



2022 1Q In These Last Days: The Message of Hebrews Lesson 12: Receiving and Unshakable Kingdom

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read memory text: “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe” (Hebrews 12:28 NIV84).

What is the unshakable kingdom that we are to receive from Jesus?

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you” (Lk 17:20–21 NIV84).

Is this a different kingdom than the unshakable kingdom?
When do we receive the kingdom of God that is unshakable?

What is it that makes the kingdom unshakable?

When you think of an unshakable kingdom, do you think of the shaking times, that the world is going through the shaking right now and are we of the kingdom that cannot be shaken out of loyalty to God?

Consider this quote from Youth Instructor February 2, 1893, what do you think?

Make it the law of your life from which no temptation or side interest shall cause you to turn, to honor God, [what kind of law is this? it is an expression of love and loyalty, of understanding commitment, of integrity and responsibility—it is deciding on what kind of person one will be. And why would we make honoring God the law of our life?] because he “so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” As a redeemed, **free moral agent**, ransomed by an infinite price, [when you hear this expression what do you think? paying a legal debt, buying us from Satan, paying off His Father not to kill us? What about reality, paying the price necessary to free us from sin. A ransom frees one held hostage or captive. We are held captive in sin by the lies about God that keep us from trusting Him and our own carnal nature. Jesus revealed the truth to destroy the lies and developed a perfect sinless human nature that we may partake of. It was an infinite condescension or price that He paid, but it was the price our condition required to free our hearts and minds from the sin condition.] **God calls upon you to assert your liberty, and employ your God-given powers as a free subject of the kingdom of heaven.** [Is a free moral agent one who acts out of obligation, rule-keeping, because they are under threat and fear punishment? Or out of love, knowing they are free, not afraid that God will not retaliate against them if they sin, but they know that God grieves when they fall short



and longs to heal them, so they love God and freely choose to live as God would have them live because it is what they love to do, it makes the most sense, it is a part of who they are, the law of love and liberty written into their souls!] Be no longer under the thralldom of sin, but as a loyal subject to the King of kings, **prove your loyalty to God.** [How? By rule keeping, or by loving loyal devotion to God and to the principles of His kingdom?] Through Jesus Christ show that you are worthy of the sacred trust with which the Lord has honored you in bestowing upon you life and grace. You are to **refuse to be in subjection to the power of evil.** [What is the power of evil—lies, fear and selfishness. We don't surrender our thinking to others, we don't live selfishly, we don't live controlled by fear, we live in harmony with the principles of God's kingdom, truth, love, freedom.] As soldiers of Christ we must **deliberately and intelligently** accept his terms of salvation under every circumstance, **cherish right principles, and act upon them.** [Soldiers of Christ—what does this mean? Are we in a war? What kind? Did you read my blog for this week, [Is a "Just War" Possible?](#) We are at war and Satan works to incite fear and selfish outrage in our hearts to get us to join one of his teams to fight against another one of his teams using his methods of lies, coercion, force, manipulation, some type of compelling power, which changes you when you use those methods on others. We are to use right principles, but what are right principles? Does living by right principles mean we can make rules to apply in every situation, or does the situation determine the specific action to take based on the right principles?] Divine wisdom is to be a lamp to your feet. [Is divine wisdom a list of rules, or understanding design law, God's character, reality, what the sin problem is and God's solution for it and how to live out God's design laws in every circumstance?] **Be true to yourselves, be true to your God.** [What does it mean to be true to yourself? It means we don't betray ourselves by giving into fear when we are convicted of our duty, when we have understanding of our responsibilities, we stand firm for them and don't surrender our thinking, responsibilities, or decisions to others, and don't go along for the sake of convenience, money, approval, or out of fear of rejection, or losing status or property. Have you seen many fail to be true to principle and be shaken during the COVID, especially in their willingness to use their office to compel and coerce others?] **Everything that can be shaken will be shaken; but rooted and grounded in the truth, you will abide with those things that cannot be shaken. The law of God is steadfast, unalterable;** for it is the expression of the character of Jehovah. [What kind of law is unshakable and unalterable? We have a message about our Creator God that is to enlighten the world! It calls people out of the mess of imperial law, imposed rules with inflicted punishments to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water. It is a message that transforms the heart, establishes God's law in the inmost being so people will not be shaken—but people have to choose! And over the last couple of years the pandemic put the world in position where people had to decide what principles they would practice in treating others. We see millions who have chosen the principles of the beast.] **Make up your mind that you will not by word or influence cast the least dishonor upon its authority.** YI February 2, 1893, par. 5

To have the religion of Christ means that you have absolutely **surrendered your all to God, and consented to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.** Through the gift of the Holy Spirit **moral power will be given you,** and not only will you have your former intrusted talents for the service of God, but **their efficiency will be greatly multiplied.** The surrender of all our



powers to **God greatly simplifies the problem of life. It weakens and cuts short a thousand struggles with the passions of the natural heart.** Religion is as a golden cord that binds the souls of both youth and aged to Christ. Through it the willing and obedient are brought safely through dark and intricate paths to the city of God. YI February 2, 1893, par. 6

The lesson states, “Jesus is the Mediator of a new covenant, and His blood provides salvation for believers. His priestly and royal ministry in our behalf is a cause for celebration for the heavenly hosts. And finally, Hebrews 12:25-29 contains the last and climatic exhortation: God’s judgment is coming. It will bring destruction to His enemies—but vindication and a kingdom to His people.”

What is Jesus mediating? Is it a legal transaction, or is Jesus mediating the solution to the sin problem, wielding truth and love in such a way that it destroys lies, purges the lies from minds and cleanses hearts from fear and selfishness restoring God’s design law for life back into the hearts and minds of all who trust God?

This mediation of truth and love also solidifies the loyal angels in their devotion to God and all sympathy for Satan is now gone and they have no vulnerability to any future lie about God.

What does it mean His blood provides salvation? Does it mean red corpuscles? Does it mean blood payment?

What law lens does one use?

And this is something to remember whenever anyone uses the metaphor of Jesus’ blood. There are two ways it is viewed, the biblical way and the pagan way.

The biblical way is Leviticus 17:11 the life is in the blood—thus the blood represents life. This is design law. The blood of the sacrificial animal is symbolic of the life of Jesus, which was given, shed, for the purpose of destroying sin, Satan, and death, and restoring life into the species human. In other words, the blood represents the living-giving remedy of Jesus’ perfect sinless life and mature human character that He developed as a human.

The pagan way is that the blood represents, not the life, but the death, dying as a sinless being to pay the death penalty to the offended god in order to purchase sinners from the hands of this punishing god by giving the punishing god a substitute death in the place of the ones he was going to take.

So, listen carefully when people talk about the blood and being saved by the blood, are they talking about the life of Jesus being given to us so that we receive a new heart, right spirit and be recreated with the life of Jesus so that “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me” or are they saying that the blood represents the death of Jesus paying God the death penalty so God won’t kill us.

What about the ideas of judgment as expressed here in this paragraph, that God’s judgment brings destruction to His enemies—is that true? Is it the judgment of God that destroys His enemies?



What kind of judgment is being described if it is the cause of the destruction? Wouldn't it be inflicted by the judge? So God becomes the source of pain, suffering and death to those who are lost. Is that true?

No, this is the false conclusion one gets when one believes that God's law functions like human law. Then justice is God inflicting punishment.

But the Bible is very clear about both God's law and from where death for sin comes; God's law is not like human law it is the protocols that life is built upon and just as death comes to those who tie plastic bags over their heads from being out of harmony with the law of respiration, so too, "those who sow to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction"—not from God. Galatians 6:8.

But the lesson references Hebrews 12:25-29 to support their idea. Let's read it and see if the Bible says God's judgment destroys His enemies:

See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for **our "God is a consuming fire."** (Hebrews 12:25–29 NIV84).

Does this say anything about God's judgment destroying the wicked?

What does it say? That God is a consuming fire—which means what?

The sinners in Zion are terrified;
trembling grips the godless:
"Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire?
Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?"

He who walks righteously
and speaks what is right,
who rejects gain from extortion
and keeps his hand from accepting bribes,
who stops his ears against plots of murder
and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil—Isaiah 33:14-15

- God speaks to Moses at the bush (Exodus 3:2-4; Acts 7:30-36)
- God came to Mt Sinai and His presence was described as a "consuming fire" did the elements melt like a nuclear explosion? (Exodus 24:17)
- Tell us that when Solomon's Temple was dedicated the Priests couldn't enter because the



brightness of God's fiery glory was too great – but did the Temple burn down? So was it heat that was keeping the priests out? (2 Chronicles 5:14 & 7:1-3)

- Lucifer used to walk among the “fiery stones” of God's presence (Ezekiel 28:14,16)
- Jesus on the mount of transfiguration still in His human body that was subject to death – His face shown like the sun and his clothes were bright white – but did His clothes burn off or did He receive 3rd degree burns? (Matthew 17:2)
- “Our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:29)

What is the lie that Satan has foisted upon us? The place you don't want to go, the place you don't want to be is the place of eternal burnings and consuming fire and that place is God's very presence!

The righteous will be transformed by this life giving glory – as Moses was after 40 days with God – (Exodus 34:29-35)

But what kind of fire is this? How can fire not burn up bushes, buildings and faces and actually transform and heal the righteous but at the same time cause anguish, discomfort, pain and destruction to the wicked?

What kind of fire is this?

This is a fire that is to cleanse the earth of sin, a fire that consumes wickedness

What is sin made out of?

Lies and selfishness

Now what is it that consumes and destroys a lie?

The truth and the HS is called the Spirit of truth.

What is it that consumes and destroys selfishness?

Love and God is Love – so when God's Spirit comes it is the Spirit of Truth and Love

And at Pentecost, when the Spirit came they saw “tongues of fire” – did the house burn down or anyone get injured?

“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” (2Thessalonians 2:10)

The beast is a system composed of people who are willing to use coercion, force, threat, intimidation i.e. composed of those settled into the selfish character – **THE BEAST VIOLATES THE LAW OF LIBERTY - GOD WILL NOT**

So if we want to say this is God's judgment, what kind of judgment is it? It is the judgment of reality,



diagnosing accurately what actually is the condition of each heart. God's judgment doesn't determine the outcome, it confirms the condition and the condition of each heart determines the outcome.

SUNDAY

Read Hebrews 12:22-24:

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:22–24 NIV84).

What does this text mean?

Read first paragraph, "Hebrews affirms..." Are Mount Zion and the heavenly Jerusalem the same?

What do you understand about the New Jerusalem? Do we have any other insights regarding it?

Let's turn to Revelation 21:1-2:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the **Holy City, the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband** (Revelation 21:1–2 NIV84). [Is this a different city than we just read about in Hebrews, or is the Holy City, the New Jerusalem the same as Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem? And what does it mean "prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband?" Dressed in what? Would it be righteousness, the white robes of Jesus? What would it mean about the city then, what is it, what is it built out of? Let's keep reading, but keep in mind what we studied in lesson 10 about Jesus going to heaven to prepare a place for us. Remember what we understand the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary to be, and who the bride of Christ is.]

Skip to verse 9-14:

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you **the bride, the wife of the Lamb**." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and **showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God. [What is this? What is being said? Who is the bride of Christ? Is Christ married to inanimate material, or to living beings? Then what is being described? What would the New Jerusalem have to be constructed out of if the New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ? Do we remember other Bible texts that say that we are "living stones being built together into a house for the Lord"—a dwelling place. Is Christ in heaven preparing us a dwelling place—is this related to the New Jerusalem, the city where our names are, what are



our names? Our individualities, characters, so what is this describing?] **It shone with the glory of God**, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. [What is the glory of God, is it primarily photons, or His character of love? And what are we called to do in the first angel's message? To give glory to God! The New Jerusalem shines with the glory of God and is the bride of the Lamb, is this describing us, a people who have been prepared by Jesus, cleansed from all sin, honed and fitted for God's house, built together to be a living city of God? Or is it describing inanimate material with LED lighting—Living Eternal Divine lighting?] It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. [What does this symbolism suggest? How did the people of Israel camp around the sanctuary? Three tribes on each side and we have three gates on each side of the city. What do gates represent? Entrances into the city of God. And who are the heirs of Abraham according to the promise? Those who are in Christ and are symbolically represented as the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, which are the twelve tribes. In the Bible symbolism the Levites camped between the sanctuary and the other 12 tribes, and they represented the people of God who minister to the rest of the world (12 tribes) to bring them into the sanctuary of God, to at-one-ment with God. So the symbolism is saying that the New Jerusalem is built out of people from all walks of life, all four corners of the earth, who are like Abraham having the faith that Abraham had, who are like Isaac, miraculously reborn even though they were dead in sin (like Isaac being miraculously born from a dead womb), and like Jacob they wrestle together with God to overcome their own fear and selfishness.] The wall of the city had **twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles** of the Lamb (Revelation 21:12-14 NIV84). [What is the building material of this city? The twelve tribes, the twelve apostles, and who is the chief cornerstone? Jesus—what is this city?]

To whom is Christ married, who is the bride?

For your Maker is your husband—
the LORD Almighty is his name—
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth. (Isaiah 54:5 NIV84).

Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her to make her holy, **cleansing her** by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but **I am talking about Christ and the church.** (Ephesians 5:25–32 NIV84).



Who is the bride of Christ? Then what does it mean it is the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven?

What is the shape of the New Jerusalem:

Now the city is laid out as a square, its length and width the same. He measured the city with the measuring rod at fourteen hundred miles (its length and width and height are equal) (Revelation 21:16 NET).

It is in the shape of a cube.

And the city is made out of pure gold (vs. 18)—what else in Scripture is covered in gold and is in the shape of a cube and is the dwelling place of God?

The Most Holy Place in the Sanctuary/Temple:

Similarities between the MHP and the New Jerusalem:

Most Holy Place

Cube
Covered in Gold-Perfect
Where God dwells
High Priest cleanses MHP
The covenant box (at-one)

New Jerusalem

Cube
Made of Gold
Where God dwells
HP cleanses the hearts of the saved
The universe restored to at-one

So, prior to the coming of Christ, He receives His kingdom, which is primarily a concern for objects or people? And when a wedding occurs, what happens between the bride and groom? Does intimacy occur? Does union occur? Do the two become united in heart, devotion, loyalty, commitment, do they become one? In other words, at a wedding at-one-ment happens!!!!

Do we recognize that the marriage of the Lamb, the receiving of His kingdom (which is why type of kingdom? The kingdom of love, so it requires loving relationships in this kingdom, which is within our hearts and minds), is the same as the investigative judgment, the day of atonement?

Do we realize that the receiving of His kingdom, the wedding is Christ bringing into perfect at-one-ment all those who have put their trust in Him. In other words, the washing, the cleansing of their datasets, their individualities, their characters as they are united to Christ like a bride to her groom, so that at the resurrection they are perfect?

Consider Revelation 3:12, describing the saved:

I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. Revelation 3:12.



What is being described here? The cleansing of character to restore the saved to God's original design for humanity, receiving the perfection of Christ as their own—being united or at-one with Christ, i.e. being married to Him.

I found this EGW quote in connection with Revelation 3:12 and found it instructive:

Never will the human family—redeemed by the example of the Sent of God, the only begotten of the Father—understand and fully comprehend the terrible conflict waged with deceptive, alluring power and concealed, deadly hatred by Satan against our Lord when He lived upon earth. After the battle of the great day of God shall take place, when the power of rebellion is forever broken [I am breaking in the middle of a sentence to ask you what are you hearing? What law lens? What kind of battle of the great day of God? What are the weapons of God, what kind of warfare? Are you thinking might and power? Or do you remember Scripture, “not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord” Zech 4:6? Do you remember EGW in many places saying that “*God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.*” DA 759? So when you hear about the battle of the great day do you immediately recognize it isn't force and might to inflict destruction?] and Christ's mediatorial work in its magnitude is represented so plainly that all of the redeemed of God's family shall, with clear comprehension, **understand the mission of His Son as the mediatorial remedy to make of the fallen race a repentant, humble, meek, reclaimed order of beings—then there will be seen developed the difference between the person that serveth God and the one that serveth Him not.** {Christ Triumphant 227}

Rebellion will exist in our world until in heaven are spoken the words “It is done.” **Rebellion in the church is caused by its members feeling opposed to God and to His terms of salvation.** Human beings want abundant room to express themselves and to attract attention. They do not know or understand that they are working out the plans of Satan. **If they refuse to see and to become enlightened, if they refuse to be instructed, they reject the mediatorial remedy that has been given to save the sinner—not in sin but from sin.** [Wow—saved from sin, not saved in sin. We are not declared righteous while we remain unrighteous as the penal legal theologies claim. No, we become righteous as the Bible teaches 2Cor 5:21. And in the Romans 6:16 obedience comes from the Greek *ὕπακοή* [*hupakoe*]—first half hypo as hypoglycemia meaning low, and akoe from which we get acoustic, and means to listen. So biblical obedience means a humble willingness to listen and be instructed, to have the errors, falsehoods, lies removed and to grow in the truth. But the wicked are lost because they did not love the truth and be saved. This author is saying the same thing, they refuse to be instructed, they won't listen to truth. They have their theologies, their rules, their systems and they must be adhered to. But we are to Come and Reason together... Those who refuse to reason, to examine evidence, to pursue the truth have closed their minds to the truth that Jesus has



brought. It is only through the truth we are won to genuine trust in God and then transformed by the Spirit of Truth and Love. Notice the purpose of Christ was not legal, but remedial, healing, to fix the damage sin has done to His creation.] **For the express purpose of saving sinners was the remedial work of Christ planned.** {Christ Triumphant 227}

Here is another EGW quote:

Jesus sent His angels to direct the minds of the disappointed ones to the most holy place, where **He had gone to cleanse the sanctuary** and make a special atonement for Israel. Jesus told the angels that all who found Him would understand the work which He was to perform. I saw that **while Jesus was in the most holy place He would be married to the New Jerusalem**; and after His work should be accomplished in the holiest, He would descend to the earth in kingly power and take to Himself the precious ones who had patiently waited His return. {EW 251.1}

Do you see the reality through the metaphorical language? Jesus is uniting Himself in heart, mind, character with all the saints through history who have trusted in Him, He is cleansing their names which are their individualities/data sets that are stored in heaven, in the Lamb's book of life. This unity is oneness in the most intimate way and is described as a marriage.

Again, do you see the reality through the metaphor is actual healing of the character, mind, motives to be at-one with Christ.

Those who have died trusting in Him, have their individualities stored in the heavenly records, the Lamb's book of Life, and during the IJ, the Wedding, Jesus unites Himself with them by opening their datasets, their unique stored personhoods and removes all residual defects and writes in His perfection. Thus, they are "washed in the blood" metaphor for the life of Christ, His character restored in them, or covered by the robe of righteousness.

We who are alive on earth receive the same transformation of character through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and our humble and purposeful trust in Him.

But if all of this is true, how do we understand these comments in *The Great Controversy* page 426?

In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed—one class who looked with joy to the Lord's appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. [Note the time of this wedding, the coming Bridegroom, 1844, which is the Investigative Judgment. Recognize the wedding and the investigative judgment are the same. Throughout your life, have you had the same reaction, feeling, experience when you have thought of the wedding of the Lamb of God to His Bride and the Investigative Judgment? Why not for they are the same event? In the parable of the 10 virgins it distinguishes the two classes, what are they? One class is looking with joy while the other class is looking with fear, one class is diligently studying while the



other class is satisfied with theories of truth, but destitute of grace. What is the difference between them? One class actually has intimacy with God, they know Him, they love Him and trust Him and the thought of His return fills them with joy. The other class, they have the theory of salvation, the doctrine of the second coming, but don't actually know and love Jesus, they are not at-one, are not intimate with Him and thus the thought of His return fills them with fear, because their hearts have not been brought into at-one-ment with Christ. They rely on the legal theory of payments, rather than the unity of heart and mind. And when the crisis in the world increase they will focus on the fear. While those who have this unity with Christ will focus on being in His arms and will not be distracted from their love by the chaos in the world. They will say, "even so come Lord Jesus!"] In the parable, when the bridegroom came, "they that were ready went in with him to the marriage." **The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom.** The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called "the bride, the Lamb's wife." Said the angel to John: "Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." "He carried me away in the spirit," says the prophet, "and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:9, 10. Clearly, then, **the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19:9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride.** [What does this mean? Are we the guests or the bride, or does the Bible describe the saved as both depending upon which parable, prophecy, or symbol is being used, so it is not either or it is both? In this particular parable the guests are not the bride, but does that mean the saints are not the bride of Christ? No, of course we are. Then what is being described here? What is the point?] Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;" He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Daniel 7:14; Revelation 21:2. Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are to "sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob," at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. GC 426.2 [There is the marriage and then there is the marriage supper, the celebration. What constitutes the "marriage"? Isn't it two hearts being united as one? And when do the saved become united or at-one or atonement with Jesus before the second coming or at the second coming? Before, it is the work going on now in heaven as Jesus directs all the agencies of heaven to not only win us to trust, conversion, but to heal and seal us settling us both intellectually and spiritually so that we cannot be moved. In other words, reproducing the character of Christ, washing the bride to prepare her for the physical presence when He comes, to restore perfect love for God and others in us and purging fear and selfishness from our characters.]

The proclamation, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the **Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom.** "They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut." They were **not to be present in person at the marriage; for it takes**



place in heaven, while they are upon the earth. [Meaning—we were no present physically, we are present by faith being restored, reconciled, joined to Christ, united with Him, made at-one with Him and the Father, thus being joined with our Heavenly Bridegroom.] The followers of Christ are to “wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding.” Luke 12:36. But they are to **understand His work, and to follow Him by faith** as He goes in before God. **It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage.** GC 427.1

What do you hear? How do you put it together? Do you see all of this connected to the Investigative Judgment? Do you see the connections between coming to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem and the cleansing of the sanctuary, having our names written in heaven and our characters cleansed from sin? Do you see it is all teaching the same thing?

Consider these quotes from the same author:

We are God’s great building. Every stroke, every stone put into the building is only a part of the whole. Every worker is himself to become just what God designs he should be in building his own life with pure, noble, upright deeds, **that at the end he may be a symmetrical structure, a fair temple, honored by God** and man. **God must be in this work.** "Ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building." **Through you He has worked, and will work to do honor to His name by trusting to you these great responsibilities.** [What is God’s name? Character, and God reproduces in us His character and we carry forth the work of God which glorifies Him by living out His methods of truth, love, freedom!] "We are laborers together with God," and God would use you and me and each individual who engages in His service. Each is to stand upon his watchtower and listen attentively to that which the Spirit has to say to him, for every word and act leaves an impress not only on our characters, but upon the characters of others engaged in the work. The Lord would have you stand forth as Daniel, every phase of your character under His own ministration, that day by day you may **grow into a structure** that will stand forth, **not as a perfect whole in itself**, but connected with the work of other chosen workmen, **as a beautiful temple for the Lord**, a living witness to the value, stability, and nobility of the man who keeps his eye single to the glory of God.

Your faculties are separate and distinct, yet each is dependent for its success upon the other. **So each day God works with His building, stroke upon stroke, to perfect the structure, which thus grows into a holy temple for the Lord.** One stone mislaid affects the whole building. **This figure represents human character, which is to be wrought upon, point by point. There is not to be a flaw in it, for it is the Lord’s building.** Every stone must be perfectly laid, that it may endure the pressure placed upon it. God warns you and every worker to take heed how you build, **so that your building may bear the test of storm and tempest because it is riveted to the eternal Rock.** Take heed how you build. Every hour may be spent in placing the stone on the sure foundation, ready for the day of test and revelation, when we shall be seen just as we are. This warning God presents to me as essential in your case. He loves you with a love that is immeasurable. He loves your brethren in the faith, and He works with them to the same end that He works with you. **His church upon the earth is to assume divine proportions before the world, as a temple composed of living stones, every stone emitting**



light. This building is to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid. It is composed of stones laid close together, stone fitting to stone, making a solid building. All the stones are not of the same form or shape. Some are large, some are small, but each has its own crevice to fill. And the value of each stone is determined by the light it reflects to the world. This is God's plan, and He would have all who profess to believe His word fill their respective places in the great, grand work for this time.

We are, dear and much-beloved brother, living amid the perils of the last days. Every mental and physical power is to be cultivated, **for all the powers are essential to make the church a building which will represent the wisdom and character of the great Designer.** We are to cultivate the talents given us by God. They are His gifts, and are to be used in their right relation to each other, so as to make a perfect whole. **God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; man makes the character.** [What does this mean? Don't we receive the free gift of the character of Christ? It is both. God gives us truth, love, talents, intelligence, ability, power to think and act, and we must choose to use those powers and abilities. When we do, when we choose to trust Jesus, choose to surrender to Him, we receive new desires, new motives, new insights, new wisdom, and then we must choose to accept those desires, truths, and act on them, when we choose to act, God gives us the power to succeed. We don't succeed or transform ourselves with our own abilities, our own wisdom, our own discoveries, our own strength, it is by choosing to trust God and apply everything that He gives, but the choice to apply it is ours and thus we develop our own character by receiving and living out the character of Christ!] The mind is the Lord's garden, and man must cultivate it earnestly in order to form a character after the divine similitude. The Lord has wrought with you, my much-respected brother, enabling you to act your part as His workman; but there are other workmen who must act their part as God's agents, His members, who help to compose the whole body. Bear in mind, all are to be united as parts of a great machine. **The Lord's church is composed of His living, working agencies who derive their power to act from the Author and Finisher of their faith. The great work resting upon God's individual workers is to be carried forward in symmetrical harmony.** *Manuscript Releases, Volume 2 [Nos. 97-161, 1958-1964].*

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted**



for the building. We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

So how do you understand it all? How do you put it all together?

Here is my paraphrase of Hebrews 12:22-24:

But you have come into the reality (of which the symbols only pointed to), to Mount Zion, the New Jerusalem — the heavenly city of the living God — and you are part of that city. You have come to join millions upon millions of angels rejoicing in God's presence, into the heavenly sanctuary — the true church of Christ — whose identities are stored in heaven. You have come to God — the source and standard of righteousness for all people; to the archived individualities of righteous human beings perfectly restored into Christlikeness of character; to Jesus — the conduit and administrator of God's healing plan; and to the reality of God's true nature and character, which was much more potently revealed and disseminated when Christ died than in the symbols offered by Abel.

MONDAY

What do you understand it means to come to God the judge?

What law lens do we understand this through? If imposed human law, then we see this as judicial, we accept pagan ideas and teach a Christianized version of paganism in which the deity must be appeased, paid, propitiated, or bought with some sacrifice or offering made to the god in order to enable the god not to kill us or receive some blessing from the god. The Christian version is that God sent the sacrifice instead of us providing it, but still teaches the sacrifice was to pay God—it is still pagan. God becomes the judge overseeing legal accounts to determine who has had every act of sin paid for or not and then make a ruling of pardoned or guilty etc.

All of this is not how reality works because this false view is based on Satan's lie about God's law.

Understanding that God is Creator and His law is design law then we understand judgment as being diagnosis of what is and judging what is necessary to heal and fix what is wrong.

So, Christ in heaven is examining the souls, records, names, individualities of all who have claimed Him as their Savior to determine what is needed to be done in them to remove all sinfulness, all fear, all selfishness, all guilt, all shame and write God's law within them, cleansing them and preparing them to meet God face to face.



TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “In the Old Testament...” What do you understand the lesson is for us? Is it a judicial judgment, or related to all we have talked about?

What is happening in the Great Controversy right now? A shaking, people are being shaken either in or out of loyalty to God.

God is permitting the events to occur on earth right now in order to wake people up and put people into positions where they either truth Him and internalize His methods into their hearts in how they treat others, or they embrace fear and selfishness, identify with the systems of this world and embrace the laws of this world, me-first, power, control, force, punishment, legal maneuverings etc. to make themselves feel more secure.

In this time God’s spokespersons are to give a message, to be in awe of God, the Creator and Builder of reality whose laws are design laws because the time in history has come for people to make a right judgment about God and for people to stop worshipping the dictator god promoted by Rome and all the other false religions in the world, the god who makes up rules and punishes rule breakers just like all tyrants do, and return to worship the Creator and Builder of all reality whose laws are the protocols for life, truth, love and liberty.

Every person on earth will choose, what law and what God they worship by choosing what methods they employ in how they govern themselves in the treatment of others.

WEDNESDAY

What is the unshakeable kingdom? What makes it unshakeable?

Can you think of any people who were part of this kingdom, who couldn’t be shaken from loyalty to it and living out the living law of it?

What do you think of this from 5T page 80?

In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. [Why can’t God use them? Because they are independent of Him, they rely on their own strength, abilities, and not God.] The Lord has faithful servants, who in the **shaking, testing time** will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But, it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure **brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed.** In the daytime we look toward heaven, but do not see stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster. [What a great analogy. It is when the times get tough that people’s true characters are able to



be revealed.]

The time is not far distant, when the test will come to every soul....[What test? Is it a 28 fundamental beliefs quiz? Is it a test of method of baptism, or ceremony? It is a test of character, what character do we live in how we treat others, love for God and others, or love for self. Do we use the methods of God or the methods of this world?] In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy, will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.— Testimonies for the Church 5:80, 81

FRIDAY

speaks about judgment, read the lesson and then read about the four judgments in [The Final Message of Mercy to the World: The Three Angels](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Materials in Australia:

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

- 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

To Order, email Simon at australia@comeandreason.com

Materials in South Africa:

Jacques van den Heever has materials available in South Africa you can order by emailing him at southerAfrica@comeandreason.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/>