



# **2025 Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy Lesson 11 Ruth and Esther**

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

## **SABBATH**

---

The lesson focuses on Ruth and Esther, and the lesson points out that these were real women who lived real lives, and that the events are historical, but they also serve as object lessons for us teaching us things about the Great Controversy and the plan of salvation

As Paul wrote,

- These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 1 Corinthians 10:11 NIV84.

There have been billions of humans who have lived and died, and we have a very small number of them chosen to be included in Scripture. And those lives were chosen by God to not only document historical events, but to simultaneously teach larger realities to serve as object lessons.

We have written many blogs that document the object lessons from the lives of real historical people and events. This week we posted [Hosea and Gomer: And Object Lesson of Christ and the Church](#). We have also posted:

[Joseph a Foreshadow of Christ](#)

[Samson a Foreshadow of Christ](#)

[Elisha and the Shunammite's Son—And Object Lesson About Christ](#)

[Naaman an Object Lesson for Us](#)

[Elijah Object Lessons for God's End-Time People](#)

[Repairers of the Breach Pamphlet](#)

The lesson is right to seek to understand the object lesson significance of these events from these historical events.

The lesson, rightly points out in the last paragraph of Sabbath's lesson,

- In prophecy, of course, a woman is a powerful symbol for God's church, shedding much light on how God regards His people. *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 88.

This is true in the blog written this week, Hosea represents Christ and Gomer represents the church.

Why in Bible symbolism do pure women represent a pure and righteous church—the bride of Christ, but harlots represent an unrighteous church?

- Adam was created first and Eve came second an extension of Adam
- Jesus existed first and humans are a creation of Jesus
- Women are weaker than men
- We are weaker than Christ
- Women in history depend on husbands to provide and protect
- We must depend on Christ to provide and protect
- Women are fertile and receive the implanted seed that brings forth new life—the fruit of the womb
- We receive into our hearts either the seeds of truth or lies and bring forth the fruit of what we take into our hearts
- God designed marriage as a union where two become one in love, trust, intimate knowing, understanding, friendship, devotion, loyalty, with never-ending growth as time unfolds.
- God wants this type of union with us, our love, trust, intimate knowing, understanding, friendship, devotions, loyalty and never-ending eternal growth as time unfolds. And this type of union, connection, oneness, cannot be achieved through law or law-enforcement, only through truth, love, trust in freedom.

As Jesus prayed to His Father,

- “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that **all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me.** May they be brought to **complete unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:20-23 NIV84, emphasis mine.

This union, this joining of husband and wife in love, is designed to bring about new life. So too, when people join in intimate love and trust with Jesus, they receive the Holy Spirit who implants in them the

seeds of a new life, that are to nurture to bring about the fruits of that new life in the formation of character like Jesus, so that we bear the image of our Heavenly Father.

- He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the devil's work**. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because **God's seed remains in him**; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 1 John 3:8-9 NIV84

We are born into this world in sin, conceived in iniquity, born with the seeds of Satan, of fear and selfishness. Jesus partook of this damaged life we all inherit from Adam and in His substitutionary sacrifice destroyed the infecting elements of fear and selfishness and restored into humanity the pure life of sinless love and trust. When we are converted, we receive that new life, the new animating energy from Jesus, and it is no longer our old self that lives, but Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20). And we become part of the family of God:

- Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:14 NIV84

And this is also described in the New Covenant when God writes His law on our hearts and minds and

- No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, '**Know the LORD,**' **because they will all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34 NIV84, emphasis mine.

The living law of love written upon their hearts and mind by the animating living Holy Spirit, is God's seed, and brings a new life that begins to grow within the believer.

And this is described in another way,

- Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16

God's Spirit is the seed or life of God that is implanted in us and brings us a new life, the life of Christ, and we become children of God who bear His image. But this is also described as being a temple where God lives.

What happens at a wedding—the two become one, and is there a part of the sanctuary service where oneness happens? The day of At-one-ment is the time in history when Jesus is married to His bride, which means it is the time in history when the people of God collectively are matured, are healed, are settled by the Spirit of truth and love into eternal loyalty and trustworthiness to Jesus. They are settled both intellectually and spiritually so that nothing can move them from their loyalty to Jesus. This is the time in which we are living today!

If you would like a comprehensive review of all of this with biblical references, please read our magazine [The Wedding of Christ to His Bride](#) which is available online at our website, you can download a pdf, read it online, or request free copies to be shipped to any US postal address, but it is also available in Australia and South Africa.

So if being married to Jesus means accepting into our hearts the truth and love of Jesus through His Spirit such that we are reborn and mature to be a loyal and faithful and pure bride possessing the fruits of a Christlike character, bearing His image, then what then would constitute adultery? And what is prostitution?

Revelation states,

- “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great **prostitute**, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed **adultery** and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” Revelation 17:1-2 NIV84, emphasis mine

Adultery is betrayal, taking into oneself someone other than one’s spouse. And in this case, it is taking into one’s heart the seeds or principles or laws, methods and practices of someone other than Christ, such that these people live lives that don’t give birth to the fruits of the Spirit and Christlikeness of character, but instead give birth to a beastly character that bear the image of Satan.

And what is prostitution? Selling oneself for money. Thus, the adulterous woman described in Revelation is not merely betraying her declared spouse, she is doing it for profit. This is not referring to the godless who deny a belief in God, but those who claim Jesus as their Savior, those who claim Jesus as their husband but who instead implant into their heart the methods, practices, principles, and laws of Satan and do so for profit, whether personal profit or institutional profit, whether the profit of money, or power, or position, or domination and control over others.

And while the righteous woman is also described as a temple, living stones built together in a house for the Lord, the wicked, who internalize Satan’s seed of fear, selfishness, imposed laws and coercion of others become his temple and bear his image,

- I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Revelation 2:9 NIV84

What does it mean to be a synagogue of Satan? To have internalized his seed and bear his image and then you are his child, as Jesus said to the Jews in John 8, that Satan was their father.

So women are a very apt representation of the church, of people, who must receive the seeds of truth and love into our hearts—the living Holy Spirit, not dead rules, in order to bring forth a new life and form a Christlike character.

## SUNDAY

---

The lesson asks us to read the Ruth 1:1-5:

- In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. Ruth 1:1-5 NIV84.

The lesson then states,

- There is irony to be found in the opening statement of this story: there was a famine that affected Bethlehem, a town whose name means "house of bread." One is reminded of the abundance of Eden, where God told Adam and Eve, " 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat' " (Gen. 2:16, NKJV). The human race began its existence in abundance, under the care of a generous Creator, but then exchanged its role as caretakers of creation for the slavery of sin. " 'In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground,' " God told Adam (Gen. 3:19, NKJV). *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 89.

Any other Bible stories about famines come to mind?

- Famine during Abraham's time
- Famine during Joseph's time
- Famine during the time of Elijah
- Famine during the time of Elisha

And then there is this prophecy:

- "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it." Amos 8:11–12 NIV84.

Have there been famines of hearing God's Word through history?

What does this mean?

Did it say a famine of God providing His Word? No, a famine of hearing God's word, where is the problem in God or in the people?

God is the infinite source of truth and love which is raining down in showers of blessings, however, have there been times in history where people have refused to drink in the showers of blessings, have refused to hear God's word?

- Ancient Israel had this famine multiple times
- The church during the Dark Ages
- What about the church today?
- The antediluvians—Noah preached God's word for 120 years and they refused to hear it and what happened? A literal rain flooded over them and they drowned in the waters. Had they listened to God's Word they would have been on the ark and not drown in the rains.
- What about the final events as depicted in Revelation? The latter rain is going to pour out and the world will hear, in fact, is hearing the Word of God, but the world overall is rejecting it and will continue to do so all but the elect. And one day they will be consumed in the unveiled glory of infinite truth and rains down over the Earth.

How do we protect ourselves from this famine?

## MONDAY

---

Read first paragraph,

- Naomi asked that her name be changed to Mara because of the bitterness that had fallen over her life (see Ruth 1:20). **Our relationship with our Creator has been irreparably damaged by sin, forcing us into spiritual poverty.** Our prospects are dim, and we spend our lives gleaning what we can from the edges of the field, living on the scraps of joy that can still be found in a broken world. **But it all changes the moment we make a remarkable discovery: God has not forgotten us.** *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 90, emphasis mine.*

What do you think of the first highlighted sentence? I think they accidentally left out a caveat, something like "Without Jesus, our relationship with our Creator has been irreparably damaged by sin" or "If not for Jesus..."

But as it is written this is not true. Our relationship with our Creator has been damaged by sin, but not irreparably so, that is the entire point of the plan of Salvation—Jesus repairs the damage.

And what about the last highlighted sentence? Is that true? Does the discovery that God has not forgotten us change everything?

- Was Adam hiding in Eden because he thought God had forgotten him or he knew God was coming to look for him?
- Were the Pharisees in Christ's day doing all of their religious activity because they thought God had forgotten them or because they were on a mission for God?
- Were the leaders of the Dark Ages church persecuting people because they thought they were forgotten by God, or they thought they were on a mission from God?

Can people believe they are remembered by God, even on a mission for God, and be God's enemy?

Then what is really what is important? Everything changes the moment we realize, value, and accept **the truth of who God is**, that God is like Jesus revealed, that God is not the kind of person Satan says.

If people believe Satan's lies about God and also believe God remembers them, then what do they experience? Just as the Bible says that the devils believe in God and tremble—do you think the devils believe God remembers them? Does it bring them comfort? Why not?

What about this text:

- Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne..." Revelation 6:15-16 NIV84.

Are these people distressed because they believe God has forgotten them? Or when they realize God has not forgotten them, but is remembering to address them do they experience comfort? Why not?

- What causes these people to be so distressed?
- Do you think the distress is because Jesus has some animus, some hostility, some negative attitude toward them?
- Does Jesus, who sits on the throne, look at them with less love than He looks at the saved? Is Jesus two-faced?
- Then, why are these lost souls not comforted by being remembered by Jesus?
- Is Jesus the source of something harmful and destructive that He inflicts upon them? No! They are distraught because they have rejected truth and having believed Satan's lies they do not see Jesus for who He is in reality; they see Him through the delusions of their the lies they have solidified into their own character; and therefore, they judge Jesus to be as merciless, cruel, hateful, severe, unforgiving, and punishing as they are and they are terrified of him because they believe falsely that He will do to them what they would do to Him if they were on the throne.

**What brings us comfort is not merely knowing God has not forgotten us, but the truth about who God is!** That God is the Creator whose laws are design laws, the protocols for life, and He is not

an imperial dictator; He is not the source of pain, suffering, or death; God is the source of life, health, healing, and happiness. Sin, which is a breakdown of trust, is the source of all pain, suffering, injury, harm, and death.

Yes, it is absolutely wonderful to know that God has not forgotten us, but only because we know the truth about God as revealed by Jesus.

If we believe Satan's version of God, and we think God has not forgotten us, then we are afraid of that god, we want someone to hide us and protect us from that punishing god. In fact, it is taught by some that we need that god to forget, we need him to have something done to him to erase from his memory our sins because if that doesn't happen then he will be required by law and justice to use his power to torture and destroy. So for people who worship that false god, they develop all kinds of theologies designed to hide and protect them from him. For them, it is good news for their god to forget them, or at least all their sins.

Read the second paragraph,

- Naomi could not take possession of her husband Elimelech's land without obtaining assistance from her husband's family. She hopes that Ruth can marry a close relative of her deceased husband and bear a child in Elimelech's name. God had made provision in Israel for individuals to reclaim their inheritance in the Promised Land: a close relative was needed to redeem Elimelech's inheritance. Boaz was not just a kind farmer; he was a kinsman of Elimelech who could redeem the land. *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 90.

What is the object lesson application from this story to the plan of salvation?

- Boaz is a type of Christ
- Boaz is the kinsman redeemer of his family
- Jesus became human in order to become part of the family of Adam, part of this human family, in order to be our kinsman redeemer and redeem Adam's fall, to redeem all that God had placed in Adam's hands but which Adam lost through his fall.
- Ruth is a type of the church or the saved by union with Christ
- Ruth's first husband Mahlon who died, is a type of Adam who fell into sin and died and Ruth can be redeemed only by marrying Boaz
- The land redeemed by Boaz represents the Earth redeemed from sin
- We can only inherit the Earth if we are wed to Jesus
- Boaz and Ruth's union brings forth new life, which results down the generations in Jesus being born



- Our union with Jesus brings forth the new life in us, Christ lives in us, we develop new Christlike character and eventually live with Jesus eternally
- And being wed, or united, to Jesus is when the two become one, at a wedding two become one—and this is metaphorically taught in the sanctuary day of at-one-ment when the high priest cleanses the sanctuary, which is the same event as Jesus cleansing His church/bride.

But what do you think of the first paragraph in **TUESDAY's** lesson,

- Boaz falls deeply in love with Ruth and wishes to marry her, but there is a significant barrier: there is a closer relative who also has a claim on the woman and the land. If we consider Boaz to be a type of Christ, this situation may reveal an issue at stake in the great controversy. **Christ loves us, but there is a “closer relative” who also has a claim: Satan.** *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 91, emphasis mine.*

Is Satan a closer relative than Jesus? Does Satan have a better claim to Earth and us than Jesus does? And did Jesus need Satan's cooperation and agreement in order to redeem us?

No doubt Satan claims the Earth as his rightful possession, but is it?

What does the Bible say?

- Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, **Possessor of heaven and earth**” Genesis 14:18-19 NKJV, emphasis mine

God is the rightful owner, Creator, Possessor of Earth—Adam was given dominion under God, under Jesus, Adam did not rule independent of the Creator and thus when Adam sinned, Christ remained the true rightful ruler.

Consider this Bible commentary from the book, *The Desire of Ages*:

- 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 ruleth 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 p. 129, emphasis mine.*

So, does Satan have a higher claim to Earth and humanity than Jesus? Absolutely not! Then what do we make of the object lesson of Boaz going to the other relative? Well, it is always good to read the Bible directly and see what it says:

- Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down. Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.” “I will redeem it,” he said. Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” Ruth 4:1-6 NIV84.

What is the object lesson? Satan cannot redeem because redeeming requires restoration of that which was lost and the other relative in the story states that he **cannot** do this without losing his own possessions. Satan cannot redeem us because it is the opposite of his character, methods, principles, kingdom. He is a taker, not a giver. Thus the object lesson is accurate, the one who makes a claim to be closer in reality is not capable of redeeming the land or us.

Read the last paragraph,

- The gate of a village is where cases were decided: this is a type of judgment scene. It reflects the judgment scene of Daniel 7:13, 14, 22, 26, 27. We must not miss this critical aspect of judgment: judgment is in “favor of the saints” but only because Christ paid the price for us, just as Boaz did for his bride. *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy*, p. 91.

Two elements of this paragraph are the idea of judgment as referenced from Daniel and Jesus paying the price of our redemption.

And our conclusions on both of these themes are directly determined by what we believe about God’s law. If we believe the lie that God’s law functions like human law, then we conclude that judgment refers to a judicial process of determining guilt, innocence, and appropriate amounts of inflicted punishments which leads us to conclude that the price paid was a legal price of a death penalty to satisfy the law. But these conclusions are false and based on Satan’s lie that God’s law functions like human law and rather than bringing an end to sin and rebellion these teachings perpetuate fear and distrust of God and end up teaching something needs to be done to God to protect us from Him.

When we return to worshiping God as Creator, we understand that His laws are the laws He built reality to operate upon, design laws. And as such we recognize sin is lawlessness, deviating from the

very basis of life and the wages of sin is death, sin when full grown brings forth death, that death is not inflicted by God, but death is an enemy destroyed by God through the work of Jesus Christ.

As such we realize that the judgment scene in Daniel is the judgment that gives the saints victory in the war with the little horn power:

- I beheld, and the same horn made **war** with the saints, and **prevailed against them; until** the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints** of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:21-22 KJV.

And what kind of war is this?

- For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish **arguments** and every **pretension** that sets itself up against the **knowledge of God**, and we take captive every **thought** to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84, emphasis mine.

The war began in heaven when Satan began lying about God and spread to Earth in Eden when Satan lied about God. And Satan's lies root in his lies about God's law. Satan's central lie is that God governs no differently than a creature, He makes up rules and enforces those rules through infliction of external punishment. But the truth is that God is the Creator and all His laws are design laws, expressions of love that life is built to operate upon. Deviations from God's design laws takes one out of harmony with life and results in death. Thus God has been using His power to restrain, hold at bay, the ultimate results of what sin does. God is the source of life not death.

But Satan has infected Christianity with the lie that God's law functions like human law and therefore the idea that the judgment in Daniel is judicial, is God opening books, examining records, determining guilt and innocence is sadly taught.

Those who hold the imposed human law view prefer other translations that read "judgment pronounced in favor of the saints," rather than the KJV which reads "judgment was given to the saints."

What sets our hearts and minds free from the lies, fear, and selfishness is the truth and love of God that gives us the ability to judge or discern the truth from the lie. Thus, we will be losing this war until we are given the ability to make a right judgment about God.

As Paul in Romans taught something else:

- "Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: 'That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.'" Romans 3:4 NKJV

- “God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, ‘You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when you are being tried.’” Romans 3:4 GNB

We are living in the time when people are to make a right judgment about God and stop worshiping a god who functions like a Roman dictator.

Regarding the price that Jesus paid, yes He paid an infinite price—but to whom? It is the ransom price, the price necessary to free us from sin. And what is it that holds us in sin? The lies we believe about God that prevent us from trusting Him and our own fallen, fear-ridden, selfish, carnal nature. So what is the price necessary to free us? The truth about God that destroys the lies and wins us back to trust, and a new sinless life, a new sinless nature, and Christ provides both the truth about God and a new humanity through His selfless substitutionary reconciling or atoning death. In Jesus humanity is restored to unity with God.

## **WEDNESDAY**

---

What lessons do we learn from the book of Esther?

At the time of the events recorded in Esther, where were the faithful Jews, those who reverence and obey Yahweh supposed to be? They had all been called to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. But only about 50,000 Jews returned under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah and rebuilt the temple.

So the first lesson is, that if the people had followed where God instructed the crisis brought about by Haman would not have occurred.

Consider, would you want your teen daughter to become the second wife in the harem of a pagan potentate?

But, even though these difficult times occurred to these people because they were not where God wanted them to be, did God abandon them? No! This is a powerful and important lesson. God never wants us to rebel, to fail to listen, to go our own way, to refuse to follow Him. God always wants us to trust Him and follow Him, because He knows if we don’t we endanger and injure ourselves, we make it harder on ourselves than it would otherwise be. But, if and when we do choose not to listen, God does not cast us off, He does not abandon us, but when we turn to Him, as Esther did, He is right there to intervene and save us from the problems of our own making.

These are important lessons for us today. God has called His people to come out of Babylon, to leave the systems of imposed law with legal religious teachings of an imperial dictator god who is the source of inflicted punishment for sin and return to worshiping Him as Creator, to repair the breach in the wall.

- Babylon is symbolic of worldly and ungodly systems and sinful methods under which the people of God are held captive and are called to leave before Jesus comes (Revelation 18:2–4).
- Jerusalem is symbolic of the city or people of God, of Zion, in which the righteous live and the temple of God is found.
- The temple is symbolic of God’s plan to heal and save people from sin; it is the place where sinners are restored to at-one-ment with God.

The historical events of Babylon breaking down the walls of Jerusalem, destroying the temple, and taking the people captive symbolize the corrupt systems of this world (Satan’s kingdom with its methods, principles, practices, and laws) warring against the true people of God (the church) in an attempt to break down the protective wall that God has given to safeguard our hearts and minds; Satan’s goal is to take the people captive, in heart and mind, to a false system of worship that is represented by Babylon.

Isaiah adds some details that give important clues to the nature of the wall that has been breached, the wall that protects our hearts and minds:

- If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 58:13,14 NKJV.

Isaiah identifies one of God’s commandments in connection with the repairing of the breach. This suggests that the wall of protection may be connected to God’s law. Jeremiah and the writer of Hebrews go further than Isaiah; they identify the entire law of God as pivotal to our restoration in the new covenant:

- This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10 NIV84.

There were two covenants because there are two kinds of law in play—God’s design laws and the imposed laws that creatures make up.

The old covenant was formed at Sinai when the Israelites chose a covenant of law and performance over a covenant of love and trust.

The old covenant was based on the people’s false belief that God’s law is imposed and that righteousness is to be found in their law-keeping, which earns either rewards or punishments meted out justly by a “just God.” But as can be seen in the Jeremiah and Hebrews texts above, while God’s new covenant is not legal, it also has law involved—but in the new covenant, the people recognize and embrace the truth that God’s laws are design laws, the laws the Creator has built reality upon and not

rules like humans make up. God's laws must become the principles upon which hearts and minds operate, not merely rules to govern external behavior. Jeremiah makes clear how God's laws function:

- This is what the Lord says: "If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the **fixed laws of heaven and earth**, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them." Jeremiah 33:25, 26 NIV84, my emphasis.

God's laws are "the fixed laws" that govern heaven and earth! God's laws are the laws the Creator has built reality to operate upon, such as the laws of physics, health, and the moral laws.

The wall of God's protection is the wall of reality, of design law, of the protocols He built reality to function upon. When we understand and appreciate God's design laws, it always causes us to worship God as Creator and to understand that sin, breaking God's design laws, is the cause of pain, suffering, and death, while God is the source of life, healing, and salvation (Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:8; James 1:15). But when we exchange God's design laws for Satan's imposed-law system, we exchange the truth of God's character for Satan's and teach that God is the source of torture and death, which He inflicts upon the unrepentant as "just" punishment for sin. Thus, the lawless one, the one who denies and replaces the design laws of God with made-up, imposed rules, sets himself up in God's temple (human hearts and minds) proclaiming himself to be God.

Isaiah prophesied that before Christ returns, there will be a people who repair the breach.

Just like the remnant of Israelites who left Babylon under the leadership of Nehemiah, this end-time remnant will leave the systems of imposed-law theology. (It's worthwhile to note here that of all the nations that interacted with Israel in the Bible story arc, Babylon was the first to create an imposed legal code—the code of Hammurabi. Thus, Babylon rightly represents the kingdoms of this world and the theological constructs that teach that God's kingdom functions like human kingdoms, with made-up rules and imposed punishments.)

The end-time remnant will reject this sinful human-law view of God's kingdom and return to worshiping God as Creator, understanding that His laws are the protocols that reality itself functions upon.

But because the prophecy connects repairing the breach, the broken wall, with the Sabbath, some Christians, Seventh-day Adventists in particular, have concluded that this prophecy means returning to worship services on the Bible Sabbath instead of Sunday. But this prophecy is much broader than a weekly day of worship! It encompasses every aspect of living, for it calls us to *delight* in the Sabbath—not merely keep it as a rule we must follow. This means that the prophecy is calling us to return to living in harmony with God's design laws for life, of which the Bible Sabbath is symbolic, or a sign.

Consider the origins of sin. The angels who followed Satan into rebellion, into disobeying God's law, did so *before* there was a weekly Sabbath. The sin problem did not originate over a Sabbath-versus-

Sunday question, and it will not end over such a surface question. The sin problem will end over what these two days *represent*: They are signs—or pennants or marks or emblems—of two types of law and, therefore, two types of government and, ultimately, two different gods.

The Sabbath was *created* as a day set apart by God; Sunday was *not created* by God as a day set apart from the other days, but it became a day set apart from the other days of the week through human *legislation*. Thus, the two days represent two types of law—design law and imposed law.

The deeper issue is not the actual day, but the law and government the days represent. One of the founders of the Adventist Church understood this difference, writing:

- The prophet thus points out the ordinance which has been forsaken: “Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, **The repairer of the breach**, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and **call the Sabbath a delight**, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord.” ... This prophecy also applies in our time. The breach was made in the law of God **when the Sabbath was changed by the Roman power**. But the time has come for that divine institution to be restored. The breach is to be repaired and the foundation of many generations to be raised up. *The Great Controversy*, p. 452, emphasis mine.
- In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law **at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired**. God’s remnant people, **standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform** and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God. In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. *Prophets and Kings*, p. 678, emphasis mine.

Notice here that the author did not write, “The breach was made *by* the change in the Sabbath” or that “the change of the Sabbath *is* the breach in the law,” but that the breach occurred “at the time” or “when” the Sabbath was changed by man. The breach in the law was not the changing of the Sabbath; the true breach in the law is the change in how we understand God’s law, from design law to imposed rules—the type of law that can be changed.

The changing of the Sabbath to Sunday is the evidence, the fruit, the result of the beach. It is the proof that the Christian world believes God’s law functions like human law, and, therefore, sin is rule-breaking and God’s justice is the use of His power to inflict punishment upon sinners, in which He becomes the source of pain, suffering, and death from which we need protection. In this way, Satan has successfully set himself up in God’s Spirit temple to be worshiped by billions. It is a sad fact that

today, almost the entire Christian world, regardless of denomination, no longer recognizes that God's laws are design laws.

Thus, the true repairers of the breach described in Isaiah's prophecy will be those who teach the truth that God's laws are design laws and not imposed rules. In so doing, they will call people back to worship the Creator who made the heavens, earth, sea, and fountains of water (Revelation 14:7). They will teach people reality and how to cooperate with God to actually become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

We must also recognize that even if we do keep and value the Bible Sabbath yet continue to believe the lie that God's law functions like human law, we have not repaired the breach; we have not left the Roman system of worship; we have not left Babylon; and we are still advancing the counterfeit to God's kingdom, just as the Jews did two thousand years ago when they had the Bible Sabbath but the wrong law and the wrong god—which directly led to the religious leaders' conspiracy to murder Jesus (John 8:44).

So, with design law, we understand that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. We understand that it is God's gift, promise, evidence, demonstration, revelation of His character and how His design-law government functions—how He governs.

We also understand that God does not use power to force His way; this is the truth of the Sabbath's gift to us! For love exists only in an atmosphere of freedom, of which the Sabbath is a sign. God is the Creator—He has all power, and **the danger with all power is that it can intimidate, it can cause fear, it can damage individuality, it can undermine love, it can shut down thinking, it can lead to mindless pawns and drones doing what the powerful sovereign says or else—so God created the Sabbath, a revelation, demonstration, evidence that He does NOT govern by imposed law and enforced rules.** For after six days of using His immense power to create, the Sabbath was set apart by God when He **STOPPED** using power, when He rested, when He created a time for His creatures to think and consider and come to their own conclusions, all without the threat of punishment being inflicted by Him.

Thus, the Sabbath is a memorial to God as Creator and His design laws that all reality is built upon—for what God wants from His intelligent creatures is our love, trust, loyalty, devotion, and friendship, and that can *never* be achieved through human law, through the use of might and power; it cannot be achieved through intimidation, threats, and inflicted punishments.

In fact, when people present God as the cosmic enforcer and punisher, they advance Satan's rebellion and undermine trust in God, negating the very purpose and function of the Sabbath—a sign that God is holy and restores us to holiness when we trust Him! (See Exodus 31:13 and Ezekiel 20:12.)

So we invite you to join us in repairing the breach in the wall by rejecting the lie that God's laws function like human law (made-up, imposed rules) and embracing the truth that God is Creator and His laws are design laws upon which all reality is built to function; and to reject the lie that God is the source of pain, suffering, and death inflicted upon sinners, realizing instead that it is sin (the breaking of God's design laws for life) which brings forth death and that God is the source of life—the One whom, through Jesus, restores His living law into our hearts and minds (Hebrews 8:10).



## THURSDAY

---

Read the fourth paragraph,

- God raised up His remnant church for a specific moment in history. As the 1,260 days of the Dark Ages drew to a close, God brought His bride out of hiding (compare with Rev. 12:14) to carry His final message of mercy—the three angels’ messages—to the world. We are here “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). *Adult SS Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 93.

How would you describe the mission of the remnant end-time church?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

---

**Come and Reason Ministries Will Be Attending the General Conference July 3-13. We will have a booth in the Exhibit Hall giving our materials away! Please pray God will bless this endeavor. Due to this we will have a modified class schedule as follows:**

- **June 28:** 10-11 a.m. SS Class Lesson 2 in Exodus Study Guide
- **June 28:** 11:05-12:05 SS Class Lesson 3 in Exodus Study Guide
- **June 28:** No Q&A
- **July 5:** No SS Class and the building will not be open
- **July 12:** SS class will meet at normal time in the building but **NO POTLUCK**

### **Dr. Jennings Speaking:**

**September 24-27, 2025, Nashville TN:** Dr. Jennings will speak at the conference American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. On September 24 he will present a talk on Drug-free Treatments for Depression and on September 26 he will present a talk on dementia prevention. For more information visit the AACC event website at <https://worldconference.net/>

**October 10-11, 2025 Bydgoszcz, Poland:** Dr. Jennings will be the keynote speaker for the Impact Congress presented by the West Polish Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information contact:

**Patrycja Niewolik-Stüpp**

Dyrektor Sekretariatów: Misji, Zdrowia oraz Kobiet

Mission, Health and Women Director

West Polish Conference | Trans-European Division

Email: [patrycja.stupp@adwent.pl](mailto:patrycja.stupp@adwent.pl)

**October 16-18, 2025, Newbold College England:** Dr. Jennings will be they keynote speaker for the college's week of spiritual emphasis. For more information contact:

**Danilo Puskas**

Head of Student Life and Chaplaincy

Campus Ministries Coordinator

Newbold College

Email: [dpuskas@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:dpuskas@newbold.ac.uk)