



## 2024 2Q The Great Controversy Lesson 11 The Impending Conflict

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read second paragraph,

- The aim of this week's lesson is to reveal the coming **conflict over worship**. Satan will challenge God's **authority** by attempting to **undermine God's law**. Specifically, the **Sabbath** will become the center of a global conflict over **worship**. **Satan hates the Sabbath because he hates the Creator**. He will use **coercion, pressure, and force** to break our commitment to Christ. There will be a **collision of beliefs over the true and false day of worship**. God's final appeal is an appeal to **faithfulness to Christ** despite persecution, an economic boycott, imprisonment, and a death decree. This week's study emphasizes Jesus' strength to take us through earth's final conflict. (Adult SS Guide 2nd Q 2024, The Great Controversy p. 88, emphasis mine).

This is a great paragraph—but could become not so great if what? If it is read through the human law lens, the imposed law lens, if we understand design law, this paragraph is great so let's go through it.

- Conflict is over worship
  - Imposed law worship is doing the right ritual, following the right ceremonies, obeying the right rules in the right way to be loyal to the god and its requirements; false worship is either false definitions of doctrines—believing the wrong things, erroneous rituals, or breaking the rules laid out by the god. False worship for the legalist would be holding to doctrines that are untrue; playing the wrong music in church; having the wrong people lead the worship service—say an unordained person leading communion; or for some having a woman lead worship; not being ceremonially baptized in the right ritualistic way—say sprinkling instead of immersion; going to church on the wrong day; not using the right words when praying, saying Jesus instead of Yeshua for instance; for some it is reading the Bible in any version other than the King James and on and on the list goes. But the focus of worship for those who think through the human law lens is on us, what we are doing, are we obeying the right rules, do we have the right definition of the doctrines, have we claimed the right blood to pay the sin debt, have we confessed all the sins we have committed and gotten the payment applied to our account, have we paid the proper pre-tax tithe, do we observe the right Sabbath, do we have proper behaviors on the Sabbath—no water above the knee for instance or no conversations about anything but Bible topics etc.
  - Design law understands that God is Creator and His laws are the protocols reality operates upon and one of them is the law of worship—as Scripture describes it is by beholding we are changed (2 Cor 3:18). We understand that we become like the God

we admire and worship. And that our view of God is determined by what we choose to believe about God's law. If we believe God's law is imposed, then that belief causes us to view God as the source of inflicted punishment as justice—and the beast of Revelation will eventually use these very tactics and as long as the beast is using the tactics to enforce the right rules—say baptism by immersion and church attendance on Saturday the Bible Sabbath, the legalistic Adventist will say, “this is our god we have waited for him” because they believe it is only right and just to punish those who refuse to obey. But we recognize that breaking God's design laws damages and cuts one off from the source of life and thus unremoved sin that is clung to in the heart brings its own punishment—eternal death. And God has been using His power to hold death at bay and keep open the avenue for us to be reconciled, healed, and restored into unity with Him. Thus we worship the God of love and by admiring, adoring, esteeming, and valuing Him we realize that He can never get love, loyalty, devotion, friendship, and trust by threatening to punish people who don't love, who don't trust.

- So we agree the final conflict is over worship—and our worship is about which God we prefer and that is determined by the law we believe God has built His universe and government upon.
- A question of authority
  - The authority of the beast, of Satan, of the systems of the world is the authority of position, of office, of power and strength, of ability to punish.
  - The authority of God is the authority truth itself—God is truth and His authority rests in reality—He is the Creator; He is the Sustainer; He is the Healer and Redeemer! Only in harmony with Him, in unity with Him is there life, health, and happiness. God's authority does not come from claims, proclamations, declarations—from position, but from reality, from the truth itself.
- Satan undermines God's law
  - Satan undermines God's law by replacing in the minds of people the truth that God's law is design law with the lie of imposed law and thereby replaces worship of the Creator with worship of a creature.
- The Sabbath is central in the question of worship
  - The truth that is embodied in the Sabbath—which is the truth about God is central in the question of worship. The Sabbath is evidence, proof, revelation given to humanity as a sign, a flag, a beacon, a lighthouse in this dark sinful world built right into time itself and set apart by God when God RESTED, when God ceased using power, when God refused to inflict punishment upon Satan and his rebel angels, when God showed, proved, revealed that His laws are design laws of truth, love, and freedom. We have real freedom with God and God doesn't use external power to coerce or force.
- Satan hates the Sabbath—not simply because he hates Jesus, no he hates the Bible Sabbath because it is evidence that he lied, that God is the God of truth, love and freedom. The Sabbath wouldn't exist if Satan's version of things was true, thus he hates people recognizing the reality of the meaning of the Sabbath, why God gave it to us as a gift, in the same way President Nixon hated the Watergate tapes. Nixon didn't hate the Watergate tapes because he hated democrats, but because they exposed his wrongdoing. This is why Satan hates the Sabbath. But when we frame this as he hates the Sabbath because he hates Jesus, we miss the bigger truth

and purpose of the Sabbath that it is proof of how God's government works, evidence that God does not run His universe on a made up system of rules to test us by.

- And this is where many Adventists are blind, Satan seeks to take the Bible Sabbath, the sign of our freedom with God, the evidence that God is love, and twist it to teach just the opposite, that God is not love, but a severe judge seeking to punish the disobedient. Satan does this by getting many people to teach the seventh-day Sabbath is a made up rule, that it is an arbitrary test of obedience—in other words they teach the right day of the week to be the Sabbath, but they teach it through the wrong law, the imposed Roman law and thus they promote the worship of a creature rather than the Creator. This is one of the lessons we have from the Jews in Christ's day. They had the right Bible Sabbath, but the wrong concept of God's law and thus they worshiped the wrong god on the right day of the week. Jesus Himself told them directly when they claimed to be worshipping the Creator that they were in fact worshipping Satan (John 8).
- The beast will use coercion, pressure, force
  - And this is the key, God never coerces consciences—for to do so would destroy individuality, it would actively obstruct and prevent what He wants, which is our love and friendship, our loyalty and trust. But imposed law always uses coercion and force and they call it justice.
- There will be a conflict over true and false worship—represented by the true and false day of worship
  - Yes, true worship is the worship of our Creator God of love whose laws are design laws and we worship Him in truth and give Him glory when we internalize into our hearts, minds, and characters His living law of truth, love, and freedom in how we govern ourselves and how we treat others. This is the New Covenant, having God's law written upon our hearts and minds. And we only experience this by returning to the truth about God, which means rejecting the imposed law lies—and the Sabbath is a sign that God is the one who makes us holy, through His methods of truth, love, and freedom that wins us to trust.
  - The two days, then, are symbolic of two types of law, Sabbath—Design Law; and Sunday—imposed or legislated law. So those who **remember** the Sabbath to keep it holy are those who have experienced heart renewal and have the living law of love written upon their hearts and their characters so they are like Jesus in character; they live the truth, they love and they leave others free. Whereas those who are beastly believe God's laws are rules that require enforcement, and those who believe this believe the only way to have a just society is to pass laws regarding worship and use the power of coercion to force people to comply—so that we all can return to a safe and healthy society, a better and more just world.

Some believe this will only happen when Jesus comes with a rod of iron and He rules with external force as He has perfect knowledge and no one will ever be falsely punished or punished more than they deserve. In other words, some believe the problem with human imposed law is that it is applied inconsistently by flawed humans who make mistakes, or intentionally manipulate the system, but when Jesus comes He will use this method of external infliction of punishment with perfect motives and perfect

knowledge and then it will be right to do. These individuals fail to understand reality, how love functions, what happens to individuality when force is applied—and thus those who believe this will be ready to receive Satan when he impersonates Christ.

Sunday, because it became set apart for worship by human legislation and law enforcement is **symbolic** of this methodology—but let's be clear—going to church on Sunday does not give one the mark of the beast—it is **using the methods of coercion upon others that gives one the mark of the beast**. In other words, it is rejecting God's design laws of truth, love, and liberty and embracing and apply Satan's imposed laws into one's character in how one lives that corrupts the character and marks one as a follower of God's enemy. In lesson 9 of this quarter, on Friday's lesson, there was the following quote from the book *The Great Controversy*, please note this author describes exactly what I am saying:

- “Christians of past generations observed the Sunday, supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath; and there are **now true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion**, who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. **God accepts their sincerity of purpose** and their integrity before Him. [Why? Because man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. The legalists, those who accept the impose law lies look at behavior, but God looks at the motives of the heart, not the specific technical fulfillment of a rule.] But **when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law**, and the world shall be **enlightened** concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, **then** whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher **authority than that of Rome**, will thereby honor popery above God. [It isn't the specific day it is the enforcing of that day which brings the issue to a head, which causes the contrast between two systems, to methods, two types of laws, and true God and the imposter god. Those who are loyal to the true God will recognize that coercing consciences is beastly and they will side with those they see standing for truth, love, and liberty. And to transgress the commandment of God, to break the Sabbath is not a legal behavior, it is a choice of the heart and mind. It is choosing to value and apply the methods of God's enemy over the methods of God. Isaiah tells us that true Sabbath observance requires that we delight in it, not keep it as a rule. And delight cannot be forced, legislated, or commanded.]

When one understands these principles and chooses as just, as right, the methods of enforcement, of inflicted punishment upon others on matters of conscience—they are demonstrating themselves beastly regardless of what day they attend worship services. This was revealed for all with eyes to see during COVID when almost every person had to make a choice in what methods, what principles, what laws they would internalize into their own hearts and minds in how they treated others. Would they, if they believed in the job or if they didn't believe in the job, present the truth as they understood it, in love, with pleas for friends and family to choose what they were advocating, but then leave others free? Or would they believe it is right and good to force people, to put

economic sanctions, travel restrictions, restrict worship, use law enforcement to pressure people to comply, to refuse to associate, to vilify, to accuse of evil intentions such as wanting to kill others? Sadly, we saw many people who call themselves Christian and who lead out in Christian organizations taking the position to use the beastly methods—why? Because they have accepted the lie that God’s law functions like human law and they could not find in the Bible or their church documents any rule against experimental injections so they concluded this issue had nothing to do with worship, and so they used the power of their office and position to pressure people, employees, students, church members. Why? Because many are already worshiping the imposter dictator god whose laws are imposed rules and it is only just to use the power of the state to enforce rules upon people when those rules are the right rules.] He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. **He is worshiping the beast and his image.** [Not by innocently and honestly worshiping the God of love, truth, and freedom on Sunday—but by colluding with and practicing the methods of coercion in the enforcement of Sunday worship.] As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be **the sign of His authority**, [the sign of His authority—which is truth, love, and freedom, the design laws emanating from our Creator and which sustain all things] and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—‘the mark of the beast.’ And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive ‘the mark of the beast.’ ” (The Great Controversy, p. 449, emphasis mine).

- A couple of other quotes from the same author that confirms my conclusions:
- **All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind** and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment. **We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter. We are to understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life.** All who regard the **Sabbath as a sign** between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, **will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them. **Every day** they will have the companionship of Christ, and will exemplify the perfection of His character. **Every day** their light will shine forth to others in good works. (Testimonies to the Church vol. 6 p. 353, emphasis mine).**
- The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, **warning men against receiving the mark of the beast** or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. **To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God.** (Review and Herald, July 13, 1897 par. 5, emphasis mine).
- And what decision is that? That God’s law is imposed and justice is inflicting punishment for disobedience.
- We are called to stay faithful to Jesus

- We stay faithful by trusting Jesus with outcomes and refusing to join with forces that would coerce the consciences of others. We live the design laws methods of God!

## **MONDAY-FRIDAY**

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See [Unmasking the Beasts of Revelation 13 and 17 Magazine](#)

Our view does not find the lesson has wrongly interpreted the various symbols of Revelation 13—but that it is incomplete in the interpretation. In other words, the lesson has left many elements uninterpreted and this creates conclusions that are only partially true and leaves people open to misunderstanding.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**NEW IN SOUTH AFRICA:** Our new magazine [The Lie That Deceived Angels, Infects Christianity, and Delays the Second Coming of Christ is now available in South Africa](#). If you would like a hard copy please email [southafrica@comeandreason.com](mailto:southafrica@comeandreason.com)

The Job Pamphlet is now available in Afrikaans available on the Come and Reason website under the languages tab. Should anybody in South Africa want to order a physical copy they can contact Jacques van den Heever at [southafrica@comeandreason.com](mailto:southafrica@comeandreason.com)

Also we are excited to announce that we created a Telegram support/discussion/prayer group and should anybody would like to join they are welcome. The link is: <https://t.me/+dwEVCIVrXoM1MDc0>



**New Bookmark: Friends with Jesus** is now available. If you have a US Postal address and would like some to share, just email your requests to [Requests@ComeandReason.com](mailto:Requests@ComeandReason.com) and we will send them at no cost.

**MAGAZINE: The Lie that Deceived Angels, Infects Christianity, and Delays the Second Coming of Christ**, is now available! <https://comeandreason.com/lie-that-deceived-angels/>

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