



2024 4Q Themes in the Gospel of John Lesson 9 The Source of Life

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SABBATH

Read Memory Verse:

- Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:66 NIV84).

What does this text mean?

Jesus is the way? The way where, to what, and how is He the way?

This text is an excerpt from Jesus answering a question from Thomas, who asked a question in response to something Jesus just told them, so let’s read John 14:1-5:

- “Do not let your hearts be distressed. You believe in God; believe also in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father’s house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you. And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too. And you know the way where I am going.”
Thomas said, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”
(John 14:1–5 NET).

So, in context of Jesus statement and Thomas’s question, the way to which Jesus is referring leads to where? Is it not the way back to unity with God, the way back to God’s original purpose in creating Adam and Eve, the way back to perfection, sinlessness, love, at-one-ment?

Consider Hebrews 10:19-23, is this the way Jesus was referring to?

- Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a **new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us **draw near to God** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having **our hearts sprinkled** to **cleanse us** from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:19–23 NIV84, emphasis mine).

Jesus opens the new a living way the way back into at-one-ment with the Father! And notice what Hebrews says that way entails and what it does not entail. It entails cleansing us, healing us, restoring

us, renewing us—it does not entail paying a blood payment to the Father, for God so loved us that He sent His Son to restore us to unity with Him by removing sin from us.

So what is did Jesus make this way through, metaphorically it is the veil in the temple, but what does that represent? What is it that has been obstructing our unity with God? Some say the veil represents Jesus' body, but was Jesus the obstacle to being united with God or is Jesus the way through the obstacle? So, again, what has been obstructing human beings from being united with God?

The lies that Satan told about Him and His Father that we have believed and our own fallen carnal nature—and Jesus is the truth that tears through the veil of lies AND Jesus destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness that He inherited through Mary and restored God's living law of love into humanity, thus Jesus destroyed the veil of death and brought life and immortality to light, opening again the way through the lies and the terminal sin condition back to unity with the Father.

Thus, my paraphrase of Hebrews 10:19-23:

- Therefore, brothers and sisters, since Jesus died to bring us the truth about God and to eradicate selfishness from humanity, we no longer need to be afraid but can confidently enter the Most Holy Place—God's very presence—because Christ's death revealed the truth about God and ripped open the veil of lies told by Satan that blinded our minds, and destroyed the infection of selfishness that separated us from him. And since we have this great ministering priest who ministers the truth to all, let the truth permeate us, cleansing, transforming and changing us as we draw near to God in heart, mind, purpose, method, principle and character, so that we may have ultimate confidence and trust in him who has revealed himself to be completely trustworthy. (Hebrews 10:19-23 REM)

Do you agree that Jesus is the only way to salvation? Why? Because there is one human species created by God in Eden—every other human being is descended from Adam. This one human species all suffer with the same terminal sin condition brought upon all of us by our human parents Adam and Eve (Psalms 51:5). And there is only one solution to this terminal condition—we must exchange the terminal life of fear and selfishness for the eternal life of love and trust. And it is only possible for us to experience this exchange of life because Jesus became a real human being, partook of the same life breathed into Adam and which was corrupted by Adam. He partook of that life through His mother Mary, but because the Father of His humanity was the Holy Spirit Jesus was born capable of not only experiencing temptation in every way just like we do but also capable of exercising His human power of choice to say no to the spirit of fear and selfishness inherited from Adam and yes to the spirit of love and trust inherited through the Holy Spirit. And at the cross Jesus destroyed the spirit of fear and selfishness, and arose in a humanity purified and perfected, thus Jesus destroyed the lies that separate us from the Father by perfectly revealing the Father to us, but Jesus also destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness, what the Bible calls the carnal nature or drives cleansing and purifying the species human. In the person of Jesus Christ, who is not only the Son of God but also the Son of Man, the species human, the species created in Eden was redeemed, cleansed, purified, perfected, and restored to perfect unity with the Father. And simultaneously, through what Jesus accomplished, the truth was revealed that solidifies the unfallen worlds in their loyalty and the remedy to our sin condition was

procured and each one of us is offered eternal life, the free, pure, holy, life of Christ that we can receive if we choose to trust Him.

This is reality—there is nothing penal legal going on, through Jesus the way back into oneness with the Father is open for all who will simply surrender to Him in trust.

SUNDAY

Read the first paragraph,

- In John 1:1, the apostle clearly states that Jesus is God, the divine Son. Consequently, in John 1:4—“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (NKJV)—the reference to life here has to be divine life, underived eternal self-existence. Because He has life within Himself, He can lay down His life and take it again (John 10:17). And, because He has life within, He can give life to whom He will (John 5:21; compare with John 14:19). (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 73).

Jesus as the Son of God has life original to Himself, underived from another source and immortal. But Jesus, as the Son of Man, as a human, partook of life that had a beginning, He partook of the life breathed into Adam and thus Jesus’ divinity has no beginning, but His humanity did. There was a time a little more than 2000 years ago that Jesus did not have a human life—He only had His divine life. But now Jesus is both fully divine and fully human and because Jesus eliminated from the humanity He took upon Himself the infection of fear and selfishness, the humanity He now holds is immortal.

Do you agree with this or am I misstating it in some way?

And Jesus offers to share His immortal life with you and I, we can receive the immortal life of Christ through trust. As Paul wrote, “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20) or as Peter wrote “you may be partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4 NJJV).

Read the fourth paragraph,

- Just as the bronze serpent took the place of the Israelites who had been bitten by serpents, so Jesus took our place, we who have been struck down by sin. He took the penalty that was ours so that we might have the life that was His. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 73).

How do you understand this paragraph. What law lens do you understand it through?

Is there a penalty for sin? Yes, did Jesus suffer because of our sin, suffering He did not deserve and which was not naturally His own? Yes, and because of His voluntary choice to take our place, to substitute Himself, and win a victory that we could not win, can we, if we choose to trust Him and follow Him, avoid the penalty of sin? Yes!

Is it possible that these truths could be understood in a way that interferes with people experiencing the free salvation Jesus' offers despite claiming they are saved by Jesus? How might that happen?

It all depends on the law lens—if one holds to Satan's lie that God's law functions like human law. Then the penalty for sin is legally inflicted suffering and death inflicted by God and God becomes the obstacle to salvation and Jesus' death is the means whereby we are able to be protected from God. The legal lens actually undermines our trust in God, instead of seeking God's presence, the legal theologies create all kinds of theoretical and theological mental defenses to hide us and protect us from God because we believe the lie that if this isn't done God is required to use His power to kill us. People will write things like this, published in the Review December 2023:

- To spare us, God poured out His wrath against the violation of His law (sin), not on the violators of His law (sinners) but on the sinless Jesus, the only way that God could “be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26). **In short, rather than killing us for violating His law, the Father killed Jesus instead. ... Or, to put it crudely, the Father killed Jesus so that He wouldn't have to kill us**” (Goldstein, C. “Law, Freedom, Love.” *Adventist Review*, online edition, Dec 8, 2023, https://adventistreview.org/cliffs-edge/law-freedom-love/?fbclid=IwAR3wAGrpMo-HQQi2KFAIHxfD47q5Aam6lZ6yJTNk-5FH7QZr66b8h_3CqX0, emphasis mine).

But when we return to worship God as Creator and realize the truth that God's laws are the design protocols upon which reality is constructed to operate, we understand that death does not come out from God, death comes from breaking away from God and the laws upon which He constructed life to operate. Just as the Bible teaches:

- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NIV84).
- Sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:15 NIV84).
- The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:8 NIV84).

God is the source of life, life comes from God, sin severs our connection with God and life and naturally results in eternal death unless the sin is removed and life is restored within. This is what Jesus has done for humanity and is doing for each person who trusts Him.

God, through Jesus, destroys death, death is the power of Satan, not the power of God:

- Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy **him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil**—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14,15 NIV84, emphasis mine).

- Christ Jesus, who has **destroyed death** and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10 NIV84, emphasis mine).
- Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** (1 Corinthians 15:24-26 NIV84, emphasis mine).

God is the source of life and through Jesus God destroys death—because death is the result of distrusting God, of breaking His design laws. But when people accept the lie that God’s law functions like human law, imposed rules, they teach that God is the source of death and then create all kinds of legal fictions that operate in hearts and minds as a barrier obstructing our unity with God.

People trust in the blood, the payment, the erasing of the records, the mediatorial pleading of Jesus, or Mary, or the saints to plead mercy from the Father, but they do not actually trust the Father and they live in fear of the day that the intercessor is removed and they must stand in the presence of the Father without an intercessor.

But those of us who know the truth of God’s design law and worship God as Creator, look forward to the day Jesus our intercessor finishes His work of cleansing our hearts and minds from sin and once He has finished His work of restoring the image of God within us, of removing fear, sin, and selfishness, of sealing us both intellectually and spiritually so that we cannot be moved, then He can stop interceding to bring us back into at-one-ment with the Father because we will be at-one and ready to meet Him face to face.

Just as John wrote,

- We know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2 NIV84).

MONDAY

The lesson asks, “How do we receive eternal life?”

What would you say to someone who asks this of you?

Consider this story from Acts:

- The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought

them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family. (Acts 16:29-34 NIV84).

What lessons do we learn from this story and does it raise any questions that need clarifying?

- How could they be baptized on the same day they chose to believe in Jesus? Didn't the apostles get this wrong—weren't they supposed to have this family say the sinner's pray, then enroll in several weeks of Bible study classes to learn the correct doctrines—what some might call “indoctrination” and weren't they required to give up their Sabbath job, change their diet, quit using alcohol, and start paying tithe before they could be baptized?
- Doesn't the Bible say that the devil's believe and tremble (James 2:19)? So what does it mean to believe in Jesus? Is there another word in our modern English that the Greek is also legitimately translated into that better captures the true meaning? Yes, trust, trust your heart, mind, soul, life, future, fortune, self into Jesus' care. Just like a patient will trust themselves to a surgeon and while under anesthesia trust the surgeon to do a work that the patient cannot do for himself, and then afterward trust the instructions of the surgeon, keep the wound clean, take the medicine as prescribed, do the exercises assigned etc. So, too, when we trust Jesus we open the heart and ask Him to come in and do the things we cannot do, but we also trust Him by doing the things which are ours to do. Thoughts?

Salvation happens when the heart/mind that was living in fear and selfishness surrenders to Jesus in trust and receives, through their trust, AKA faith, a new heart and right spirit, a new animating energy of love and trust and from that point forward it is no longer the old fear-ridden selfish life animating the person, but a new life, a new animating power, the presence and power of Jesus Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit giving us new desires, insights, motives, and power as we daily choose to say yes to the Spirit of truth and love and no to the spirit of fear and selfishness.

The lesson asks the following question,

- How does the promise of having eternal life impact how we view our temporal life here?

This is actually quite a significant question, can you think of examples from the Bible, from history, from recent events, of how Satan tricks people into valuing temporal life over eternal life, or how inflaming fear of losing temporal life causes people to make choices to distrust God and align with Satan in method and practice?

The life we all inherit from Adam is the life infected with fear and selfishness, the natural drive of this fallen state is the survival of the fittest drive, when we are threatened the fear causes us to act to harm others to protect ourselves. It is considered justifiable and right to defend self against assault, to kill rather than be killed.

At the cross, Jesus demonstrated another method—trusting God with one's life rather than acting to protect one's life. Jesus did not use power to protect self, to act in self-interest, but instead surrendered His life into the care and keeping of the Father.

Daniel, the three worthies, Stephen, the martyred apostles and martyrs down through history have all done the same thing.

And Revelation tells us that those who are ready for translation, the true remnant at the end of time are described in these words:

- They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; **they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.** (Revelation 12:11 NIV84, emphasis mine).

Satan's method is to inflame fear, fear of injustice, fear of abuse, fear of death and then get people to promote a good cause, justice, stop abuse, save lives, but through the application of his methods of force and coercion.

The high priest Caiaphas went down this path when he said,

- “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.” (John 11:49-50 NIV84).

And we saw this same trap, this same trick, used worldwide during COVID when nations, corporations, some churches and church leaders, spoke just like Caiaphas—it is better to harm a few to protect the many lest the entire nation perish, or lest our corporation lose its government funding etc.

We saw the same thing in the recent election cycle when pundits constantly promoted various fear inducing messages to get people to act unrighteously to protect self.

We can never win God's cause by using Satan's methods and that is the trap. Satan will, if he can, try to advance an evil cause, murder, rape, abuse. But not everyone will be seduced into overt evil, so he tricks them into trying to remedy the evil by promoting a righteous cause, but with his evil methods. This is what will happen when the beast rises and why only the elect will be saved, because only those who know God's design laws will be able to differentiate between the righteous goal and the unrighteous methods being employed.

This was articulated by some in the last election cycle, some think it is justifiable to do whatever it takes to prevent the other side from being elected to office, even if it means lying, cheating, or whatever, the ends justify the means. But this is a trap of Satan. Notice, I didn't say which side, for people on extremes of both sides get caught into such traps.

TUESDAY

The lesson is about believing and the new birth experience. What do you understand the new birth to be?

Can a person believe in Jesus and not experience a new birth? Don't the devils believe and tremble?

So believing in Jesus must mean more than acknowledging or being confident in the reality of Jesus and Him being the Son of God.

So how is belief connecting to a new birth?

Can a person be saved without a new birth experience or is the new birth experience required for salvation? Why or why not?

Is the new birth experience different from or the exact same event as justification? Is the new birth experience something that happens in record books or something that happens in hearts and minds? What about justification—is it legal happening in books or is it actual happening in people?

Isn't justification setting right what is wrong? And what is wrong that needs to be set right? Isn't it the sinful heart of human beings?

There are two aspects to justification for the human race:

1. Jesus, as our human substitute, took upon Himself the terminal sin condition with which Adam infected the species and being tempted in all points like we are overcame that condition and eradicated it at the cross. Thereby, in the individual humanity, brain, person, of Jesus Christ the race, the species that God created in Eden, was reconciled, justified, put right with God again. But Jesus in reconciling the species in His personhood, as He was a real human who lived sinlessly using human abilities, simultaneously developed the remedy that will cure, heal, save all who trust Him. That leads to the second aspect of justification—individual justification
2. Individual justification is only possible because Jesus first justified, reconciled, set right the species in His person becoming our sinless second Adam, the metaphorical vine into which we can be grafted and receive a new life, be reborn and experience the new spirit of love and trust, the animating energy of the divine nature, having Christ live in us. This is what Abraham experienced. His natural human heart was like yours and mind, as Romans describes enmity to God—distrusting and against God. But Abraham experienced a change from distrust to trust and only AFTER Abraham's heart was set right or put right in trust with God did God reckon, declare, credit, Abraham as being justified or righteous because he was in his heart right with God again.

This is true justification, it is real, actual, literal, not legal, not declared, not pretend, as the Bible says:

- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might **become the righteousness of God**. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV84, emphasis mine).

Being reborn means that we receive, through our faith or trust, the indwelling Holy Spirit that comes with the divine spirit of love, the animating energy of the divine nature, the life of Christ that

motivates us with new desire and enables us to choose to love, to live honestly, to say no to the carnal drives of fear and selfishness and thus we become righteous through our faith or trust in Jesus.

Read the last paragraph,

- Faith, biblical faith, based on the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, is the foundation of our faith. “Faith is . . . the great blessing—the eye that sees, the ear that hears.”—Ellen G. White, *In Heavenly Places*, p. 104. **The humanistic approach to faith states that we must find a foundation, the criteria for faith, and then believe. In contrast, the biblical approach states that faith is the foundation, a gift from God** (Eph. 2:8, 1 Cor. 1:17–24, 1 Cor. 2:1–6). We start with the foundation of faith, and then from there we grow in understanding and grace. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 75, emphasis mine).

What does this mean? Are they saying as Christians we are not to have a foundation for our faith?

I must not be understanding this—are they saying we must have faith based on something other than evidence, reason, facts, truth, historical accomplishments, reality revealed, that we are just believe without evidence?

How much truth is on Satan’s side? Zero, how much is on God’s side 100%, so in this battle for hearts and minds who benefits if we turn minds away from evidence, facts, truth? Satan does—so the idea that faith is not based on a foundation of truth, facts, evidence is a lie. All our faith is built upon reality, the truth that God has revealed to us in Scripture, Nature/science, and Experiences.

Consider:

- Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17 NIV84)
- **"God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence** upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His Word, are all established by testimony that **appeals to our reason**; and this testimony is abundant. Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. **Our faith must rest upon evidence**, not demonstration. Those who wish to doubt will have opportunity; while those who really desire to know the truth, will find **plenty of evidence on which to rest their faith.**" (Steps to Christ 105, emphasis mine)

WEDNESDAY

Read last paragraph,

- The sin of the Hebrews when they were at Kadesh Barnea was to doubt the Word of God. God had asked them to go up and take the land. Twelve spies were sent to Canaan to spy out the land. They came back with two reports. The majority gave a negative report. There are giants

in the land, walled cities, weapons we have never seen before, and well-trained armies. By contrast, we have been slaves in the land of Egypt with little military experience. Ten spies voted no, based upon the overwhelming evidence from a human standpoint. Two spies voted yes based upon their faith in the overwhelming power of the Word of God. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 76).

What happened here?

Did the spies who recommended not going in give a false report when they reported there were giants in the land and walled cities, strong armies? Were they making that up?

So their report of strong enemies in the land was accurate—what was the problem?

The lesson wants us to believe that their problem was simply that they didn't believe what God had said. But was it that simple? Or, were there other facts and evidences that the nay-sayers left out of their ability to understand the situation and trust God?

Was there evidence of God's existence, His leading, power and plan for them from the 10 plagues of Egypt, the manna, the fire by night and cloud by day, Moses' face radiating light whenever he left God's presence?

Did they have evidence of God's presence, power, and care for them?

Is God asking them to believe in and trust Him simply because He said so, or had God given evidence upon evidence of His love, presence, trustworthiness, reliability, and care for them to base their faith in Him?

God had told them why He sent the Ten Plagues?

- “I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God.” (Deuteronomy 29:6).

So they had lots of evidence of God's existence, trustworthiness and reliability and they were not called upon to believe or trust simply because God said so.

Why do you think some people want to take the position that we are to believe without evidence? What kind of system is that? What kind of system operates upon claims, declarations, proclamations, voices of authority, power, and position? This is Satan's method, it is the method of imposed law, arbitrary rules, made up systems—this is how Satan sought to get power in the beginning of the controversy:

- **You said** in your heart, “**I will ascend** to heaven; **I will raise** my throne above the stars of God; **I will sit** enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. **I will ascend** above the tops of the clouds; **I will make** myself like the Most High.” (Isaiah 14:13-14 NIV84, emphasis mine).

This is all claims, declarations, proclamations. Lucifer is not saying that he is becoming a divine being, that he actually has infinite powers—it is not reality based, it is fantasy, make-believe, artificial, imposed, authority by claiming power and attempting to exert it over others—which is how all human governments work—by made up rules and external enforcement.

The fact our lesson argues for the approach of believing God based on God saying it is evidence that they believe in the imposed law made up system.

Understand God always speaks truth and we are wise to believe, listen, and follow His Word—but understand the difference, it is critical. What God says is true because it is how reality is, God’s saying it doesn’t make it true—He says it because it is true.

And God wants us to understand reality, understand the truth for ourselves.

But ten of the spies going into Canaan didn’t trust God—why not? They did not keep their minds/hearts focused upon God, but instead focused upon the threats which incited fear and caused them to think of worldly ways to survive—let’s leave, bypass, go around.

Did you see this same problem happening during COVID—many people diverted away from the principles of God and replaced love with fear and justified coercing others in order to make themselves feel safe, rather than simply presenting the truth in love and leaving others free to decide for themselves?

Do you see this happening as we approach the end times, people living in fear of what the government will do and fretting and worrying about how they will survive, rather than keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus and resting in His promise to provide for us?

I love this thought,

- We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. (Christian Experience and Teaching p. 204).

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph,

- “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because [he has] not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. . . . Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that [his] deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light” (John 3:18–21, NIV; compare with John 1:10). (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 77).

What does this mean? Why are people condemned? Is this a legal condemnation or a terminal state of being that causes the condemnation?

We are born in sin conceived in iniquity, dead in trespass and sin—this is a terminal condition we inherited from Adam. Without remedy the natural result is eternal death. Thus, those who refuse the remedy are condemned to die from the condition with which they were born. They are not in legal trouble, they are in lethal trouble. And they are not guilty of having the condition, but all who die of it will be guilty of rejecting and refusing the free remedy that would cure them of this condition.

Read third paragraph,

- Eve was given light on how to relate to the tree in the center of the garden. Satan tempted her to bring the light into question. **She tested God’s word by reasoning that a God of love would not destroy the creatures whom He created.** She also relied upon the data of her senses. The serpent has eaten of the fruit and now has the power to speak. Perhaps the serpent is right. If I partake of the fruit, I may become like God! Deceived, she turned away from the light. And her husband chose the same path. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 77, emphasis mine).

What is the lesson trying to suggest? Are they suggesting that God will destroy the creatures He created and that Eve was wrong to conclude that a God of love would not destroy the creatures whom He created?

It all depends on how one understands God’s law.

If one believes the lie that God’s law functions like that of a creature, imposed rules requiring the infliction of external punishment, then one believes what the lesson suggests.

If one believes that God’s laws are design laws, the protocols reality functions upon, then one recognizes that Eve’s conclusion is correct—God will not destroy His creatures. But if one recognizes the truth that God will not destroy His creatures but is tricked into believing God’s law is imposed rules—they one believes falsely that there is nothing wrong with eating the fruit since God won’t destroy one for it, but the problem was never with God, the problem is that sin breaks the laws upon which life is built and destroys the sinner, just as the Bible says:

- The wages of sin is death Romans 6:23
- Sin when full grown brings forth death James 1:15
- Those who sow to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction Galatians 6:8

It would be like saying to a child whose parents warned them not to play Russian roulette, or not to take illegal drugs or smoke, “She tested the word of her parents by reasoning that her parents that love her would not destroy the children they procreated” so there must not be any harm in playing Russian roulette, do drugs, or smoking.

The injury, harm, death doesn't come from God, Eve was correct in her conclusion that God would not destroy the children He created—in fact God so loved the world that He died to save those children. She was wrong in her belief that God's law functions like human law—she failed to understand the nature and character of sin, of breaking away from God's law of love and truth.

Read last paragraph,

- Christ had at His disposal the same humanistic tool of thought used by Adam and Eve, the antediluvians, and Israel at Kadesh Barnea. **He could have asked why a God of love would leave His Son in the wilderness for 40 days and nights** without food and protection. He also could have determined to prove His Sonship by turning stones into bread! Instead, He answered with the Word of God. He operated on the level of heavenly things rather than on earthly patterns of thought. How easily He could have rationalized His way to a wrong decision, which so many people, even people of faith, often do. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 77, emphasis mine).

Why did Jesus not ask these questions? Because He understood design law—He understood that humanity was infected with the spirit of fear and selfishness, that the animating energy passed down from Adam and Eve was dissonance, out of harmony with heaven, incompatible with life as God constructed the universe to operate and that He came to eradicate the spirit of fear and selfishness animating human beings and replace it with the spirit of love and trust. In order to do that He had to be tempted in all points like we are, He had to face the temptations and choose with His human abilities to do only what is harmony with the spirit of love and trust. Thus He understood He could not accomplish His mission without going there, so there was no rationalizing mindset, there was mission completion mindset because Jesus did not operate upon the lie of imposed law with the false penal legal payment theology.