



2022 1Q In These Last Days: The Message of Hebrews Lesson 10: Jesus Opens the Way Through the Veil

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

Before we get into Lesson 10, I wanted to follow up on a couple of points from **Lesson 9:**
THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “The forgiveness of our sins....” What do you hear? What law lens do you hear this being described through?

What does it mean when they say “Jesus carried our sins?” Does it sound like some sort of stuff, or commodity, or acts, or deeds, something that can be transferred from one person to the next? Or are they inferring that the punishment for our sins was placed upon Jesus and He took our punishment?

Do you think something different if we instead of thinking of the sin problem as bad deeds that deserve punishment, we understand we are born in sin, with a condition of being out of harmony with God and God’s design law for life. Jesus took our sin—our sinfulness—upon Himself, not our acts or deeds.

Forgiveness is described as something that God cannot do unless He receives a blood sacrifice. That is paganism—all pagan religions require some offering be given to the deity in order to get the blessing from the deity.

Did Jesus not have the right to forgive without dying? God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit always had the right to forgive and in fact did forgive that is why God sent His Son. Jesus’ death did not provide God with some right. What Jesus’ sinless life and selfless death did do, was provide God with an effective remedy to cure the human sin condition and restore humanity to at-one-ment with God.

Forgiveness from God was never the problem, the problem was the actual terminal sin-condition of humankind that needed remedy and only Jesus could provide that Remedy. That was a twofold solution—1) the truth about God to destroy lies and win to trust, and 2) a new sinless, mature, perfected human character/nature. Jesus accomplished both the revelation of truth, and the destruction of the infection of fear/selfishness (carnal nature) and the development of sinless, perfect righteous human character/nature.

The lesson focuses on the second phase of the ministry of Jesus which is the pre-Advent judgment. The lesson states, “In this judgment, the records of their lives will be open for the universe to see.”

Has the records of human lives, the reality of our hearts and minds, been hidden from the onlooking universe until 1844?

Doesn’t the Bible say that our lives are a theater a spectacle to angels and men (1Cor 4:9)?



Do the angels in heaven look to each other and say, when King David's name comes up in the pre-Advent judgment, "Oh my, David committed adultery and murdered Uriah. I had no idea! But wait, look, he also repented, wow, that was a close one, glad we found that out."

Can angels read our thoughts? And if they can, do they need an investigative judgment to investigate the thoughts that they have been reading all long?

My view is that only has the innate ability to God read hearts and minds, angels do not possess this ability in themselves. If the sinless angels in heaven could read the secrets of hearts and minds, then no angel would have been deceived by Lucifer in the beginning of his rebellion.

But God **permits** or gives the ability to His loyal angels to read our hearts and minds, while He does not give this ability to Satan and his angels. We have a few miniscule examples in the Bible of God permitting humans to do this when Joseph was given the knowledge of the dream of Pharaoh. God is the revealer of secrets and can reveal our secret thoughts and motives to whomever He chooses. And I believe He has given this ability to all the loyal angels.

This view is also the historic SDA view, that is that Satan and his evil angels cannot read our thoughts, but God has permitted the loyal angels to read our thoughts all along—they have been "investigating" the sin problem and God's solution for it from before Adam sinned.

Satan has his evil angels around us; and though they cannot read men's thoughts, they closely watch their words and actions... {GW92 417.3}

The adversary of souls is not permitted to read the thoughts of men; but he is a keen observer, and he marks the words; he takes account of actions, and skillfully adapts his temptations to meet the cases of those who place themselves in his power... {RH, March 22, 1887 par. 5}

Did you forget that angels of God were in attendance, and that their pure eyes were reading your thoughts, the intents and purposes of the heart, and taking cognizance of every act, and delineating your true, frivolous character? {2T 180.2}

If the angels in heaven can already read our thoughts, then the purpose of the investigative judgment is **not** to reveal things to them about us that they don't already know.

You may have heard this same idea put another way, that the angels in heaven are worried who will be safe neighbors in heaven and need to investigate to ensure those brought there will be safe to live next door to.

Why is this **not** necessary?

- God is the God of reality, and what is it that destroys the wicked? Sin
- And when are the wicked destroyed by sin? When they are exposed to God's life-giving glory,



the infinite fires of truth and love.

- What do the wicked experience when they are exposed to God's life-giving glory? Horrible pain and anguish
- And from where does the pain and anguish they experience originate? from their own terminal sin condition
- Is the suffering being inflicted by God? No!
- Who else is standing in the very same fire—the righteous and does fire cause any suffering to the righteous? No—the fire is not harmful, it is the fire of infinite truth and love.
- But what does truth and love do to the wicked? It causes them to no longer be able to avoid their own sinful condition, they experience the full force of their unremedied guilt, shame, fear that sin causes because their lies and denial doesn't work in the presence of infinite truth.
- And what do they do? They beg for the mountains to fall on them and hide them from God. They flee and ultimately they surrender their lives and no longer want to live in a universe bathed in God's life-giving glory. They self-terminate just like Judas did.

It is both **self-evident** and **self-limiting** who would have been poor neighbors in heaven. **Self-evident**—those unsafe reveal themselves by fleeing and running from God, and **self-limiting** their sin condition limits or prevents them from living in God's life-giving glory and thus they die of unremedied sin. So, no poor neighbors will be able to enter or live in heaven, not because God keeps them out, but because they don't want to be there and they keep themselves out.

There is absolutely no need for a pre-advent record review on part of the angels in order for them to feel comfortable with those of us brought there.

Then what is the purpose of the pre-Advent judgment? We have a magazine on the Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment for the Modern World—if you haven't read it, we encourage you to do so. We will ship them free to any US postal address, or you can read it online at: <https://comeandreason.com/heavenly-sanctuary/>

The bottom line is this: Christ is working to remove all traces of selfishness and defects of sin from the characters of people so that we be enabled to stand in His life-giving glory.

The Cross was where Christ saved the species human in His own humanity and procured the Remedy. The sanctuary is an illustration that teaches how Jesus administers or applies that Remedy to individuals to save and heal them from sin, ultimately eliminating sin and purifying His universe.



LESSON 10

SABBATH

In the first paragraph the lesson references John 14:1-3 and states “Jesus ascended to prepare a place for them.

Let’s read John 14:1-3:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (Jn 14:1–3 NKJV).

Hasn’t this been an encouraging promise that we all learned in childhood?

But what does it mean? Is Jesus building each of us a mansion?

Modern Bible translations don’t use the word “mansions” because the Greek word translated mansions in the King James simply means “dwelling place” and in the 17th century when the King James was written the word “mansion” didn’t mean a pretentious posh ornate home, but a simple dwelling place. So most modern translations say “rooms” or “dwelling places.”

From the SDA Bible Commentary: *monai* (singular *monē*) literally, “abiding places”... Our English word “mansion” is from the Latin *mansio*, in meaning almost equivalent to the Gr. *monē*. *Mansio*, as does *monē*, means “a remaining place,” “a place of abode.” The idea of a building of some size or pretentiousness does not attach to the Latin, nor, of course, to the Greek. That idea was a later development of the English word and the meaning should not be introduced into the present verse. Either “mansion” should be understood in its archaic sense of “a dwelling place,” or “abode,” or one of these meanings should be substituted in a translation of the verse. The fact that there are “many” dwelling places makes certain of sufficient room in the Father’s house for all who heed the Father’s invitation. (The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary Vol. 5, p. 1034).

So when Jesus said “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you...” was He saying that He went to heaven and started a massive construction project to build houses for us?

How long would it take the Creator God who speaks galaxies into existence to build some houses?

Is this passage truly about structures in heaven or is it about something else?

If the saved are to return to living in anything similar to Adam and Eve—what kind of home did He give them? Did they have buildings to dwell in?



So, could Jesus be referring to something other than what we call buildings or structures? What?

Did Jesus use the phrase, “my Father’s house” anywhere else?

Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!” (John 2:16 NIV84).

- Here Jesus refers to the Temple as His Father’s house. Does this give insight to John 14? In my Father’s Heavenly Temple is room for many...

What about this text:

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, **like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house** to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Pe 2:4–5 NIV84).

What does it mean “being built into a spiritual house”? Did Jesus tell His disciples “in my Father’s heavenly sanctuary there are dwelling places for many, if it wasn’t so I would have told you. I am going to prepare a dwelling place for you so that we may dwell together in my Father’s house?” Could this mean He was going to prepare a new dwelling for us? Where do we currently dwell?

Consider this text—is it related to the dwelling place in heaven that Jesus is preparing for us?

Now we know that if the earthly tent **we live in** is destroyed, we have a **building from God, an eternal house in heaven**, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our **heavenly dwelling**, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed **with our heavenly dwelling**, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at **home in the body** we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be **away from the body** and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at **home in the body** or away from it. For we must all **appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:1–10 NIV84).

What does this mean? Is it talking about the investigative judgment seat of Christ? And what is this dwelling place talked about here? Is it related to John 14 about preparing a dwelling place for us? How?

Does this text help?



The first Adam, made of earth, came from the earth; the second Adam came from heaven. [Who is this? Adam in Eden and Jesus the second Adam. What is the difference?] Those who belong to the earth are like the one who was made of earth; those who are of heaven are like the one who came from heaven. [What is Paul saying? Those who are earthly, selfish, are like the one made of dirt, they decay and return to dirt. But those who are reborn of Jesus are of the light, of the life, they are like the one who came from heaven, they won't decay, but have life. Note what comes next.] Just as we wear the likeness of the man made of earth, so we will wear the likeness of the Man from heaven. [What does this mean? What is the likeness of the man from earth? Is this talking about our bodies, our sinful, sick, diseased, mortal bodies? Yes, this is the context, but we will wear something new, something not like what we inherited from Adam, we will wear the likeness of Jesus—an immortal body free from the carnal drives.] What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that what is made of flesh and blood cannot share in God's Kingdom, and what is mortal cannot possess immortality. [What does this mean? Does flesh and blood mean human? No, because Jesus is still human, as is Moses, and Enoch, and Elijah and they are all in heaven. What is meant by flesh and blood is the fallen, sinful, selfish, carnal nature that we inherited from Adam. That sinful humanity cannot share in God's Kingdom because it is "enmity" to it, it is opposed to it; it is driven by fear and selfishness. It is mortal and dying of a terminal condition. Thus, we need a new humanity one that is not mortal and this is a secret truth.] Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. For what **is mortal must be changed into what is immortal**; what will die must be changed into what cannot die. So when this takes place, and the mortal has been changed into the immortal, then the scripture will come true: "Death is destroyed; victory is complete!" (1Corinthians 15:47–54 GNB).

What makes us mortal—is it merely our physiology, is it merely the molecules that make up the body—or is it sinfulness, distrust, fear, selfishness within us?

So, in order for us to receive, possess an immortal body, for death to be swallowed up by life, what needs to happen in us? We need to have sinfulness, selfishness and all traces of rebellion erased from our hearts, minds, and characters so that we can live in heaven and receive the immortal body that Jesus has for us.

So what would Jesus need to do before coming again? Would He not need to apply to the hearts, minds, characters of all who trust Him His perfection, cleansing the Spirit Temples of people from sin and preparing them to meet Him face to face? Wouldn't He need to polish them, hone them, remove from them all defects of character and couldn't this be described as cleansing the sanctuary, or going to heaven to prepare a place for them?

What if we put this teaching of Jesus into our mix:

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the **house** forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son



makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (Jn 8:34–36 NKJV). [What does it mean to be able to abide or live in the house of God? We must be freed of sin—what does that require? Do we have to be prepared? Do we have to be converted, renewed, transformed, shaped, cleansed? Is this the message of the cleansing of the sanctuary—Jesus is going to heaven to prepare a dwelling place for His followers—meaning He is going to prepare all who trust Him to be ready to dwell there, to be living stones built together into a house for the Lord? Is this the message of the investigative judgment in heaven? Remember the 23rd Psalm—we dwell in the house of the Lord forever.]

So I paraphrased 2Corinthians 5:1-10 it this way in *The Remedy NT*:

“Now, we know that this earthly body is like a tent or hospital gown that wears out easily and leaves us exposed. And if this earthly body—which our individuality currently occupies—is destroyed, we have an eternal body that will never wear out; a heavenly dwelling place for our individuality, but not built by human hands. Meanwhile, the older we get, the more we groan, longing to be free of this deteriorating body and to be clothed in our perfect heavenly body, because when we have exchanged this mortal body for our heavenly one, we will not be found sick, dying, and exposed. For while we are in this collapsing tent, we groan with the burden of aging and slow decay. We don't want to die to be rid of this worn-out body, but we want to be translated directly into our heavenly body so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by eternal life. God's intention for us has never changed: He created us to live eternally and — as the first phase of our restoration — has given us the Spirit to heal our minds, guaranteeing our future complete re-creation. We certainly know that as long as this frail body is our home, we remain away from the Lord; but we live by trusting God with how things will turn out — not by waiting to see the future restoration. Therefore we are confident while in the mortal body, even though we prefer to be translated into our heavenly body and be at home with the Lord. Our goal is to be pleasing to him by living in harmony with his design for life — whether we are in this mortal body or our heavenly one — for we will **all appear in Christ's examining room so that each one may be accurately diagnosed and receive what their condition warrants**, whether from compliance or non-compliance with God's treatment plan”
(2Corinthians 5:1-10 REM)

And I paraphrased John 14:1-3 this way:

"Don't let fear and doubt trouble your hearts. Put your full trust in God and trust me too. In my Father's home, there is room for all who want to be there; if this were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to direct all my Father's resources who are not only preparing heaven for you, but also preparing you for heaven. And when all things are ready, I will come back and take everyone who has been brought back into unity with the principles of heaven to be there with me, so that we may all be together” (John 14:1-3 REM)



SUNDAY

The lesson points out that the various Feasts in the Old Testament had a prophetic significance—they were designed to forecast, foretell, reveal, teach the plan of salvation.

These Feasts repeated in an annual cycle and together they teach the grand overview of the plan of salvation from Adam's fall until the earth made new.

- **Passover** – as soon as man fell into sin God passed over their sins “he left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.” Rom 3:25
 - Christ was the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. Rev 13:8
 - Time covered by the Passover—From Adam's sin until Jesus victory at the cross
 - God gave this to the people as they were about to leave Egypt and that experience is another illustration of the same lesson. Egypt represents being captive in this sinful world. The Hebrews were captive in Egypt, all humanity is captive in sin. Those who trust Jesus, put blood on the door, symbolically saying having the life of Jesus applied to their hearts, God passes over their sins, because it isn't about legal trouble and punishment, it is about the condition of the heart. All who are reborn with new hearts, have Jesus character within, will be delivered from sin and go to the promised land—the earth made new. So the Passover isn't primarily about leaving Egypt, it is about delivering humans from the slavery of sin.
- **Unleavened bread** – immediately God began dispensing truth unmixed with error to nurture and save, but it was internalized by those in sin, represented by the bitter herbs.
 - This also represents the time from Adam's fall until Christ's victory
 - Eating the unleavened bread symbolizes the internalization of Jesus
- **Feast of First Fruits**—The first fruits of the victory over death
 - The Wave Sheaf represents Jesus who is the ultimate first fruit, who was buried and rose again in sinless perfection
 - Those who arose with him on resurrection morning to everlasting life
- **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)** The pouring out of the Holy Spirit to apply what Christ achieved and bring forth a harvest of healed souls
 - This occurred after Christ's death on the Cross as the benefits of His achievement were dispensed into trusting humans
 - This feast symbolically spans the time from Pentecost AD 33 until the Loud Cry
- **Trumpets** – a special message for the end time
 - The Loud Cry—awake, prepare, get ready it is time to be reconciled and brought back into unity, at-one-ment with God again because Jesus is coming soon
 - Late 18th and early 19th Century – the Great Awakening in Christianity
- **Atonement** – reunification with God, oneness with God
 - The healing and restoration of Christlike character within; settling into the truth that



one cannot be moved, having our hearts and minds cleansed from fear and selfishness such that we are perfected like Job, Daniel and his three friends, John etc. people who “did not love their life so much as to shrink from death” Rev 12:11.

- The sins of the people placed upon the scapegoat symbolizing the 1000 years when Satan is left in the desolate and void earth and all the righteous place 100% of the blame for all sin, rebellion and the suffering and death it has caused upon Satan—all are 100% convinced that Satan is solely responsible for the sin problem
- From mid 19th Century until the second coming of Christ
- **Tabernacles**—After we have been restored to at-one-ment in heart, mind, character, Christ returns, recreates the earth and we *Tabernacle* with Him again in the earth made new—our Eden Garden home for eternity!

MONDAY

The lesson points out that God invited the people to come and meet Him face to face, but the people were afraid and asked for someone to be in between them and God.

Why? Because they didn't know God, their sin caused fear, which caused them to focus on self, they judged God through the lens of their own guilt, shame, how they would treat someone who wronged them and falsely believed God was angry, and wanting to punish. Thus, not knowing God, they didn't trust Him, and lived in fear of being legal trouble for rule breaking.

How did God respond to their refusal to accept His invitation? What does this say about God? Who looks good in this story?

What are the lessons for us?

Does God want us to come into a face-to-face relationship with Him?

What is in the way of that relationship for each of us today?

TUESDAY

The Need for a Veil—the lesson articulates an interesting and truthful idea, that Jesus had to veil His divine glory under human garb lest if He didn't those who He wanted to save would have been destroyed.

Does that mean that the veil in the Temple that was torn in two represents Jesus?

Was Jesus the barrier that prevented us from approaching God and did Jesus have to be removed in order for the way to God to be opened for us? Or was Jesus Himself God who came to us to bring us



back into God's presence? Was Jesus working to remove the barrier?

What was behind the veil? The Shekinah glory of God—is Jesus the one who obstructs our ability to see God more clearly or is Jesus the light that lightens all men, the One who opens the way back to God and God's glory for us?

So, what is it that does obstruct our ability to see God, to know Him, to be at-one with Him?

Is it not the lies that Satan tells that we believe about Him and our own carnal natures—i.e. fear and selfishness within us?

What must be taken out of the way for us to be reunited or at-one with God? The lies we believe and our sinfulness.

Jesus is the truth that destroys the lies and Jesus, as a human, took our sin-condition upon Himself and destroyed it at the Cross, establishing in His humanity a new humanity free from all defects caused by Adam. Thus Jesus destroyed the barrier, tore open the veil and through Jesus we can enter boldly into God's presence.

The angels on the veil represent God's ministering angels who are helping us battle against the lies of Satan and resist the temptations of our selfish nature, but they cannot fully reveal the truth about God—only Jesus could do that; and angels cannot destroy our fallen human carnal nature and establish a sinless human nature—only Jesus could do that.

What is the only part of the sanctuary/temple that God directly destroyed? The veil—and the Bible says that Jesus by Jesus death He “destroys him who holds the power of death that is the devil” (Heb 2:14); and destroys the devil's work (1John 3:8); and destroys death and bring life and immortality to light (2Tim 1:10).

The veil of lies, of fear, of selfishness, of corruption of sinfulness was torn down by Jesus and a new and living way back into God's presence was opened all who trust Jesus!

What falsehood do we introduce if we say the veil represents Jesus? That God killed Jesus on the cross, thus making God out to be the source of death as inflicted punishment for sin.

WEDNESDAY

Read bottom green section, “What accusations could Satan...” When you hear about accusations by Satan, or your record of sins, or Jesus pleading in your behalf, what comes to mind? How do you understand the entire process working?

What law lens do you understand it through?



In last Thursday's lesson there was quotation from EGW which states:

Man cannot meet these charges himself. In his sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. But Jesus our Advocate presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to Him. He pleads their cause and vanquishes their accuser by the mighty arguments of Calvary. His perfect obedience to God's law, even unto the death of the cross, has given Him all power in heaven and in earth, and He claims of His Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man... But while we should realize our sinful condition, we are to rely upon Christ as our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on His own.

Have you ever heard this before? And if so, how was it taught to you in the past? What does this current quotation lead you to think?

Now this is quite concerning—concerning because the editors of the lesson made a conscious choice on what they quoted and what they left out. A partial quotation can make it appear the original author appear to say something she is not saying.

Let's read the original author in a fuller setting and see if this changes the emphasis:

As Satan accused Joshua and his people, so in all ages he accuses those who are seeking the mercy and favor of God. In the Revelation he is declared to be the “accuser of our brethren,” “which accused them before our God day and night.” The controversy is repeated over every soul that is rescued from the power of evil and whose name is registered in the Lamb's book of life. Never is one received from the family of Satan into the family of God without exciting the determined resistance of the wicked one. Satan's accusations against those who seek the Lord are not prompted by displeasure at their sins. He exults in their defective characters. Only through their transgression of God's law can he obtain power over them. His accusations arise solely from his enmity to Christ. Through the plan of salvation, Jesus is breaking Satan's hold upon the human family and rescuing souls from his power. All the hatred and malignity of the archrebel is stirred as he beholds the evidence of Christ's supremacy, and with fiendish power and cunning he works to wrest from Him the remnant of the children of men who have accepted His salvation. 5T 470.1 [where is such a battle taking place? Where is the work of Jesus occurring that will rescue a sinner from Satan's power? Where does Satan's powers of lies and selfishness occur? Who listens to Satan's lies, who believes Satan's accusations? Who would Christ need to plead with to persuade them that His sacrifice is sufficient to free the sinner from sin? Would God need to be persuaded that the sacrifice of Christ is sufficient? Would the sinner?]

He leads men into skepticism, causing them to lose confidence in God and to separate from His love; [who is listening to Satan's accusations? With whom will Christ need to plead in order to overcome the accusations?] he tempts them to break His law, and then he claims



them as his captives and contests the right of Christ to take them from him. **He knows that those who seek God earnestly for pardon and grace will obtain it; therefore he presents their sins before them to discourage them.** [Notice the dynamic here. She doesn't say that Satan knows if he can find a sin the person committed that they forgot to confess and ask forgiveness for that it remains on the legal registry in heaven and God will be forced to pronounce them guilty and Satan wins his legal case. NO! Satan knows that all who trust God will, as Isaiah 55 says, receive FREE pardon from God and grace that heals and restores them, gives them a new heart and empowers them to overcome the accusations and temptations of Satan. Again, where is Christ plea directed?] He is constantly seeking occasion against those who are trying to obey God. **Even their best and most acceptable services he seeks to make appear corrupt.** [To whom? To themselves to discourage and dishearten so THEY GIVE UP.] **By countless devices, the most subtle and the most cruel, he endeavors to secure their condemnation.** [By whom? Whose is that condemns? Christ Jesus He is at the Father's right hand and is also interceding for us—also, in addition to who, the Father and who is the Father interceding with? With the accusations of the devil that try and discourage us!] **Man cannot meet these charges himself.** In his sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. [Exactly, we don't stand before God and say, "I don't need Jesus. I can cure my own sin condition. In fact, I really haven't sin, I am righteous in my own strength. NO! We stand before God and say, "Father I acknowledge I was born in sin and conceived in iniquity. I was born with a terminal sin condition I didn't choose and I have had many symptoms along the way. I have been fearful and selfish and acted out against your law. I have no ability to change my heart, to heal my condition. I confess I am dead in trespass and sin." Note what happens next.] **But Jesus our Advocate presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to Him. He pleads their cause and vanquishes their accuser by the mighty arguments of Calvary.** [For all who acknowledge their condition Jesus pleads effectively TO THEM, "My grace is sufficient for you." I have engraved YOU on the palm of my hand. My victory is your victory. Trust me and I will make you whole! The accusations of Satan of being too sinful to save are vanquished by the effectual plea of Jesus to you!] His perfect obedience to God's law, even unto the death of the cross, has given Him all power in heaven and in earth, and **He claims of His Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man.** [Whose mercy? God's mercy, God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to procure the Remedy and then empowers Jesus with all the power of heaven to distribute it to us to heal and save us.] **To the accuser of His people He declares: "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan."** These are the purchase of My blood, brands plucked from the burning." [Jesus doesn't plead His blood to the Father, Jesus rebukes Satan and refutes his accusations. And listen to what Jesus says to us.] Those who rely upon Him in faith receive the comforting assurance: **"Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment."** [He removes the fear, the guilt, the shame, the selfishness, the sin-condition and gives us a new heart and right spirit, writes His law of love into our inmost beings so that it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.] All that have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness will stand before Him as chosen and faithful and true. Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall



make peace with Me.” The promise given to Joshua is made to all: “If thou wilt keep My charge, ... I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.” Angels of God will walk on either side of them, even in this world, and they will stand at last among the angels that surround the throne of God. 5T 470.2

The fact that the acknowledged people of God are represented as standing before the Lord in filthy garments **should lead to humility and deep searching of heart on the part of all who profess His name. Those who are indeed purifying their souls by obeying the truth will have a most humble opinion of themselves.** [This is the investigative judgment. The investigation of our own hearts/minds/characters and experiencing the healing power of Christ purging and cleansing us from sin to prepare us to meet Him face to face.] The more closely they view the spotless character of Christ, the stronger will be their desire to be conformed to His image, and the less will they see of purity or holiness in themselves. But while we should realize our sinful condition, we are to rely upon Christ as our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. **We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on His own.** 5T 471.1

Jesus pleads before the Father, carrying out the Father’s purpose to save sinners, the Holy Spirit listens to Christ and works in you and me communicating the love, grace and pleas of Christ to you and me to win us back to trust, so we will open the door to our hearts and let Him save us from fear and selfishness!

THURSDAY

The lesson states “Jesus’ ascension is not a matter of faith, but of fact. It is this historical dimension of Jesus’ ascension that provides compelling force to the exhortation of Hebrews.”

This is hugely important—the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus is reality, it is historical fact, it is not a matter of faith in something that is yet to happen, like the earth being made new. The historic accomplishments and achievements of Jesus which are reality are the evidences that are the foundation of our knowledge of and faith in God so that we have faith or confidence that His promises yet to be fulfilled will be fulfilled.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Materials in Australia: Simon and Maani Harrison have a Facebook group in Australia and have the following Come and Reason resources available in Australia:

- The Remedy New Testament
- The Remedy Psalms
- *Could It Be This Simple?*
- The Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment for the Modern World
- First set of tracts

You can email Simon at australia@comeandreason.com

Materials in South Africa: Jacques van den Heever has materials available in South Africa you can email him at comeandreason.sa@gmail.com

New Release: The Final Message of Mercy to the World—The Three Angels, magazine.

You can read a digital version online at our website. Here is a link to the flip version <https://comeandreason.com/files/flipbooks/3Angels/>

New Member's Section is now open: Apply today to gain access to:

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- *Could It Be This Simple?* Audio are both available in the members section to stream or download and listen.
- Music by Brad & Donna Horne, online members in Australia, created an album that they have graciously donated to our ministry to share with those who love this message.
- Member locator for those who choose to post their information to other members