



2025 Allusions, Images, Symbols - Lesson 13

Images of the End

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SUNDAY

The lesson lists, as object lesson images of the end of time:

Jonah and Nineveh

- Belshazzar's feast
- The drying of the Euphrates river when Cyrus conquered Babylon
- Cyrus the anointed

Considering the object lesson significance of the book of Jonah, let's go beyond the obvious historical record of a people living wickedly and receiving a message of impending doom, an end of their city, and how they repented. That lesson is obvious—God has an end time message to a wicked and rebellious world to repent because the end of our wicked, sinful, earth and its governments is coming.

Jesus applied the object lesson of Jonah being in the belly of the fish for three days to Himself being in the grave for three days and that the Ninevites repented at Jonah's witness, but the Jews did not repent when He, one greater than Jonah, testified to them.

Beyond these two lessons are there other lessons in the book?

Let's read a few verses from the book of Jonah and consider potential object lessons that may be drawn:

- The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. (Jonah 1:1-3 NIV84)

Jonah's name means dove and is considered a term of endearment

- God called Jonah (the dove who is dear to Him) to be His witness to Nineveh
 - God call's His people today, who are dear to Him and are filled with the Holy Spirit, symbolized by a dove, to be His end time witnesses, to take the gospel message to the world calling the world to repent for the end, the destruction of our world, is coming.
- Jonah is reluctant to fulfill this calling and therefore flees
 - Has the church been reluctant to stand up and call out the wickedness and abuses of power by the godless? Did we see reluctance during COVID, with the climate lies?

Throughout history has the church been reluctant to take the true gospel message and fled? Could Jonah's fleeing fit the church? Consider the following:

- Jonah heads toward Tarshish by way of Joppa; Joppa was a city from which the cedars used for Solomon's temple were obtained. The wood that went into the temple was cut from its roots in the earth, shaped for the building, covered in gold, and stood upright in the temple.
 - This symbolizes the people of God, humans who are made out of the dirt of the earth, being cut away from gaining our sustenance from the powers of this world and who instead of bringing forth the natural fruits of sinfulness have their characters shaped by the Holy Spirit who circumcises their hearts and fills them with the Spirit/life of Christ, symbolized by the cutting and shaping the cedar and covering it in gold—the righteousness of Christ, which enables them to stand upright and live upright lives.
- But when Jonah goes to Joppa he doesn't mobilize the people of God to help in giving this message of impending doom, instead he flees toward Tarshish, which was a city in Spain known for its wealth from its strong trade relationship with Tyre, and remember what Tyre represents in the Bible, Ezekiel 28:
- The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the **king of Tyre** and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: '**You were the model of perfection**, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **You were in Eden**, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you... Your settings and mountings were made of **gold**; on the day you were created they were prepared. [Lucifer is symbolized by the king of Tyre; He was sinless, perfect, and he was created with his mind and character founded in gold, built in the righteousness and perfection of Christ's character and methods of truth, love, and liberty.] You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were **blameless** in your ways from the day you were created till **wickedness was found in you**. Through **your widespread trade you were filled with violence**, and you **sinned**. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your **heart became proud on account of your beauty**, and you **corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor**. [Through beauty, wealth, and pride he lied to himself valuing the wealth, the position, the power, the adoration, more than the source, the Creator of all] So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. **By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries**. [The sanctuary of his mind and heart. His mind was corrupted with lies and heart corrupted with pride and selfishness which further corrupted him with resentment, envy, bitterness, hate.] So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.' " (Ezekiel 28:11-19 NIV84, emphasis mine).
 - The king of Tyre is symbolic of Satan, and Jonah instead of initially leading the people of God to support God's message, flees toward an affluent and powerful city that gains its wealth by trading with Tyre. Symbolically, the people entrusted with the message of

God, the gospel, instead of initially taking the true gospel to the world, aligned with and gained power from partnering with Rome the seat of Satan's power and Christianity Romanized and the church entered the Dark Ages, and through that alliance the spirit temple, the sanctuary of God became corrupted. And as Jonah was in darkness for 3 days, the church was in darkness for 1260 years. And the people so deceived become like Satan, proud of themselves and think they are rich, like the people of Tyre and like Lucifer, proud of their wealth power and beauty. But Jesus has a message for this people in Revelation 3 and 17:

- “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘**I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.**’ **But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.** I counsel you to buy from me **gold refined in the fire**, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. **Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.** So be earnest, **and repent.** Here I am! **I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,** I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Revelations 3:14-20 NIV84, emphasis mine.
- One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “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.
 - The church ran from the mission given by God and committed spiritual adultery with the kings of the earth becoming infected with imperialism and legalism, and has come to believe they are rich and acquired wealth, when in reality it is wretched (broken, exhausted, worn out, and without power), pitiful, poor (of spiritual virtue, truth, love, and Christlikeness), blind (without the Holy Spirit and ability to discern truth from error, reality from fantasy), and naked (exposed as sin-sick, necrotic, and terminal).

Continuing with Jonah:

- Then the **LORD sent a great wind on the sea**, and such a violent **storm** arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they **threw the cargo into the sea** to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and **fell into a deep sleep.** The **captain** went to him and said, “**How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!** Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish.” Jonah 1:4-6 NIV84, emphasis mine.
- The seas represent the populations, the peoples of the earth

- The ship represents the church, boarded in Joppa, the place where the cedars for the temple, which represent the people of God, were obtained.
- The winds represent the influences blowing upon the people, and thus the church, including the Holy Spirit which stirs things up when they are sailing in the direction contrary to the Lord's leading. This is also represented by the fires of tribulation that burn out the dross or impurities in our characters.
 - This is a form of loving discipline to cause dissatisfaction with the way things are, the direction we are going, to motivate the sailors, the people in the church to reevaluate what they are doing and where they are going, to begin prioritizing rightly.
 - The sailors do so and throw their cargo into the sea, which represents people cutting out of their lives the things of this world that we have valued and cherished, the treasures of this world which we have been carrying in our hearts that interfere with God's calling, purposes, mission, and for us individually (i.e., interfere with our own salvation and maturing in Christ), and interfere with the overall gospel commission. The storm caused them to devalue those treasures and throw them overboard, which represents the trials that the Lord either brings or allows causing us to get the worthless treasures of this world out of their lives, the cutting from our hearts affections the things of this world, which is also symbolized by circumcision of the heart by the Holy Spirit.
- The sailors were terrified, which represents the distress of the church members when trials and tribulations come. They are terrified because they have been filling their lives with the treasures of this world and as tribulations come people have to make choices, jettison the treasures of this world, or cling to them and go down with the ship.
 - Consider Abraham was called to leave his home and go to a strange land—we are called to do the same
 - Consider Lot's wife who couldn't let go of the treasures of this world and therefore died with her treasures
 - Consider the rich young ruler who couldn't let go earthly treasure
- The captain of the ship represents Jesus,
 - "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10 NKJV.
 - The captain of the ship goes to Jonah, who represents the people of God, God's end-time servants (spokespersons, the ones with the end-time message for the world, Revelation 7), with a message: the captain said to Jonah, "**How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!**"

This is Jesus message to the church today, which is taught in another place, Jesus parable of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish, which also representing the church and all ten of them were asleep until the call that the bridegroom is coming woke them up.

Jonah is sleeping in the storm until the call from the captain wakes him up with the instruction to stop sleeping and call on his God.

Some might argue that Jesus wouldn't captain a ship that was leading Jonah away from Nineveh, but if we are intent on running away from Jesus' call, what will Jesus do? Jesus will seek to lead us into the exact experiences we need, the very trials and tribulations that we would not have experienced had we followed His call, but which will be most therapeutic to get us to stop running and surrender self to Him to get us back on track. Just like He did with Jonah.

This also has object lesson significance to every person's personal journey, if when God calls us we run, then these elements can be applied to that experience, how the Holy Spirit will work to bring us to decision points and use our choices to lead to places that cause us distress designed to ultimately lead us to repentance and going to God for deliverance, healing, and getting back on the right path with our lives.

Read fourth paragraph Sunday's lesson,

- There is an important moment in the story that may point forward to the last-day remnant movement. When Jonah is asked who he is, he responds, “ ‘I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land’ ”—a statement much like the first angel's message (Jon. 1:9, NKJV; Rev. 14:7). Indeed, his emphasis on the Lord as the One “ ‘who made the sea and the dry land’ ” is, of course, pointing to Him as the Creator. This fact is foundational to why we should worship Him, and worship is central to last-day events. *Adult SS Guide 2nd Q 2025, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy*, p. 105.

The lesson makes a comparison to Jonah's statement with the message of the 3 angels, but Jonah starts out with “I am a Hebrew” in other words “I am a Jew” a person who worships the Creator God of heaven.

From a biblical perspective, who is considered to be in the role of Jonah now, in other words, who is considered to be a biblical Jew today?

- A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, **a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly**; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Romans 2:28-29 NIV84, emphasis mine.
- You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** Galatians 3:26-29 NIV84, emphasis mine.

So to be a Hebrew, an end-time Jew, the true worshiper of the Creator, it requires that a person be reborn with a new heart and right spirit and have their hearts cut away from fear and selfishness and established in love and trust and this is only possible through receiving the life of Jesus by faith just as Abraham did.

But the lesson focuses more on the message, than the people who carry the message, so let's examine that question, what is the message the people of God are to take to the world?

The lesson states, "his emphasis on the Lord as the One " 'who made the sea and the dry land' " is, of course, pointing to Him as the Creator. This fact is foundational to why we should worship Him, and worship is central to last-day events."

What about the Lord being the One who made the sea and dry land is central to our worship? Is it that He is powerful and therefore can punish all who refuse Him? Or is it that, as Creator, His laws are the laws creation is built upon and operates upon and life, including eternal life, is only possible as we live in harmony with those design laws? That the message calling people to worship God as Creator is simultaneously the message to stop worshiping Him as a dictator, to realize that we are sin-sick, out of harmony in mind and heart with God and His design laws for life and only He, our Creator, can fix the damage, can give us a new heart and right spirit, can purge the infection of fear and selfishness and writing His living law upon our hearts and minds.

And that this requires we reject the Romanization of Christianity, the lie that God's law functions like human law a system of made up and imposed rules that require legal payment or the infliction of external punishment.

What happens if people take a message to the world that calls people to worship the Creator because as Sovereign Creator He has made up rules and law and justice requires Him to punish all rule breakers and if you refuse to give Him His rightful worship to obedience to His laws, then He is required by law to use His infinity power to inflict torture and death upon you as divine justice? Does such a message win hearts and minds to love, trust, loyalty, friendship? No! It inspires distrust, fear, and greater selfishness, in other words such a message spread rebellion and sin.

The picture of a god who makes up laws and enforces them through externally inflicted punishment is Satan's view, that is how a creature functions, which is represented by Babylon, the first nation interacting with Israel that made up an imposed law system. Our message for this time in history is to come out of Babylon and back to Creator worship, and that means we must leave behind loyalty to religious systems of worship that teach God functions like a creature, to stop worshiping a god who is the source of inflicted pain, suffering, and death and return to worshiping God as Creator who is the source of life and health.

Read the last paragraph,

- At the same time, we, too, have been charged with preaching a potentially unpopular message in spiritual Babylon. To say "come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4, NKJV) is to tell the

world they must repent—a message that has almost always provoked a negative response from many people, even when delivered in the kindest way possible. Who of us when witnessing has not received negative, or even hostile, responses? It just comes with the job. *Adult SS Guide 2nd Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 105.

Who gives us, when we take the true gospel, good news about God, to the world the most negative or even hostile responses?

Consider what Jesus said to the Jewish leaders in His day,

- “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.” Matthew 12:39-41 NIV84.

Jesus cites Jonah and compares His message to the Jewish nation with Jonah’s message to Nineveh—now my question in regard to the lesson’s statement that when we call people out of Babylon it almost always meets with negative response—who gave the greater negative response, Nineveh or the Jews in Christ’s day?

Is there a lesson in this for us today? When we present the truth of God as Creator and His laws are design laws and God is a God of love who seeks only to heal and save us from a terminal sin condition and that death comes not from God as inflicted punishment, but from unremedied and unremoved sin in the lives of sinners, who gives the more positive response and who responds with greater negativity?

In my experience the those least indoctrinated into Christian dogmas and systems of theology are more receptive to the call to worship God as Creator, Designer, and Healer from sin and those most indoctrinated into traditional Christian theologies about sin and God using His power to inflict punishment for it are most resistant and want to continue to resist and teach that God’s laws are like human laws and God is required by law and justice to use His power to inflict pain, suffering, and death.

What has been your experience?

MONDAY

Read the third paragraph,

- Can we expect something like this in the last days, with the final message to the fallen world? Yes—and no. That is, there will be, all over the world, many people who heed the call, “

‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’ ” (Rev. 18:4, NKJV). All over the world, people will take their stand and, in defiance of the beast, will “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12). These people, like those in Nineveh, will be spared the judgment that falls upon the lost. *Adult SS Guide 2nd Q 2025*, Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy, p. 106.

What do you hear? The lesson states a message will go to the world calling for repentance, but the world will not listen and will be destroyed like Nineveh in the end. So, the question that is quite pertinent is, how was Nineveh destroyed? What actually happened that brought about their destruction?

They were conquered by other nations—in other words, God abandoned them to reap that which they sowed. They were not destroyed by God using external divine power to inflict punishment upon them.

Is this how the Bible describes the final end that comes upon the Earth? Yes! It is exactly like this because this is how reality works, how design law works, God gives us real freedom to make our choices and reap what we ultimately solidify into our hearts and minds.

Notice what Revelation states,

- After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Revelation 7:1-3 NIV84.

What is described?

The angels of God are holding back the winds of strife to prevent them from blowing. But these angels have the power to harm the earth, how? By letting go that which they are restraining. This is exactly how design law works, if people insist on rebellion, on going their own way, the only act love can take is to, after all attempts to redeem and save are rejected, let them go. And then people reap what they have chosen. As Paul wrote, those who sow to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction Galatians 6:8.

When billions of people harden their hearts to God beyond to the point of destroying the faculties that respond to truth and love, the sear their consciences to the point that no amount of truth or love has any impact, their choice to do this to themselves closes the Holy Spirit out of their hearts, out from His dwelling place, and God respects their choices and the Holy Spirit is slowly withdrawn. This withdrawal of the Holy Spirit is a direct a result of human rejection, not God’s frustration or impatience.

As the Holy Spirit withdraws evil people along with demonic forces gain more control over the planet and evil and destruction of all kinds increase across the planet. The Earth suffers God's judgments, which are what God judges is the only loving, truthful, righteous action He can take, and that is to let them go to reap disconnection from Him and His protection—in other words, the angels let go what they have been restraining. This is what happened to Nineveh, God let them go.

This is not judicial examination of legal books and using external power to inflict punishment upon people, but the implementation of reality, truth, love, freedom based on the freewill choices of the people to choose, insist, on being let go by God.

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote the following commentary about this judgment:

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

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

- **Satan has studied the secrets of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. It is God that shields His creatures from the destroyer.** But the Christian world has shown contempt for His law [by replacing design law with imposed human law and teaching God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering. So our Creator God of reality, does what He always does—operates in reality, in truth, and sets people free to reap, experience reality, the truth that they have chosen, and this reality, the consequences of their choice to reject God and His design law exposes demonstrates, reveals that God's laws are in fact design laws and He is not the source of externally inflicted punishments for sin], and **the Lord will do what He declared that He would—remove His protecting care from those who rebel against His law and force others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard.** He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them. **While appearing as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, Satan will bring disease and disaster until populous cities are reduced to ruin.** In accidents by sea and land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. **He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish.** *From Here to Forever* 360, emphasis mine.

Questions? Do you agree with this design law perspective or do you prefer to teach that God is the one who uses His power to inflict pain and suffering that would not otherwise be experienced if He didn't do it?

The truth is that as people harden their hearts and the Holy Spirit is withdrawn then Satan and his evil forces gain more control and do more evil, and in this increasing chaotic and fear inducing environment the beast of Revelation will rise to do justice, to bring order, to stop anarchy, to put down rebellion, to make a more just and equitable society. We will see more law and law enforcement for the purpose of improving the human condition, of making people safe, of saving lives and the planet.

This is being set up by Satan and his demonic forces right now. Look around the world, the godless, woke, left in the world are being used by Satan to increase chaos, fear, violations of God's designs, principles, and structure for love, health, order, and protection of individuals and society. The attacks on marriage and families, the devaluing of godly loving marriage relationships and the holy and beautiful call of mothers to mother their children. The denial of biological reality of God's design of male and female. The denial of God's existence and the teaching of godless evolution. The attacks on freedom through the attacks on the structures in society that establish order—in other words the attacks on borders, law and order, such things as open borders, defund the police and many other policies that are intended to sow chaos and make it unsafe for people to walk in their own neighborhoods. The purposeful and intentional decades long corrupt public school system in which vast swaths of children do not learn to read, write, or do basic math—this undermines freedom. The promotion of gross and profane sexual perversion in elementary schools. The corruption in our food system which has caused an epidemic of metabolic sickness, obesity, diabetes, and loss of health undermines freedom. The corruption in our health care system which has become a for profit business that promotes chronic illness and chronic symptom treatment through medications rather than promoting God's design laws for healthy living.

All of this corruption and so much more is demonically inspired from the left for the purpose of outraging the godly in society to tempt them into joining Satan and his demonic forces on the political right from which will rise the image to the beast, the second image of the beast of Revelation 13.

Watch what unfolds around us, the political left is becoming ever more desperate to hold on to their power, so they will use more corrupt methods, propaganda, denial of reality, acts that violate not only common sense but the very principles of life and health—like defund the police, open borders, denial of biological differences between men and women, rioting, destruction of property, theft, elevating the protection of criminals over innocent victims—none of this is accidental. It is demonically inspired to offend the people of God, the people with a conscience, the people of good will, the people who would be happy to leave others free to live their private lives as they wish. It is these righteous people who are being targeted by demonic forces through these irrational, evil, and destructive methods of the left for the purpose of getting the godly to seek to do justice, to make things right, through human law and law enforcement. And if you are watching, you will see ever increasing calls to Christianity and Christian worship from people in government, to return to Christian values. And it will have an appeal to you, but be careful because this movement will not seek to bring people to worship our Creator God whose laws are design laws, but an imperial dictator god whose laws are imposed. And Satan will

eventually impersonate Jesus and claim to be here to restore order through righteous law and law enforcement. Only those who know the truth, who know God as Creator whose laws are design laws, who know love only exists in an atmosphere of freedom will discern that this is an imposter.

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses on Belshazzar's feast, his arrogance, pride, mocking of God, using the temple instruments in profane way. The lesson rightly points out Belshazzar's issue was a heart issue, he didn't humble himself like his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar did.

What lesson is in this for our time?

Is salvation found in understanding correct doctrines? This is a tricky question because salvation is certainly NOT found in false doctrines, and I do not want to suggest in any way, shape, or form that false doctrines are acceptable. But what I am asking is if acknowledging and attesting to correct doctrinal truths equals salvation?

Did the Jews who killed Jesus have the wrong Bible, Sabbath day, percentage of tithe, animals on the clean list, list of Ten Commandments, or sanctuary? Did they believe in the Creator God of Abraham? Did they believe in the importance of obedience to the law?

They really didn't dispute any of the doctrinal facts with Jesus, they disputed the spirit or heart of the doctrines with Jesus, which ultimately means they disputed the spirit of the law, which is the truth, the reality of how things work.

Jesus taught the same Bible, Sabbath, tithing, diet, commandments, sanctuary as they did; but Jesus taught it all through design law reality from a spirit of love and trust, whereas the Jews taught the doctrines through imposed law and a spirit of fear and selfishness.

The point is, one is not saved attesting to a list of belief or by belonging to the right organization—one is saved by being reborn to receive a new heart and right spirit, the life of Christ. And as such we are lovers of truth and are eager to grow in truth and eliminate falsehood in all forms from our hearts and minds. It doesn't mean we know all truth or have necessarily identified and eliminated all false understandings from our hearts and minds, but that we have hearts that would if such misunderstanding was brought to our awareness.

Being reborn with a Christlike spirit of love and trust means we move away from a fear-based self-centered motivation preoccupied with what happens to us and the record of our bad deeds, to a life motivated by love and trust in Jesus in which we sacrifice self, we present ourselves as living sacrifices, people who trust our lives into Jesus' hands.

And this is the requirement to receive the seal of God—being sealed of God is being so settled into the truth both intellectually and spiritually that we cannot be moved.

Intellectual means our minds, our reason, our understanding, the beliefs we hold to be true, primarily about God so that no other view will lead us away from the truth about God, His character, methods, and principles of love, truth, and freedom.

Spiritually means our hearts, the animating motivating energy that moves us to action is changed from fear and selfishness to love and trust. We are so settled in our identity, our relationship and experience with God that we cherish, love, value Him over everything else. And no threat to anything else we value will shake us from it.

We come into the world, fearful, insecure, needy, dependent and immediately begin searching for and creating attachments to what provides us security, comfort, sense of safety, identity, meaning, purpose. Our hearts want to be free from fear and doubt, free from guilt and shame. Thus, we attach initially, and appropriately, to parents, and constantly seek as children to get approval from parents, to get validation, love, acceptance, which offsets (but does not remove or replace) the spirit of fear and insecurity with which we were born.

As we grow we seek, find, and form attachments to other things—food, (not simple nutrition but food to provide emotional comfort) substances, money, property, position, status, fame, reputation, skills, and abilities, other people, achievements, sports teams, objects (Linus' blanket), lucky charms, schools—alma mater, churches, nations, organizations like Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, gangs, cults, political parties etc.

All these attachments to our sense of self, our identity, our heart are formed in an attempt to make us feel safe, important, valuable, needed, secure, worthy, to give us a sense of identity, to offset the fear, guilt, and shame we inherited from Adam.

Threatening any of these attachments inflames fear, anxiety, distress which typically results in a hostile response to defend one's interests, whether physical, relational, or legal—we seek to eliminate the threat to our security.

You see this in people with their sports teams—if their identity and sense of self is significantly formed around their team, they get quite distraught and angry when their team loses.

Some people attach their hearts to their nation, or career, or race, or denominations, or family, or wealth.

God's plan for His people, in fact the requirement for salvation because of how reality works, is to cut away from our hearts any source of security, identity, peace, sense of wellbeing other than Him. That we recognize Him as our only source of, not only life, but identity, purpose, meaning, and security. That we recognize our talents, intelligence, skills, abilities, health, wealth, everything we have all originate in Him and we are His stewards, not His slaves, but He wants us to be His understanding friends. He wants to lead us to the point that we sever all ties of loyalty that interfere with His calling and purpose in our lives and give our hearts and minds and ultimately our first priority in all things to

Him. That in all actions we seek to honor Him and bring glory to Him for it is He that we love and trust above all others. This does not free us from our duties in life but strengthens and enables us to fulfill those duties. Parents who prioritize God first will be ever more capable, focused, energized, motivated, and enabled to fulfill their godly calling to parent their children. Spouses who put God first in all things will be the most loving, loyal, attentive, nurturing, and healthy spouses for they will treat their spouses like Christ treats the church and those marriages will be the place where the partners thrive, mature, grow, and experiences the deepest love and peace possible on this Earth.

While we are to be in the world we are not to be of the world and be ready to let go of every other support or attachment in this world rather than betray Jesus.

If called, like Lot, to leave our home, our community, our family, our wealth and flee—can we follow that call, or would that be too threatening, to terrifying and would we choose to die clutching onto earthly possessions?

If called like the rich young ruler to sell all we have and give to the poor, could we do it or would our sense of worth, our security, our meaning and identity be overwhelmed and it would be too terrifying and fearful to do so, so we cling to our money and lose our soul?

If we, like Abraham, or those in Matthew 10, are called to cut ties with family members and send them away, can we do it, or do we find it hurts us too much and we would rather hold on to them than to Jesus?

If we are called like the Apostles to leave our employment to serve the Lord, are we able to do it or do we cling to our earthly income to feel safe and secure here only to lose eternal security?

If we are called like Moses to leave a position of power and authority a place of societal leadership, are we able to do so or does such a demotion, a humiliation, a loss of status terrify and frighten us, causing us so much turmoil that we refuse the calling, cling to position and power and lose salvation?

We are to become like Job who could lose every attachment in this world and yet we will still trust God because our hearts, our identities, our sense of self are founded upon the truth of who He is. These are the sealed, so settled into the truth both intellectually and spiritually that they cannot be moved.

And because God wants this for us, **He allows events to unfold in our lives** that puts us in position where we have to choose what we value most, who we trust most, God or something else.

WEDNESDAY

Drying of the Euphrates, what does this symbolize?

Cyrus diverts the Euphrates so his army can enter Babylon and take it in one night.

In Revelation Babylon symbolizes the Apostate Church, what I believe is also represented by the King of the North, religious imperialism—a Christianity that teaches God’s law functions like human law and becomes like that dictator god and will use the power of the state to enforce its way through law and law enforcement.

The Euphrates represents the people upon which Babylon, the Harlot of Revelation 17, sits. So, what would drying up the Euphrates to make way for the kings of the East mean?

Cyrus represents Christ who comes from the East and overthrows Babylon and sets the captives free.

Drying up the river, would represent what Cyrus did; he didn’t destroy the water, he diverted it away from flowing into Babylon.

Drying up the Euphrates in Revelation to prepare the way for Jesus, the king of the East to return from the East, represents the final message of mercy going to the world, the truth of God’s design law and character of love, that displaces the imposed law lie of Babylon from the hearts and minds of people thus diverting the river of people from supporting Babylon and opening the hearts of the people to receive Jesus settling them into the truth both intellectually and spiritually so that they cannot be moved and then He comes physically to take us home.

The final battle shaping up is a battle for hearts and minds over who we believe God to be and that is determined by what kind of law we believe God’s government is built upon. Are we worshiping the Creator whose laws are design laws or are we mind/heart slaves in Babylon worshiping a dictator god whose laws function like human law?

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

October 16-18, 2025, Newbold College England: Dr. Jennings will be the 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