

2025 3 Q Exodus Lesson 8

Covenant at Sinai

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read Memory Text:

- You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Exodus 19:4–6, NKJV.

What covenant? God says, “My covenant,” what is His covenant?

A covenant is an agreement or an arrangement between two parties; it could be between two people, like the marriage covenant, but in this context, it is the arrangement or agreement between God and sinful humanity.

So, what is God's covenant or agreement with humanity? Is the covenant at Sinai the same or different than the one with Adam, Noah, and Abraham? Is it the same or different than the one to all humanity through Jesus—what Jeremiah and Hebrews calls the New Covenant?

Is there one covenant or are there two covenants—is there an old covenant and a new covenant? Are they different names for the same covenant or are they different in some way? Are the old and new covenant connected but still different?

There are two covenants that are based upon two laws, two promises, two lands, two starting and ending points. One covenant is universal and eternal and is based on God's eternal design law and eternal promise, the other covenant is provisional and temporary and is based on provisional temporary arrangement of the law and a regional temporary promise.

And people mix these two covenants, laws, and promises up all the time and it causes confusion on so many levels.

God's eternal universal covenant is God's covenant of grace to save sinners from sin that was promised in Eden (Genesis 3:15). It is the fulfillment of God's eternal plan that was in existence from the foundation of the world. This is the covenant, agreement, arrangement made amongst the Godhead before Earth was created and which was communicated and offered to Adam, the head of the entire human race, in Genesis before any children were born.

This universal covenant is the agreement between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that Jesus would be become human, take up humanity damaged by sin, suffer the full weight of sin, in harmony with

God's eternal design laws and justice, and as our sinless substitute, in harmony with the laws of life, destroy the infection of fear and selfishness, the spirit of fear and selfishness (cause of death), and through His sinless human life and sacrificial death purge the spirit of fear and selfishness from humanity and the spirit of love and trust, restore holiness, perfection, sinlessness, a righteous and holy spirit of life back into humanity and become the redeemer, the second Adam, the new head of humanity, the connecting link between mankind and God.

This is the agreement the Godhead made, and it was this covenant, the covenant of grace, that was communicated to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15, the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head.

This eternal covenant, made among the members of the eternal Godhead, is based upon God's eternal law, His design law, the laws that reality and life are built to exist and operate upon. Mankind, the species created in Eden, could only be saved by a human, someone who is a part of that species, who shares the life breathed into Adam, and who eradicates the terminal spirit of fear and selfishness and restores a holy spirit of love and trust.

This must be done in harmony with God's law and justice—meaning in harmony with reality, the laws life are built by God to operate upon and thereby restore human beings to unity, at-one-ment with God.

In order to do this, Jesus had to become a real human being. And He became a real human being by partaking of the life/spirit/breath of life breathed into Adam, corrupted with fear and selfishness by Adam and passed down to all of us. He partook of this life through His human mother Mary and thus became a real human being, part of this family. But the Father to His humanity was the Holy Spirit so He was born as a real human being but one who had a sinless life, a pure spirit of perfect love and trust, and in His humanity He could experience temptation in all points just like us but choose to live only by the life of love and trust and thus was without sin.

In order to complete the covenant, the agreement made among the Godhead, Jesus, in His humanity had to suffer the full weight of God's justice—which is God doing what is right or just in harmony with His law. This means that God would not artificially interfere, would not change, abridge, modify, or abrogate His law, but would sustain the operation of His law to the full extent and result of His law.

This means the impact of sin was fully experienced by Jesus our human substitute. And that means Jesus experienced the full weight of what sin does without any intervention by His Father, without the Father blunting it, anesthetizing it, reducing it, or removing it, and sin tempted Jesus, Jesus was tempted with pain, fear, and the spirit of fear and selfishness to act to save self. And the spirit of fear and selfishness, with its terror, dread, guilt, and shame tempted Jesus to believe the lie that His separation from the Father would be eternal (even though Jesus knew better and had already told His disciples multiple times that He would die and rise again). The Father did not remove the burden, but when Jesus fell down dying in Gethsemane, the Father instead sent an angel to strengthen Christ's humanity so that He could complete Their covenant, mission, agreement.

The spirit of fear inherited from Adam tormented Him, and at the cross Jesus died when the Father *separated* from Him, because sin severs the connection with God, the source of life. And Father sustained His design law, the law of liberty, and left Jesus free to reap what Jesus chose. And Jesus chose to be our Savior, our human substitute, to complete the covenant of grace He had established with His Father, and at the cross Jesus killed, purged, eliminated, destroyed the spirit of fear and selfishness from the humanity He inherited through Mary and rose in a purified sinless humanity animated only by the sinless holy spirit He inherited from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, covenanted, agreed, arranged with His Father and the Spirit, to take up humanity terminal in sin and cure it, perfect it, redeem it, and restore it to God's sinless family.

This is God's covenant of grace which is the eternal covenant and which is the outworking of God's design laws for life being sustained by God and lived out by Jesus.

And this covenant is universal in its application. The species human was saved, put right with God, justified with God, in the person of Jesus Christ and every human sinner, because of Jesus, is offered free healing, free salvation, free restoration, free exchange of their terminal sinful life for Jesus' sinless life. And simultaneously, God's covenant, completed by Christ, secures the sinless universe in loyalty.

- “God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to **reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven**, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:19-20 NIV84, emphasis mine).

This is the universal eternal covenant that extends to the unfallen beings as it demonstrates the truth of God's character, His unchangeable design laws, and confirms them in their loyalty.

Peter describes this Eternal Covenant:

- “He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake” (1 Peter 1:20 NIV84).

Revelation references it also:

- “The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8 NKJV).

Bible commentaries also recognize this:

- “By Christ the work upon which the fulfillment of God's purpose rests was accomplished. **This was the agreement in the councils of the Godhead**... God gave to His Son all who would be true and loyal. **Christ covenanted to redeem them from the power of Satan**, at the price of His own life. We have the condition of this **covenant**. The LORD says, “It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed. After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain. My devoted

servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. [Isaiah 53:10,11 GNT]” EG White, 13LtMs, Lt 126, 1898, par. 15. (NOTE: the author quoted the KJV, I replaced the KJV with a more modern translation for easier reading).

It was the Father’s agreement, will, arrangement, that Jesus would be our Savior, our substitute, to take upon Himself the sin-condition for the purpose of eliminating it and restoring humanity to sinless perfection and eternal life. This is the Father’s will—to destroy sin and save sinners. This is the eternal covenant of grace which was repeated to Noah when God saved the human family from eternal destruction by keeping open the avenue for the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 promise.

And is the covenant communicated to Abraham in the promise

- In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. Genesis 22:18 NKJV.

And this universal promise was repeated to Isaac and Jacob:

- To Isaac: “in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 26:4 NKJV.
- To Jacob: “in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 28:14 NKJV.

This eternal covenant is based upon God’s eternal design law, the laws life and the operations of reality are built upon and it is global in its application.

But God made a separate provisional, regional, and temporary covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Israelites at Sinai and that was the agreement or **mission covenant** that it would be through their branch of the human family that the global eternal agreement would be realized. In other words, God made a temporary **mission focused** covenant with the Jews for the purpose of fulfilling His **eternal global covenant**. This temporary covenant or agreement was for the descendants of Jacob to be the repositories of the inspired Word of God, the object lesson teaching tools, and the branch of the human family through whom Jesus would come.

This temporary provisional regional covenant was the covenant for the Jews to possess the land of Palestine. And it included the temporary imposed laws, ordinances, rituals, ceremonies, and the *added* and *temporary* arrangement of the Eternal Design law in the form of the Ten Commandments, written for the need of sinful humans.

It included the temporary imposed laws, ordinances, rituals, ceremonies, and the added and temporary arrangement of the Eternal Design law in the form of the Ten Commandments, written for the need of sinful humans. All of these were added for the purpose of establishing an organization in a sinful world, composed of sinful, unconverted people, with sufficient externally imposed structures to maintain organizational integrity long enough for the fulfillment of the global eternal covenant that would actually resolve and remove sin—meaning until Jesus was born and completed the eternal covenant of grace agreed by the Godhead and communicated to humanity in Eden.

God’s promise for the local regional fulfillment to Abraham’s biological descendants:

- The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land” Genesis 12:7 NIV84.

This is the regional promise for the genetic descendants to occupy Canaan for the purpose of being the branch of the human family through which the Messiah would be born.

But God’s promise to Abraham of the global application, the universal application that is the fulfillment of Gen 3:15 is communicated later, and it is this promise that all who have faith like Abraham and are reborn into the family of God by receiving the life of Christ are heirs.

- The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.” Genesis 13:14–17 NIV84.

What is promised in this text is not a strip of land in the Middle East, but the entire earth (east, west, north, south, all points of the compass) will be given to the people of God; the earth will be made new, and those who are like Abraham in character, in faith, whose hearts have been circumcised from sin, will be heirs to this promise and inherit the Earth. As Jesus said, it is the meek that will inherit the earth, not just the Middle East.

The covenant with and promises to Abraham were dual, a local regional and a global eternal. These covenants had two laws, two promised lands, two applications, two purposes, two starting points, two ending points.

The local application is the one in which Abraham’s genetic decedents are the branch of the human family through whom God accomplishes the promise of Genesis 3:15 and through whom the Messiah is born. This local regional promise to Abraham informs him that his children would inherit the land in Canaan **for the purpose** of fulfilling their mission of protecting the inspired record and being the avenue through whom Messiah would come **so that** Jesus can fulfill God’s greater universal promise, the covenant of grace given in Genesis 3:15, and crush the serpent’s head **so that** the “meek will **inherit** the earth” (Matthew 5:5)—the true Promised Land.

The *genetic* descendants inherited Canaan *in order* to be the avenue for Jesus our Savior to be born and fulfill the covenant given to the entire human family in Genesis 3:15 so that ... the *spiritual* descendants of Abraham—all those who have faith like Abraham—will inherit the entire planet, the earth made new.

Paul confirms this:

- 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.

The dual-fulfillment promise to Abraham had two starting points and two ending points. The starting point of the global promise was in Eden, in Genesis 3:15; the starting point of the regional promise was with Abraham when he was called out of Ur. The ending point of the global is when Jesus recreates the Earth and the meek inherit it; the ending point of the regional promise for the genetic people to be the avenue for the Messiah was when they crucified Christ and Jesus said to them, “Your house is left to you desolate” (Matthew 23:38 NIV84).

Jesus masterfully weaves these two covenant promises together in His prophetic description of the destruction of Jerusalem and His second coming as described in Matthew 24 and Mark 13. The destruction of Jerusalem occurs because the regional fulfillment of the promise has ended. The genetic descendants kept the prophetic writings intact, kept open the avenue for Messiah and Jesus came, but they rejected Him and now there is no further purpose for a regional land to be occupied by them. The gospel must now go to the world. It is time for the global application, which culminates in the second coming and the meek inheriting the earth. (For more on the land our blog [Israel and the Promised Land Today](#)).

Two Covenants

Grace	Law
Eternal/Universal	Temporary/Provisional/Regional
Design law	Imposed law
Law written on Heart	Law written on stone
Entire world	Palestine
All humanity	Jews
Started with Adam's fall	Started with Abraham's call
Purpose eliminate sin win GC	Written Word/Avenue Living Word
Applies to all the universe	Applies to Jewish nation in Bible times
Never ends/completes at end 1000yrs	Ended at Jesus crucifixion/resurr.

So, I am taking the position that there is an eternal/universal covenant of God's grace, built upon God's eternal design laws, applicable to all God's creation, with specific application to redeeming sinful humanity, but also purifies the entire universe from sin, that went into effect when Adam fell, was ratified, certified, accomplished when Jesus died, and is completed at the end of the 1000 years when sin and sinners are eliminated from the universe and all intelligent beings are back in perfection and unity with God.

I am also saying that in the process of God completing this eternal/universal covenant God made a temporary/provisional covenant or agreement—not one of salvation as that is the eternal covenant, but one of mission and purpose, and that mission was to be the repository of the written word, the object lesson teaching tools, and the biological branch/avenue of the human family through whom Messiah

would be born. That temporary agreement or covenant was with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and it was based on imposed laws, rituals, ceremonies, none of which brought salvation, but only brought structure and order in a sinful world for the purpose of accomplishing the mission or goals in this sinful world for the purpose of completing the eternal/global covenant.

Consider these historical quotes from one of the founders of the SDA church, which the current leadership of our church would claim they believe to be inspired by God, not just her opinion. Isn't it strange how they don't actually teach what these quotes state:

This first quote was written in the aftermath of the 1888:

- I am asked concerning the law in Galatians. What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments... "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law. *Selected Messages vol. 1*, p. 233, 234.

It was at the 1888 GC that God brought the truth that the Ten Commandments were added and not eternal, but the leadership rejected that truth and took the position that only the ceremonial law was added. That decision prevented the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit which would have empowered us to fulfill our mission to call people back to Creator worship, for we would have advanced since 1888 the truth that God's laws are design laws and set all our doctrines in their right setting of love and trust. But instead, having rejected this truth and instead insisting that the Ten Commandments are eternal leadership has sustained the Roman lie that God's law functions like human law and we have continued to present our true doctrines in the setting of Roman imposed law with the spirit of fear rather than love and trust.

Consider this quote:

- As the Bible **presents two laws**, one changeless and eternal, the other **provisional and temporary**, so **there are two covenants**. The **covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden**, when after the Fall, there was given a **divine promise that the seed** of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. To all men **this covenant** offered pardon, and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. It also **promised them eternal life on condition of fidelity to God's law**. Thus the patriarchs received the hope of salvation.

This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Gen. 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ. So Abraham understood it, and he trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was this faith that was accounted unto him for righteousness. The covenant with Abraham also maintained the **authority of God's law**. The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and **be thou perfect**." The testimony of God concerning His faithful servant was, "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Gen. 17:1; 26:5.

The **Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ**, and it is called the "**second,**" or "**new,**" covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant.

The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the **everlasting covenant**.

There is hope for us only as we come under the **Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus**. The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today... Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the author and the finisher of our faith.

Faith I Live By p. 77, emphasis mine.

Now back to our memory verse:

- You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep **My covenant**, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to **Me a kingdom** of priests and a holy nation. Exodus 19:4–6, NKJV, emphasis mine.

Which of the two laws, two covenants, is God referring to in this passage?

This is the covenant of grace, the one given to Adam, the universal one—the one He established before the foundation of the world. It is the kingdom based on His eternal design law, the only covenant, law, or kingdom in which people can become holy.

After this God established the temporary/provisional agreement based upon the temporary provisional law, including the added Ten Commandments, which were specifically written for sinful human beings. And that temporary/provisional system or covenant was still in operation and effect when Jesus was Earth before His crucifixion. And with that system still in operation on Earth Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." He did NOT say, "My kingdom is not of this world except for Israel, that system of rules, regulations, and laws represents my kingdom!" No, it did not. It was a temporary/provisional system set up for the mission of maintaining a people for Messiah to come to fulfill the eternal/global covenant and establish His true kingdom, the kingdom of truth, love, and freedom all built upon design laws that emanate from and are sustained by God.

SUNDAY

Read the second paragraph,

- After two months of traveling, the Israelites arrived at Sinai (Exod. 19:1), where they would remain for about one year (compare Exod. 19:1 with Num. 10:11, 12). During this year, many laws were issued, as described in Exodus 19–40, Leviticus 1–27, and Numbers 1:1–10:10. Israel’s stay at Mount Sinai is the central piece of the narrative found in the first five books of Moses. Here is the foundation of their becoming God’s chosen people, the only nation not steeped in paganism and idolatry. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 65.

What do you think of the last sentence, “Here is the foundation of their becoming God’s chosen people, the only nation not steeped in paganism and idolatry”?

It is certainly true God is working to establish them as His chosen people—chosen for the mission we already discussed, not for exclusive salvation. But is it true they are the only nation not steeped in paganism and idolatry?

What was the golden calf? What about the rest of their history? Did they have a long history of idolatry that resulted in the 70-year captivity and the eventually captivity and dispersement of the 10 tribes to the north?

It is often suggested that after the 70-year captivity they were cured of idolatry. And it is true, that after that period, those who rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple and established Yahweh worship there, never returned to worshiping images made with their own hands, or going after Baal, Ashtoreth, Molech or the other gods they had worshiped in the past. In fact, the record supports that they stayed faithful to the script, the written laws of Moses and the prophets, following the blueprint given by God after the Exodus. Does that mean they were not steeped in paganism and idolatry? Or were they?

A couple of questions about this and then evidence:

Who were the ones demanding the death of Jesus? Was it the Jewish religious leaders who claimed to be faithful to the law, Moses, the Scriptures and to be worshipers of Yahweh or was it the pagan Romans? Didn’t pagan Pilate make a weak attempt to prevent Jesus’ crucifixion? So, would their rejection and crucifixion of Jesus suggest they were worshiping God or were they idolaters?

What is idolatry? Is it only the worship of physical images, or is it the worship of any concept or belief system that replaces the truth about God? Could a person be an idolator, a pagan, while reading the Bible and claiming to be worshiping Jesus?

Jesus said to the church leaders of His day,

- You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40 NIV84.

Were they worshiping God or something else? Is this bibliolatry? Making the Bible an idol?

Consider this Bible commentary, do you agree?

- Thousands have a **false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal.** Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God. *Faith I Live By* p. 59, emphasis mine.

Does having the right Bible, the right Sabbath, the right belief that God is the Creator, the right sanctuary, the right list of Ten Commandments, the right foods, and belonging to the right organization that is called by God for mission, mean one is worshiping God, and is not a pagan or an idol worshiper?

Doesn't Satan and his fallen angels believe the Bible is inspired by God, God is Creator, Jesus is the Savior, and that God gave the Ten Commandments?

My point is that believing right facts, right doctrines, does not equal salvation and does not mean one is worshiping the true God.

Salvation is being reborn, having our individuality, identity, personhood, freed from the spirit (animating energy, motivational power) of fear and selfishness and receiving, through trust/faith, the life, the spirit, the animating motivating power of Jesus via His indwelling Spirit. It is being reborn in the inner man.

All such people will no longer live controlled by fear, including the fear of being wrong, the fear of having their ideas challenged, the fear of making mistakes, they will love God and therefore, because God is infinite truth, they will love truth and acknowledge the truth that they are not infinite. This means all the saved acknowledge that they don't know everything, that what they believe, the way they believe it, is imperfect and partial and they will love to grow, mature, advance in unfolding truth as God reveals it to them.

But the unconverted are controlled, not just tempted, but controlled by the spirit of fear and they mitigate their fear through various means including religious dogma, laws, rules, rituals, ceremonies, and actions, all designed to make them feel safe, to give them a sense of security. They feel safe by knowing the right facts, keeping the right rules, having their foot on first base—you can't tag me out if I have my foot on the bag—God!

And anything that questions or undermines their beliefs is not celebrated, it inflames fear, which causes them to seek to silence such voices rather than seek to explore the truth and identify where they themselves are wrong.

This is what the religious leaders in Jesus' day did. This is what the religious leaders did to the Reformers throughout all ages. And this is what continues to happen today. And those who function like this give evidence that they are not worshiping God, but are worshiping the imposter, the creature whose government operates upon made up rules with inflicted punishments.

The message from Jesus is a call away from the imposed law constructs and into the reality of worshiping Him as Creator and opening the heart to Him to be reborn with a new heart and right spirit, a spirit of love and trust and then to live free, free in Jesus, free from the domination of that old life.

MONDAY and TUESDAY

The focus is on the Ten Commandments

What questions do you have about the Ten Commandments?

- Are they eternal or temporary?
- Have the Ten Commandments always been in existence or were they added at Sinai?
- Did angels in heaven have a law to honor their mothers and fathers, or that sins would pass down 3-4 generations, or not to commit adultery?
- Did Adam and Eve in Eden have a law to honor their mother?

Consider this:

- God blessed them [Adam and Eve] and said to them, “**Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and **it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.** Genesis 1:28-31 NIV84.

When was this?

God instructed them, before they sinned, on the sixth day of Creation week, to be fruitful and multiple, to have children. If they would have stayed faithful, if they would not have sinned and done this, would they have sins passing down 3 and 4 generations?

So, were the Ten Commandments in existence at this point? No, but the design laws of reality were, and if they would sin, then they would pass along their spirit of fear and selfishness, and their lifestyle choices would epigenetically modify them and they would pass down those epigenetic changes three and four generations. Thus, the principles, the design laws, built into the operations of reality and our being were in existence, but this particular manifestation would never be seen had they stayed faithful.

So, again, this is evidence that the Ten Commandments are codified expressions of the design law of love that did not exist until after man sinned, and were added specifically for sinful humankind.

Further, the text cited is day six of Creation week—was the Sabbath in existence at that point? Or does the Sabbath get created or made on the following day?

Jesus said,

- “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” Mark 2;27-28 NIV84.

If the Sabbath was made for man, it had a beginning, and that beginning was *after* man was created just as the Genesis account states, then the Sabbath law was added. It was added after sin entered the universe, but before human beings sinned, as a special blessing, gift, resource for human beings to help them in a universe in which sin now exists.

Do you know that those who oppose our message do so because they take the same position as the leadership of the 1888 GC who opposed Jones, Waggoner, and EG White? They reject the advancing light, the truth that the Ten Commandments were added because of human sin, a special distillation and codification of God’s eternal design laws specifically structured or written for the needs of sinful humanity.

While God’s design laws are eternal, the written code of the Ten Commandments are not—those who have not experienced the rebirth and become animated by the spirit of love and trust become afraid at this, their fear causes them to feel threatened and they react with authority, power, external means rather than seeking to come and reason together in pursuit of God’s eternal truth.

Consider these quotes:

- The **law of God** existed before man was created. The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the **principles** of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. **It was not then written**, but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah.

The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden. After God had made the world and created man upon the earth, He made the Sabbath for man. After Adam's sin and fall nothing was taken from the law of God. **The principles of the Ten Commandments existed before the fall and were of a character suited to the condition of a holy order of beings. After the fall the principles of those precepts were not changed, but additional precepts were given to meet man in his fallen state.** *The Story of Redemption* p. 145, emphasis mine.

- **The law of Jehovah, dating back to creation, was comprised in the two great principles,** "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely

this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." These two great principles embrace the first four commandments, showing the duty of man to God, and the last six, showing the duty of man to his fellow-man. **The principles were more explicitly stated to man after the fall, and worded to meet the case of fallen intelligences. This was necessary in consequence of the minds of men being blinded by transgression.** *Review and Herald*, May 6, 1875 par. 13, emphasis mine.

Other questions about the Ten Commandments?

Why did God write it on stone? Because the living law of love for God and others was no longer written upon the heart. The law of fear and selfishness was the animating power in humanity, so God wrote the code of conduct of how love functions on stone as a diagnostic tool to expose how far short we fall and as a protective hedge.

Where are the Ten Commandments placed within the theater of the Sanctuary? In the covenant box under the golden lid—what does this represent?

Those who hold the imposed law lie will argue that law in the box represents the broken law and that Jesus sprinkling His blood above the mercy seat 7 times on the Day of Atonement is Jesus paying the legal price of His death for our salvation.

But this is false on all levels. First the Bible doesn't teach that blood of the sacrificial animal represents death, it says that the life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). Thus the blood of Jesus represents His life, not His death. It represents His sinless life, the new life, the right spirit, the spirit of Christ that we receive when we are reborn.

Second, there were two copies of the law given to Moses, the first set was broken by him at the golden calf event and then a second set was given—it was the second *unbroken* set that went in the ark. Thus, the sanctuary doesn't teach that the broken law is in the ark, they had broken pieces to place there to represent that idea, but instead the unbroken law was placed in the ark. Why? Because the box represents sinful humanity purified, and restored to holiness and unity, at-one-ment with God and the universe.

In the MH place was the Shekinah, representing God; the angels on the lid, representing the heavenly angels, the golden lid represents Jesus, the connecting link. The Shekinah shone/touched the lid, the angels were touching the lid, and the lid rested on the box. All connected to the lid, which Paul says represents Jesus. All things in heaven and earth are reconciled to God through Christ

And the box, made of porous wood covered completely in gold represents sinful humanity perfected by the righteousness of Christ (gold), and in the box were three items, the manna, representing the Word of God (Jesus) that we must ingest to be converted, the Ten Commandments (which represent the living law of love for God and others that we receive when we receive the life/spirit of Christ). This happens after we partake of the truth that wins us to trust, then in trust we open the heart and receive the new spirit, the new life of love and trust and the law, motive, life, principles of love and

truth become our new animating motivating drive energy, the law is written upon our hearts and minds. And the last item placed in the box is Aaron's rod that budded. We who are dead in trespass and sin, after we ingest the Word of God and are won to trust and open our hearts to die to fear and selfishness and receive the life/spirit of Jesus we come to live and bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson explores the purpose of the written law of the Ten Commandments, a protective hedge and a diagnostic instrument.

Read the fourth paragraph,

- A mirror can reveal your defects, yes. But there is nothing in the mirror that can cure them. The mirror points to the problems but offers no solution to the problems. It's the same with God's law. Trying to be justified before God by keeping the law would be like staring at the mirror in hopes that, sooner or later, the mirror will make your defects go away. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 68.

This is exactly true, but rather than realizing that God's true laws are design laws and the Ten Commandments are diagnostic, and after being diagnosed as terminal we are to go to our Creator to receive a new life, to be reborn, to be healed and recreated in righteousness, sadly, Satan has tricked billions into substituting a false legal theology of claiming Jesus' sinless life and sacrificial death as a legal payment to their god of death, (I say their god of death because they all teach that their god must use the power of death to punish sin, but the Bible teaches that Satan is the one who holds the power of death and that Jesus destroys death), and that their god of death will then make a verbal and legal proclamation that they are recognized, or accounted to be righteous while they remain sinful or unrighteous.

This is truly an evil and diabolical thing to teach. It is like telling a person who has terminal leukemia for which there is a 100% cure, that instead of partaking of the remedy and being healed, they need to claim their healthy brother as their legal representative and get the doctor to examine the healthy brother and record the perfect health of their brother into their medical record and then legally declare them to be cancer free while they continue to die of cancer.

This penal legal system is corrupt. It is a fraud. It is a lie. It actively interferes with the plan of salvation. We serve a real God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and we have a real sin problem and a real Savior who provides us a real solution, a new heart and new spirit a new life, a new sinless life that we become partakers of through faith, the divine nature, and Christ actually lives in us by His Spirit when we are reborn. This is reality, the legal view is fantasy, a form of godliness without power.

THURSDAY

The lesson points us to Romans 3:20-26:

- Therefore no one will be declared **righteous** in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a **righteousness** from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This **righteousness** from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are **justified** freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a **sacrifice of atonement**, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his **justice**, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his **justice** at the present time, so as to be **just** and the one who **justifies** those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:20-26 NIV84, emphasis mine.

The phrase sacrifice of atonement is an interpretation, the Greek is the word for the lid to the ark of the covenant, Jesus is presented as the lid to the ark, and Paul is saying the place where God resolves or deals with the sin problem, the means through which God deals with sin and unifies the universe again.

This is one of those places where the translators translate in their bias leading to a false legal understanding of things. They are not linguistically wrong, they are theologically wrong.

The Greek words in this passage translated righteous/righteousness and justice/justified are the same Greek words, and they can be translated as either righteous/righteousness or justice/justified. So why not be consistent all the way through? Because they have a Roman legal bias that causes them to think punishment is justice, so they think God is showing justice here rather than righteousness.

But other versions are consistent all the way through,

- For no one is **put right** in God's sight by doing what the Law requires; what the Law does is to make people know that they have sinned. But now God's way of **putting people right** with himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. God **puts people right** through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are **put right with him through Christ Jesus**, who sets them free. God offered him, so that **by his blood he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven** through their faith in him. God did this in order to **demonstrate that he is righteous**. In the past he was patient and overlooked people's sins; but in the present time he deals with their sins, in order to **demonstrate his righteousness**. In this way God shows that he himself is **righteous** and that he **puts right** everyone who believes in Jesus. Romans 3:20-26 GNT, emphasis mine.

Do you see the difference in this?

And then my paraphrase:

- Therefore no one will be recognized as having a **healthy relationship with God** and **being like Christ in character** by adhering to a set of rules; rather, it is through the Ten Commandments that we become aware of our sickly state of mind. But now God has revealed **a healthy state of being** — a character that is **right and perfect** in every way — that did not come from the written code, but is exactly what the Scriptures and the Ten Commandments were pointing your minds toward. This **perfect state of being** comes from Christ and is created within us by God when we place our trust in him. Our trust in him is established by the evidence given through Jesus Christ of his supreme trustworthiness. There is no difference among any ethnic groups, for all humanity is infected with the same disease — of distrust, fear and selfishness — and is deformed in character and falls far short of God's glorious ideal for humanity. Yet all who are willing are **healed freely** by God's gracious Remedy which has been provided by Jesus Christ. God presented Jesus as **the way and the means of restoration**. Now, through the trust established by the evidence of God's character revealed when Christ died, we may partake of the Remedy procured by Christ. God did this to demonstrate that he is **right and good** — because in his forbearance he suspended, for a time, the ultimate consequence of us being out of harmony with his design for life — yet he has been falsely accused of being unfair. He did it to demonstrate at the present time how **right and good** he is, so that he would also be seen as **being right when he heals** those who trust in Jesus. Romans 3:20-26 REM, emphasis mine.