



2023 4Q God's Mission My Mission Lesson 13 The End of God's Mission

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read Memory Verse:

- Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... (2 Peter 3:11-12 NKJV)

I love this verse, the inspiration and hope that we can hasten or speed the coming of Jesus. Have you ever thought about that? And have you considered what we could do to make that happen? Ideas?

- First and foremost is for us individually to prepare ourselves—God waits patiently for all savable people to settle into the truth of salvation. So, if there are choices that we need to make in governance of self to settle us into our loyalty, devotion, and friendship with God then that is our first duty—to cooperate with God for our own sealing.
- Then, second, we are to use our abilities to advance God's kingdom—to take actions that help others come to salvation—what might those be? How would you describe it?
- Take the gospel to the world—but isn't that the mission of every Christian? And if all Christians are doing that why hasn't Jesus come? Is it possible the gospel that has been taken to the world is incomplete, is missing some vital element, has been altered through history in some way such that it is not the message God wants taken?
- Take the 3 Angels messages—which starts with the eternal gospel, the gospel that is the same through all eternity both past and future. Do we have a gospel—good news—that is eternally true and contains truth that has been lost to Christianity over the millennia and until this truth is returned to the gospel then what is being presented by the majority of Christianity remains incomplete?
- What is the missing piece?
- The truth about God's law which determines the way we understand God's character, government, methods, the problem of what sin is and the plan of salvation.

We believe that Christ has not yet returned because the true gospel is yet to be presented in its full light. That the gospel has only been presented in a partial light, but that eternal truth that is essential to not only save sinners from sin, but to settle the loyal angels into eternal loyalty, truth that is necessary to insure sin never arises again is yet to be included in the final message to the world.

We believe this centers on the truth about God's law, His law being design law and the belief about God's law directly determines how one understands God's character and thereby determines what kind of people we become. Are we transformed into people who bear the image of God because we are

fixing our eyes on Christ and seeing Him in His true light and by beholding we are changed, or do we hold to traditional teachings that misrepresent God and Christ and while we still worship a being called Jesus and our Heavenly Father, we attribute to them traits that make them like Satan in character and by beholding and worshiping this distorted god we become marked beastly?

We have a new magazine coming out in a few weeks entitled *The Lie—That Deceived Angels, Infects Christianity, and Delays the Second Coming of Christ*. In this magazine we start by describing our motive—to hasten the coming of the Lord, and then make the case that the Lord delays because He is waiting for the eternal gospel, the truth about His design law to be recovered and returned to the presentation of the gospel because in order God to win the war for hearts and minds He has to do more than destroy Satan, He has to destroy Satan’s lies that infect hearts and minds. And lies cannot be destroyed by force and might, but only by truth and love.

In this magazine we describe this battle through history and how Adventist Reformers brought this larger view over God’s law to Christianity and in 1888 the legalists rejected it and the SDA organization joined the rest of Christianity in advancing a Romanized version of Christianity in which it is taught that God’s law functions like Roman law, with imposed rules that require the supreme dictator to impose penalties. God is then presented as the source of inflicted pain, suffering, and death that require Him to be appeased by the blood of an innocent sacrifice.

We document, from the published materials of a wide variety of Christian denominations, that this lie about God’s law infects them all, including the SDA church, yet the message given to the SDA Reformers overthrows this Romanized human distortion of the gospel.

We will let you know when it is available so you can get copies, read it, and then when you are persuaded in your own mind, share it with as many people as you can.

Read first paragraph,

- The book of Revelation fills the mind with scenes of the end. The epicenter of the book deals with the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan. Satan has lost his legal hold over the earth, and now he pursues those who remain loyal to God. The book climaxes with Jesus’ return to deliver His children, both the living righteous and those faithful ones who have died since the fall of Adam and Eve. The book shows us, too, the destruction of Satan and the wicked by fire, and Jesus’ establishment of His eternal kingdom on the earth made new. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God’s Mission My Mission p. 104).

What do you think of this sentence “Satan has lost his legal hold over the earth, and now he pursues those who remain loyal to God”?

Has Satan ever had a legal hold over the earth? What legal hold does Satan have? If one must use legal language has Satan done anything legally or are all of his actions illegal? Can someone do illegal acts to obtain a legal hold?

What does it mean that the lesson uses such language? It is evidence that the authors have accepted the Romanized version of the Bible and Christianity, the lie that God's law functions like human law, a system of imposed rules with legally imposed consequences.

But this is all false—Satan never had a legal hold. His hold has always been through deception, through lies, through falsehood, and the hold has been on the hearts and minds of intelligent beings, not upon territory.

And his hold upon sinners is an illegitimate and illegal hold—we are slaves to sin—but Satan doesn't hold us as slaves to sin legally, it is against the law of God and heaven. It is so sad, but this type of thinking, this distortion in the presentation of the gospel is exactly why the church has not finished its mission to give the gospel to the world and why Christ delays. And it is exactly how we can hasten the day of Christ's return by rejecting the Romanized view of God's law and presenting the eternal gospel to the world.

Consider this commentary from the book *The Desire of Ages* in regard to Satan's legal hold, do you agree?

- When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, **but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator**. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He has committed all things to His Son. **Adam was to reign subject to Christ**. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, **Christ still remained the rightful King**. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, **"The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will."** Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits. (The Desire of Ages 129).

Do you see how deeply the lie is in Adventism that despite having commentary like this, they still claim that Satan had a legal hold on earth—he did not.

What do you think of the last sentence, "The book shows us, too, the destruction of Satan and the wicked by fire, and Jesus' establishment of His eternal kingdom on the earth made new"?

Does the way one understands God's law impact how one understands the destruction of the wicked, including Satan, in the end?

How is the destruction of the wicked taught by those who accept Rome's view of God's law? That sin is lawbreaking and justice requires the infliction of punishment and therefore in the end, God uses His power to not just kill the wicked for their sin-crimes, but to torture them the appropriate amount of time before He kills them. But these same people turn around and say that God is love and that all He wants for us is our love and loyalty. In this they reveal that they are exactly like the blind religious leaders Christ confronted, people who do not comprehend how reality works for they do not understand God's design law, character, government, or methods.

They are blind because they think they are presenting ideas that will advance God’s kingdom and eradicate sin, but instead the lie that God’s is the source of inflicted punishment for sin violates God’s law of liberty and incites more rebellion, distrust, and sin.

This is Satan’s goal to have the very people who claim to worship God teach lies that result in the destruction of love, increase rebellion, and for those who stay in this system of belief to destroy their individuality and make them into mindless pawns who merely look to authority to tell them what to do—very much like the Dark Ages church, and more recently mindlessly going along with the coercion of consciences in promoting experimental medical treatments.

Consider these historical quotes documenting a different message was part of the founding of the Adventist church, but that message has been suppressed and replaced with the Roman version ever since 1888. As I read these comments I want you to specifically ask yourself, do these comments harmonize with the Roman imposed law lie or with Design law?

- The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's **deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government;** He desires only the service of love; and **love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority.** Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; **His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan.** This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Mal. 4:2. (The Desire of Ages 22).

What law is described? What is Satan’s power? Lies about God, and can the lie that God’s law is imposed requiring God to use power to punish lawbreakers by hurting and killing them be refuted by using power to force compliance? What is required to destroy this lie? The truth—and does that mean simply the declaration of the truth or the objective demonstration of the truth lived out for all to see? And do you see in Jesus’ life, when Peter pulled out a sword to use physical power, Jesus told him to put it away and said:

- “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” (Matthew 26:53-54 NIV84).

And Jesus said to Pilate:

- “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).

Jesus, God in human form, demonstrates that He does not use physical might and power to advance His kingdom. He could have used such methods, but they are not part of God’s kingdom, for they are

contrary to His character of love, they are the actions of a creature, not the Creator. God is waiting for His people to fully throw off all this creature worship that stems from believing God's law functions like human law, and return to worshipping Him in His true light, to make a right judgment about Him, to glorify Him in our lives and we can only do this in the fullness of God's design by rejecting Roman imposed law and all the penal legal lies that come with it and embrace the truth that God's laws are design laws.

Consider this historical quote:

- In the work of redemption **there is no compulsion. No external force is employed.** Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the **highest sense of freedom.** (The Desire of Ages 466).

If the Roman view of God's law is correct and that God is required by law and justice to use His power to punish law breakers, then are we left free or is there compulsion, pressure, external force being applied?

Consider this quote:

- We are **not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself.** His own actions start a train of **circumstances that bring the sure result.** Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, **men separate themselves from God,** cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and **the sure result is ruin and death.** (Selected Messages volume 1, p. 235).

Can this be true if God's law functions like human law? This quote is describing Galatians 6:8, those who sow to the carnal nature, from that nature reap destruction. Or James 1:15, sin when full grown brings forth death. Or Romans 6:23 the wages of sin is death. But in case this quotation is not clear enough on the describing these Bible texts, there is one even more explicitly in the book *The Great Controversy*:

- **God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but he leaves the rejecters of his mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown.** Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown, which yields its unfailing harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. (The Great Controversy 36)

And so there can be no doubt as to the message that the Adventist Reformers believed was to be the message that is lighten the world for Christ return, which when given in its full light will hasten the

coming of Jesus, because what is needed requires more than mere destruction of Satan, but the destruction of his lies also, consider this quote:

- **God could have destroyed Satan** and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and **love are to be the prevailing power.** (The Desire of Ages 759).

It was **God's purpose to place things on an eternal basis of security**, and in the councils of heaven it was decided that time must be given for **Satan to develop the principles** which were the foundation of his system of government. He had claimed that these were superior to God's principles. **Time was given for the working of Satan's principles, that they might be seen by the heavenly universe.** (The Desire of Ages 759).

What does this mean? What are the principles of Satan which is the foundation of his government? Lies, fear, selfishness, power over, made up rules, inflicted punishments—in other words all the governments of this world that Satan claims as his and which Jesus affirmed are not part of the heavenly government.

Why must time be given? Because a mere claim cannot reveal how things work, truth, based in reality, must be demonstrated by cause and effect. Thus to return the universe to universal peace and eternal security, not only must Satan and his agents be eliminated, but their lies must be eliminated from all minds—which requires all the saved to be fully persuaded in their own minds of the truth of God's character, methods, principles and design laws.

SUNDAY

Read second paragraph,

- After revealing in the first verses that Jesus is the source and focus of Revelation, Revelation 1:4, 5 alludes to all Three Members of the Godhead, who are working unitedly to save human beings. The Father is the eternal one who was and is and is to come. The Holy Spirit, who is working powerfully among the first-century churches, is named. Then John recalls the status of Jesus Christ—the “faithful witness,” “the firstborn of the dead” (Rev. 1:5, NRSV), who possesses legal ownership of this planet. Satan's attempt to use this earth to establish his kingdom is ruined. In addition to God's victory over Satan, our Creator's shed blood washes away our guilt and shame. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God's Mission My Mission p. 105).

If we must use legal language, then it is true that Jesus has legal ownership of this planet—when did Jesus obtain His legal ownership? At creation—He is the Creator—all things were made by Him and through Him all things hold together. Jesus has always been the legal owner and there has never been

another legal owner of this planet. Satan's claim to be the legal owner does not make Satan the legal owner.

What about the last sentence which says, "In addition to God's victory over Satan, our Creator's shed blood washes away our guilt and shame," what does this mean?

The talk of the blood of Jesus is precious language, we have songs about being cleansed by the blood, and the power of the blood—but what does it actually mean? Are we cleansed by red corpuscles? How does the "blood" of Jesus wash away our guilt and shame?

The use of blood as a metaphor to describe the saving truth is from Jesus who said,

- "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." (John 6:53-58 NIV84).

What does this mean? The Jewish religious leaders of His day did not like these words, even some of His own followers didn't like these words. The Bible says that:

- On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" (John 6:60 NIV84).

Why were they having a hard time accepting these words? Because they were thinking literally, not figuratively. Do we do the same thing when we sing there is power in the blood, or write that we are cleansed from guilt and shame by the blood?

Do we ever teach that Jesus presents His blood to the Father to pay for our sins?

What is the reality that the metaphor is teaching?

What does Scripture say about the blood?

Does blood represent the death of the animal sacrifice or its life?

According to the penal view, the legal view, the blood represents the death, the price paid—thus we are forgiven or legally pardoned by Jesus dying to pay the legal penalty.

But the Bible doesn't teach this, notice what the Bible actually says about the blood:

- For the **life of a creature is in the blood**, and I have given **it** to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; **it is the blood** that makes atonement for one's life. (Leviticus 17:11 NIV84).

So what does this mean? Does it say the death of the animal is in the blood and that the death penalty paid provides legal pardon? No! It says that the life is the blood and the life cleanses from sin and by being cleansed from sin we are restored to being at-one with God again.

The NIV leans toward a forensic or legal interpretation, so consider this same verse from the Good News Translation:

- The **life of every living thing is in the blood**, and that is why the LORD has commanded that all blood be poured out on the altar to take away the people's sins. **Blood, which is life, takes away sins** (Leviticus 17:11 GNT).

So, if we understand that the blood represents the life, not the death, what was Jesus saying when He said that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood?

The flesh and blood were replaced with new symbols, bread and wine, but they represent the same thing—which is what?

Jesus is the Word made flesh—thus the flesh represents the Word, the truth of God as embodied in, lived out through, and taught by Jesus. To partake of the flesh of Jesus means we ingest into our minds and hearts the truth of God that Jesus embodied and lived out—that God is not the kind of person Satan has represented Him to be; that if we have seen Jesus we have seen the Father; that no one needed to intercede with Jesus to wash Judas' feet; that no one had to pay Jesus to forgive His crucifiers; and that all we see in Jesus is true of God!

When we partake of the flesh, the bread, the truth that Jesus brought, it becomes building blocks of our beliefs and understanding displacing the lies and leads us back to trust. Then when, based on the truth, having been fully convinced in our own minds, having partaken of Jesus, we open our heart's door and invite Him in and we receive the life of Jesus, we receive new motives, desires, longings, and the old fear-based, guilt ridden, shame oppressed self dies and we arise to a new life, new beings, who like Paul can say, "it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me." We receive a new life gifted to us by Jesus and instilled in us via the Holy Spirit.

We are still ourselves, with our own individuality, our own personhood, our own histories. The history of Jesus' earthly life does not become ours. What becomes ours is the pure, holy, righteous, loving, godly character that He developed. It becomes ours as we ingest Jesus, as we internalize into our being the truth He brought and then in trust we choose to apply His methods, principles, design laws to how we live and treat others, trusting God moment by moment with how things turn out. In so doing, our hearts affections, desires, motives, longings are changed and we become like Jesus in heart, motive, and character. And then when the Father looks upon us He does not see our previous unhealed, fear-

ridden, selfish, vile old selves, He sees our healed, renewed, reborn, Christlike selves—and this is what it means to be clothed in the robes of Christ’s righteousness.

So how does the blood of Jesus wash away our guilt and shame? By healing and transforming us as we partake of the life of Christ through our trust in Him.

So the only way to take the blood of Jesus to our heavenly Father—is by ingesting Christ into our inmost beings and taking the life of Jesus within us to the Father when we meet Him face to face.

Read third paragraph,

- The focus of God’s mission is not simply to drag perishing people to safety. God’s salvation offers a new and honorable status, because God’s image is restored in us. The redeemed become royalty (kings) because we are blood-related to the King of the universe through Jesus’ shed blood. Now, as royal family members, we join the mission of the royal family in the salvation of other human beings. This makes us priests! Christ had constituted His church a “kingdom” and its individual members “priests.” To be a member of the kingdom is to be a priest. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God’s Mission My Mission p. 105).

What do you think of the sentence, “The redeemed become royalty (kings) because we are blood-related to the King of the universe through Jesus’ shed blood”?

Are they explaining the metaphor and teaching the reality that the blood of Jesus is His life, and we are blood related because we are renewed in heart and mind to be like Jesus in character and thus we again bear the image of our Creator, i.e. look like Jesus and are thus part of His heavenly family, or are they making this more legal, more literal, concrete in some way?

Didn’t the Jews in Christ’s day make an argument about right to heaven based on blood relationship and not character? Notice the logic and progression of thought here:

- To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

“Abraham is our father,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did. As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the things your own father does.”

“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.” (John 8:31-41 NIV84).

What are the Jews doing? Claiming rights, status as children of God by blood relationship, by genetics. What did Jesus do? He refuted this, and stated that only those who have faith like Abraham are His children—why? Because when we trust Him, we open the heart and we become partakers of the divine nature and the image of God is restored in us. If we do not trust Him then we have the image of Satan formed in us.

So the blood is only symbolic of the life, the character, of Christ, not the genetics of Christ. And we are joint heirs with Christ and considered royalty only if we are partakers of His nature in heart, mind, character.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph,

- The book of Revelation gives us a powerful and graphic representation of the great controversy theme, perhaps most dramatically depicted in Revelation 12:12: “ ‘Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time’ ” (NKJV). It’s hard to imagine how anyone can understand anything in Scripture apart from the great controversy motif, which will climax in the last days. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God’s Mission My Mission p. 106).

What is the difference between Satan’s wrath and God’s wrath?

- If Satan’s wrath is able to have its way, if we are not shielded or delivered from Satan’s wrath what is the result—are we blessed or harmed?
- If God’s wrath is poured out without mixture, if we are not shielded or delivered from God’s wrath what is the result—are we blessed or harmed?
- Does that mean Satan’s wrath and God’s wrath are manifestations of the same power, methods, actions but merely with different motives? In other words, both Satan and God use power to harm people but Satan does it from a position of envy, selfishness, hatred, and evil, while God uses power to torture and kill only from a position of judicial requirement because the law and justice require it—but both use power to harm others? No—this is Satan’s lie to project his character, methods, and principles upon God so that we interpret God’s actions as being satanic in nature and character.

- While it is true that if we experience unshielded wrath from either Satan or God that we will be harmed—what their wrath actually is, are opposites, while the impact upon us is harm, the actions of both God and Satan are opposite. And we can only understand this if we understand reality, God’s design law.
- Satan’s system of government, as a creature who cannot create reality, is that of made-up rules enforced through the application of external force. Thus Satan’s wrath is the use of power to punish, to inflict harm upon those whom he is wrathful toward. God’s agencies shield us from Satan’s use of power, restraining and holding Satan at bay. We see this all through Scripture.
- God, however, is the Creator, the builder of reality and His laws are the laws that life and health operate upon. If we break God’s laws we take ourselves out of harmony with life and automatically suffer pain, injury, and eventual death if not healed and restored into harmony with God’s law by our Creator.
- While Satan uses power to inflict harm, God uses power to heal, restore, recreate, renew, and rebuild.
- While Satan’s wrath is the active use of power, God’s wrath is the cessation of the use of His power that He has been expending which has been mercifully shielding us from the full consequences of what sin would do to us without His power, presence, mercy and grace holding that destruction at bay. But when the wicked harden themselves and permanently reject God’s mercy, He, in harmony with His character, His methods, His law of love and liberty, sets them free to reap what they have chosen, to be separate from Him—He stops using power and that is God’s wrath—and they suffer terribly and die as a result of God’s letting them go to experience what they have insisted upon.

So, both God’s wrath and Satan’s wrath result in harm to us, but Satan’s is the active use of energy and power to inflict harm, while God’s wrath is the cessation of the use of power, the setting of people free to reap what they have sown.

This is exactly what Paul describes in Romans chapter one:

- The **wrath of God is being revealed** from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men **who suppress the truth by their wickedness**, since what may be **known about God** is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world **God’s invisible qualities**—his eternal power and divine nature—have been **clearly seen**, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they **knew God**, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their **thinking became futile** and their foolish **hearts were darkened**. Although they claimed to be wise, they **became fools** and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images** made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires... They **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts...

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity... (Romans 1:18–29 NIV84).

Commenting on these verses, scholars from the book *Hard Sayings of the Bible*, published by Intervarsity Press, write:

- In some sense, **God’s wrath is built into** the very structure of created reality. In rejecting God’s structure and establishing our own, in violating God’s intention for the creation and substituting our own intentions, **we cause or own disintegration**.

The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32, **is not something caused by God**. The phrase “revealed from heaven” (where “heaven” is a typical Jewish substitute word for “God”) does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the **inevitability of human debasement which results when God’s will, built into the created order, is violated**. Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed “from heaven.” It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God’s truth (Rom 1:18-20), that is, the truth about God’s nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom 1:21-22), idolatry (Rom 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom 1:24-27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom 1:28-32).

The expression “God gave them over” (or “handed them over”), which appears three times in this passage (Rom 1:24,26,28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, **is to be understood ultimately as God’s punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves**.

In light of these reflections, **the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained**... God loves us with an everlasting love. **But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. The result is disintegration and death.** (Hard Sayings of the Bible p. 543).

This is from a non-Adventist Christian commentary—and it describes truth, universal truth of God’s kingdom that is the outworking of design law. Now, consider what EGW wrote commenting on the final plagues, which are the outpouring of God’s wrath, the seven bowls of wrath, which is the message given to the SDA church, which leadership rejected in 1888 and because of that rejection the organized church has not yet completed its mission to lighten the world with the eternal gospel because it continues to take the imperial dictator version of God to the world.

- "I was shown that the **judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord** upon them, but in this way; **They place themselves beyond His protection**. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated

warnings, **if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.**

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

Now what about Jesus as our Savior and substitute—did Jesus experience God's wrath and is what Jesus experienced different than what the wicked in the end experience or the same?

If God's wrath is giving up and letting go, do we have Scripture to confirm that God did this to His Son at the cross? Jesus' own testimony

- "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" (Matthew 27:46 GNT).

Paul uses the exact same Greek words he used in Romans 1:24,26,28 about God's wrath when describing Jesus' experience on the cross in Romans 4:25, the problem is the translators use different English words making it difficult for people to realize that Jesus was not punished by His Father, He was let go by His Father:

- Because of our sins he was handed over to die, and he was raised to life in order to put us right with God. (Romans 4:25 GNT).

And what does God do to the wicked in the end? He lets them go to reap what they have chosen. God stops using His power to protect and shield them and they reap the full weight of what sin does.

Does God treat the sinners in the end differently that He treated Jesus on the cross? No! God treats them the same, God's action toward both is the same. Then why did Jesus rise again and the wicked die eternally?

Because of the actual, objective, reality-based difference between the condition of Jesus' heart, mind, character and that of the wicked in the end.

Jesus died when love overcame fear, selfishness, and sin and by His death he destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light, by His death He destroyed the devil and the power of death, by His death He destroyed the lies of the devil, the infection of fear and selfishness and the actual cause of death—which is the break from God and His design law for life. In Jesus, the law of God, the living law of love and truth was fully and perfectly restored in the humanity that He assumed and Jesus exercised His human faculties fully and perfectly to live out God's living law and died to reveal the truth about God, what sin does, and to destroy the infection of sin that Adam brought into the species and establish a purified and holy branch of the human family that we can be grafted into through faith.

The wicked die in the end when God treats them exactly the same, He lets them go to reap what they have chosen. But they have chosen to reject truth, despise love, and solidify into their hearts, minds, and characters fear, selfishness, and all villainy and thus they reap what they have chosen when God no longer uses His power to artificially sustain their existence and they pass from existence into eternal death.

With all of this in mind then, how do we present the 3 Angels' Messages?

If you haven't read our Magazine [The Final Message of Mercy to the World: The Three Angels I](#) encourage you to do so.

- What is the eternal gospel?
- What is the hour of God's judgment? What law lens do you understand judgment through? Who is being judged? Who is doing the judgment?
- What does it mean to fear God?
- What does it mean to give God glory?
- Why does God need us to give Him glory? Does our glorifying God have some role in the judgment?
- What does it mean that we are called to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea, and fountains of water?
- What is represented by Babylon and who are to come out?
- What does it mean to come out of Babylon?
- What is the central issue of these three messages?
- What if we reject the first and second angels' messages and continue to worship a dictator instead of the Creator, and thereby we don't give God glory, we misjudge God to be like Satan, a creature who makes up rules and inflicts penalties and we thus remain in Babylon and refuse to come out?
- Then God sets them free to reap what they have chosen—by the law of worship they become like the false god they worship and mark themselves in their characters (foreheads) and hands (works) to be beastly
- Through the law of liberty they are set free to reap the full weight of what sin does when God's wrath is poured out without mixture—in other words when God stops using power to protect them from what sin has done and is doing to them
- Through the law of love and truth they are tormented in their being when infinite truth and love burn free when God unveils His life-giving glory and they become fully aware of their own corruption, the pain, suffering, and harm they have inflicted on others when their denial, lies, distortions and blame can no longer hide them from objective reality—the truth itself. And this happens in the presence of the holy angels and the lamb.

Have we presented the three angels in the true light of God's character of love and He design laws? Or have we presented these messages through the Roman imperial law perversion of Christianity?

Consider this quote from one of the founders of the SDA church about how the messages are to be presented:

- **Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetite and lustful passions, and not violate the law of God.** Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may see our sin in violating the **laws** which He has **established in our being. All our enjoyment or suffering may be traced to obedience or transgression of natural law.** Our gracious heavenly Father sees the deplorable condition of men who, some knowingly but many ignorantly, are living in violation of the laws that He has established. And in love and pity to the race, He causes the light to shine upon health reform. He **publishes His law and the penalty that will follow** the transgression of it, that all may learn and be careful to live in harmony with **natural law.** He proclaims His law so distinctly and makes it so prominent that it is like a city set on a hill. All accountable beings can understand it if they will. ... **To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel's message to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord** (emphasis mine). (White, E. G. Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3. Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1872, p. 161).

TUESDAY

Read fourth paragraph,

- Since the beginning, human beings have had evidence of who God is and of His way of righteousness and love (Rom. 1:18–21). Therefore, all human beings from ages past will be judged based on how they cooperated with God and how they lived—regardless of how much they did or didn't understand (Rom. 2:11–16). (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God's Mission My Mission p. 107).

How do you understand this paragraph, particularly the idea of being judged based on how we cooperate with God and live?

Is this a judicial, legal, judgment or is this a diagnosis—judging the actual condition of heart and mind, the state of being? Have people been restored to love and trust in God or remained in fear, selfishness and sin?

Read the bottom pink section:

- Dwell on the fact that Christ has died for you personally. What could possibly make you think that anything you have done, no matter how bad, could not have been sufficiently paid for by the death of Christ on the cross? (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2023, God's Mission My Mission p. 107).

Thoughts? Is this question helpful to you? What elements or ideas of this question are a blessing to you? Are there any ideas expressed that are troublesome to you or confusing?

What about the idea that Jesus died to pay for our sins—does that idea raise any questions? Such as:

- To whom is the payment made?
- Why is a payment necessary, who requires it?
- What if Jesus doesn't make the payment?
- What if we don't accept the payment?
- If the payment is made to God what will God do to us if He doesn't get it?
- Is the payment related to forgiveness if so how does that work? Does God forgive us our sins, or do we get our sins paid for?
 - If you owed someone 1 million dollars and couldn't pay it back and your brother steps up and pays off your entire debt, does the person who receives the full payment get to turn around and say to you—now that I have received payment for your debt I forgive your debt?
 - Do some people in Christianity teach that Jesus paid our sin debt but God also forgives our sin debt—do you see any conflict in these ideas?
 - These are the problems that the false imposed law view creates.

When we return to worshipping the Creator and understand His law is design law, and sin is not a legal problem but an actual problem, defect, in our being that needs healing, then we can understand all of this.

If your child was dying of kidney failure and you donate a kidney to save them, could we say “you paid a high price to save your child?” Certainly, but is the price a legal price or a price the condition requires in order to save your dying child? And who receives the payment of your kidney—the dying child. And what happens if you refuse to pay this price? What happens if the child refuses to receive it?

The price Jesus paid He referred to as a ransom price, Jesus said,

- The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28 NIV84).

A ransom is the price necessary to free someone held in captivity or bondage. The question is, what holds us sinners in bondage?

- The lies about God that we believe that keep us from trusting Him and
- Our own fallen, carnal, fear-driven, selfish nature that we inherited from Adam

What is the price to set us free? The truth that destroys lies and restores us to trust in God sets us free and in that trust we receive a new nature worked out by Jesus.

Thus the ransom price is paid to us—and it cost Jesus an infinite amount to provide us this truth and a new human nature.

WEDNESDAY

How would you describe our mission for God at this time in human history?

What would you like to see us do that would advance that mission?

What obstacles do you see in the way of that mission?

THURSDAY

The lesson focuses on the New Heaven and earth when the mission is complete and “Death and sin will be gone, Satan and wickedness destroyed.” How does God eliminate death and Satan so that sin never arises again?