



2022 2Q Genesis—Lesson 4 The Flood

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “Then the Lord saw...” When you hear words like the Lord “saw” what does that mean? Do we understand that this is merely the limitation of human language to communicate to us that God is aware, is processing, focusing upon, but is not to suggest that God just discovered something? God is not surprised, did not find out something He didn’t already know.

What of the idea that God regretted? What does regret mean? Feel sorrow, remorse, disappointment—does it suggest a failure to anticipate, to not be aware of what was coming?

I personally like grieve better than regret, we can grieve many things that we have no causal responsibility for, but regret to me suggests a little responsibility, though it doesn’t have to, it leans that direction.

The NIV renders it better: “The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain” (Genesis 6:6 NIV84).

The question is why did the Lord grieve? Was it because He was taken unaware? What was the Lord grieved about?

- The pain and suffering His children were experiencing from sin
- The suffering abuse and exploitation of the animals on the earth by the wicked
- The action that the situation required He would have to take if He was going to save humanity from eternal destruction

Read the two last paragraphs, “And yet, God’s regret....” What do you make of this idea of God speaking with a “double voice”? Is God two-faced? Is God schizophrenic?

When Jesus returns in glory does He smile at the righteous and scowl at the wicked?

When Jesus comes again is the difference to be found in the heart, mind, character, attitude of God, or in the hearts, minds, attitudes and characters of the people?

Understand the complete corruption in Christianity that almost the entire Christian community has taught the idea that the problem with sin is God’s wrath, God’s split personality that He loves us but is also filled with wrath and if something isn’t done to God then God will lose self-control and rage out against us and torture and kill us OR God will be required by justice and law to use His power to lash



out against us and torture and kill us. It is so corrosive and evil and this lie is so deeply imbedded in Christian thought that many good-hearted people cannot even have a reasoned examination of the evidence behind these false ideas. Instead, they are fearful and must silence voices that would challenge this long standing perverse orthodoxy.

Are there ideas that are commonly taught in Christianity that present God with a split personality, with a divided heart, with a double voice?

- God is not only loving but also just?
- God is forgiving but will also inflict just punishment?
- Jesus died for us to protect us from the wrath of God?
- Jesus who is God mediates His blood to the Father God to appropriate the wrath of the Father God

What is the core problem that leads to this confused and conflicted picture of God?

The assumption, the lie, the underlying belief that God's law works like human law.

How do we determine whether something is just or right? By the law—so the way we understand law determines directly the way we understand justice and thus the kind of God we understand God to be.

One of the purposes of the Cross was to demonstrate, reveal, provide evidence to show and prove that God is in fact just in how He handles the sin problem and that God does NOT kill or inflict death for sin. Romans 3:25-26, because God left the sins committed beforehand unpunished He was accused of being unfair, and thus Jesus demonstrated on the cross that God is not unfair, but God's way is right and just. And what was revealed about the cause of death at the cross? Did God lay a hand on Jesus? No, Jesus didn't die as an act of God killing His Son, but because God treated Him as if He was an unhealable sinner and let go of His Son. And that is what sin does. Sin separates people from God, who is the source of life, and the only outcome of this is ruin and death.

God is Creator and He builds reality—His laws are protocols reality operates upon. Created beings cannot build space, time, energy, matter, life, and thus we make up rules that require external enforcement through punishment.

Lucifer's rebellion in heaven began over this idea, it extended in Eden over this idea, and it will end over the same issue, which ties directly back into how we understand God, the problem of sin, and God's solution for it.

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote:

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. (The Great Controversy 582)



SUNDAY

The lesson focuses on Noah's obedience, in the middle of the second paragraph the lesson states "Noah's response suggests Noah's absolute obedience to what God had told him to do..."

What is the kind of obedience that God wants from us?

- Does God want the obedience of a well-trained dog—thoughtless, mindless, adherence to God's direction? God said it, I believe it, that settles it?
- Does God want us to do things simply because God said to do it?

Why should we obey God?

- Should we obey because God said it?
- Should we obey because God is powerful?
- Should we obey because God will justly punish or richly reward?

Is agreement with God in any way part of our obedience?

Does God want our obedience even if we disagree with Him?

Romans 6:16

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16 NIV84).

The Greek for obey or obedience is:

5218 ὑπακοή [*hupakoe* /hoop·ak·o·ay/] n f. From 5219; TDNT 1:224; TDNTA 34; GK 5633.¹

The first part is hypo, as in hypoglycemia, or hypotension and means under, or low, or lowly, and the second half is akoe from which we get acoustic and means to listen, to hear.

Bible obedience means a humble willingness to listen, to learn, to be led out of lies, misunderstanding, old habits, preconceived ideas, false beliefs and into better and more accurate understanding of reality, not just in comprehension but in practice. We listen, comprehend, trust, and apply to our lives what we understand. It is not about performance, but about attitude of heart, a desire to be better and a choice to trust Jesus as the one who we listen to to become better.

In that choice to listen, think, comprehend, agree and apply we are united with God and we are empowered to carry out the will of God when we choose to follow what He has directed. In this process we are changed, our hearts are circumcised—we have cut out the attachments to the world, our

¹ Strong, J. (2001). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.



characters are transformed, our neural pathways are rewired. This is growing up in Christ, receiving the mind of Christ, being sanctified.

So an obedient person is one who eagerly listens for the voice of God and has the desire to hear, to understand, and to fulfill God's instructions and therefore chooses to do so to the best of their ability. It is not about perfect performance; it is about heart attitude.

Consider these historic quotes—what truths, concepts, principles, realities are described in regard to obedience? Is there a difference between the obedience that comes from the penal view, imposed rules, legal concepts and the obedience that comes from faith—love and trust?

A sullen submission to the will of the Father **will develop the character of a rebel.** [What does it mean to submit? If a person submits to God's will they do what they understand God says to do. But what would be a reason that someone would submit like this, not willingly, not joyfully, but sullenly? Would it be because of power, because of threat, because of the belief that God is powerful and He has a law and lawbreaking requires God to punish and so one submits not to be punished? And what happens to the character of those who do this? They become rebels. Is this description borne out by reality? Do we have any evidence from Scripture that this occurs?

- We are talking about the Flood—was the Flood a great display of power? And what happened after the Flood, did they build the tower of Babel because they no longer believed there was a God, or because they didn't trust Him and were rebelling against Him?
- What about the 10 Plagues of Egypt was this a great display of power? And what were they doing 40 days later? Did they worship the golden calf because they no longer believed there was a God or because they didn't trust Him and were rebelling against Him?
- What about the conquests of Canaan, like Jericho and other places, again mighty displays of power, but what did they end up doing but worshipping the Baals.
- And what happened at Mt Carmel? Again mighty power, and all the people said, "The Lord He is God" but did they remain faithful and loyal?
- Has God ever gotten loyalty, devotion, love, friendship by use of might and power? It cannot be done. That is why the Bible teaches " 'not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit' says the Lord" (Zech 4:6). And how does the Spirit work, truth and love! What kind of obedience springs from the penal/legal view, from law-enforcement, from threats of inflicted punishment? So the obedience that God wants is not the obedience of law, but of faith, of love, of trust, of understanding friendship.]

By such a one service is looked upon as drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully, and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance. If he dared, such a one would disobey. His rebellion is smothered, ready to break out at any time in bitter murmurings and complaints. Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul. {Signs of the Times, July 22, 1897}

The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God **from a sense of obligation merely--because he is required to do so--will never enter into the joy of obedience.** [Again what



type of obedience is described here? Is this the obedience of an understanding friend, or of someone who wants to stay out of legal trouble? The imposed law view, the penal/legal views of salvation are all built on Satan's lies about God's law and government. This is why God has blessed His faithful people at this time in human history with the message of the 3 Angels of Revelation 14 which calls people back to worship the Creator whose laws are design laws. Everything changes, we realize that sin transgresses the protocols upon which God constructed life to operate causing a terminal sin-condition and that God so loved us that rather than letting us die of this terminal sin-condition He sent His son to Remedy this condition and restore His law of love into the species human. We realize that God is not the source of pain, suffering and death, but the source of life and health and we eagerly, joyfully, enter into a love and trust relationship with Him and humbly listen to Him to be corrected and led in the paths of righteousness. I this trust relationship with God we choose to go and do where He leads because we agree with Him. This is true obedience.] **He does not obey.** [But he is keeping the rules. Yes, but real obedience is not about rule-keeping it is about the attitude of the heart.] When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. **True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God.** The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to **do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God.** {Christ's Object Lessons 97}

The bottom gray section states, "What lesson can we learn from the Noah story regarding our role in warning the world about coming judgment?"

When you hear the word "judgment" what do you understand?

What law lens do you hear it through?

Consider these quotations:

How was it with the rebellious inhabitants of the antediluvian world? After **rejecting the message of Noah**, they plunged into sin with greater abandon than ever before, and doubled the enormity of **their corrupting practices**. [What is described here? Did they have a choice? They freely chose to reject the truth, and what was the result? What is the meaning of "corrupting practices"? Does this mean, legal trouble, or is the act of sin itself damaging to the sinner, hardening the heart, searing the conscience, destroying the faculties sensitive to the Spirit of God? Does God use power to cause these damaging effects or is this what sin does to sinners?] Those who refuse to **reform** by accepting Christ find nothing **reformative** in sin; their minds are set to carry their spirit of revolt, and they are not, and **never will be, forced to submission**. [Wow—what is described here? What does reform mean? Is this legal adjustment or actual change in the motives and attitudes of the heart? And what is meant by never forced to submission? Would threats of punishment count as force? Would God using power to punish the wicked count as force? Why will force never be used to make rebels submit? Because it would only harden them in rebellion. The entire penal/legal law model promotes



rebellion against God! Only the truth of God's character of love revealed by Jesus wins the heart. Thus Paul wrote "the kindness of God leads us to repentance."] **The judgment which God brought upon the antediluvian world declared it incurable...** {Testimonies to Ministers 75} [What kind of judgment? Is this a legal judgment? Is this an inflicted punishment? What law lens? We just read no forced submission, then what? It is therapeutic—God acting to keep open the avenue for Messiah, to fulfill the promise of Genesis 3:15. There is only one righteous man left on the entire planet through whom Messiah can come. God waits patiently until the last possible moment and then acts in mercy, in love, in therapeutic judgment accurately diagnosing there are none that will respond and accurately prescribing the action necessary to save the human species and also secure the unfallen worlds—keeping open the avenue for Jesus.]

"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.**" – Patriarchs and Prophets 587

What kind of judgment is this?

The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet: "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself;" "for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 13:9; 14:1. **Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control.** The Great Controversy 35.3

We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy. It is the **restraining power of God** that prevents mankind from passing fully under the control of Satan. The disobedient and unthankful have great reason for gratitude for God's mercy and long-suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one. But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. **God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest. The**



Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God's hatred of sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty. The Great Controversy 36

"I was shown that the **judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord** upon them, but in this way;

"They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, **if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.**

"It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of." Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "The verb..." Was the flood God using His power to inflict punishment upon humanity for sin? What is the punishment for sin—is it sleep death in the grave until resurrection or is it the second eternal death?

Did the people who died in the flood die the first sleep or second eternal death? The first sleep death, then it cannot be the wages of sin death. For the righteous die that death, yet Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me **will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die** (John 11:25-26 NIV84).

Further, for those who prefer the penal/legal imposed law view of things, ask them: Does punishment for sin come before or after judgment? When is God's judgment? When are the books of heaven opened and when does judgment occur? Does the judgment for sin happen before the flood or does it happen after the flood? Thus, the flood is not punishment for sin even in their wrong legal model.

Understanding the context of Scripture, and understanding God's design law reality, the events of the flood become very rational and understandable and there is nothing penal legal going on, and there is nothing two-faced going on, there is only our God of love, acting in mercy and grace to heal and save.

The purpose of the flood was therapeutic, to heal and save, not to punish for sin:



First Therapeutic Reason for the Flood: Keep Open the Avenue for Messiah

God would not have baby Jesus born to a woman like Jezebel and God would not force a woman against her will to be the mother of Jesus—in other words God would not perform cosmic rape on a woman in order to incarnate Jesus. God needed a willing woman who loved and trusted Him.

Satan was working to prevent this, to obstruct the plan of salvation, the fulfillment of the promise of Genesis 3:15 by working to get every human to permanently harden their heart against God and thereby shutdown the avenue for Messiah.

At the time of the Flood there was only one righteous man left upon the earth. If God does not act then the entire human species is lost in sin. So God acts in love, mercy, grace, therapeutically, waiting until the last moment, to keep open the avenue for the Messiah in order to save and to heal. No the Flood was NOT punishment for sin.

Second Therapeutic Reason for the Flood: Providing Every Opportunity for Repentance

God warned the people through Noah for 120 years of a coming flood, of their sinfulness, of their need to repent, of their need to turn to Him for salvation.

How did they respond to the message of Noah? Ridicule and rejection. What would allowing the flood to occur over a period of time (rain, fountains of water breaking through, etc.) allow for? Would it allow for some people to reflect and to reconsider? Would the evidence of what was transpiring confirm to them that Noah was right? Would that give the people outside the ark the *opportunity* to repent? Whether they accept it or not isn't the question I'm asking here; rather, I'm saying that wouldn't a God of love give every *opportunity* for repentance even if that opportunity was physically painful?

Like the thief on the cross who was suffering execution for his sinful life, still had an opportunity to repent and find eternal salvation. Did the flood give an opportunity for the antediluvians to reflect and repent, even though they were destined to die the first death at that point?

Thus, the flood was brought not only to keep open the avenue for Messiah, but it also allowed those who refused to get on the ark one final *opportunity* for repentance and eternal salvation.

Third Therapeutic Reason for the Flood: Putting Obstacles in the Way of Future Worldwide Apostacy

What were the factors, besides humans being sinful, that contributed to the entire world hardening against God so quickly after Eden? What happens to sinful people when everything is given to them and they don't have to work for anything? What happens over time to people who are self-indulgent and lead hedonistic lives? What happens if such people live hundreds of years? What influence would



such people have on their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and multiple generations down?

Would altering the environment to make it harder to survive be a punishment for sin or, rather, a therapeutic intervention that would help slow the corruption of human character? Have you ever heard that “idle hands are the devil’s workshop?”—i.e., useful labor is protective against temptation.

The Edenic-like conditions on the earth prior to the flood permitted those bent on evil more indulgence of the carnal nature and, thus, accelerated the corruption of human character. The changes to the earth by the flood made it harder to put food on the table and, thus, increased the need for useful labor, which also protected people from sinful indulgence. The useful labor also taught design laws to people (sowing and reaping, watering and growth, etc.) and worked against the lies of Satan.

Further, the changes to the earth resulted in shortening human life from about 900 years to around max of 120 years, which also limited the pace of the spread of evil, as those who hardened their hearts against God could not corrupt as many generations with their influence. So, putting all these variables together, we see a beautiful God of love who acts in mercy to therapeutically keep open the avenue for Messiah, provide every opportunity for repentance and salvation, and slow the progress of the disease of sin.

The story of the flood serves as an excellent example of the difference between facts—flood, ecosystem changed, lives shortened—and the interpretation of facts. Satan works to get us to misinterpret the facts through his lie of imposed law in order to distort the character of God. When we return to design law and understand how reality works, we realize that God was not inflicting punishment but was acting therapeutically to heal and save.

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses on Noah after the flood releasing the various birds. Read the fourth paragraph, “Noah’s behavior...”

This goes back to the question of obedience—what kind of obedience does God want? Does He want us thinking, comprehending, understanding, questioning, searching for answers, making proactive choices to advance the cause of God in ways that are in harmony with God’s methods and purposes, under the willingness to be led by God of course?

What is the last fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians? Self-control—God created us in His image, with our own unique identity, individuality, ability to think and to do and God wants us to develop by practice the ability to discern the right from the wrong and intentionally choose the right because it is right.

God does not want mindless puppets or thoughtless followers.



Consider your child goes away to college and calls you up each day to start the day out right. They say, “Mom/Dad. Thank you for blessing me with your love, with your care, with sending me to this wonderful college and paying my tuition. I sure love you and because I love you, I never want to let you down. So mom day, tell me what you would have me do today. Do you want me to go to class or skip class, you tell me and I will do it? And if you want me to go to class, do you want me to cheat today or be honest? And there is a person in class who irritates me, should I curse them and make fun of them to humiliate them? You tell me what to do and I will do it because I want to be an obedient child because I love you.” Would you say, “I’m so proud of my child. I sure raised that child right!”

Is this the type of obedience God wants from us? Or does God want us to be able to think, discern, and make intelligent and wise decisions because we understand Him, His design laws and we agree with Him and prefer His methods and principles?

WEDNESDAY

Was the Covenant God made with Noah a new covenant, a different covenant than what God made with Adam in Eden after the fall? Or was it the outworking of the covenant of grace given to Adam as the head of humanity that Messiah would come?

As we speak of covenants, what do you understand a covenant to be? An agreement, a sacred contract, a relationship, an accord, an understanding?

Was there any covenant that existed before sin?

What about the covenant of marriage between Adam and Eve?

Was the covenant of marriage a legal agreement or something else?

What is the covenant of marriage as God designed it to be?

A marriage, as God designed, is not a legal declaration but an intertwining of hearts, minds, and selves into a greater whole. Godly marriage brings two sentient beings into a type of oneness that defies human logic; a oneness in which both individuals retain their unique identities but simultaneously, under the power of love and trust, function as a greater whole, a bonded, integrated unit or team, who share the same values, principles, motives, and methods.

In a godly marriage, each person rejoices in the advancement and success of the other and celebrates every opportunity to invest in the welfare of their partner. It is a mutually rewarding circle of beneficence in which love flows freely from heart to heart. In such a loving union the two individuals expand, ennoble, develop, and elevate beyond that which either person is able experience or achieve on their own. It is in this unity of love that people flourish and becomes truly godlike and over time their love grows, deepens, and strengthens.



Does the Bible use the relationship of marriage to illustrate the relationship between Christ and His people?

Is this relationship a covenant relationship? Is such a relationship, as God designed, as God implements through Christ and His people a legal adjustment in books, or a transformation of hearts and minds that unite intelligent beings with God?

Is this covenant a different covenant that promised to Adam in Eden or the same?

Is this covenant different than what God intended for Adam and Eve to experience with Him in Eden before sin—or is the plan of salvation the plan to bring humanity into the covenant, the relationship of intimacy, love, union, at-one-ment with God that God intended humanity to experience from the beginning?

And what about the covenant to Abraham was that different or the same as promised to Adam?

And then what about the covenant to Noah? Was it different, or still part of the covenant of salvation, of healing, of at-one-ment of restoring sinners to intimacy and oneness with God?

What is the significance of the rainbow?

Is the rainbow the covenant or a sign, reminder, of the covenant?

What about the Sabbath, is it the covenant, or a sign of the covenant?

And what does Satan do to every gift God gives us?

What has Satan done to marriage, to human sexuality, to the rainbow, to the Sabbath?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CANCELLED—May 4, 2022 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, Cancelled Dr. Jennings as some pastors voiced concerns that Dr. Jennings does not teach God will torment sinners in hell for all eternity and that Jesus' blood is not used to propitiate the wrath of an offended god, which they state are central truths of Christianity that any speaker at their church would have to support.

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

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 southafrica@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/>