreaders in society are the vaccinated. They have been given a treatment that is designed to reduce severity of symptoms. They achieve this by producing IgG and IgM antibodies to one site (spike protein) but they have no IgA antibodies. So when they get exposed the virus reproduces in their nose and throat and when it crosses into their blood they have IgG and IgM antibodies so they don't get as sick, they don't stay home, they go to work and have virus in their noses and throats and they spread it to others. This is the science, this is the reality. Then why are Christian hospital systems forcing unwanted vaccines on their employees, coercing the consciences of people, siding with the beastly powers? For money, for Medicare reimbursement, or to avoid lawsuits for not following CDC guidelines; they are selling their virtue, their principles, their honor, their character to the state for money. They are more interested in the health of their organizations than people. They can justify it any way they want but they are acting the role of the harlot of Revelation 17.] Could it be that God was about to turn aside from His avowed purpose of bringing deliverance to those who should put their trust in Him? **In the face of the long-continued persecution of the righteous, and of the apparent prosperity of the wicked, could those who had remained true to God hope for better days?** PK 384.2 [Are we seeing the righteous being persecuted? But don't lose hope, better days are promised for those who endure to the end.]

These anxious questionings were voiced by the prophet Habakkuk. Viewing the situation of the faithful in his day, he expressed the burden of his heart in the inquiry: "How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? [Do we cry out to the Lord because of increasing violence in our societies—riots, mob thieving, open attacks upon people?] Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted." Habakkuk 1:2-4 NIV84. PK 385.1 [Do we see in society those doing grossly illegal activity being praised and protected by various government officials, while those who seek to protect others are being maliciously slandered and prosecuted? Do we see injustice all around?]

God answered the cry of His loyal children. Through His chosen mouthpiece He revealed His determination to **bring chastisement** upon the nation that had turned from Him to serve the gods of the heathen.. PK 385.2 [They turned from Him not merely in worship services, the primary turning from God was in the implementation of their anti-truth narratives. In their application of selfishness and exploitation calling it justice. In the lying, cheating, abuse of power. Do we see this today? Do we see an assault on truth which is from the father of lies and is designed to destroy the minds of people? Do we see lies from the government and the media like never before? This is the practicing of principles contrary to the government of God. This is a form of paganism or false worship when we find worthy of our investment, time, energy and practice the methods of God's enemy. See what is happening in the world. Almost everything being advanced by mainstream media today is contrary to God's kingdom of truth, love and freedom. Its goal is to destroy godliness in people to make us distrust and hate each



other, to incite such fear and outrage that we will be willing to embrace Satan's methods in how we treat others. The king of the south—godlessness—is making its final assault. It is purposeful and it is irrational, extremely so, for it is designed to stir up in people anger, outrage, frustration, fear to incite the king of the north—religious conservatism and imperialism to no longer be tolerant of others, but to violently put down the abuses from the other side. It is designed to tempt Christians into joining the formation of the beastly system of Revelation to seek justice through human governments and enforced laws. It is now like never before that we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, daily surrender our lives to Him, trust Him with our health, family, fortunes and futures. It will seem overwhelmingly right to join with forces that will use Satan's methods to achieve justice, but the righteous use only the methods of God.]

Confident that even in this terrible judgment the purpose of God for His people would in some way be fulfilled, Habakkuk bowed in submission to the revealed will of Jehovah. "Art Thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One?" he exclaimed. And then, his faith reaching out beyond the forbidding prospect of the immediate future, and laying fast hold on the precious promises that reveal God's love for His trusting children, the prophet added, "We shall not die." Verse 12. [Do we have this same faith? Do we know that as events get worse on earth that we, the faithful of God, will not die? That Jesus will redeem us and we will inherit the earth? Think about it—which nation had/has a greater claim on God's protection, ancient Israel at the time of Habakkuk or the USA? Which nation could more confidently say they were established by God to fulfill a purpose for God? And yet, what happened to that ancient nation? It was defeated by the Babylonians—and what was required of the righteous? To trust God and NOT fight the enemy forces with physical violence. What about us today?] With this declaration of faith he rested his case, and that of every believing Israelite, in the hands of a **compassionate God**. PK 386.1 [Do we see God's interventions to "chastise" to bring the Babylonians the way Habakkuk did, as evidence of God's compassion? What enables Habakkuk or us to do this? Understanding design law, and God's character of love, the great controversy and what God's actions are accomplishing and what would happen if God did not allow the Babylonian captivity.]

This was not Habakkuk's only experience in the exercise of strong faith. On one occasion, when meditating concerning the future, he said, "**I will stand upon my watch**, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me." [Have you decided to stand upon your watch, to be a sentinel of truth, to stand in the breach and oppose the lies, the false narratives, the perversions of godly justice, the corruption of reality that our society is advancing? Are you refusing to bow the knee to social pressures, the god of false science, to political correctness and to the political powers coercing and compelling conscience?] Graciously the Lord answered him: "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for **an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak**, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: *but the just shall live by his faith.*" Habakkuk 2:1-4. PK 386.2 [Are you willing to be one of the just, who, choosing to do what is right and just in governance of self, then trusts God with outcomes? Or are you going to



embrace the methods of the world and claim we must violate God's principles; we must coerce other people, we must force them to take the jab because we must control the future, we must stop the pandemic? Who do you trust? Where is your responsibility? The just live by faith, by trusting outcomes to God and choosing to do what is right in governance of self, and that means they live out God's design laws of truth, love and liberty in how they treat others!]

The faith that strengthened Habakkuk and all the holy and the just in those days of deep trial was the same faith that sustains God's people today. [Do we have this faith? Are we exercising this faith? Or are we listening to the roar of God's enemy and allowing fear and the survival drives to motivate us to take matters into our own hands and seek to force others to do what we want so we can feel safe?] In the darkest hours, under circumstances the most forbidding, **the Christian believer may keep his soul stayed upon the source of all light and power.** [Do you believe this? Are you choosing to live this?] **Day by day, through faith in God, his hope and courage may be renewed.** "The just shall live by his faith." [This is a daily renewal every day we must embrace and exercise our faith/trust in God!] In the service of God there need be no despondency, no wavering, no fear. **The Lord will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him. He will give them the wisdom their varied necessities demand...** PK 386.3

We must cherish and cultivate the faith of which prophets and apostles have testified— the faith that lays hold on the promises of God and waits for deliverance in **His appointed time and way.** [Do you see this is exactly the opposite of the world's methods. The world doesn't believe in waiting for the Lord. The world believes in making its own way, of force, of demands, of mandates, of compelling power. But the righteous present the truth in love and leave free. The righteous live God's law and trust Him with outcomes.] **The sure word of prophecy will meet its final fulfillment in the glorious advent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords.** [We are entering the final movements leading to Christ's return. Don't get distracted on these earthly conflicts. See what is happening, see the rise of tyranny, the satanic methods implemented under the guise of justice, but recognize them as signs of the times, as evidence of the soon appearing of our Savior and be encouraged not discouraged!] **The time of waiting may seem long, the soul may be oppressed by discouraging circumstances,** many in whom confidence has been placed may fall by the way; but with the prophet who endeavored to encourage Judah in a time of unparalleled apostasy, let us confidently declare, **"The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him."** Habakkuk 2:20. **Let us ever hold in remembrance the cheering message, "The vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.... The just shall live by his faith."** Verses 3, 4.... PK 387.2 [We are living in the time when Jesus, our heavenly High Priest is in His holy temple, cleansing the hearts and minds of His people to prepare us to meet Him. Part of this cleansing is bringing us into circumstances where we decide whom we will trust and what methods we will choose to embrace and apply in how we treat others. Will we present truth in love and leave others free, or will we join with the beastly systems of this world and enforce mandates? Will we sell our souls for Medicare reimbursements? Will we say it is better for a few of our employees to die than our hospital



corporation to be closed? Will we deceive ourselves that we are obeying the law or we are saving lives and therefore it is proper and just to violate God's law in forcing compliance upon others?]

Habakkuk was not the only one through whom was given a message of bright hope and of future triumph as well as of present judgment. During the reign of Josiah the word of the Lord came to Zephaniah, **specifying plainly the results of continued apostasy**, and calling the attention of the true church to the glorious prospect beyond. **His prophecies of impending judgment upon Judah apply with equal force to the judgments that are to fall upon an impenitent world at the time of the second advent of Christ:** PK 389.1

“The great day of the Lord is near, [Do you recognize this reality?]

It is near, and hasteth greatly,

Even the voice of the day of the Lord:

The mighty man shall cry there bitterly. PK 390.1

“That day is a day of wrath, [What is God's wrath? Letting go, why? Because people insist on denying God, on doing it their way. So God lets them go. Are we living in a time when people are denying God, rejecting God's methods, principles and laws? Is humanism, evolutionism and godlessness being embraced? And as hearts harden against God, what happens to the Holy Spirit? He is slowly withdrawn from the earth and Satan and his forces gain more power on the earth and we see more chaos, breakdown in social order, more hate, more exploitation, greater calamities in nature. This is the time of God's wrath!]

A day of trouble and distress,

A day of wateness and desolation,

A day of darkness and gloominess, PK 390.2

“A day of clouds and thick darkness,

A day of the trumpet and alarm

Against the fenced cities,

And against the high towers.” Zephaniah 1:14-16. PK 390.3

“I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust.... [Are we living in such times? Do you see the blindness of so many of our leaders—our political leaders, science and medical leaders and church leaders. They are blind, why? Because they don't embrace God's design law methods. They are focused on the world's system of imposed laws, of saving self, of compelling power.] Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath: [Are we seeing this? Has any nation in history spent more money than our congress is spending, supposedly to “build back better” but what is actually happening? The more money they spend the worse it is going to get, why? Because they are spending money that doesn't exist. They are printing money, digitally creating it, and flooding it into the economy, this makes it less valuable, which drives prices higher. This is called inflation. And the people hurt are the poorest people in society. They will ultimately become more and more dependent upon the government, which doesn't respect them as individuals but views them as commodities to be exploited, harvested, used for the benefit of the powerful elites. The



consequences of violating God's law cannot be avoided through more spending.] but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Verses 17, 18... PK 390.4 [Jesus said, "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49 NIV84). What is this fire? Is this the same fire that is to devour the land?]

Hezekiah was a righteous ruler who led the people to embrace the principles of the law and the nation prospered. But his son Manasseh was wicked, he reigned 55 years and led the people to forget God and God's law. Manasseh's son Amon, was also wicked, but only reigned two years before Josiah came to the throne. When the book of the law, which was Deuteronomy, was rediscovered this led to reformation.

Do we see lessons in this in the history of Christianity? Jesus came and was the living Word of God who reformed the understanding of God's law, government, character the plan of salvation and resulted in a reformation, and the early Christian church was built upon the Jewish reformers (Apostles).

But the law of God—the law of love, as Jesus and the New Testament writers taught it, got obscured and replaced by Roman imposed law, and did the world go into darkness.

But did the truth of God's law get rediscovered, the messages of the 3 angels that began a final reformation before Christ returns? But, did that final message also get infected in 1888 with the imposed law lie and the penal/legal fraud and the true message of the 3 angels has been delayed? And thus the Bible prophecies that the message of the 3 angels must be given again and that is the message of Revelation 18, the repeating of the 3 angel's messages, but no longer through imposed law, now in its right setting, through design law.

We will be doing a lecture January 15, 2022 at 3 p.m. Hamilton Community Church on this topic and releasing a new sharing magazine. We will livestream this event, so mark your calendars.

The lesson points out in the fourth paragraph that "this reformation included a cleansing and purging of 'all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and Jerusalem...'"

This is a metaphor of the cleansing and purging of the spirit temple, our hearts and minds from sin that is to occur before the second coming of Christ.

MONDAY

The lesson focuses our attention on Deuteronomy 10:12-15, but let's read through verse 19:

12 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, 13 and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? [Does the Lord ask anything different from us? And what does it mean to fear the Lord? What does it mean to walk in his ways? How do we love God? What has the Lord commanded of us today? Does the Lord's commands have something to do with what methods and principles we embrace and practice in our own health, what we choose to eat, or what we choose to drink, or smoke, what about what we choose to inject into our bodies? What about how we treat others? Are we do live out God's law in how we treat others? Why? Is it so we won't get into legal trouble with God? Or does breaking God's law actually damage us?]

14 To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. [What is being established by this statement? Why does all creation belong to the Lord? Because He both built/created it and He sustains it. Reality only exists because God continually disperses His energy to maintain all the laws upon which the universe operates. To be cut off from God means to be cut off from life.]

15 Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today. [What is the point being made? That despite God being Creator of all things, a universe so immense we cannot even image it, that He loves us and wants to save and heal us! We are valued, we are important to Him. We are not some random collection of molecules that organized themselves and came into being, we have identity and individuality as beings created in the image of God and we matter to Him!]

16 Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. [What does this mean? We are to cut away from our hearts all worldliness, all fear, selfishness, and all the methods, practices and principles of Satan. Stop resisting reality and embrace truth, love, and liberty.]

17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. [What is revealed in this statement? What kind of law is always applied with partiality and can be impacted by bribes? Imposed law, but God's laws are not altered by partiality or by bribes. God is constant and His design laws are expressions of His character of love and they are not partial, they are no respecter of persons. They treat everyone the same. And God's love is for everyone the same.]

18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. 19 And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt" (Dt 10:12–19 NIV84). [This is the outworking of God's law, to love others, which cannot be done through legislation, it can only be done through heart transformation. Understand, the various governmental programs that claim to be interested in helping the poor, are a means, mechanism, gambit, to get more power for the government—to justify taking more money, to divide society into constituency groups, to create injustice and inequity under the lie of seeking justice and equity.]

TUESDAY

The lesson points our attention to Jeremiah 7:1-7, let's read through verse 8:

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 “Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim this message: [What is the application to us today? What is the



Lord's house? The temple built on earth was a shadow or theater, a teaching tool to the genuine one. And what material is the genuine temple of God built out of, the one not built by human hands, the place where the Bible repeatedly states is God's dwelling place? It is built upon the Apostles with Christ the chief cornerstone and it is built out of the saved, the people. We are God's temple that He is cleansing. Do we see ourselves as the messengers of God standing at the gates of His temple to proclaim a message the world at this time in human history?]

“ Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. 3 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. [Do we have a message of Reformation? Does God have a message for this time that the people of God are to reform? Reform about what? About how we understand God, His law, His government, what righteousness actually is. We are to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water; we are to finally leave behind the false methods of imperialism and legal adjustment as a way to righteousness and instead embrace truth, love, liberty experienced through a faith relationship with our Creator God!] 4 Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!” [What is the message for us today? Might it be, “Do not trust in deceptive words and say “The Sabbath of the Lord, the Sabbath of the Lord, this is the Sabbath of the Lord”? Was the message that the temple in Jerusalem was God's temple a false message? Is the message that the seventh-day Sabbath is God's Sabbath a false message? Then why did the prophet tell them don't trust in deceptive words and say “This is the temple of the Lord?” Why would it be a false message to say “This is the temple of the Lord,” when it was the temple of the Lord? What about saying “this is the Sabbath of the Lord” how could that be a false message when it is the Sabbath? When we present it as a legal requirement of a god who makes up imposed legal rules, as a test of obedience, as a behavioral requirement rather than as a gift from God to human beings built by God into reality to bless and benefit us—as part of His design for life and health.] 5 If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, [What is godly justice? Can we get godly justice through human governments? Notice what the text says next] 6 if **you do not oppress** the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if **you do not follow other gods** to your own harm, [Notice it doesn't say if your government doesn't oppress, or if your government passes the right laws, or has social programs. It is about what we do in governance of ourselves. Also, notice what is described in following other gods—harming oneself. The law of worship, we become like what we worship, worshiping false gods damages us. And we worship false gods by embracing the methods, principles and practices of those gods—even if we claim we are worshipping Jesus or don't believe in God at all. Thus, if Christians embrace the method of pursuing righteousness, pursuing godly justice through human governments, laws, mandates, they are worshiping the god of this world and misrepresenting the God of heaven.] 7 then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever. [Only the righteous in heart, the meek in character, those renewed to be like Jesus in how they live and treat others will inherit the earth and live in the earth made new.] 8 But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless” (Je 7:1–8 NIV84). [How many today are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless—the penal legal deception of salvation, social justice through human governments, mandates on other people's consciences—all of this is deception.]



WEDNESDAY

The lesson asks us to read Micah 6:1-8:

Listen to what the LORD says:

“Stand up, plead your case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

2 Hear, O mountains, the LORD’s accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the LORD has a case against his people;

he is lodging a charge against Israel. [Some Bible commentaries suggest that the mountains here refer to inanimate nature being called by God as a witness to the case against the people. However, I have another possibility to consider. In Scripture the mountains, hills, high places were the places of worship. Zion is called God’s holy hill. And hills also represent places of pagan or false worship (Leviticus 26:30; 1Kings 14:23; 2Kings 16:4). God’s government is open. God is the God of truth. We see glimpses of this in the first chapter of Job and the heavenly counsel. The issue against Israel is about false worship and perverse views of God and worship practices. So, I suggest God is using this language to suggest that God is speaking truth before all His enemies and reality bears witness that their false religions are false.]

3 “My people, what have I done to you?

How have I burdened you? Answer me. [God, being truth, confronts them

with a question designed to get them to examine what they have been thinking. God asks, “Why do you think I have burdened you or that I have done something against you?” It is designed to expose that their apostasy stems from some lies they believe about God.

4 I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,

also Aaron and Miriam. [God reminds them He saves and delivers]

5 My people, remember

what Balak king of Moab counseled

and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

[God again reminds them of historical facts that demonstrate His righteousness]

6 With what shall I come before the LORD

and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,



with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
8 He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God” (Mic 6:1–8 NIV84).

[God then makes it clear rituals are meaningless, what matters is a transformed heart and mind to have God’s living law written within.]

How many Christians today need this same message?

Read second paragraph, “Bible scholars...” Isn’t it sad—they take the very passage designed to turn them away from a legal view of things and to a healing view of reality, and instead of seeing the healing truth they persist on interpreting it through the imposed law lie trying to make this a legal problem when it is a problem of the condition of the heart and mind. Only through design law, the law upon which reality operates is this rightly understood.

They suggest it is a legal problem because it is based on covenant law. What is the primary covenant that the Bible uses to model the plan of salvation? Marriage—it is a covenant and throughout human history, what kind of law did it operate upon?

Was Adam and Eve’s marriage based in human law, imposed rules, what about Abraham and Sarah?

God’s design law is about how reality operates, two hearts and minds bonding together in love, trust, respect, and devotion. This cannot be legislated. It can be betrayed, love and trust can be broken, but such law breaking is not a legal problem, it is a problem of health, of life itself. Such law breaking breaks the heart, damages the mind and corrupts the character.

This is the reality of God’s kingdom. This is what Deuteronomy and Micah are teaching us. And the message for the people today is to stop viewing God as an imposer of rules and instead judge Him to be the Creator whose laws are design laws, then do what is right because it is right and right doing pleases God.

THURSDAY

Read fourth paragraph, “As Deuteronomy had said...” Why was it necessary to drive the people from the land and have them go into captivity? Was this punishment for sin, or was it a therapeutic act of mercy to keep open the avenue for the Messiah?

What made this action necessary? It was the refusal of the people to stay faithful in their responsibilities to the Lord.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, DECEMBER 11: Class will meet at Bake Crafters at our usual time. We will have class, then a Christmas potluck, which will start right after our Q&A time. Then we will have an afternoon open discussion.

JANUARY 15 AT 3 P.M. AT HAMILTON COMMUNITY CHURCH: We will have a special Sabbath Afternoon live-broadcast event here in Chattanooga on the 3 Angels' Messages.

NEW ROKU CHANNEL: Come and Reason has just opened a Roku channel and you can find it in Roku by searching for Come and Reason. For those with Roku you can now watch our programs on your TV full screen.

PROPERTY UPDATE: The renovation project is out to get contractor bids.

NEW TRACTS: We have five new sharing tracts:

- Babylon the Mother of Harlots: Come Out of Her
- Loneliness Its Cause and Cure
- The Injustice of Human Justice
- How to Disagree and Remain Friends
- Knowing God's Will

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