



## 2023 1Q Managing for the Master Till He Comes—Lesson 9

### Beware of Covetousness

by Mark Cox

#### SABBATH

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**MEMORY TEXT:** “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the thing he possess” Luke 12:15 NKJV

The Memory Verse for this lesson is a **WARNING!** Nothing good comes from coveting! It is also a **REMINDER!** The purpose of our life / the meaning of our existence, is more important than having what we think we **need, want** or **desire**.

As we will see in our lesson the **cause and effect of coveting** is full of heartache, pain, suffering, death and destruction. Nothing but **DISASTER** comes from the heart bent on coveting.

And yet it is so commonly human that we have to be **WARNED** again and a again to avoid it! And **REMINDED** over and over that there is meaning in life beyond what we possess.

**Everywhere its slimy track is seen.** It creates discontent and dissension in families; it excites envy and hatred in the poor against the rich; it prompts the grinding oppression of the rich toward the poor. And this evil exists not in the world alone, but in the church. How common even here to find selfishness, avarice, overreaching, neglect of charities, and robbery of God “in tithes and offerings.” PP 497.1

#### THOU SHALT NOT COVET

It is God’s **Tenth Commandment**

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Exodus 20:17 NIV

The **Tenth Commandment** is unique, because coveting, is more specifically, **not as selfish behavior**, but **selfish thoughts and emotions**. Allowing the heart and mind to obsess over needing, wanting or desiring something that is not ours to have, or that belongs to someone else, like **Wealth / Power, Position or Possessions**. The tenth commandment, **stop coveting**, means **don’t even THINK about it!** —Stop it!

#### Think about What We Think

3For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to



demolish strongholds. 5We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**  
6And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.  
2 Corinthians 10:3-6

**No One's Gonna Know / Who's Gonna Know...**what you are thinking and feeling until it reveals itself. The **danger of coveting** is you may not be found out till it is too late. Thus the **WARNING!** Take responsibility of **thoughts** and **emotions** or reap the consequences of unrestrained random thoughts.

**Provoking Thought:** A young married woman raises the question to a man she had become fond of. "If you commit to one person in marriage, is it possible to have thoughts and feelings for another person?" The wise man gives her this answer, "**When you commit to one person, you won't allow yourself to have thoughts and feeling for another.**"

**Metaphor of Conception that gives Birth to Death.**

14 but **each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.** 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives **birth to death.** James 1:14-15 NIV

**Coveting** is not the kind of sin you would say is "**as bad as**" other sins. No! This is the **ultimate disaster** with **Immediate, Short Term and Long Term Consequences** in relationship with our fellow man and for eternity.

We can recover from disaster, however, the **danger of coveting** is that the damage to the **heart and mind** might be so severe that **recovery is impossible.** The **disease incurable.** The **sin unpardonable.**

**IF GOD DIDN'T POINT IT OUT - We would be unaware of our own condition**

7 I would not have known what evil and selfishness looked like if it wasn't for the diagnostic efficacy of the law. **I would not have realized that coveting was evil and selfish if the law didn't say, "Don't covet."** 8 But selfishness, taking advantage of the fact that the law is only a diagnostic instrument—and not a Remedy—magnified every covetous desire within me. For apart from the diagnostic ability of the law, sin is unrecognizable. 9 **Once I thought I was healthy and free from the infection of distrust, fear and selfishness, but then the commandment examined me, exposed how utterly infected I was, and diagnosed me as terminal.** Romans 7:7-9 Remedy

\*\*\*Recommend reading **Romans 7 & 8 in The Remedy** for a more detailed discourse of the Ten Commandments - God's **Intervention**, to **diagnoses** and **remedy for our condition.**



## Examples

Mark 10:17-27 **Rich Young Ruler** - Keep the commandments but was unaware his heart loved his wealth - position, Power and possessions - more than God.

Daniel Chapter 4: **Nebuchadnezzar** - becomes a lunatic - then his understanding and reason restored.

Recommended Reading  
“Could it be This Simple”

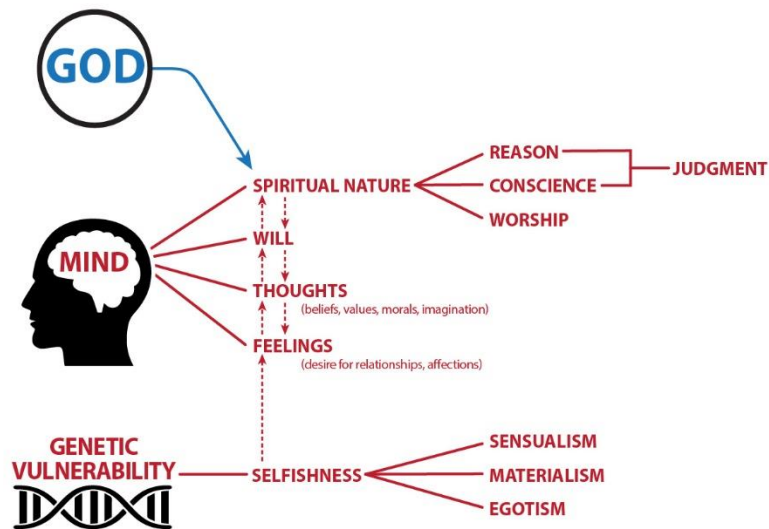
## HIERARCHY OF THE MIND BEFORE SIN





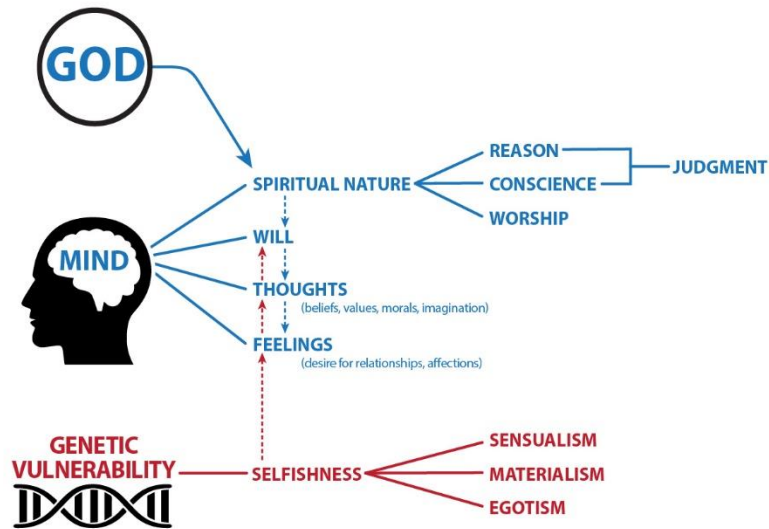
## HIERARCHY OF THE MIND

AFTER SIN / BEFORE CONVERSION



## HIERARCHY OF THE MIND

AFTER SIN / AFTER CONVERSION





## THE SINFUL HUMAN CONDITION - Self-destructive - Creatures of Habit

“He acts on the **principles** to which he has accustomed himself. Thus **actions repeated for habits, habit form character**, and by the **character our destiny** for time and eternity is decided.” COL 356.2

**SINS** - Fear and Selfishness in our **Character** - **Moral Failure**. Behavior, Thoughts and Emotions.

“16 If anyone sees his brother **sinning a sin which does not lead to death**, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who **commit sin not leading to death**. There is **sin leading to death**. I do not say that he should pray about that. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is **sin not leading to death**.” 1 John 5:16-17

**TRANSGRESSION** - Fear and Selfishness in our **Relationships** - **Violating Trust** with God and Others or even Self - ie. We can lie to God, others and ourselves. John says,

“**Sin is the transgression of the law**” [The Law of Love] 1 John 3:4 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39

**INIQUITY** - Fear and Selfishness in our **Community/Society/Life Style** - **Wickedness abounds**. There is no room for good. Crooked is normal. Bent is the new straight.

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Isaiah 5:20 The wicked are destroyed “**because they did not love the truth and thus be saved**.” 2 Thes 2:10.

6 “...The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving **INIQUITY** and **TRANSGRESSION** and **SIN**, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the **iniquity** of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:6-7 NKJV

**For God so loved the work that he gave his son Jesus Christ** - Gods heart towards us is **Love** and **Forgiveness**, but our hearts are distrustful because of lies believed about God, we become **fearful** and **selfish** - But **Jesus** restores us back to a right relationship God through **Truth** and **Love** and heals our **Characters, Relationships and Communities**.

**God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, 2 Corinthians 5:19



## THE LESSON - Four Stories - Four Tragic Ending.

1. Lucifer
2. Achan
3. Judas
4. Ananias & Sapphira

We are **warned**, “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24. “Take heed, and beware of covetousness.” Luke 12:15. “Let it not be once named among you.” Ephesians 5:3.

**We have before us the fearful doom of Achan, of Judas, of Ananias and Sapphira. Back of all these we have that of Lucifer, the “son of the morning,” who, coveting a higher state, forfeited forever the brightness and bliss of heaven. And yet, notwithstanding all these warnings, covetousness abounds. – PP 496.4**

**No Good Ending for our characters!** Which begs the question, “**Where’s the Gospel in the Story?** Where’s the Good News?”

**The Gospel in each of these stories is the revelation of God character of Love.** Each story we see God’s principles and methods to save, not just humanity, but angels and unfallen worlds. In our four stories we will see God save the **Heavenly Universe**, the **Nation of Israel**, the **Disciples**, and the **Church**.

The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, **is the revelation of His character of love.**” Christ’s Object Lessons, p.415.3

**The Healing Metaphor - The Good Physician intervenes**, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, **Diagnoses the Human Condition** and offers the **Remedy**. The Remedy continually rejected, the carnal heart unrestrained, the Condition intensifies until the infection becomes incurable. The **last resort is Surgery**. Remove the infected flesh before the whole body dies. **Surgery** is both **good news** and **bad news**. Because the Remedy was rejected we can save the body but we can’t save the member of body.

**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.....**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.....** – GC 36.1



## SUNDAY

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### The Ultimate Original Sin

**The Perspective is a Cosmic View** - Lucifer, Jesus and the Heavenly Universe

**The Responsibility** - God surgically removes covetousness from the Heavenly Universe.

**Post Surgery** - The **Good News** is the Heavenly Universe is saved. The **Bad News** is the terrible loss of Lucifer, his Angels and all who habitually reject the Remedy and following Lucifer's principles and methods.

### What do we know about the story?

7 **And war broke out in heaven:** Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:7-9 NKJV

### Lucifer coveting in the society of Heaven

“Not content with his position, **though honored above the heavenly host**, he ventured to **covet homage due alone to the Creator**. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And **coveting the glory** with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to **power** that was the prerogative of Christ alone.”  
Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 35 Introduction “Why was Sin Permitted”

“**God in His great mercy bore long with Lucifer**. He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first **indulged the spirit of discontent**, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. **Long was he retained in heaven**. Again and again he was offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission. **Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise were made to convince him of his error**. The **spirit of discontent** had never before been known in heaven. **Lucifer himself did not at first see whither he was drifting**; he did not understand the real nature of his feelings. But as his dissatisfaction was proved to be without cause, **Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong**, that the divine claims were just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven. Had he done this, he might have saved himself and many angels. He had not at this time fully cast off his allegiance to God. Though he had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, **he would have been reinstated in his office**. But pride forbade him to submit. **He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in the great controversy, against his Maker.**” – GC 495.3 Chapter 29 “The Origin of Evil”



**Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds.** The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.

**It was a being of wonderful power and glory that had set himself against God.** Of Lucifer the Lord says, “Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” Ezekiel 28:12. Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God’s presence. **He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God’s purposes to the universe.** After he had sinned, his power to deceive was the more deceptive, and the unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father.

**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.**

**It was God’s purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security,** and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God’s principles. **Time was given for the working of Satan’s principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.** – {DA 759.2}

**“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven,** I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:12... NIV

**“You were the anointed cherub that covers,** and I had put you in the holy height of God where you were; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you. 16 By the multitude of your goods they have filled your midst with violence, and you have sinned. So I cast you profaned from the height of God, and I destroy you, O covering cherub, from among the stones of fire. 17 **Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have spoiled your wisdom because of your brightness. I will cast you to the ground;** I will put you before kings, that they may behold you. 18 By the host of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trade, you have profaned your holy places; so I brought a fire from your midst; it shall devour you, and I will give you for ashes on the earth, before the eyes of all who see you. 19 All who know you among the peoples shall be astonished at you; you shall be terrors, and you will not be forever.” Ezekiel 28:12-19 NKJV



Lucifer's principle, **Survival of the Fittest**, and his methods of **lies, compelling force, coercion and manipulation**.

Jesus's life principle, **Disinterested Benevolence** reveals God's Character of Love - and the **prevailing power of Truth and Love** are his methods.

### **Jesus meets Lucifer in the wilderness**

"1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, **'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'** 4 Jesus answered, **'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'** 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 **'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'**"

7 Jesus answered him, **'It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'** 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 **'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'**

10 Jesus said to him, **'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'** 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him." Matthew 4:1-11.

### **Satan's fruitless rebellion he imposes on the world.**

"Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were **imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel**. He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing." – DA 760.4

### **Jesus plan to save the Heavenly Universe.**

**"But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man.** It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but **it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe.** To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Savior looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: **"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw**



**all unto Me.”** John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin.” – PP 68.2

**This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown.** God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is **“alienated from the life of God.”** Christ says, **“All they that hate Me love death.”** Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that **His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.** – DA 764.1

**A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven.** Its purity and peace would be torture to them; the **glory of God would be a consuming fire.** They would long to flee from that holy place and would **welcome destruction**, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. **The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God.** Like the waters of the Flood the fires of the great day declare God’s verdict that the **wicked are incurable.** Their will has been exercised in revolt. When life is ended, it is too late to turn their thoughts from transgression to obedience, from hatred to love. – HF 333.5

While the earth was wrapped in the fire of destruction, the righteous abode safely in the holy city. Upon those that had part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power. [Revelation 20:6; Psalm 84:11.] **While God is to the wicked a consuming fire, he is to his people both a Sun and a shield.** [Revelation 20:6; Psalm 84:11.] – GC88 673.3

14 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?**”

15 Those who walk righteously  
and speak what is right,  
who reject gain from extortion  
and keep their hands from accepting bribes,  
who stop their ears against plots of murder  
and shut their eyes against contemplating evil  
Isaiah 33:14-15 NIV

1 Lord, **who may dwell in your sacred tent?**  
**Who may live on your holy mountain?**



2 **The one whose walk is blameless,  
who does what is righteous,  
who speaks the truth from their heart;**  
3 whose tongue utters no slander,  
who does no wrong to a neighbor,  
and casts no slur on others;  
4 who despises a vile person  
but honors those who fear the Lord;  
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,  
and does not change their mind;  
5 who lends money to the poor without interest;  
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.  
Whoever does these things  
will never be shaken.  
Psalms 15

## MONDAY

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### The Accursed Thing in the Camp

**The Perspective is a World View** - Achan, Rahab and the Nation Israel

**The Responsibility** - God, through Israel, surgically remove covetousness from among them.  
‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: **“There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.”**

**Post Surgery** - The **Good News** is Israel as a nation is saved and their influence as a nation is restored and Rahab and her family are saved by Israel. The **Bad News** the terrible loss of 36 Israelites at the battle of Ai and Achan and his family stoned and burned.

**What do we know about the story?**

### Human trafficking

**No Israelite woman shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any Israelite man be a cult prostitute.** You shall not bring the **fee of a whore** or the **pay of a dog** into the house of the Lord your God in fulfillment of any vow, for both are abhorrent to the Lord your God.—  
Deuteronomy 23:18-19 NJPS

Solomon's High Places / The Synagogue of Satan 1Kings 11; Rev 2:9; 3:9  
Corruption and Destruction - Kingdom of Fear and Selfishness based on Lies



**1 Kings 11:** Then did Solomon build an **high place** for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the **abomination** of the children of Ammon.

**Abomination - Child Sacrifice - The Greatest Sin / Evil Possible**

Leviticus 18:21 Leviticus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 12:31; Deuteronomy 18:10; 2 Kings 3:26-27; 2 Kings 16:2-3; 2 Kings 17:16-17; 2 Kings 21:6; 2 Chronicles 28:1-3; 2 Chronicles 33:6; Psalm 106:37-38; Jeremiah 19:2-5

**Mixing the two Temples - The Unholy and the Holy - Abomination in the house of God**

Jeremiah 7 - They Worshiped their own gods and then came to worship in the Temple of God. Each worshiped their own god at their own alters in the Temple of God.

**Matthew 24:15-16** “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘**the abomination that causes desolation**,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

**2 Kings 23:3-10**

“...bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven....And he put down the idolatrous priests...that burned incense unto Baal...he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove....And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.”

**Ezekiel 23:37-39**

“...Thus they have committed adultery with their idols and even caused their sons, whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire to them as food. "Again, they have done this to Me: they have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and have profaned My sabbaths. "For when they had slaughtered their children for their idols, they entered My sanctuary on the same day to profane it; and lo, thus they did within My house.”

**Joshua's encounter with Christ before the Battle of Jericho**

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “**Are You for us or for our adversaries?**”

14 So He said, “**No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.**”

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “**What does my Lord say to His servant?**”

15 Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, “**Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.**” And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:13-15 NKJV



## Rahab saves the Israel spies

11 And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, **for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.** 12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

14 So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the Lord has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you." Joshua 2 NKJV

**The advancing hosts of Israel found that knowledge of the mighty workings of the God of the Hebrews had gone before them**, and that some among the heathen were learning that He alone was the true God. In wicked Jericho the testimony of a **heathen woman** was, "**The Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**" Joshua 2:11. The knowledge of Jehovah that had thus come to her, proved her salvation. By faith "**Rahab perished not with them that believed not.**" Hebrews 11:31. And her conversion was not an isolated case of God's mercy toward idolaters who acknowledged His divine authority. In the midst of the land a numerous people—the Gibeonites—renounced their heathenism and united with Israel, sharing in the blessings of the covenant. – PK 369.2

## Rules of Engagement

17 Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who *are* in it. **Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house**, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And you, **by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.** 19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, *are* consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord." Joshua 6:17-18 NKJV

22 **But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country**, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." 23 And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. 24 But they burned the city and all that *was* in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. 25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. **So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.** Joshua 6:22-25 NKJV



## Defeat at Ai

**7 But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.**

2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which *is* beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for *the people of Ai are few*.” 4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. 5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them *from* before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! 8 **O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?**

**9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear *it*, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”**

## The Sin of Achan

10 **So the Lord said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? 11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them.** For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put *it* among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. **Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.** 13 Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: “***There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.***” 14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be *that* the tribe which the Lord takes shall come according to families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come man by man. 15 Then it shall be *that* he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.” ’

16 So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. 17 He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. 18 Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.



19 Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me.”

20 **And Achan answered Joshua and said, “Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”**

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. 23 And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the Lord. 24 **Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.” So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.**

26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

Joshua 7: NKJV

## TUESDAY

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### The Heart of Judas -

**The Perspective is the Soul View** - Judas, Mary and the Disciples.

**The Responsibility** - Jesus surgically removes coveting from among the Disciples. Man among men.

**Post Operation:** The Good News, the Disciples of Christ saved from the poison of covetousness. The Bad News, Judas commits suicide.

### What do we know about the Story

Judas loves money, dips into the purse for his own benefit,

Judas sees Jesus as a self-help guru and way to improve his status - easily parts company.

Mary sees Jesus as the savior of her soul and cannot live without him.

**The history of Judas presents the sad ending of a life that might have been honored of God.** Had Judas died before his last journey to Jerusalem he would have been regarded as a man worthy of a place among the twelve, and one who would be greatly missed. The abhorrence which has followed him through the centuries would not have existed but for the



attributes revealed at the close of his history. **But it was for a purpose that his character was laid open to the world. It was to be a warning to all who, like him, should betray sacred trusts.**

**Judas had naturally a strong love for money;** but he had not always been corrupt enough to do such a deed as this. **He had fostered the evil spirit of avarice until it had become the ruling motive of his life. The love of mammon overbalanced his love for Christ.** Through becoming the slave of one vice he gave himself to Satan, to be driven to any lengths in sin.

**Judas was highly regarded by the disciples, and had great influence over them.** He himself had a high opinion of his own qualifications, and looked upon his brethren as greatly inferior to him in judgment and ability. They did not see their opportunities, he thought, and take advantage of circumstances. The church would never prosper with such shortsighted men as leaders. **Peter** was impetuous; he would move without consideration. **John**, who was treasuring up the truths that fell from Christ's lips, was looked upon by Judas as a poor financier. **Matthew**, whose training had taught him accuracy in all things, was very particular in regard to honesty, and he was ever contemplating the words of Christ, and became so absorbed in them that, as Judas thought, he could not be trusted to do sharp, far-seeing business. **Thus Judas summed up all the disciples, and flattered himself that the church would often be brought into perplexity and embarrassment if it were not for his ability as a manager.** Judas regarded himself as the capable one, who could not be overreached. In his own estimation he was an honor to the cause, and as such he always represented himself.

**Judas was blinded to his own weakness of character, and Christ placed him where he would have an opportunity to see and correct this.** As treasurer for the disciples, he was called upon to provide for the needs of the little company, and to relieve the necessities of the poor. When in the Passover chamber Jesus said to him, "That thou doest, do quickly" (John 13:27), the disciples thought He had bidden him buy what was needed for the feast, or give something to the poor. In ministering to others, Judas might have developed an unselfish spirit. But while listening daily to the lessons of Christ and witnessing His unselfish life, Judas indulged his covetous disposition. The small sums that came into his hands were a continual temptation. Often when he did a little service for Christ, or devoted time to religious purposes, he paid himself out of this meager fund. In his own eyes these pretexts served to excuse his action; but in God's sight he was a thief.

**Christ's oft-repeated statement that His kingdom was not of this world offended Judas.** He had marked out a line upon which he expected Christ to work. He had planned that John the Baptist should be delivered from prison. But lo, John was left to be beheaded. And Jesus, instead of asserting His royal right and avenging the death of John, retired with His disciples into a country place. Judas wanted more aggressive warfare. He thought that if Jesus would not prevent the disciples from carrying out their schemes, the work would be more successful. He marked the increasing enmity of the Jewish leaders, and saw their challenge unheeded when they demanded from Christ a sign from heaven. His heart was open to unbelief, and the enemy supplied thoughts of questioning and rebellion. Why did Jesus dwell so much upon that which



was discouraging? Why did He predict trial and persecution for Himself and for His disciples? The prospect of having a high place in the new kingdom had led Judas to espouse the cause of Christ. Were his hopes to be disappointed? Judas had not decided that Jesus was not the Son of God; but he was questioning, and seeking to find some explanation of His mighty works.

Notwithstanding the Saviour's own teaching, Judas was continually advancing the idea that Christ would reign as king in Jerusalem. At the feeding of the five thousand he tried to bring this about. On this occasion Judas assisted in distributing the food to the hungry multitude. He had an opportunity to see the benefit which it was in his power to impart to others. He felt the satisfaction that always comes in service to God. He helped to bring the sick and suffering from among the multitude to Christ. He saw what relief, what joy and gladness, come to human hearts through the healing power of the Restorer. **He might have comprehended the methods of Christ. But he was blinded by his own selfish desires.** Judas was first to take advantage of the enthusiasm excited by the miracle of the loaves. It was he who set on foot the project to take Christ by force and make Him king. His hopes were high. His disappointment was bitter.

**Christ's discourse in the synagogue concerning the bread of life was the turning point in the history of Judas.** He heard the words, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you." John 6:53. He saw that Christ was offering spiritual rather than worldly good. He regarded himself as farsighted, and thought he could see that Jesus would have no honor, and that He could bestow no high position upon His followers. He determined not to unite himself so closely to Christ but that he could draw away. He would watch. And he did watch. – {DA 716 - 719}

To put this picture together I used,

**Matthew 26:6-13;**

**Mark 14:3-11**

**Luke 7:36-50**

**John 12:1-11**

Desire of Ages - the chapter entitled - The Feast at Simons house

2SP CHAPTER 32 - Mary's offering

**Let's put the story together.**

**JESUS** - God, Savior, Best friend to Lazarus, Martha and Mary

**SIMON** - Pharisee, Leper healed by Jesus,

**JUDAS** - Simons son and cousin to Mary - Disciple, Thief and betrayer. Embarrassed , revengeful - sold Jesus 30 pieces

**JEWS / PHARISEES, RABBIS** - Planning to murder Jesus and Lazarus

**LAZARUS, MARTHA, MARY**- BROTHER and SISTER, FRIEND of Jesus, COUSIN to Judas.

Simon was their UNCLE.

Lazarus- raised from the dead.

Martha - always serving



Mary - **It was Mary who sat at His feet and loved to learn of Him**, Mary was the Women caught in adultery - probably the first time Jesus met her and probably how Jesus became acquainted with Lazarus and Martha. Being at Jesus feet was a special for Mary. It at Jesus feet Mary cast and condemned of sin - by self righteous men. It wasn't until it was all quiet that Mary began to look up - and the first thing she saw were Jesus Feet.

**Mary was a Prostitute** - how she became a Prostitute is interesting - **Led into sin by uncle Simon,**

Jesus cast out **Seven devils,**

**It was Mary who poured upon Jesus/God head/feet the precious anointing oil, she bought with her own money at great price - money earned from prostitution - some of the money was earned from religious leaders**

**Mary bathed His feet with her tears.**

**Mary stood beside the cross, and followed Him to the sepulcher.**

**Mary was first at the tomb after His resurrection.**

**It was Mary who first proclaimed a risen Saviour**

### **Incest / Rape**

As did Nathan with David, Christ concealed His home thrust under the veil of a parable. He threw upon His host the burden of pronouncing sentence upon himself. **Simon had led into sin the woman he now despised.** She had been deeply wronged by him. By the two debtors of the parable, Simon and the woman were represented. Jesus did not design to teach that different degrees of obligation should be felt by the two persons, for each owed a debt of gratitude that never could be repaid. But Simon felt himself more righteous than Mary and Jesus desired him to see how great his guilt really was. He would show him that his sin was greater than hers, as much greater as a debt of five hundred pence exceeds a debt of fifty pence. – DA 566.5

### **Judas Heart Exposed at His Father's House - Simon the Leper**

1Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5**“Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.”** 6**He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.**

7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.” John 12:1-8 NIV



3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*"

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. Matthew 27 NKJV

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, 16 "Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. 19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

**'Let his dwelling place be desolate,  
And let no one live in it';**

**and,**

**'Let another take his office.'**

Acts 1 NKJV

## WEDNESDAY

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### Ananias and Sapphira

**The Perspective is a Church View** - Ananias and Sapphira, Jose's/Barnabas and the Church.

**Responsibility** - God, through the church, surgically removes covetousness from among its members.

**Post Operation:** The **Good News**, God saves the church from covetousness and becoming corrupted by persecution. The **Bad News**, Ananias and Sapphira - Sudden Death!

**What do we know about the story?**

**Joses/Barnabas** - Moved by the Holy Spirit sold his land and gave freely.

**Ananias and Sapphira** - Coveting position and money - sold their land and regretted it, hold back money and lie to the Holy Spirit



1Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.  
2With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3Then Peter said, "Ananias, **how is it that Satan has so filled your heart** that you have **lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

**4Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal?** What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

5When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9Peter said to her, "**How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events. Acts 5:1-11 NIV

Recommend reading Tim's Blog - "**The Sword of God**"

The following are some excerpt of Tim's Blog. **Emphasis provided.**

Consider the following verse:

Revelation 19:19-21 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. **The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth** of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Notice the sword is coming out of the rider's mouth – the Rider is Christ, do you think He will have a large piece of metal sticking out of His mouth when He returns? No, what comes out of a person's mouth? Words and what kind of words does Christ always speak? Truth! Therefore, the sword is symbolic of the truth. "**The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**" Hebrews 4:12



The wicked are destroyed “**because they did not love the truth and thus be saved.**” 2 Thes 2:10. In other words the wicked have hardened their minds in lies, solidified their characters in falsehood, warped their selves in deception and the sword of God is the truth that cuts through their lies right to their inner self.

When people sin they are convicted with guilt, this is the work of the Holy Spirit. No one likes guilt and we all want it to go away. **There are only two ways to resolve appropriate guilt**, God’s way – *repentance and restoration and reconciliation*. And Satan’s way, **lies, denial, distortion, externalization**. Adam said after his sin, “It wasn’t me. It was that woman you gave me. If she had not brought me the fruit I would have never ate it. Don’t blame me, blame her.”

**This is the hardened condition of all those who have not opened their hearts and minds to the Spirit of Truth here.** What will it be like for those who have lived in the darkness of lies to come face to face with infinite truth, truth which can not be denied, truth that cannot be avoided, truth which sears through to their souls? Their minds cannot take it and they die.

## THURSDAY

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### Overcoming Covetousness

#### Remedy / Cure / Treatment / Surgery

What does life “consist of”?

**The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven.**

This spirit finds its highest manifestation in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. In our behalf the Father gave His only-begotten Son; and Christ, having given up all that He had, then gave Himself, that man might be saved. The cross of Calvary should appeal to the benevolence of every follower of the Savior. The principle there illustrated is to give, give. “He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” 1 John 2:6. – AA 339.2 On the other hand, **the spirit of selfishness is the spirit of Satan**. The principle illustrated in the lives of worldlings is to get, get. Thus they hope to secure happiness and ease, but the fruit of their sowing is misery and death. – AA 339.3

#### God’s Remedy for Selfishness and Covetousness

The **giving** that is **the fruit of self-denial** is a wonderful help to the giver. It imparts an education that enables us more fully to comprehend the work of Him who went about doing good, relieving the suffering, and supplying the needs of the destitute. AH 370.3

**Constant, self-denying benevolence is God’s remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness.**



God has arranged systematic benevolence to sustain His cause and relieve the necessities of the suffering and needy. He has ordained that giving should become a habit, that it may counteract the dangerous and deceitful sin of covetousness. **Continual giving starves covetousness to death.** Systematic benevolence is designed in the order of God to tear away treasures from the covetous as fast as they are gained, and to consecrate them to the Lord, to whom they belong.... AH 370.4

**The constant practice of God's plan of systematic benevolence weakens covetousness and strengthens benevolence.**

If riches increase, men, even those professing godliness, set their hearts upon them; and the more they have, the less they give to the treasury of the Lord. Thus riches make men selfish, and hoarding feeds covetousness; and these evils strengthen by active exercise. God knows our danger and has hedged us about with means to prevent our own ruin. He requires the constant exercise of benevolence, that the force of habit in good works may break the force of habit in an opposite direction. AH 371.1

"I came across this lovely anecdote from a book by late Vanguard founder John Bogle. This was an exchange Bogle witnessed at a party given by a billionaire on Shelter Island in New York. The late novelist **Kurt Vonnegut** informed his pal, **Joseph Heller**, that their host, a hedge fund manager, had made more money in a single day than Heller had earned from his wildly popular novel *Catch-22* over its whole history. Heller responded – 'Yes, but I have something he will never have . . . enough.' Fittingly, John Bogle titled his book 'Enough.'" Joseph Heller and "Enough"

**Be Content in all things**

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Thanks for Their Gifts

**10** I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.** **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned the secret of being content in**



**any and every situation**, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. **We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers**—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. 1Timothy 1:9-11

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. I John 3:4 [**Law of Love**]

What, then, was the **purpose of the law**? It was **added because of transgressions** until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come... So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Galatians 3:19, 24 [**The Ten Commandments**]

“I am asked concerning the law in Galatians. **What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ?** I answer: Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments.” 1SM 233.1

**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. – GC 35.3

**“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”**.....Just what took place in Pharaoh’s heart will take place in every soul that neglects to cherish the light and walk promptly in its rays. **God destroys no one. The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence**..... 5T 120.1

**“GOD DESTROYS NO MAN.”**

**COL 84.** “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction;” **Gal 6:8.** “**Evil will slay the wicked.**” **Psalms 34:21.**