



## 2023 2Q Three Cosmic Messages—Lesson 6 The Hour of His Judgment

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read last paragraph,

The fires of God's judgment burned themselves out on Him, at Calvary, and all who are in Christ are safe forever beneath His wings. At the cross, Christ was judged as a condemned sinner so that we could be judged as righteous citizens of the heavenly kingdom. He was judged as a criminal so that we could be set free from the destructive fires of eternal loss, both figuratively and, yes, literally, as well. (Adult SS Guide Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages p. 46)

What do you hear in this paragraph? Is this paragraph exactly true as it reads? Does this paragraph present things in clear ways? Given the fact we are all finite, and that we will grow for all eternity in our knowledge of God and our insights into the atonement will deepen through all eternity, we should ask, does this paragraph lead us to greater light, insight, truth, understanding or does it darken the mind?

Does this paragraph present things more closely to the way God would have them presented or closer to Satan's counterfeit?

Let's examine what is being taught in light of what God has revealed and see whether this is taking a position that is built on inspired truth or not.

The first sentence states the fire of God's judgment burned themselves out on Christ at Calvary. I thought, perhaps this is just metaphor, flowery speech, symbolism—except for the closing sentence when they connect the destructive fires as being both figurative and literal. And they say Christ took our place and was judged and condemned as a sinner, so it seems they are suggesting Jesus literally took our punishment, including the fire of God's judgment.

So functionally, the lesson is saying that at the cross God used His power to reign judgment fire down on Jesus to punish Jesus for our sins, and if we don't claim the legal payment made by Jesus then God in the end will use His divine power to reign judgment fire down on us.

Do you think I am misunderstanding what they are saying?

I want you to see this clearly—this paragraph denies Scripture, the testimony of Jesus Himself, and the truth about God's law and how it functions.



We have recorded in Scripture the inspired account of what happened to Jesus on the cross, what His Father actually did to Jesus for the very purpose of revealing the truth that is supposed to prevent people from drawing conclusions just like this. What does the Bible say that God did to His Son on the cross? Did God reign fire down from heaven to torture and kill Jesus?

What did the Father do? He abandoned, let go, forsook Him. Did the Father exercise divine power to bring pain, suffering, torment, and death, or did the Father step back and STOP using divine power and allow the results of separation from Him to reap its painful and destructive results?

What caused Jesus the most torment, the physical torture He was experiencing at the hands of sinners, or the break up in the unity with His Father?

In Gethsemane, Jesus took the bitter cup of our sin-position—i.e. began to experience in full the separation that sin causes and what did Jesus experience?

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” (Matthew 26:36–38 NIV84).

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (Luke 22:39–44 NIV84).

Now I am going to read commentary from the book *The Desire of Ages* which comments on these passages from Scripture regarding Jesus’ experience in Gethsemane. What do you think? This is written by one of the founders of the SDA church, does this describe the same type of process and event that the lesson described? And if not, we need to understand why?

The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour. He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonized soul. **The awful moment had come—that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. [Wasn’t the moment at Calvary? Or did that moment, the time to decide the destiny of the world happen in Gethsemane, and Calvary was the final result of what was decided in Gethsemane?]** The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. **Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man.** It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save



the guilty? The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, “O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.” The Desire of Ages p. 690.

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. **He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish.** [Why must they perish? Must they perish as an infliction of punishment? Is it that transgressors are actually quite healthy and possess eternal life and without Jesus' sacrifice then the Father's rage and anger will explode out of control and destroy them? Or is it that humanity is suffering from a terminal sin condition and without Jesus' sacrifice there is no cure, no remedy, no power to free us and restore us to unity with God and eternal life?] **He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin.** [We are helpless to overcome what? Is the contrast here—Jesus sees the helplessness of man and the power of God to punish sin? No, it is the power of sin, the power of fear and selfishness that is infecting our being. After Adam sinned, only Jesus, as a human, using human abilities, could confront and overcome the power of fear and selfishness and eradicate it and restore God's perfect love and righteousness into humanity.] The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin. His prayer now breathes only submission: “If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.” The Desire of Ages 690.

**Having made the decision, He fell dying to the ground from which He had partially risen.** [The decision to complete the mission, was made here. The rest of crucifixion weekend is the outworking of His choice here. And this author, commenting on what inspiration describes, says He fell down dying here—an angel had to come and strengthen Him or else he would have died in Gethsemane. Has God used any power to harm Jesus? What is causing Jesus to be in such agony, to suffer such torment of mind and soul and to fall down dying? It is the breaking up of His unity with His Father that is the result of taking our position as a sinner. Sin severs the connection with the source of life and the only result is ruin and death.] Where now were His disciples, to place their hands tenderly beneath the head of their fainting Master, and bathe that brow, marred indeed more than the sons of men? The Saviour trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him. The Desire of Ages 693.

**But God suffered with His Son.** [Parents would you suffer to watch one of your children dying in agony all alone and you could not comfort them? Don't think for a minute that the Father wasn't suffering right along with Jesus. They were in this together. This is a joint rescue operation, a joint plan of salvation, the entire Godhead is unified in completing it. And they each have their role to play. God must separate from His Son, because God is the source of life and Jesus cannot complete His mission to destroy the death causing principle from humanity, restore in the law of life, and reveal the truth about God if He does not die. And He cannot die as long as He is connected to His Father, who is the source of life.] Angels beheld the Saviour's



agony. **They saw their Lord enclosed by legions of satanic forces, His nature weighed down with a shuddering, mysterious dread.** [Whose power was being used to seek to cause the suffering of Jesus?] There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched **the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son,** they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin. The Desire of Ages 693. [Was the Father using power to hurt Jesus? Do we have a description of the Father reigning fire down from heaven? Why was the Father separating from Jesus? Was the Father angry with Jesus? What about later at the cross, do we have an inspired description of God reigning fire down on Jesus there? Or does Scripture say that the Father let Jesus go—we find that description also in Romans 4:25, the exact same Greek as Romans 1:24,26,28 where God “gave them up” Paul says that God gave Jesus up at the cross.]

The worlds unfallen and the heavenly angels had watched with intense interest as the conflict drew to its close. [And they are seeing God in action. They are observing God step back and NOT use power. They are seeing Satan use power to harm, not God. Yet our lesson places God in the role of using power to harm.] Satan and his confederacy of evil, the legions of apostasy, watched intently this great crisis in the work of redemption. The powers of good and evil waited to see what answer would come to Christ's thrice-repeated prayer. **Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. No way of escape was found for the Son of God.** [Why? Why was there no escape? Because of reality, because of God's law, because of the actual condition of humanity. In order to save humanity the condition that is causing our death must be eliminated and the species must be restored to unity and oneness with God, which requires God's living law of love be fully restored into the species. Jesus, as a human, did this for us!] In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, when the mysterious cup trembled in the hand of the sufferer, the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, [Is this where God uses power from heaven to punish Jesus, to reign fire down on Him? No! Listen to what is described] and **the mighty angel who stands in God's presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. The angel came not to take the cup from Christ's hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it, with the assurance of the Father's love. He came to give power to the divine-human suppliant.** [This did not reduce His suffering, but in fact, prolonged His suffering. Without this intervention Jesus would have died right there in Gethsemane, but there was more that was needed to be done to complete the plan of salvation and thus Jesus' humanity which was failing and collapsing into death had to be physically strengthened to endure more of what sin, evil, and rebellious angels and humans would do to Him. And note that the angel reassured Jesus of the Father's love. God was not angry at His Son. God was not using power to hurt Jesus. Even when Jesus takes the cup of our iniquities and becomes our substitutionary Savior and stands in the sinner's place God does not use power to punish Jesus.] He pointed Him to the open heavens, telling Him of the souls that would be saved as the result of His sufferings. He assured Him that His Father is greater and more powerful than Satan, that His death would result in the utter discomfiture of Satan, and that the kingdom of this world would be given to the saints of the Most High. He told Him that He would see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied, for He would see a multitude of the human race saved, eternally saved. The Desire of



Ages 693. [Notice the angel focused Jesus' mind away from the injustice, the abuse, the pain, the suffering, the torment—away from self and to God and others and the higher purpose of what He was accomplishing. This is a lesson for us. When we are being assailed by evil forces we also will find strength by focusing upon God, upon His love, purposes, plans and upon others and how we are fulfilling some aspect of a higher purpose. Satan wants to get us to focus on the evil, the sin, the injustice, the unfairness and on self which only inflames our fears and insecurities and undermines our faith.]

**Christ's agony did not cease**, but His depression and discouragement left Him. **The storm had in nowise abated**, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury. He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face. **He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man.** The Desire of Ages 694. [When did Jesus taste death for every man? In Gethsemane—and what did the Father do to Jesus?]

Why has the lesson come to a different conclusion and description of events than the most important founder of the SDA church? Because the lesson is written by people who hold to a different law that the author of *The Desire of Ages*. They hold to imposed law, and imposed law requires infliction of imposed penalties.

From the same founder of the SDA church, we read the following, see if this gives insight into why the lesson takes the exact opposite position to what God actually did to Jesus?

**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)

**There is no such thing as weakening or strengthening the law of Jehovah. As it has been, so it is. It always has been, and always will be holy, just, and good, complete in itself. It cannot be repealed or changed. To “honor” or “dishonor” it is but the speech of men.** (Prophets and Kings 625)

**Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition.** (Prophets and Kings 625.)

What is the final issue over? A question over God's law—it is a question over whether we believe God is Creator and His law is design law or whether it functions like human law.

When Lucifer rebelled in heaven, the Sabbath did not exist, the question over law was not a question over the Sabbath. The Sabbath, according to Scripture is a sign, it is a gift, a flag, a pennant, a tool made for humanity, to be a blessing and benefit to us in the middle of this war. But the war and



conflict go far beyond what day of worship, it goes to the character of God, His eternal law, the protocols upon which life is built, and how He governs. And the Sabbath is a sign that God is Creator, whose laws are design laws has given us, to remind us. God gave evidence of His power and Creatorship days 1-6 of creation week, and then God rested, God stopped using power and left His intelligent creatures free to think and decide for themselves. Thus we are to Remember the Sabbath—we are to embrace the truth that the Sabbath reveals—how God governs and practice those methods in our lives all seven days of the week, lovers of truth who present the truth in love and leave others free.

The answer to the question of how we understand God's law directly alters how we see God. Another way to say it, the answer to the question of how we understand God's law determines which God we are worshipping.

Are we worshipping the Creator God of love who is the source of life and health, or are we worshipping an imperial dictator who is the source of strife and death.

## SUNDAY

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Read first paragraph,

As we have already seen, there must be a judgment before Christ comes. The angel announces in a loud voice that “ ‘the hour of His judgment has come’ ” (Rev. 14:7, NKJV). The book of Daniel gives us the time when this judgment begins. (Adult SS Guide Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages p. 47)

What law lens do you hear this through? If we accept the lie that God's law functions like human law then what does judgment mean?

If we accept the truth that God's law is design law then what does judgment mean?

And in the case of the 3 angels—what is the judgment that has come?

Is this not the judgment Paul was referring to in Romans 3:4:

You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when you are being tried (Romans 3:4 GNT).

so that you will be justified in your words and will prevail when you are judged (Romans 3:4 NET).

That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged. (Romans 3:4 NKJV).





What is the war over?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We 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. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84).

The war started in heaven over a question of God's character, methods, trustworthiness, it spread to Earth over whether God can be trusted, and it ends over the same issue.

Satan has assaulted the character of God by alleging God abuses power by making up rules that He enforces with inflicted punishments, thus making God out to be a dictator, the source of pain, suffering, and death—the one from whom we need protection.

Thus Revelation prophesies that a time in human history comes when enough truth has been revealed and recovered that people are enabled to make a right judgment about God. The eternal gospel, the eternal good news about God as Creator goes to the world, and the hour has come for people to make a right judgment about God, to come out of Babylon and stop worshiping the satanic dictator god and worship our Creator.

For the rest of the lesson it is about Daniel 8:14, how it is understood, calculated and how we get to 1844 and its implications.

Please refer to our seminar The Sanctuary and the Feast Days lecture 2 [The Day of Atonement and the Feast Days](#) where I cover this material in detail. You can watch the video, or if you prefer download the power point slides and get the information from the slides.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**NEW MAGAZINE: Critical Race Theory: Exposing the Lies While Advancing the Gospel**, is now available

**As of April 21, 2023 Dr Jennings is no longer affiliated with Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine LUCOM.** I have nothing but the highest regard for the faculty and staff at LUCOM. They brought me onboard to lead in the build out of a psychiatric residency a vision I wholeheartedly support and pray for their future success. However, while they believed they would be able to obtain the necessary infrastructure for such a program (an inpatient psychiatric unit either by building one or contracting with one), various obstacles outside the University's control prevented this. When this became clear, that it would be years if not decades before the infrastructure could be obtained, it was realized by all parties that I was not able to do the tasks I was hired to do and we parted on sad but friendly terms.

In the immediate future I will be teaching in person again. But for the next chapter in my career, we are praying for God's guidance in this. Is it time for me to take a more active role in ministry, creating more programming, traveling and speaking more, organizing more regional events? Do I look to reopen a private practice, or look to another hospital based system etc. No decision has been made, but we are prayerfully asking for God's leadership in this, and we appreciate your prayers for God's will and guidance in the next steps in our lives—Tim and Christie.

**New Billboard Resource:** In response to requests from our listeners, we have developed some billboards, and will be developing and releasing new ones periodically. They will be released in sets that have the same slogan with different layouts and images. These are available for anyone who would like to download and use them in their community. Come and Reason Ministries is not, at this time, planning on purchasing billboard space, but we are making these available for those who want to put billboards up in their community.

**Podcasts:** We have a weekly podcast about 13 minutes long that is available to be delivered to your device if you sign up for it.

**Remedy app:** The Remedy is available as a free app and includes the New Testament, Psalms and Genesis.

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

- CIBTS
- God is Love Children's book
- The Heavenly Sanctuary for the Modern World
- The Final Message of Mercy
- The Remedy NT





- The Remedy of the Lord in Song
- First set of tracts

You can email Simon at [australia@comeandreason.com](mailto:australia@comeandreason.com)

**Materials in South Africa:** Jacques van den Heever has materials available in South Africa you can email him at [comeandreason.sa@gmail.com](mailto:comeandreason.sa@gmail.com)

### **Unmasking the Beasts of Revelation 13 & 17 Now Available in South Africa!**

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

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

**New Member's Section is now open:** This is FREE but will require a sign in and will contain member's only content:

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