



## 2022 2Q Genesis—Lesson 2 The Fall

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read Memory Text:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15 NKJV).

This is perhaps the most important text in all of Scripture. This text, this promise, sets the stage for the entire Old Testament. The events recorded in Scripture are not a history of the world; we don't have anything in Scripture on the Mayan, Hawaiian, or Aboriginal peoples because Scripture focuses on the plan of salvation, it focuses on the fulfillment of God's promise to send Jesus our Savior. This is the key to understanding what is transpiring throughout the Old Testament. And all events historic or prophetic that extend after Jesus' ascension focus upon the people who take the gospel forward, this is why the Bible doesn't focus upon the genetic descendants of Abraham after Christ's ascension but upon those who have the gospel.

Read first paragraph, “Amid all that God had...” What does it mean when the lesson states “though they were to know good, they were not to know evil”?

Didn't God tell them about evil? Didn't angels warn them about evil? Didn't God say that “in the day you eat you will surely die”? Isn't death a part of what is evil and not a part of what is good?

The Scriptures teach that God's angels minister to us and some Christians understand, based on this, that prior to the fall God had His loyal and holy angels visit Adam and Eve in Eden and share with them warnings about Satan's rebellion. We read one such perspective in *The Spirit of Prophecy Volume 1* p. 32:

God assembled the angelic host to take measures to **avert the threatened evil**. It was decided in Heaven's council **for angels to visit Eden and warn Adam that he was in danger from the foe**. Two angels sped on their way to visit our first parents. The holy pair received them with joyful innocence, expressing their grateful thanks to their Creator for thus surrounding them with such a profusion of his bounty. Everything lovely and attractive was theirs to enjoy, and everything seemed wisely adapted to their wants; and that which they prized above all other blessings, was the society of the Son of God and the heavenly angels, for they had much to relate to them at every visit, of their new discoveries of the beauties of nature in their lovely Eden home, and they had many questions to ask relative to many things which they could but



indistinctly comprehend. 1SP 32.3

The angels graciously and lovingly gave them the information they desired. **They also gave them the sad history of Satan's rebellion and fall.** They then distinctly informed them that the tree of knowledge was placed in the garden to be a pledge of their obedience and love to God; that the high and happy estate of the holy angels was to be retained upon condition of obedience; that they were similarly situated; **that they could obey the law of God and be inexpressibly happy, or disobey, and lose their high estate, and be plunged into hopeless despair.** 1SP 33.1

**They told Adam and Eve that God would not compel them to obey—that he had not removed from them power to go contrary to his will; that they were moral agents, free to obey or disobey.** There was but one prohibition that God had seen fit to lay upon them as yet. **If they should transgress the will of God, they would surely die.** They told Adam and Eve that the most exalted angel, next in order to Christ, refused obedience to the law of God which he had ordained to govern heavenly beings; that this rebellion had caused war in Heaven which resulted in the rebellious being expelled therefrom, and every angel was driven out of Heaven who united with him in questioning the authority of the great Jehovah; and that this fallen foe was now an enemy to all that concerned the interest of God and his dear Son. 1SP 33.2

So, if they were not to know evil why did God and the angels educate them about rebellion and evil?

Because the issue of “knowing” in the Bible isn’t about cognitive awareness, comprehension, or factual understanding, Biblical knowing is when something becomes part of your experience. It is knowing intimately, through experience, not through mere information. It is not knowing about something or someone but actually knowing it or them.

For instance:

- there is a difference between knowing about swimming and knowing how to swim.
- there is a difference between knowing the fact that chocolate and vanilla ice cream taste different and knowing what they taste like
- there is a difference between knowing about President Biden and knowing President Biden
- there is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil wasn’t a place of theoretical knowledge, cognitive knowledge, or academic knowledge. God and the angels had already informed Adam and Eve about Satan, about evil, and about death being the result of sin. The two had been instructed.

Adam and Eve had information, factual knowledge. But having mere facts is not what the tree was about – it was about experience, knowing by experience either good or evil. Choose to trust and believe God and know good – or choose to believe lies, distrust God, and know evil.

God told them, “It is at this tree you will have knowledge, so choose well; choose to trust me and not to partake of the fruit and you will know good – you will know love, trust, loyalty, devotion, maturity,



integrity, joy, peace, and godliness. All of this will solidify in your character. So please, my beautiful children, choose to know good! But if you choose to believe lies, distrust me and partake in the fruit, you will know evil – you will know fear, selfishness, insecurity, guilt, shame, distrust, pain, suffering, and death. Please, my beautiful children, don't choose to know evil.”

God already knew evil – not in His character, but in His heart, as His heavenly home had been fractured. He was already suffering the heartache of betrayal, disaffection, rebellion, being lied about, and the loss of many of His beloved angels.

God did not want humankind to know this kind of pain, suffering, or heartache. He wanted humankind to know only good, but this required them to choose to trust God – **to choose the good** in order for them to know it.

So God warned them and placed this tree there for their development as free beings, with His goal for them to choose to know good and solidify themselves in loyalty and love to Him and develop their own mature godlike character. Unfortunately, they chose to know evil and humanity was plunged into pain, suffering and death, and Jesus stepped in to take this terrible terminal condition upon Himself and overcome it and restore the species back to God's perfection, eradicating the death causing principles and writing God's law of love, the life causing protocols back into humanity, thus becoming our Savior.

So what was the purpose of placing this tree in the garden? It was for their development and maturity of character. Consider this historic quote:

God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but **in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automation.** Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. **There could have been no development of character.** . . . It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. {Conflict and Courage13.3}

The third paragraph says, “And, too, the threat of death attached to the warning about disobedience would be fulfilled: they would die.”

What type of a threat is this? What law lens do you understand it through? Did God say, “in the day you eat I will be required by holiness, justice, and the immutability of my law to kill you”? Many Christians teach it this way. Or was God saying, “in the day you eat you will step out of harmony with the protocols that I have built life to operate upon and you will surely decay and die”? It would be like saying “in the day you jump off the Empire State Building you will surely die.”

Does it make a difference which way we understand God's warning?

If God is the source of threatened suffering and death would that impact our ability to trust Him? Would we need someone in between to protect us from Him? And this is the basis of essentially all



paganism, including Christian paganism with its false theories of God needing to be paid the blood of His Son to propitiate His wrath.

And all of this is rooted in accepting the lie that God's law functions like human law, imposed rules requiring infliction of punishment for rule-breaking.

All of this is resolved as soon as we return to worshipping the Creator whose laws are design laws.

## SUNDAY

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The lesson is about the serpent—who is the one speaking through the serpent?

The lesson points to a couple of other Bible texts to help us:

“In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword, his fierce, great and powerful sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea” (Is 27:1 NIV84). [Is this text teaching that God will use physical violence to slay His enemies? The imagery of a sword, a powerful and great and fierce sword sounds fear inducing—what do you think? Revelation tells us the sword comes out of the mouth of Jesus, the rider on the white horse. What comes out of the mouth? Truth and the Scripture tells us that God's word is a double edged sword—Satan the father of lies and all his followers will be slain by the unveiled truth at the end of time. This isn't physical might, but reality itself coming to bear.]

“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him” (Revelation 12:7-9 NIV84).

So, the serpent in Genesis who tempts Adam and Eve is not some mere dumb animal, it is Satan.

## MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “Satan's attack concerns...” Did Satan say they were immortal? Or did he say they would not surely die?

“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Ge 3:4–5 NIV84).

And if they were immortal, why was there a Tree of Life in the garden? So, it is unlikely that he was saying you are immortal, you cannot die in any way. He was saying that you won't die from eating the fruit.



Now, this lie of Satan's "you will not surely die" has certainly led to the false belief that human beings were created with inherent immortality, the idea that when God created Adam and Eve He created them in such a way that they can never die no matter what. And most of the world has accepted this falsehood, including much of the Christian world.

But the Bible doesn't record Satan saying those words. So, I agree that this original lie is the root of the secondary lie that humans have innate immortality, I don't think that was Satan's primary point for Eve.

I believe what Satan was saying to Eve was that you will not die *from eating the fruit*. The attack upon Adam and Eve was to get them to distrust God, thus the attack had to undermine their confidence and trust in God, to get them to believe lies about God. Satan is suggesting that disobeying God is not harmful, doesn't inherently hurt, doesn't cause injury, will not result in death.

Satan didn't say, you *cannot* die, but you *will not die from eating the fruit*, which introduces a subtle lie to blossom in their heads after they eat: If eating the fruit didn't kill them—and it didn't, and if God told the truth that if they ate of the fruit they would die, then what does that mean? "Oh no, it means that God will kill them, execute them, terminate them, use His power to punish them with death." And they ran because they were afraid of God who was trying to save them. And almost all human being since have been running from God believing that God is required to kill them for disobedience and sin because of this lie that sin itself doesn't result in death is still accepted and taught by the entire Christian world, including our own church today.

From where does death actually come—from God or from sin?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"  
(Romans 6:23 NIV84).

"sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:15 NKJV).

"The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction"  
(Galatians 6:8 NIV84).

What was the cause of the sin condition—eating the fruit, or believing the lies about God that resulted in distrust of God and the act of eating the fruit?

- Lies believed break the circle of love and trust
- broken love and trust result in fear and selfishness
- fear and selfishness result in acts of sin (disobedience to God's law of love)
- Acting out sin damages and destroys mind, body, relationships a terminal condition



Consider this historic quote:

**Eve believed the words of Satan, and the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors, and it was only by repentance toward God and faith in the promised Messiah that they could hope ever to regain the lost image of God.** RH January 5, 1886, par. 8

## TUESDAY

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As soon as Adam and Eve sinned they ran and hid—why? Because they were afraid—why? From where did the fear come?

And was it only fear, or was their guilt and shame? And from where did the guilt and shame come?

When God approached them in the garden and Adam said he ran and hid because he was afraid because he was naked, what did God say? “Who told you that you are naked?”

What does God’s statement reveal? Who was the source of Adam’s condemnation? Was God condemning Adam? Who was?

What does this reveal to us about sin? Was sin a harmless trivial crossing of an arbitrary rule—like a tennis ball just outside the line, someone needs to get an instant replay camera zoom to investigate whether the ball touched the line or missed it? Or, does sin actually cause harm to the sinner?

This is the dividing line between truth and lies, God’s kingdom and Satan’s. God is the Creator. He built reality. His laws are the laws reality is built upon. Satan is a created being. He cannot build reality thus Satan makes up rules that requires infliction of punishment and then he lies about God and God’s law claiming God’s laws are rules that require punishment.

**In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed,** that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. DA 761.4

**The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing** controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering,—a



**battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition. (GC 582.2)**

This is the core lie from the beginning, a question over God’s law and sadly almost the entire world accepts it, except for the very elect, those who have returned to worship the Creator God who made the heaven, earth, sea and fountains of water.

Read the third paragraph, “In fact, the whole scenario...” Do you see how sad this is? It just breaks my heart to read this perversion, these threads of Satan’s lies so deeply imbedded into the thinking of good people.

We don’t read anything about a judicial process going on in Eden—this paragraph’s description of a legal investigation, judicial judgment, and sentencing are all fantasies projected in from the mindset of the author who views Scripture through the false assumption that God’s law functions like human law.

But when we embrace God’s design law and reject Satan’s view of law, we see a loving Father/Creator/Savior who accurately diagnoses what is wrong and understands that His beloved child now has a terminal condition that needs healing, but this sin-condition can only be healed with the cooperation of the person. So our loving Savior gently approaches the sin-sick Adam and Eve and confronts them on the change in their being in order to bring them to conviction of their situation so that they will repent and cooperate with God for healing and salvation. Then God informs them of the consequences of what their choice has done to them, their relationships and their world along with the plan of salvation to heal them and restore them to harmony with God’s design for eternal life, i.e. save them.

Can God save any sinner without the willing cooperation of the sinner? Why not?

## **WEDNESDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “God begins judgment...” If we use the language of “judgment” what kind of judgment is this?

Does our understanding of law impact our understanding of judgment?

If we believe God’s law functions like human law, then when we hear “judgment” what comes to mind? Judicial proceedings, legal rulings, imposing of just punishments—all Satan’s system. Ultimately, such view of law undermines trust in God and incites fear leading to all kinds of theological constructs designed to hide and protect us from God. Quite the opposite of what we actually need in order to be saved. It would be like a patient dying of cancer hiding from their oncologist so the oncologist won’t diagnose them as terminal—despite the oncologist having a remedy that will put the cancer into remission.



But if we worship the Creator whose laws are design laws, then what are God's judgments, how do we hear this word?

There are four judgments in God's system:

### **The First Judgment: Our Judgment of God**

- At the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil Adam and Eve had to make a judgment—who would they trust—God or the serpent?
- We see this first judgment at Mount Carmel, when Elijah confronts the 450 priests of Baal and challenges the people, “If the LORD is God, worship him; but if Baal is God, worship him!” (1 Kings 18:21 GNT).
- Paul picks up this theme and states it explicitly in Roman 2:4: “Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: ‘That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when **You are judged.**’” Romans 3:4 NKJV

This judgment of God is not a judicial judgment, it is not a courtroom, it is the judgment of reality, the choice every sentient being throughout the entire universe must make in the aftermath of Satan's rebellion.

“I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because **the hour of his judgment** has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.’” Revelation 14:6, 7

The first judgment is our judgment of God.

### **The Second Judgment: God's diagnosis and therapeutic interventions to heal and save**

- God's “judgments” in the OT were therapeutic to diagnose, convict, lead to repentance and also to intervene to keep open the avenue to bring the Messiah, to fulfill the Genesis 3:15 promise—the flood, Sodom etc. fall into this category
- And the Investigative Judgment is the therapeutic intervention in hearts and minds to diagnose, and then apply the righteousness of Christ in order to heal and seal the saints for the second coming. David understood this and prayed:

Examine me, O God, and know my mind;  
test me, and discover my thoughts.  
Find out if there is any evil in me  
and guide me in the everlasting way (Psalms 139:23–24 GNT).

Malachi describes this judgment:





‘Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will **come to his temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,’ says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **he will purify the Levites** and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. ‘**So I will come near to you for judgment.**’ (Malachi 3:1–5 NIV84).

This is the Judgment of the Great Heavenly Physician, our Creator, examining us and diagnosing what is wrong and judging what is the best therapeutic intervention to bring to bear to heal and restore us. This is the judgment of our High Priest going on in heaven as He examines the people and prepares them for His return, finishes healing them so that when He does come we will be like Him. For “we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1John 3:2 NIV84). This healing, this transformation, this final work of preparation is what Malachi describes above, the cleansing of our temples, purifying the Levites, and is metaphorically taught in the Day of Atonement rituals. You can read more about this in our [Heavenly Sanctuary and Investigative Judgment for the Modern World](#) pamphlet.

### **Third Judgment: Our judgment of reality during the 1000 years, why some are saved and why others are not and God’s actions throughout**

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to **judge**. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6 NIV84).

This is also not a judicial process, but a settling of all the questions. It is the assessment, discerning, and settling of the minds of how God’s laws govern all reality. It is the comprehension of what sin does and how salvation occurs, and why some are saved and others are not when God loves all equally, wants all to be saved and is all powerful.

### **Fourth Judgment**

The fourth and final judgment is the judgment that occurs at the end of the thousand years. It is often called the Great White Throne Judgment.

I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were **judged** according to what they had done as recorded in the books (Revelation 20:11, 12 NIV84).



Surely this must be judicial right? No, it isn't. What is recorded in the books of life? The names of people (Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:15, 21:27), and in Scripture names are symbolic of character. So, it is our actual characters, that we have developed through our judgment of God, and our judgment to trust Him, to open the heart to Him, to embrace His design laws and methods of truth, love and liberty or not. Our judgments of God result in whether we open the heart and are reborn, or harden our hearts in selfishness. Our characters develop along whichever line our judgment decides about God. Thus, we are judged or diagnosed based on what is the actual condition of our character. Another way to say it is, the books record the accurate record of who we are in heart—they are like medical records. The records don't determine the condition, there merely record the condition.

This is exactly what Jesus taught when He said:

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on **the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken. **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**" Matthew 12:33–37 NIV84

What is being described? Character—the actual condition of each heart, a diagnosis of what actually is. God is the God of reality. The builder of all Creation. His laws are the protocols life operates upon. There is never a judicial law court like humans make—this is a lie from Satan. The fourth and final judgment is not judicial, it is the final confirmation of the accurate diagnosis of each heart and mind:

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still (Revelation 22:11 NKJV).

So, of the four judgments, which is happening in Eden after the fall? God's diagnosis of what the problem is, what sin has actually caused and the initial therapeutic interventions to begin advancing the plan of salvation. None of God's actions here are judicial or the infliction of punishment for sin.

Just think about it. Did God say, "In the day you eat of the tree you will surely have a more difficult time plowing the ground"? Or, "In the day you eat of the tree your marriage will be ruined"? Or "In the day you eat of the tree you will have painful childbirth"? No, He said the punishment for sin was death, and was that death a sleep in the grave awaiting resurrection or eternal death, the second death. And how sinners have died that death? None!

Understand this clearly, all who say God is inflicting punishment for sin fail to understand reality and are operating under a delusion that God's law functions like human law and they make God out to be the source of inflicted pain suffering and death. We must reject these lies.



Read second paragraph, “We reach here a kind of...” What do you think of the idea that “judgment leads to death, evil, and curses”?

If this is true—then from where does death, evil and curses come?

Unbelievably, it appears the lesson is teaching that God is the originator of death, evil and curses because they come from God’s judgment. And this is what always happens when you accept the lie about God’s law. Those who believe this way try and cover up their view, try to couch it in theological jargon, want to deny they believe God is the source of death, but they always teach it because to them justice requires the penalty be inflicted and in their worldview the law is made up rules that require made up punishments.

But this is NOT what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches the sin causes death, sin is the cause of evil and the curses and that Satan is the murderer from the beginning, the one who originated evil, rebellion and whose lies broke the circle of love and trust resulting in death, evil and curses. God’s diagnosis doesn’t cause it, sin causes it.

## **THURSDAY**

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The lesson talks about the curses upon the serpent, childbearing, husbands ruling over wives and the ground.

What do you understand about these?

Why pain in childbearing?

It is an object lesson—of what? That in a sinful world love still works to bring forth new life but it is a painful struggle until delivery. This is a metaphor of both the rebirth experience and our ultimate delivery from sin. The seeds of truth that take root in the heart work bring forth a new Christian life. But this is a painful labor or struggle against self until one is “reborn” and then there is joy. And then in this world there is a continual labor or struggle against the forces of evil until the second coming of Christ and ultimate delivery. All of this reality is taught in the object lesson of childbearing. And why would a woman, having gone through the pain of childbearing, willingly do it again—love! And thus love is the key to overcoming the pain and struggles of this sinful world.

What about the curse on the ground? Why? What does it mean? Does Paul’s description in Romans 8 about all nature groaning under the weight of sin have any bearing on what God says to Adam about the ground?



Consider this historic quote:

**Christ never planted the seeds of death in the system. Satan planted these seeds** when he tempted Adam to eat of the tree of knowledge which meant disobedience to God. **Not one noxious plant was placed in the Lord's great garden, but after Adam and Eve sinned, poisonous herbs sprang up.** In the parable of the sower the question was asked the master, “Didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?” The master answered, “An enemy hath done this” (Matthew 13:27, 28). **All tares are sown by the evil one.** Every noxious herb is of his sowing, and by his ingenious methods of amalgamation he has corrupted the earth with tares. 2SM 288.2

But didn't the lesson state that it is God's judgment that leads to death, evil, and curses? No it is not. It is sin leads to these things. The ground became harder to deal with because an enemy was working against God's creation, sowing in death and decay and God's judgment was the accurate diagnosis of what has happened because of sin.

Consider this quote:

When this earth was created by Christ, it was holy and beautiful. God pronounced it “very good.” Every flower, every shrub every tree, answered the purpose of its Creator. Everything upon which the eye rested was lovely, and filled the mind with thoughts of love for the Creator. Every sound was music, in perfect harmony with the voice of God.

But a change has come. **Sin has brought decay, deformity, and death. Today the whole world is tainted, corrupted, stricken with a mortal disease.** The earth groans under the continual transgression of the inhabitants thereof.

**Human beings have degenerated. One after another they fall under the curse, because sin has entered the world, and death by sin.** The truth is not made precious by practice. It does not sanctify the soul. It fades from the mind because the heart does not appreciate its value. In consequence the mind becomes more and more darkened by the atmosphere which is malarious because of the perpetuating of Adam's sin. The conscience has lost its sensitiveness. **Through a repetition of sin, the impression made on the conscience by sin has no longer force enough to arrest the transgressor, diseased, depraved, and dying.** [Is this describing a legal problem or a state of being, then what type of law is involved? Then what is the solution? Can this be fixed with legal adjustments to the record?] The voice no longer echoes the voice of God, or gives expression to the music of a soul sanctified through the truth. **The heart, in which God should be enthroned, is a place from which come forth all kinds of abominations.** [What is Satan's goal? To deface the image of God in man and place his own where God's should be, including that of a legalistic deity who makes up rules and punishes rule breakers. Just consider how those religious people crucified Jesus—whose character did they have?] How has the fine gold become dim?—Man has lost the reflection of God's character.

This calamity is well-nigh universal. **There is no place upon earth where the track of the**



**serpent is not seen and his venomous sting felt.** The whole earth is defiled. **The curse is increasing as transgression increases.** The earth is preparing for purification by fire.

BEcho May 21, 1900

What is the cause of the curse? Is the curse something that God inflicts or is it something that happens because of sin itself? If God restrained Himself and didn't use any power upon sinners would there be no curse only blessings?

Understand the perversity of Satan's lies. Satan's lies have caused the Christian world to teach that the curses of sin are from God, not from sin, that God is the cause of pain, suffering and death. It is a lie and it is wrong.

Every action of God is for our good. God disciplines those He loves and God speaks in judgments, but those judgments are therapeutic interventions to bring people to repentance in order to save and heal, not to curse or cause pain suffering and death.

Consider this quote:

"How great is the long - suffering of God toward the wicked! The idolatrous Philistines and backsliding Israel had alike enjoyed the gifts of His providence. Ten thousand unnoticed mercies were silently falling in the pathway of ungrateful, rebellious men. **Every blessing spoke to them of the Giver, but they were indifferent to His love.** The forbearance of God was very great toward the children of men; **but when they stubbornly persisted in their impenitence, He removed from them His protecting hand. They refused to listen to the voice of God in His created works, and in the warnings, counsels, and reproofs of His word, and thus He was forced to speak to them through judgments.**" - PP 587.4

## FRIDAY

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Read the EGW quote, Wives are to submit to Christlike treatment or leadership from their husbands. Wives are not to submit to abuse.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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**May 6-7, 2022:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church 1382 Arthur Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

- Friday evening: Healing the Mind
- Sabbath SS time: The God Shaped Brain
- Sabbath Church: Growing up in Christ—the 7 levels of moral decision making
- Sabbath afternoon: The Developing Brain followed by Q&A