



2023 4Q God's Mission My Mission Lesson 12 Esther and Mordecai

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by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read memory text:

- I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6 NIV84).

What does this text mean?

I want to be very respectful and careful lest someone misconstrue my following comments. I want to recognize how special, blessed, and chosen were the children of Israel—blessed by God, chosen by God, they received the prophets and the inspired writings, the object lessons and teaching tools of the ceremonial system, and the Messiah, God Himself in human form was born into their family tree. What incredible privilege and blessing. And because of this Satan has targeted this people throughout human history and they have suffered terrible persecution—first and foremost, as the Bible prophets write, because they kept betraying God and going after false gods and thus leaving God’s protective care and opening themselves up for satanic attack—and Satan has used the ungodly of the world to attack and persecute this people throughout history.

So I have great admiration and respect for the Jewish people through history for they were called by God, as Isaiah has written, to be a light to the entire world and bring salvation to all peoples of the world.

But as a nation today, are they still fulfilling God’s purpose? If we want to find God’s truth for this time in human history, will we find it in the nation-state of Israel—is that where God is actively working to reveal the final message of mercy to the world?

Jesus said,

- “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” (John 18:36 NIV84).

The Jewish people still existed under Roman occupation—they still had kings—remember King Herod. They still had their legal code and police force—the temple guards. In other words, their government was still in existence at that time. But Jesus said that that Jewish government was not His.

Satan claimed that Jewish government for his own along with all the rest of the kingdoms of the world that he offered to Jesus:

- Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” (Matthew 4:8-9 NIV84)

The Bible writers didn’t write that Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms except Israel/Judah, no Judah was part of this fallen, rebellious, sinful world and was led by the same unrighteous leaders as the rest of the world and used the same imposed laws that are easily manipulated for selfish purposes as the rest of the world—the nation, while used by God to protect the Scriptures and to be the branch of the human family through whom Messiah would come, was not God’s kingdom and did not function upon heavenly law.

What about today, having rejected Jesus as Messiah, does the nation state of Israel today possess the gospel, function as God’s true church, and contain the heavenly light the world needs?

The first point, from our memory text, is that God called Israel for a mission—and that mission was to be a light to the entire world of the truth about God, the coming Messiah, and the plan of salvation. They were to call all people to repentance and trust in the true God. But they instead rejected the truth and rejected the Savior and the purpose of God in their calling was only partially fulfilled. They did bring the Scriptures down through time for the world to access and we have the Old Testament because of them, and Jesus was born descended from them. But they as a nation, as an organized religious system, did not accept Jesus as the Messiah; and all those symbols, ceremonies, object lessons that when connected to Jesus and objective reality become powerful tools to enlighten the mind, when they are disconnected from Jesus and objective reality they become powerful tools to keep people from seeing the truth. There is no salvation, path to heaven, eternal life other than that which God has provided in and through Jesus. The Jewish people have been so blessed to be the family through whom God has worked and sent the Messiah—incredible privilege. But sadly, it will do them no good if they reject the very remedy to our human sin condition that they were integral in bringing into the world.

Read the second paragraph,

- Esther and Mordecai, her cousin, were Jews living in the capital of the Persian Empire, Susa. For whatever reason, unlike other Jews who had returned to Judah, they, along with others, remained in the land of their captivity. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God’s Mission My Mission p. 96).

What lessons can we draw from this fact?

Where had God called the Jews to be at this time in history? They were to return to Palestine and rebuild the temple. Where were Esther and Mordecai? In Persia, so this means, according to the

evidence we have, that Esther and Mordecai were not where God called them to be. And they ended up in trouble—did God abandon them because they weren't where they were supposed to be?

Have you ever heard the idea that if you go into a movie theater your guardian angel will stay outside? This story about Esther refutes that idea. God did not abandon them even though they were not where He instructed them to be.

But does that mean they didn't suffer hardship because of their choice not to go back to Jerusalem?

If they had been back in Jerusalem Mordecai would not have been in the situation where he refused to bow to Haman. Without that perceived slight Haman may not have had his attention drawn to the Jews and he may not have plotted to kill them. Had they returned to Jerusalem Esther would not have become queen and she wouldn't have had to risk her life going into the king.

So, one possibility is that the very problems, trials, and tribulation we see in this book is the result of their choice not to listen to God and not go where He wanted them to be and had they done so they may have avoided these problems. But, we also learn that despite their choice not to go, God did not abandon them but instead worked through them to protect the line for the Messiah, which Satan was actively seeking to destroy.

This process is a recurring theme we see in the lives of every person who seeks to follow God. God will give us various insights, truths, directions, callings, and we are left free to follow or not. If we choose not to listen right away, we may experience struggles, problems, conflicts, trials that God was trying to protect us from. When we find ourselves in such straights and call out to God, like Esther did, God always intervenes to heal and save—and I mean eternal salvation, not necessarily temporal salvation.

- Jacob—we can make the case that Jacob deceiving his brother goes against God's calling to live an honest and righteous life—and that act resulted in his many trials, but God did not abandon him and when Jacob turns to God God is there every time to help him and ultimately transform him giving him a new name Israel. Had Jacob not deceived Esau God would have given Jacob the blessing in God's way and Jacob would have avoided many trials.
- Jonah—called by God to go to Nineveh but runs, and experiences trials and tribulations he would not otherwise experience, and calls out to God and is delivered. Had he followed God's direction he would have avoided the storm and being swallowed by the fish.
- Samson didn't listen to God's instructions and suffered the results, but when he finally repented and turned back to God, God poured out His Spirit upon him and saved him eternally even though Samson died at that time. Had Samson stayed faithful he would have avoided such suffering. Samson ended up where God did not want him to be, but God did not abandon him; God waited for Samson to open his heart for God to heal and deliver.
- David didn't listen to what he knew was right in his affair with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah and he suffered consequence, but when he turned back to God in repentance he experienced a new heart and right spirit. He was saved eternally, but still had family and political problems as

a result of his actions. David ended up in a situation where God did not want him to be, but God did not abandon him, but sent a message to lead David to repentance.

Do you see this process over and again throughout history and your own life?

These stories are given to use to reveal reality, how we thrive when we trust and follow God and choose His methods, principles, design laws and instructions. But we cause ourselves injury, hardship, burdens, trials when we do things our own way—but God does not abandon us, He keeps watch over us, letting us experience what we have chosen, but waiting but us to learn from reality and to call out to Him and then He always steps in to save, deliver, and heal.

We see this same pattern in the story of Esther, and her story raises all kinds of questions and concerns.

Let's review the setting:

- Xerxes is having a great banquet with a lot of alcohol being served. He calls for his queen, Vashti, to come so he can show her off. She refuses. The counselors counsel Xerxes to strip her of her position, forbid her to ever enter his presence again, and replace her with another queen. So Xerxes removes Vashti and starts the search for her replacement
- The most beautiful virgins throughout the empire were brought to the palace and placed in Xerxes harem. The women underwent 12 months of beauty treatments and then one by one they went into the king, after they left the king they went to where the concubines were kept under the care of one of the eunuchs.
 - What is likely the reason they became concubines at this point?
 - Then what did the interview likely entail?
- What would you have advised your daughter to do?
- Hmm...would this be adultery?
- Would it be adultery for Esther to participate in a premarital tryout? Would it be adultery for her to marry a man who put away his first wife for political reasons?
 - Jesus said, "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5:31-32 NIV84).
 - Are Jesus' words true only after He spoke them, or were they true before He said them? Were Jesus' words true in Esther's day?
 - If it is adultery how can God bless her if she is actively sinning?
 - Or do these apparent exceptions to the rules give insight into design law principles?
 - What is sin? Lawlessness—breaking trust with God and acting in selfishness, exploiting, abusing others.
 - And are people responsible for what they did not choose?
 - In that culture what were women raised to believe and what authority were they given in governance of self?

- Women didn't have the same freedom to choose to initiate these marriage or divorce in that culture that they have in our culture. Women didn't get to choose their husbands, they were treated as property and often traded by their fathers. They couldn't initiate a divorce, only the husband could.
- So, is adultery about the act, or the heart attitude? Adultery is betrayal of trust, the heart attitude. When Mordecai instructed her to do this, she was fulfilling her duties to her family, people, culture and would have engaged in this activity with a clear conscience. She was not seeking to betray anyone, or exploit anyone and thus her conscience was clear and God could work through her.

SUNDAY

Read second and third paragraph,

- None of us, for instance, lives in an Adventist country where the principles of our faith are, to some degree, the law of the land. But before being deported, the Jewish people had been living in their own country, where the principles of their faith were also enshrined in the law of the land.

On one level, think how easy that should have made it to be faithful to God. After all, how much easier would it be to keep the seventh-day Sabbath if, in fact, keeping the seventh-day Sabbath were enshrined in the legal codes of the nation? (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God's Mission My Mission p. 97).

Hmmm...why were the Jewish people at the time of Esther in this foreign land? Because they had been taken captive by Babylon some 70 years or so before, and why were they taken captive? Because they had been unfaithful, rebellious, disloyal to God. But how could that happen if they had the principles of their faith enshrined into the legal code making it so much easier for them to obey?

This is what happens when one accepts Satan's lie that God's law functions like human law—an inability to see objective reality and what it means, minds clouded by rules and rule-keeping.

Did anyone read my blog for this week? This is a perfect opportunity to explore a question that comes up often by those who value the imposed law view and even those who don't but who struggle with the many verses in the Bible where God did give rules, laws, with imposed penalties. If God's kingdom and government do not function like human law and governments, how do we explain the many laws given, often with what appears to be harsh penalties, like stoning someone who picks up sticks on Sabbath.

How we understand the Bible often depends on the presuppositions we hold as we read it. Do we understand the setting in which the inspired message was given? What do we understand the problem being addressed to be? How do we understand God's law—do we believe it is imposed, like human law, or is it design law? What do we understand the central theme of Scripture to be? What is God's

intention, preference, and desire, and are God's actions His preferred way or what the people He is dealing with require for their current situation, needs, or understanding?

So why did God use such laws if His kingdom doesn't function in this way?

The answer is simple and straightforward: The rules given to Israel were for the setting up of a civil government in a sinful world to bring order and stability to a rebellious, unrighteous, self-centered, and sinful people who did not have hearts reborn to love God and others, people who had not experienced the new covenant of having design law written upon their hearts, a people who functioned upon the same me-first, fear-based, survival-of-the-fittest principles as the godless world around them, people who were just freed from being slaves to pagans.

The imposed rules were not intended to represent how God's government works; rather, they were intended to establish societal order among this sinful people to protect them from decaying into infighting, political intrigue, and tribal wars, which was already starting to occur with Korah and his rebellion, so that they could accomplish the mission for which they were called—to be the human avenue through whom the promised Messiah of Genesis 3:15 would come and to preserve the inspired writings.

In Romans 13 the apostle Paul describes how God uses human imposed law via civil governments to provide order in a sinful world but contrasts it with the law of love—God's design to love our neighbors which must be written upon the heart. And to help people realize the need to have the law of love written upon their hearts God added laws, both ceremonial *and* the Ten Commandments (Galatians 3). The Ten Commandments did not exist in heaven when Lucifer rebelled; it is a written code specifically tailored for sinful humans. Angels don't have a law to honor their mothers (because they don't have mothers), that sins pass down their generations (because they don't reproduce), or not to commit adultery (because they don't marry).

But God was the one who gave Israel its imposed laws—why?

To provide both a protective hedge and a diagnostic instrument to convict the people of their terminal sin condition, which was designed to lead them to surrender their hearts to God so they would experience the new covenant, recreating them and restoring His living design law of love into their hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10). David understood this when he prayed,

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. ... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:6, 10 NIV84).

When Adam and Eve sinned, they changed themselves, took themselves out of harmony with life, and infected themselves with death. And because we are all descended from Adam and Eve, we are all born in sin, conceived in iniquity (Psalm 51:5)—we are all born with a terminal condition.

But God loves us too much to let us die (John 3:16), so immediately after Adam and Eve sinned, He promised to send the Messiah to save humanity from its terminal condition (Genesis 3:15). The entire

Old Testament narrative is the story of God fulfilling that promise and Satan working to stop it. Satan nearly succeeded in preventing the plan when he deceived the entire pre-Flood population of the world into hardening their hearts permanently against God—all except one man and his family. But God acted in love, in mercy, therapeutically, to keep open the avenue for the Messiah in order to save humanity. (You can read more about this in our blogs [The Flood and Questions of Whether God Kills, Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).)

After the Flood, the Bible shifts from a global focus to the family of Abraham, which was further narrowed down through Isaac and then Jacob, because it is through their descendants that the promised Messiah would come.

At the time when the various laws were given to Israel, God was establishing them as a nation, an organized group of sinful humans who had not become His friends, like Abraham had become, but whom He wanted to be His friends. But because they were not reborn with new hearts, because they were still unconverted and, therefore, ruled by fear and selfishness and were untrustworthy, God intervened to establish a society that would function and survive in this world of sin, a society that would be made up of a few of His loyal friends (who didn't need the written law because God's design law was written upon their hearts) but also many more rebels and unrighteous idol worshipers (who did need the written law to diagnose and provide order—1 Timothy 1:8-11). Thus, God established a code of civil conduct to restrain evil and prevent societal decay in a world of sin—which included the laws and penalties referenced in the emails above.

However, God's establishment of the rule of law in this world of sin does not represent the eternal government of God but is part of His condescension, part of His grace, mercy, and love, demonstrating how God is willing to step down and meet sinful humans where we are and provide what we need in order to keep open the avenue for the Messiah, who taught about a new kingdom with a new law and new methods that are written upon hearts and minds and not stone tablets or legal registries.

As Jesus said:

The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, "Here it is," or "There it is," because the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20, 21 NIV84).

In order to save humanity, God must eradicate fear and selfishness from our hearts and write into our hearts and minds His living law of love (Hebrews 8:10). This cannot be done through imposed law, which is legal enforcement with threats of punishment. It can only be done through truth and love while leaving beings free—the eternal attributes, powers, and laws of God. It is why Paul wrote "that God's kindness leads you to repentance" (Romans 2:4 NET).

And when we are won back to trust in God, when we repent, we receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as our Friend and Savior. And Jesus applies His remedy, which He achieved as our human substitute. But for Jesus to become our Savior, He had to be born as a human—He had to become part of the species descended from Adam. He had to partake of this fallen humanity to cure this fallen humanity. And Jesus did this for us. But in order for Jesus to do this, God had to preserve a branch of the human

family through whom He would be born—along with the inspired record through which Jesus, as a human child, would learn, just as we learn about heaven’s revelations.

Thus, God provided civil laws with civil penalties to create a human society of some order to prevent the destruction and dissolution of the descendants through whom the Messiah would come.

God cannot get what He wants through imposed law—He can only restrain the unrepentant in some semblance of order to prevent anarchy and chaos for the purpose of allowing the gospel to heal hearts and minds.

This is also demonstrated throughout the biblical record—every time God uses might and power He restrains immediate evil but does not get more love and loyalty, he gets more rebellion, because force leads to rebellion:

- God sent the flood to keep open the avenue for Messiah, but after that great display of power the people began building a tower, why? Because they trusted God or didn’t trust Him?
- After the 10 plagues of Egypt and thundering at Sinai what did the people do? More love and loyalty or rebellion after rebellion?
- After Mount Carmel when the great display of power of fire raining down did Israel remain faithful and loyal or back into idolatry?

One of the founders of the SDA church understood this and wrote:

- The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of **obligation** merely--because he is **required to do so**--will never enter into the joy of obedience. **He does not obey.** When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. **True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God.** The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God. (Christ’s Object Lessons 97, emphasis mine)
- **A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel.** By such a one service is looked upon as drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully, and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance. **If he dared, such a one would disobey.** His rebellion is smothered, ready to break out at any time in bitter murmurings and complaints. Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul. (Signs of the Times, July 22, 1897, emphasis mine).

This is why, regarding Sabbath observance, God through Isaiah said that we are only keeping it if we enjoy it, if it is a delight to us.

Can you use threat, power, coercion to intimidate your children into eating spinach? Can you make them enjoy it?

The use of law coerces behavior but it does not transform hearts and true obedience only comes from converted hearts, this is design law. We must stop teaching Satan's lie that God's law functions like human law. We must understand that God's use of various imposed laws in Bible times was not for the setting up of His eternal government but because He was dealing with unconverted sinners who needed restraint.

MONDAY

The lesson focuses on Mordecai's instruction to Esther to hide her Jewish heritage.

What are your thoughts about this?

Is there a difference between withholding information and breaking the 9th commandment?

What is the 9th commandment?

- “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16 NIV84)

Is withholding information the same as giving false testimony against someone?

Well if one is in court and are asked a specific question that would enlighten the issues and you withhold exculpatory information for the purpose of allowing people to draw a false conclusion then, yes, in that circumstance withholding information would be bearing false witness.

However, in day-to-day conversations, if you keep certain things about yourself private is that the same as bearing false witness against your neighbor?

Notice the motive of the commandment, it is prohibiting evil, and what is evil?

In every culture of the world the root definition of evil is the same—exploitation of others. So the commandment is prohibiting actions designed to exploit, injure, harm, take advantage of another. In other words, it prohibits selfishness, it prohibits anti-love.

But withholding information may very well be an act of love. Jesus said

- “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.” (John 16:12 NIV84).

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph,

- In Esther 3, we learn that King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) honored Haman and gave him a high position full of power. Everyone was told they must bow down before Haman. But we read: “Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor” (Esther 3:2, NIV). The Bible does not give the reason that Mordecai did not kneel before this man. But we know why. He is a faithful Jew. Mordecai is not willing to pay homage to a descendant of Agag, an Amalekite, enemies of his people since the Exodus (Deut. 25:19). How could a faithful Jew kneel down before an Amalekite? Or, for that matter, worship anyone but the Lord? (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God’s Mission My Mission p. 99).

To the degree this was about worship, then certainly a person who is faithful to God cannot worship another, whether a person, angel, or idol. So, if this is about worship then well done Mordecai.

But is worship the only possibility here?

In Eastern cultures is there bowing that does not have to do with worship, but with respect and greeting?

Is it likely that Xerxes would have given an order for Haman to be worshiped as a god and be revered above Xerxes himself?

Is it possible that this is about authority, about position, about bending the knee not in religious worship but in submission to authority with cultural overlay of bowing to show one’s respect and willingness to submit to the authority and leadership of the one to whom they are bowing? And could Mordecai object to this because he first, didn’t respect Haman as a person, second discerned the hatred and selfishness in his heart, and third recognized him as coming from a long-standing enemy of his people? And perhaps as an official of the government there may have been aspects of the officials representing the pagan gods of the government and bowing had some element of reverence for the gods—but if that were the primary issue here wouldn’t Mordecai have already refused to bow to Xerxes at some point and been in trouble?

The author of the book *Prophets and Kings*, seems to blend the various motives:

- Through Haman the Agagite, an **unscrupulous man high in authority** in Medo-Persia, **Satan worked at this time to counterwork** the purposes of God. Haman **cherished bitter malice** against Mordecai, a Jew. Mordecai had done Haman no harm, but had simply refused to show him **worshipful reverence**. Scorning to “lay hands on Mordecai alone,” Haman plotted “to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.” Esther 3:6. (*Prophets and Kings* 600, emphasis mine).

Mordecai certainly would not worship this man, but he also would not give this man the idea that he would submit to his unscrupulous abuse of authority that was being used by Satan to work against God.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson points our attention to Esther 4:13-14 perhaps the most important and often quoted portion of the book:

- And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13-14 NKJV).

Can this sentiment, this idea, “who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” be true for each of us? That we might find ourselves in circumstances that God specifically called us to?

Has God, in fact, made a call for His people who are living today, at this time in human history? What is that call?

Here is an historical quotation from one of the founders of the SDA church that suggests a purpose for God’s people at this time in human history. Do you agree or disagree?

- It is God's design to manifest through His people **the principles of His kingdom**. [which are what? Truth, love, freedom, the design laws that life is created by God to operate upon. And when we live in harmony with God’s design laws what happens in us? We become healthier, happier, holier, and reveal more fully the truth by our very being. Notice what comes next] **That in life and character they may reveal these principles**. He desires to separate them from **the customs, habits and practices of the world**. [Does this mean only villainy, perversion, crime, abuse, or does it also include the pursuit of justice through the customs, habits, and practices of the world?] He seeks to bring them near to Him that He may make known to them His will... (Kress Collection 12).

To the same work **He has called His people in this generation**. To them He has revealed His will, and of them He requires obedience. In the last days of this earth's history the voice that spoke from Sinai is still saying to men, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**” Exodus 20:3. [What does this mean? Is it restricted to godlessness or pagan idols? Or do we recognize that when we replace the truth of God’s design law with human imposed laws that we replace the God of heaven with a creature in our worship? If we worship a god who functions like a human we are not worshipping the Creator.] Man has set his will against the will of God, but He cannot silence this word of command. The human mind can never fully comprehend its obligation to the higher power, but it cannot evade the obligation. Profound theories and speculations may abound, **may try to set science in opposition to revelation, and thus do away with the law of God**: but stronger and still stronger will the Holy Spirit bring before them the command, “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10. (Kress Collection 12.3) [Consider the generations that have been taught the lie

of godless evolution—but their false theories do not change objective reality. Look at what is happening all over the world where godlessness is taught, decay and disintegration of common decency.]

How is the world treating the law of God? **Everywhere men are working against the divine precepts. Even the churches are taking sides with the great apostate.** [How by teaching God's law is imposed law. That justice is through punishment and legal payments. That it is right and good to coerce consciences of people if it is for a greater good, like saving lives.] Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment, but **the heavenly see the earth filled with corruption and violence. Because of sin the atmosphere of our world has become as the atmosphere of a pesthouse.** (Kress Collection 12.4) [Do you see the degradation of the human condition wherever these godless policies are taking hold? Look at the homelessness, drug abuse, rioting, open violence, gang shoplifting, hatred of the truth, hatred of virtue, rejection of objective reality, rejection of God's design for families, devaluing of human life).

A great work is to be accomplished in saying before men the saving truths of the gospel. This is the **means ordained by God to stem the tide of moral corruption.** This is **His means of restoring His moral image in man.** It is His **remedy** for universal disorganization. It is the power that draws men together in unity. (Kress Collection 12.5) [What is God's means? The presentation of the gospel, the truth, presented in love, while leaving people free. What is NOT the means? It is not the method of law, of force, of coercion, of threat, of imprisonment, of physical war, of intimidation, of politics, of control of consciences, of economic sanction. Why is the means that God uses that of the gospel? Because what God wants is our love, trust, loyalty, devotion, friendship and this can only be achieved through our conversion, our freewill agreement, our choice to surrender. And the methods of Satan, the methods of this world destroy individuality, destroy love, incite fear, stoke selfishness, inflame violence, and efface the image of God in people and instead make people to be like Satan.]

To present these truths is the work of the third angel's message. [This is the message of design law, of returning to worship God as Creator. To present the 3 angels through imposed law with rules that must be kept and a god who inflicts punishments for rule breaking is to present the Satan's false version of God and obstructs the final message, delays the second coming, hardens hearts and minds against heaven.] The Lord designs that the presentation of this message shall be the highest, greatest work carried on in our world at this time. That this work may be carried forward on correct lines, He has directed the establishment of schools, sanitariums, publishing houses, and other institutions. In these institutions the attributes of God are to be unfolded, and the glory and excellence of the truth is to be made to appear more vivid. (Kress Collection 13.1) [But instead our institutions have become infected with imposed law and the pagan punishing god who requires the blood of a human sacrifice in order not to kill us. If we want to accomplish the mission, if we want to hasten the day, we must reject the imposed law lie and reset our message in the design law reality of God's kingdom and character of love.]

The Lord years ago gave me special light in regard to the establishment of a health institution where the sick could be treated on altogether different lines from those followed in any other institution in our world. It was to be founded and conducted on **Bible principles** as the Lord's instrumentality. Those who had any connection with this institution were to be educated in **health restoring principles**. (Kress Collection 13.2) [The laws of health are what kind of laws? Design laws, and these principles are to be what our institutions operate upon. When she began this health reform the world leaders were practicing various superstitious treatments, bleeding, leaching, and using various poisons to treat diseases.]

The human family is suffering because of the transgression of the laws of God. [Why? Because breaking rules gets one in trouble and God uses power to inflict punishments? No! because God's laws are like the laws of health and breaking them causes us injury and harm, physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally, and socially] **Satan is constantly urging men to accept his principles**, and thus he is seeking to counterwork the work of God. [Like using coercion to force people against their will to take an experimental injection with no evidence of safety, like colluding with governments to shut down worship centers and ministries—for what? Fear without respect to conscience.] He is constantly presenting the chosen people of God as a deluded people. **He is an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power he is constantly using against those who work righteousness.** The Lord desires through his people to answer Satan's charges by showing the result of obedience to right principles... (Kress Collection 13.3) [Have you not seen this over the last several years the constant accusations against anyone with truth, accusations of racism, sexism, transgenderism against anyone who advances principles of equality rather than equity]

Still greater truths are unfolding for this people as we draw near the close of time, and God designs that we shall everywhere establish institutions where those who are in darkness in regard to the needs of the human organism may be educated, that they in turn may lead others into the light of health reform. The blind leaders of the blind must learn the truth in regard to healthful living as taught in the Scriptures. (Kress Collection 13.5)

The Christian leaders and staff at Honey Lake Clinic are fully on board with these principles, with making decisions to heal the whole person through the application of biblical truth—which are design laws. The truth of God is not restricted by denominational boundaries, God's truth is for all people and any person who loves the truth will find the Holy Spirit leading them into ever increasing truth. I pray for God to send more lovers of His truth to the field to help us share this message and win more people out of the pagan system of imposed laws with its punishing god.