



2023 2Q Three Cosmic Messages—Lesson 10 Satan's Final Deceptions

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

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Last week the question was raised as to whether the SDA church has been infected with the Roman imperial law idea, that God's law functions like human law and therefore teaches that justice requires God to use His power to inflict pain, suffering, and death upon sinners to punish sin, and also upon Christ as our substitute.

In other words, has the idea that God is the source of inflicted pain, suffering, and death, the one from whom we need to be protected become part of the teachings found with SDA church and its publications? And if so, do we recognize that this is part of the wine of Babylon and to the degree we teach such things about God we fail to fulfill the purpose of the SDA movement, we fail to take the 3 Angels' Messages to the world.

Here are a few quotes documenting that this imperial Roman idea of imposed law, which makes God out to be the source of pain, suffering, and death is commonly taught within the institutional SDA church, and this idea stands in conflict with the message given to the church by EGW.

- For a loving God to maintain His justice and righteousness, the atoning death of Jesus Christ became 'a moral and legal necessity.' God's 'justice requires that sin be carried to judgment. **God must therefore execute judgment** on sin and thus on the sinner. **In this execution the Son of God took our place, the sinner's place, according to God's will.** *Seventh-day Adventist Believe* 27, p. 111
- Why did **God the Father choose** a cross to be the instrument of death? Why did He not choose to have Christ instantly beheaded or quickly run through with a spear or sword? **Was God unjust in executing judgment on Christ with a cross** when He could have done it by beheading, a noose, a sword, a gas chamber, a bolt of lightning, or a lethal injection? Whidden, W., *Ministry Magazine*, February 2007.
<http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2007/February/sinners-in-the-hands-of-god.html>
- One of the fundamental problems of the Moral Influence Theory is that it rejects the substitutionary nature of Christ's death. The idea that **God had to kill the innocent** instead of



the guilty in order to save us is considered a violation of justice. (emphasis mine) Rodriguez, A., *Adventist World Review*, December 2007; p. 40.

- The Hebrew wording in both Leviticus 9:24 and 10:2 was the same: ‘and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed.’ (9:24, NKJV). Consumed what? In the first case, the offering; in the other, the sinners. What a powerful representation of the plan of salvation. **At the Cross, the ‘fire from God,’ the wrath of God, ‘consumed’ the offering, and that was Jesus.** (Goldstein, C., *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, 3 Quarter 2011, Pacific Press, p. 40).
- **The fires of God’s judgment burned themselves out on Him [Jesus]**, 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. (Goldstein, C., *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages, Pacific Press, p. 46)

Who do these quotations say is the source of inflicted death upon Jesus, who took the sinner’s place?

What does the Bible say?

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet **we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.** (Isaiah 53:4)

Jesus speaking to those who would later crucify Him said, “You belong to your **father, the devil**, and you want to carry out your **father’s desire. He was a murderer** from the beginning...” (John 8:44)

And what was the message that the SDA church was supposed to teach about this? This is a historical reference from one of the founders of the SDA church, found in *The Desire of Ages*:

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.** White, E.G., *Desire of Ages*, p. 761.

George Fifiield, an SDA theologian presented the following in 1897 at a General Conference:

We said, God is doing all this; God is killing him, punishing him, to satisfy his wrath, in order to let us off. That is the pagan conception of sacrifice. The Christian idea of sacrifice is this. Let us note the contrast. ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ That is the Christian idea. Yes, sir. Indifference keeps, hatred keeps, selfishness keeps... But love, and love only, sacrifices, gives freely, gives itself, gives without counting the cost; gives because it



is love. That is sacrifice, whether it is the sacrifice of bulls and goats, or of him who is the Lamb of God. It is the sacrifice that is revealed throughout the entire Bible. **But the pagan idea of sacrifice is just the opposite. It is that some god is always offended, always angry, and his wrath must be propitiated in some way.** (1897 General Conference Daily Bulletin Sermon Series number 1).

These eternal truths about God are not restricted to the Adventist people or movement, non-SDA Christians have also understood this:

Oswald Chambers wrote:

The Bible does not say that God punished the human race for one man's sin, but that the nature of sin, namely, my claim to my right to myself, entered into the human race through one man. But it also says that another **Man took upon Himself the sin of the human race and put it away** — an infinitely more profound revelation...

Sin is something I am born with and cannot touch— only God touches sin through redemption. It is through the Cross of Christ that God redeemed the entire human race from the possibility of damnation through the heredity of sin. **God nowhere holds a person responsible for having the heredity of sin, and does not condemn anyone because of it.** Condemnation comes when I realize that Jesus Christ came to deliver me from this heredity of sin, and **yet I refuse to let Him do so.** From that moment I begin to get the seal of damnation. **“This is the condemnation [and the critical moment], that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light . . .” (John 3:19)** (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, <http://utmost.org>).

And this is the quote from EGW that Linda was referring to last week:

While God has desired to teach men that from **His own love comes the Gift which reconciles them to Himself, the archenemy of mankind has endeavored to represent God as one who delights in their destruction.** Thus the sacrifices and the ordinances **designed of Heaven to reveal divine love have been perverted to serve as means whereby sinners have vainly hoped to propitiate, with gifts and good works, the wrath of an offended God.** (E.G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, Pacific Press Publishing Assoc., 1917, p. 685).

Questions or comments about this?

With all of this in mind, let us turn to our lesson, which is entitled Satan's Final Deceptions—do you think Satan's final deceptions have anything to do with how people understand God's law, and therefore God's character?



SABBATH

Read second paragraph,

As we have seen, Revelation warns us that the “inhabitants of the earth” will drink a deadly potion called the “wine of Babylon.” There are false doctrines and teachings that, in the end, will lead only to death. However, the world is not left without the antidote, the protection, against this spiritual poison: the three angels’ messages. (SDA Adult SS Guide Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages, p. 80)

No question the saved will embrace the truth and the lost reject the truth and believe falsehoods—but is this speaking only about facts or is this speaking of living truth, truth about functional reality?

For instance, can someone be saved if they believe that the Earth is flat, or that there was not a worldwide Flood as described in Genesis but only a local flood?

My point is that the saved will love the truth and the lost will not, but does that mean the saved know all truth on all subjects and don’t believe anything incorrectly?

Then the truth essential for salvation must have a specific focus, must be a particular type of truth—and what is that truth?

Now this is **eternal life**: that they may **know you, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3 NIV84).

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).

What is the truth we must know in order to be saved? The truth about God—but what kind of truth is this? Is it facts—knowing that God created the Earth and humans, knowing that there was a Flood, knowing that Jesus died as our Savior, knowing that the seventh day is the Sabbath of God. Or is it a type of knowledge that goes beyond facts? Doesn’t Satan know all those facts?

Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not **prophecy in your name, and in your name** drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘**I never knew you**. Away from me, you evildoers!’ (Matthew 7:22-23 NIV84).

Who did these people claim to be worshiping and ministering in the name of? Jesus—they knew about Jesus, but they did not know Jesus.



So, the truth we must know is not merely factual knowledge, it is experiential knowledge, we must know God personally, for ourselves.

The lesson focuses our attention upon two doctrines, that we must know the truth about the doctrines in order not to be deceived, and those two doctrines are spiritualism and Sunday sacredness.

What are your thoughts about this?

Can a person know the truth about both these doctrines and many others and still not know God? Will a person be saved by knowing true doctrines if they don't know God? Can a person be saved if they know God but believe something wrong about some doctrine?

What is the importance of doctrine then? Doctrines are only valuable to the degree they enlighten us about God and help restore our trust in God. Another way to say this is that the primary purpose of doctrinal truth is to reveal God to us.

The right way to understand every doctrine is to ask, What does this doctrine reveal about God? All our doctrines should be conceptualized like spokes on a wheel, God is the central hub from which all truth originate and following all truth lead back to God.

But sadly, in much of Christianity, including the SDA church, various teachings have been set up as stand-alone doctrines established with proof texts and to be believed on their own separated from what they tell us about God.

Such a way of pursuing truth leads to spiritual narcissism and egotism, we have the truth, our doctrines are right and yours are wrong. It also leads to division rather than unity, people argue and fight over this meaning or that text. And it leads to fear and anxiety rather than peace and joy—fear that we might be missing some important truth, or fact, or idea because when our doctrines are separated from the truth about God then our security is found in having the right doctrines, creeds, fundamental beliefs, not in having a trust relationship with the right God.

But, the lesson is not wrong in that Satan's end-time deception will include spiritualism and what Sunday sacredness represents, but if we don't identify the underlying root—i.e. connect our doctrines back to the truth about God, we very well may have the right factual truth, like the state of the dead or the weekly Sabbath, but crucify the Lord of the Sabbath like the Jews did 2000 years ago.

So consider what spiritualism and Sunday sacredness, if true, would say about God, i.e. what kind of God would God be if they were true?



SUNDAY

The lesson title for the day is taken from Proverbs 14:12:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death (Proverbs 14:12 NIV84).

Can you think of a some doctrine, method, belief, or practice that seems right to almost every human being and has greater acceptance, but actually leads to death, than the belief in “law and order” imposed laws with imposed punishments?

Consider Isaiah 55:6-9:

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will **freely pardon**. **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,”** declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:6-9 NIV84).

Is it the way of human law to freely pardon? Or does human law require punishment be inflicted in order for justice to be satisfied?

And do most Christians teach that God freely pardons or that God requires a legal payment, someone to die to pay for their sins?

This is how the world will be deceived by the beast of Revelation—it will come with coercive power to do justice, to enforce its laws while people may disagree on what are the right laws to enforce, they all agree that justice requires law-breaking to be punished.

Read third paragraph,

People are often told to follow their own conscience in order to determine for themselves what is right or wrong, good or evil, and then live accordingly. But the Scripture says that we are all sinners, all corrupted (Jer. 17:9, Rom. 3:9–18), and so to trust our own sentiments is almost a guaranteed way to, sooner or later, get it wrong and even to do wrong. A lot of evil has been perpetrated through the ages by people utterly convinced of the rightness of their cause. That is, they followed the “way that seems right” to them. (SDA Adult SS Guide Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages, p. 81)

What do you think of this? Is something not quite right in this paragraph?

Do you understand that conscience and sentiments are the same?



In Romans 14 Paul is discussing disagreement about various religious observations, foods to eat, days of worship etc. and Paul says,

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. (Romans 14:5 NIV84).

Paul then goes on to conclude his argument with the following, and consider this in light of following our conscience:

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin (Romans 14:22-23 NIV84).

What does this mean?

Are our conscience and our sentiments the same?

No, our conscience is a mental faculty that is sensitive to the movements of the Spirit of God. And the Spirit of God works upon the conscience to convict of sin, to instill a desire for the things of God, a longing for truth, love, joy, peace. The Holy Spirit works upon the conscience not only to convict of sin, but to also convict of duties of various kinds.

Jesus, spoke of the conscience as our spiritual eye, the part of our minds that is sensitive to the light of truth, when He said,

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:22-23 NIV84).

But just like our physical eyes, our consciences can become diseased or even blind.

Thus, God never intends for us to make decisions with conscience alone. God has provided another faculty to work in conjunction with our conscience and that is our reason.

God says,

“Come now, let us reason together. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Isaiah 1:18 NIV84).

The lesson is correct if we allow our consciences to lead us disconnected from our reasoning ability, disconnected from Scriptural truth, then we can be lead astray. However, if we reason without a conscience we are likewise in danger of being led astray into narcissism, pride, arrogance, and all



types of sinful self-justification—even under the guise of religion. Just consider those religious leaders who crucified Christ.

MONDAY

Monday focuses on immortality of the soul.

The basic question is this: When God created human beings in Eden, did God create them with some aspect of their being that can never die, that is immortal, or did God create them mortal and eternal life is only possible by receiving the life of God and staying connected with our Creator?

The belief that some part of human individuality, whether the soul or spirit, is immortal and can never die, is the root of spiritualism.

Of course, we could take the approach of arguing the evidences from the Bible that prove the doctrine one way or the other, like:

- God said that if they eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil they would die
- Satan said they would not die (Genesis 3:4-5)
- “He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22-24 NIV84).
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NIV84).
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

And there are so many more texts, so we could approach it this way. But if we do, we have created a stand-alone doctrine about the mortality of the soul.

How do we connect this doctrine to the truth about God? Having cited the Biblical evidence for the mortality of the soul, and that immortality is a gift from God to the righteous, we need to consider the more important question. What do these two views mean for the kind of person God is?

If God did create Adam and Eve in Eden, with some aspect of their personhood that can never die, what would that mean about God?

Remember the current facts of humanity that most of Christianity teaches—

- they teach that we are born in sin
- yet we are born with immortal souls



- and that some people are born in situations in which they are abused as children, never have the gospel presented to them, and die never having come to Christ
- But despite living only briefly with a sin condition they did not choose, and having never had the gospel presented to them, God still sends their immortal souls to hell to be eternally tortured.

What does this belief say about God if true?

- Does God have foreknowledge or not?
- If God does have foreknowledge and foresaw human sin and all humans, after Adam's sin, would be born sinners and that billions would die without accepting salvation, and yet He created them with immortality knowing they would suffer for all eternity for a condition they didn't choose to have themselves and never being offered the remedy—what kind of god would that be?
- If God does not have foreknowledge and gave them immortality because He didn't see or anticipate the sin problem, what would that say about God? He is naïve or foolish or unwise.
- Either way, if we accept the idea that God created human beings with immortality in Eden, it not only contradicts the evidence of Scripture, but makes God out to be completely untrustworthy, either because God is abusive and vindictive foreknowing what would happen and created it to be this way anyway, or He is untrustworthy because He is powerful but foolish and makes bad choices.

So the primary issue of the end-time lie about immortality of the soul is one about God, who God is. Is He trustworthy or not. That is the primary issue. Secondary issues are such things as spiritualism.

If what I am saying is true, then how do we understand passages from Scripture like:

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be **absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord** (2 Corinthians 5:6–8 KJV).

If you haven't read our magazine [The Wedding of Christ to His Bride: Preparing the Church for the Second Coming](#) I encourage you to do so. We answer this question in great detail in that magazine.

But let's review that answer now.

Human beings are made of three parts, body, soul, spirit. And to be functional, operational, or actively living, all three components must be present.

A computer makes a great example for us, because to be **operational a computer** also needs three parts all together: **hardware, software, and an energy source**. Having only one or two of these three will result in a computer that will not operate. All three are required for actual functioning.



In a similar way, to have an **operational** (functioning) **human being**, it requires all three components—**body, soul, and spirit**:

- The Greek word for **body** is σῶμα [*soma*] and is analogous to a computer's **hardware, including the CPU**—the physical machine, including our brain.
- The Greek word for **soul** is ψυχή [*psuche*], from which we get psyche, as in *psychiatry* and *psychology*, and it means our individuality—our heart, unique personhood, character, identity. It is analogous to a computer's **software** (including database/datasets/data).
- And the Greek word for **spirit** is πνεῦμα [*pneuma*], from which we get pneumonia or pneumatic, and it means wind, air, or breath—as in the breath of life. This is our **energy source**—the life-energy originating from God.

When a computer runs out of power, what state does it go into? It “sleeps.” This is exactly how the Bible describes those who die the first death: they “sleep,” awaiting the resurrection (Psalm 7:5, 13:3; Matthew 9:24; John 11:12, 13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13).

At the first death:

- The body returns to dust (Genesis 3:19, Psalm 44:25, Ecclesiastes 3:20);
- The spirit—life energy—returns to God who gave the breath of life (Ecclesiastes 12:7);
- But what about the soul (*psuche/psyche*)—the individuality, the software? Where does that go?

Paul said it goes to God—but what does that mean?

If someone stole your laptop and was threatening to destroy it but you had a perfect copy of the data backed up on a cloud server, then you might say, “I’m not afraid of the one who can destroy my laptop (hardware/body/soma) but cannot destroy the software [*soul/psuche*].” This is like what Jesus described in Matthew 10:28 when He spoke about those who might kill us for our faith in Him.

Why is it that the killing of the body cannot destroy the soul? Because the soul is our individuality, our unique personhood, and it is distinct from the body. And Paul says our individuality goes to God, stored on the heavenly servers, known as the Lamb’s book of life, until the resurrection, when God brings those individualities who are asleep with Him and downloads them into new bodies (hardware) and they live again.

Paul brilliantly describes this very process:

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who **fall asleep**, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him**. The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 NIV84).



Did you notice that the very same righteous dead who arise out of the ground are also coming down out of heaven with Christ—and that they are described as coming from heaven in a state of sleep? How can this be? Because their souls/individualities/software, which are stored on the heavenly “servers,” are coming down with Christ to be downloaded into their new immortal bodies during the resurrection at the second coming! Jesus, the Builder of our tripartite beings, understood this, proclaiming:

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).

The righteous may *sleep*, but they never *die*. Their individualities are safe with Christ in heaven!

So, now let’s talk about the end-time deception. Have you ever heard that one of Satan’s end time deceptions will be through getting people to communicate with the dead and we can be protected from this deception if we know that the dead are asleep waiting resurrection?

So, our safety is knowing the right doctrine, in this case the truth about the state of the dead. Hmm...while I agree it is wise to know the truth about human nature as we have outlined today, I want to give some examples of how people can still be deceived by demons masquerading as the dead even though they know the truth about human mortality. How might that happen? Here are a couple of ways:

- A fallen angel manifests in real physical form that you can touch but appears as a human being—angels can appear in the form of a human (Genesis 18-19). This fallen angel claims to be the prophet Isaiah who has a special end time message. A person who believes the truth about the state of the dead objects, and states, “You are dead, sleeping in the grave until the resurrection.” But the demon smiles and kindly says, “You know your Bible. I was sleeping in death until Jesus’ resurrection. I am one of the first fruits raised from the dead and taken to heaven when Jesus arose. And am described as one of the 24 elders sitting on thrones in Revelation. And now He has sent me to warn you...”
- You see some being claiming to be your deceased love one. They have the same mannerisms, turn of the head, smile, and knowledge of previous interactions with them. But knowing your Bible you say, “The dead sleep in the grave so you can’t be my departed loved one, be gone!” But they gently say, “Sweetheart, you are right, the dead sleep in the grave. I am not from your present time. Jesus controls time, and He has opened a portal in time and asked me to send a message to you today. Do you remember that day on our 32 anniversary when I seemed strange. That was the day Jesus came to me and asked me to have this conversation with you. I am alive, in my body, but it is 1986 and Jesus wanted me to tell you that in 2023 next week, you are going to face this....”



- You see a non-corporeal, non-physical entity speaking and claiming to be Jeremiah sent from God with an end-time message. You object that the Bible teaches the dead sleep in the grave until the resurrection, so this disembodied entity must be a demon. But the being smiles gently and says, “Well done for knowing your Bible and the truth about the state of human mortality. I was dead and was sleeping in the grave, but I was resurrected in my body when Jesus arose and am one of the first fruits taken to heaven. I am speaking to you know from heaven and am in my physical body. What you are seeing is a quantum projection. So you are quite right that I am not there physically, I am here physically, but am projecting myself across the quantum network and links that God has built His universe upon. You are a Seventh-day Adventist aren’t you? These links I am using were described by EG White you can find it in her book Evangelism page 93, she wrote:

“The striking feature of divine operations is the accomplishment of the greatest work that can be done in our world by very simple means. It is God's plan that every part of His government shall depend on every other part, the whole as a wheel within a wheel, working with entire harmony. He moves upon human forces, causing His Spirit to touch invisible chords, and the vibration rings to the extremity of the universe. (Evangelism 93).

Why am I describing these types of events to you? Because knowing the true doctrine about the state of the dead is not enough to protect people from being deceived by demons impersonating the dead, what is necessary to be protected? To know the truth about God, both intellectually and spiritually—to know God for ourselves, not to trust in the facts of a doctrine, but to know God and understand His character, His design laws, His methods, what sin is that it is a break in God’s design laws for life, and how God heals that break, and why death comes. We must know reality for ourselves and when we do then we are protected from deception. Then even if Satan appears as an angel of light we will not be duped because we know reality, the truth about God and how His kingdom functions for ourselves.

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses on the historical facts of how Sunday became a day of Christian veneration, documenting that such a change is not found in Scripture, but in the history of Rome. Constantine passed a law recognizing the veneration of Sunday, and later when the Roman church did the same.

It is a well-established historical fact that there is no Biblical basis for this change in the day. If you are a Christian from a non-SDA denomination, go to any theological scholar from your denomination and ask them. They all know that the Bible does not teach Sunday sacredness, that it is a tradition of the church, established by Rome. The argument is that it honors the resurrection of Christ, but that is tradition, it is not Scriptural. Jesus gave the communion ceremony as a way to honor His resurrection until He returns.



The Roman church doesn't deny it, in fact it publishes this fact:

“The church after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath or seventh-day of the week to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day.” Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, p. 153.

Daniel 7 prophesied that a power would arise and seek to change God's law—but God's law cannot be changed because God's law is the design law that reality is built upon.

The Roman church not only changed the fourth commandment, but also deleted the second about images and split the 10th to keep the number at 10.

But all of this is a diversion, a distraction that keeps people from seeing the real corruption, the true change made in how people understand and believe about God's law. And that is the idea of the law itself is imposed law, this is the change that Rome brought to the world and almost all Christians accept.

What church committee ever voted that its members don't have to breathe on bad pollution days? Why not? Because they know they cannot change such laws.

So what does it mean in regard to how church leaders understand the type of law that God's law is, if they think it can be changed? The fact that the church leaders voted to change God's law reveals that they first accepted the lie that God's law functions like human law, like Roman law, imposed rules which are subject to change.

While the SDA church has rejected the change to the commandment and returned to the Bible Sabbath, it has not fully thrown off the lie that that says God's law is imposed rules requiring God to impose punishments.

Thus, the Sunday issue at the end of time is not primarily about the day itself, but what the day represents. Sunday sacredness represents the idea that God's law and government work like human law and government and can be changed.

And when we connect that idea of law to what it says about God, it means that such a being is an arbitrary deity who makes up rules and that justice is the the infliction of pain, suffering, and death.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson title for the day is A Call to Faithfulness—what does that mean?



Does that mean:

- Faithful to the Sabbath?
- Faithful to the SDA church or some other denomination?
- Or faithful to Jesus?

Does faithfulness to Jesus mean that we all have the exact same beliefs?

Does it mean we have the same methods of truth, love, and liberty in how we live and treat others?

The lesson states the demons work their miracles to deceive—yes they do, for what goal? The goal of Satan and his demonic agents is to destroy the image of God in humans and put Satan's image where God's should be.

In other words, the goal of Satan is for us to be like him in our character attitudes, practices, methods, and principles.

Why would Satan's agents use miracles to deceive? Because they don't have truth, so Satan uses whatever tactic he can to get people to stop pursuing truth. The truth always leads back to God.

What tactics turn minds away from truth?

- Lies that are believed
- Emotions/desires/lusts
- Miracles that turn the mind away from investigating truth
- Spiritualism in all its forms—pursuit of knowledge without the investigation of evidence or use of reason (Fortune tellers, crystal balls, seances, palm reading, or any other type)
- Faith without evidence—believe because someone said so
- Authority, believing because of the position, office, charisma, or power of the one who said it
- Entertainment that distracts
- Overwork and responsibilities that distract
- Mind altering substances that injure the brain
- Others?

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph,

As we already have seen (but worth repeating), many of God's people are in religious organizations that have compromised biblical teachings. They do not understand the truths of Scripture. God's loving appeal is straightforward: “ ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’ ” (Rev. 18:4, NKJV). (SDA Adult SS Guide Second Quarter 2023, Three Cosmic Messages, p. 85)



Could this include people in every single Christian denomination?

Have I demonstrated at the beginning of class today that within the SDA church are teachings that compromise biblical truth?

When Jesus was here 2000 years ago, were there things being taught in the Judaism of His day that were unbiblical and wrong? Did that mean that the Jewish nation and system was not called by God and not blessed by God?

No, it means that Satan was actively working to undermine the truths of God within the organization where God is working. The same happens in the church today. Wherever God is working Satan is actively working to corrupt and undermine.

So, just because we can document within Christianity as a whole and the SDA church specifically, that there are errors that have entered, that does NOT mean the organization is not called by God to fulfill a mission for God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Administrative Director for Come and Reason Ministries:

Francesca Brewster has served as our Administrative Director since 2016. And we have all been blessed by her loving and faithful work for us over the years. God has blessed Fran and Sam with two beautiful children and she has decided, that she needs to be at home with her children. Therefore, Fran is leaving her position as our Administrative Director to be a full-time mother. We will miss Fran, and I know many of you will also. One month from now, at our June potluck, we will have a special farewell thank you for Fran. So, if you have a note, a card, or would like to express your appreciation to Fran in person, please join us Sabbath June 10.

Today, I want to introduce you to our new Administrative Director, Dessya Palit.

Dessya is well qualified to take on this position. She has a Bachelors in Business Administration Marketing & Finance, with a Minor in Accounting from Southwestern Adventist University. She has experience in marketing, management, purchasing, and accounting, and has worked for other not for profit organizations in the past.

Dessya will start this Tuesday May 16, 2023.

Please join me in welcoming Dessya to our team.

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