

## 2025 3 Q Exodus Lesson 11

### Apostasy and Intercession

by Tim Jennings

#### SUNDAY

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Read first paragraph,

- God called Moses to spend time with Him. Forty days and forty nights might have been a short period for Moses, but it seemed long, too long, for the Israelites. Their visible leader was absent. They became disoriented, impatient, fearful, and insecure. They wanted to have a visible god who would lead them, the “gods” whom they had seen all their lives in idolatrous Egypt. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 89.

Why do you think the people, without Moses presence, so quickly became disoriented, impatient, fearful, insecure and wanted to turn back to the gods of Egypt?

Where did this fear come from? Why were they afraid? Every human being born since Adam and Eve are born with a spirit of fear and selfishness, this is the animating, motivating drive or energy that we all come into the world with. This is life that we inherit from Adam—we all share that one breath of life breathed into Adam and corrupted by him. And this life, with which we are born, is already corrupted by fear that causes us to act in distrust and selfishness. This is why every person must be reborn to receive new heart and right spirit, the life of Christ.

This spirit of fear can be temporized, moderated, suppressed—not removed, cleansed, cured, but suppressed, by connection with another person that we trust. You see this in small children who will be playing in a park or at a beach or walking in the mall with their parents without fear, but if they lose sight of their parents, you immediately see fear on their face. Where did that fear come from? They were born with it. But the connection with the parent suppressed it. These small children have not yet experienced for themselves the new heart and right spirit but rely on connection with the parent. If they do not, at some point, surrender their life in trust to Jesus and be reborn with a spirit of love and trust, they will instead bring into their lives and attach to their hearts various things whose function is to numb their fear and make them feel secure or bring them comfort.

- Wealth
- Power over others
- Rules and imposed laws
- Rule keeping
- Ritual and ceremony
- Luck charms
- Comfort eating

- Drugs
- Other people who step into the role of the parent, and they place their trust in those people and allow those people to direct them.

The people in the Exodus were not yet converted, not reborn, thus they were animated, moved, motivated by the spirit of fear and distrust which leads to selfishness, doing what makes them feel best and safe. When Moses is around, he functions like a parent to them, they feel safer, but in his absence, the spirit of fear takes control—and the spirit of fear is the spirit of God's enemy and they are more susceptible to influence by satanic forces, and people will turn back to their old comfort measures, old gods, unless they are reborn with a new spirit.

Salvation cannot be obtained by allowing others to tell you the answers, even if the answers are right, it requires one be led to a trust relationship with God where they actually open the heart and are reborn with a new spirit, and this means they have an experience with God for themselves. As Jesus said, life eternal is knowing God, not knowing about God.

Do you see the children of Isreal struggling with this, not knowing God for themselves? And therefore, no spiritual renewal, still living controlled by the spirit of fear and selfishness, and Moses' presence functions like a parent, making them feel safe and when he is gone they become afraid and want to turn back.

Do we see this throughout the history of the church, many Christians functioning in fear and church leaders functioning in the role of parent and people following the leader without an experience with God for themselves?

At Come and Reason Ministries we have always recognized that every single person has their own mind, their own individuality, their own ability to think, discern, choose, their own heart to love, and their own soul that needs saving. And we have always taken the position that we are not here to do your thinking for you, to tell you what to think, our goal is and has always been to teach people to reason and think for themselves, to help them mature as Hebrews 5:14 says by practice and learn to discern for themselves.

This means we don't believe something because another person says it is so, but because we have studied it out and understand that it is so.

We do not believe  $2+2=4$  because either the math teacher or the math textbook says it is so, but because the teacher and textbook have taught us why it is so and how to do addition, subtraction, multiplication, division—in other words we understand the design laws of mathematics upon which the answer to the problem rests.

Likewise, we don't believe something because a pastor or church leader tells us or simply because the Bible says so, but because a good pastor and the Bible has taught us why it is true and we believe the truth because it is truth and we understand the design laws of God upon which the truth rests.

But many of the friends of Come and Reason Ministries have been accused by pastors and church leaders of being mindless followers of Tim Jennings, which is the exact opposite of what is happening. What is happening is that those who study with Come and Reason Ministries are no longer mindless followers of the pastor or church leader and have begun asking questions to understand the reason for what the pastor is telling them and they are now able to understand reality and bring evidence when the pastor or leader is wrong. Did you ever have the experience of having math teacher grade one of your answers wrong when it was actually right and bringing their error to their attention?

Read third paragraph,

- People willingly gave gold to make the idol, and Aaron not only did not stop them but, in fact, he invited them to donate. He then participated in the molding of this false god. Afterward, the people declared: “This is your god, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (Exod. 32:4, NASB). So sinful, wicked, and shortsighted. They had just fabricated this idol and then stated that it, the idol, had delivered them. Isn’t it amazing how sinful desires can pervert our thinking and actions? People celebrate their own creations, and their humanity and morality become debased in the process. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 89.

What lessons do we learn from this history?

Remember these real historical events also serve as object lessons for us, what is the object lesson?

- Moses goes into the mountain and talks with God about the law and the sanctuary, this represents Christ who in heaven planned with God the plan of salvation and how to restore His living law back into humanity.
- Aaron, in this setting, represents the priesthood, on the Day of Atonement, Aaron represents Jesus, but in this moment, he does NOT represent Jesus, but represents the priests, who give into pressure from people, to remain popular, and who lead the people away from God into false worship.

Consider what Paul wrote to Timothy,

- **Preach the Word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the **time will come** when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, **to suit their own desires**, they will gather around them a great number **of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear**. They will turn their ears **away from the truth and turn aside to myths**. 2 Timothy 4:2-4 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Just as Aaron gave into the demands of the people and gave them what they wanted, thereby using his office to reinforce their own fear and desires to make themselves feel safe, the history of Christianity is filled with clergy who give in to popular demand and give people what they want, but which is turning from truth to myth.

The number one myth that the leaders have embraced is that God’s law functions like human law rather than teaching reality—that God is Creator and His laws are constants, they are the protocols of

life and reality, and originate in God and are sustained by His power. It is myth, fantasy, make-believe to teach that God's kingdom, government, law operates like that of a creature. In other words, this teaching makes a god who is in our image, an imperial dictator who uses power to punish people who displease him and don't do what he says.

This is the number one myth taught in Christianity today and the myth that is the most important belief held by those who oppose the call to return to Creator worship, to leave Babylon the fallen system of imposed law with artificially imposed penalties.

Where people get confused is when they look in the Bible and see God giving law at Sinai, giving rules on how to enforce the law, how to punish, what the punishment is—and they conclude that what I am saying is only true for the laws of nature, like physics, gravity, laws of health, but not the moral laws, those are made up rules enforced through punishment.

This is because they conflate, mix two things that are not the same. They mix the punishment for sin, which is eternal death, with the disciplinary artificial punishments of grace that a loving Father imposes upon the immature to try and teach them in order to prevent them from experiencing the real punishment, eternal death.

It is like a parent who sets a made up rule, don't play in the street, with a made up artificial punishment of a time out, or a spanking, to protect the child from the real punishment of getting hit by the car and the laws of physics and health causing death. But the child can't understand how reality works, so the parent steps in between the child and reality with these artificial rules and artificial punishments as a means to protect and teach. But what if a child insists on rebellion, insists on doing their own thing, refuses to learn, and insists, despite their age, of playing in the street, in traffic, what happens?

Further, they fail to recognize God in OT times was not setting up His heavenly kingdom, but a civil government for the unconverted, unrighteous, unholy, idolatrous, rebellious Jews to keep order for the purpose of maintaining the branch of the human family through whom Christ would be born.

## MONDAY

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Read last two paragraphs,

- Idolatry denies the theological understanding that God is God and man is man. **Idolatry erases the gap between God and man** (Eccles. 5:2) and **breaks the connection with Him**. Whether it is blatant and open or something concealed in the heart, idolatry quickly ruptures our relationship with the Lord and leads in a downward moral spiral. No wonder the text talks about what they did the next day: after offering sacrifices to the idol, they then began to party, in what Ellen G. White depicted as “an imitation of the idolatrous feasts of Egypt.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 320.

**Humans are geniuses at fabricating their own idols.** They create their own gods, which is bad enough, but then they go and serve those gods. **The Creator is replaced with things that, sooner or later, lead to moral degeneration.** *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 90, emphasis mine.

This is exactly true, and the number one way we have done this is to teach that God's law functions like human law and therefore God functions like us, a creature.

Consider this quote from the commentary *The Great Controversy*:

- The great controversy [is] between Christ, the Prince of life, the Author of our salvation, and Satan, the prince of evil, the author of sin, the first transgressor of God's **holy law**. Satan's enmity against Christ has been manifested against His followers. **The same hatred of the principles of God's law, the same policy of deception, by which error is made to appear as truth, by which human laws are substituted for the law of God, and men are led to worship the creature rather than the Creator,** may be traced in all the history of the past. **Satan's efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator,** and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love, his endeavors to set aside the divine law, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements, and his persecution of those who dare to resist his deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages. They may be traced in the history of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, of martyrs and reformers (*The Great Controversy* x1 emphasis mine).

But read the first paragraph,

- The golden calf resembled the Egyptian bull god, called Apis, or cow god, called Hathor. This was a blatant transgression of the first and second commandments (Exod. 20:3–6). **This violation could not go unpunished because it openly broke their relationship with the living Lord.** Instead of worshiping their Creator, the Israelites worshiped their own creation, which could not see, hear, smell, speak, care, love, or lead. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 90, emphasis mine.

How do you understand this?

What is the actual punishment for idolatry and what law is it based upon?

Why does the first commandment say: Thou shall have no other gods before me?

Is it a rule? Or is it a design law?

It is based on the design law of worship, by beholding we are changed, (2 Corinthians 3:18). We become like the god we admire and worship.

- They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. Jeremiah 2:5 NIV84.

The lesson references Romans 1:22-27: They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, they preferred images made with their own hands, and their minds became darkened, depraved and futile.

God says to have no other gods before Him because humans are the highest created beings on planet earth, and there is nothing on earth we can worship that will develop, ennoble, advance us, anything we worship degrades and destroys us. Therefore, God, who is love, who is infinite in majesty, truth, and love directs us to worship Him, the infinite one because only by worshiping Him to we never stop advancing, growing, developing, maturing ever more fulling into His image. This commandment is not for God's need, rights, feelings, but for our health, wellness, maturity, and development.

Worshiping anything other than God in truth, degrades us and destroys us, even if we call that being God, Creator, Yahweh, or Jesus. And the key again is, are we worshiping the Creator whose law is design law, the laws of truth, love, and liberty, or have we replaced that with imposed human law and therefore teach myth and degrade ourselves?

The lesson describes this nicely in the third paragraph of:

#### **TUESDAY's lesson:**

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- An idol is something that replaces God, and even though we know it is not right, we still worship it, often repeatedly. It captures our imagination, affection, time, and mind more than does God. It can even enslave our thinking. In fact, we become what we behold, and we will rise no higher than whatever "god" we serve. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 91.

And this is why the final message to enlighten the world for Christ's return is a call to worship God as Creator, a call to leave the false system of human law, imposed law, described in the Bible as Babylon, the system that teaches God functions like a creature and who is the source of pain and death inflicted as punishment for sin. These lies, rooted in the lie that God's law functions like human law, enslaves minds and hearts and people do become like that false god. That is why they focus on dos and don't's, the externals, the outward appearance rather than the heart, rather than the motive, rather than the spirit of love and trust and the development of Christlike character.

That is why they will use their power to coerce others to conform, because they believe justice is the use of law and law enforcement to punish disobedience.

And the beast of Revelation is a governing system that operates just like this. It will establish imposed laws and use external power to punish law breakers.

The last paragraph describes the law of worship very nicely, and how vulnerable we are to fall into this:

- We are very creative and inventive in this regard. We can turn anything that is good, beautiful, and meaningful into an idol. Idolatry is extremely dangerous because it transforms our

personality, our way of thinking, our affections, and our social life. It changes our identity and replaces genuine personal relationships with hollow and ultimately meaningless interactions that, in the end, cannot save us. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 91.

We are creative, we make our own gods and make them in our image, and the number one god we make in our image is the god that functions the way we like, with power over others to force them into obedience or punish them appropriately if they don't and ultimately use power to destroy our enemies. This is the god of Babylon, Rome, this is Baal, a god who requires appeasement, a god who is the source of pain, suffering, and death, one who is just like we are in character.

But the Bible shows us the true God in Jesus and all God's actions through history. The God who did not think equality with God was something to be held onto. The Creator God who left power, privilege, and position and sacrificed Himself for the benefit of others. The God who when injustice was being done to Him He refused to use power to stop it and refused to use power to punish His enemies. The God who when Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels rebelled in heaven did not use power to punish them but created the Sabbath, the day when God rested, when God stopped using power, the day where God demonstrated by action that He is the God of truth, love, and freedom.

There are two versions of God being taught, the true God as revealed in Jesus, the Creator whose laws are the design protocols of life built into the operations of all reality, and every other false version of God which ultimately functions like a creature with made up rules and artificial externally imposed penalties.

It is time to reject the Roman view of God's law and return to worshipping Him as Creator!

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph,

- While Moses was still on Mount Sinai, **God said that He would destroy the rebels** and make Moses' posterity into a great nation. But that was **not what Moses wanted**. Instead, he pleaded with the Lord, pointing out that the Israelites were not Moses' people—they were God's. He, Moses himself, had not brought them out of Egypt, but God had done it through His mighty works. And so Moses pled with God, stressing His early promises to the fathers. **Moses was truly working as an intercessor between God and humanity**. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 92, emphasis mine.

What are the implications from this paragraph?

Does this not seem to be teaching that sinful Moses has more love, more mercy, more grace, more desire to save the sinful people than God? That God has an anger and wrath problem and that God needs a sinful human to plead with Him, to intercede in order to prevent God from using His power to destroy the people?

This is what happens when people read things in isolation, without the full picture, without understanding and knowing God, without understanding and knowing the Great Controversy, without understanding and knowing God's design laws and how reality functions. It is like taking one or two pieces of a 10,000 piece jigsaw puzzle and describing the picture. The pieces they hold are legitimate pieces of the puzzle, but their interpretation of what the picture is is distorted and wrong because they leave out so many other pieces.

What are they leaving out?

Does God have foreknowledge? Did God know, *BEFORE* He said to Moses that He was going to destroy them and start over with Moses descendants, how Moses was going to respond and also that He was not going to wipe out the people? Or did God not know, and He was taken by surprise and had to alter His plans because Moses was such an effective intercessor?

And if God foreknew then God was never planning on destroying the Israelites, but instead put Moses in this position for another purpose—what could that be?

- For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. 1 Corinthians 4:9 NIV84

Do you think Moses would be one of God's called people who would be on display before the universe? Would angels be watching?

And Moses wrote the book of Job before this, and the book of Job starts out with the angelic host in a meeting before God and Satan coming before them and alleging Job is not faithful, that Job only pretends to be. And we know the story unfolds with Satan destroying and Job staying faithful, never once did Job distrust God.

And now, can't you envision, Satan again in heaven alleging all kinds of things, that God's ways don't work, that these people having just been delivered by miracles and power don't want God, they want to go back to Egypt, they want Satan and God's ways are ineffective. Can't you see God saying to the angels, don't be deceived, my ways do work, check out Moses, don't you remember 40 years ago he used the methods of survival of the fittest, he lived motivated by the spirit of fear and used violence to murder an overseer and then ran away in fear. But watch him now, after spending time with me, watch what he does when I offer to wipe out the rebels and reward him and his family.

And Moses responds beautifully, demonstrating His heart and mind have been transformed and He now lives motivated by the spirit of love and trust. And can't you see Jesus in heaven turning to the angels and saying, "See, my methods of truth, love, and freedom work. For all who spend time with me, who love truth, who trust me, they will be healed and will be safe citizens of heaven."



This is the real story of Moses interceding. But what about the object lesson, doesn't Moses represent Jesus and doesn't that mean Jesus is pleading with the Father in our behalf? Consider this paragraph in *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

- In the prayer of Moses our minds are directed to the heavenly records in which the names of all men are inscribed, and their deeds, whether good or evil, are faithfully registered. The book of life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God. If any of these depart from Him, and by stubborn persistence in sin become finally hardened against the influences of His Holy Spirit, their names will in the judgment be blotted from the book of life, and they themselves will be devoted to destruction. Moses realized how dreadful would be the fate of the sinner; yet if the people of Israel were to be rejected by the Lord, he desired his name to be blotted out with theirs; he could not endure to see the judgments of God fall upon those who had been so graciously delivered. The intercession of Moses in behalf of Israel illustrates the mediation of Christ for sinful men. But the Lord did not permit Moses to bear, as did Christ, the guilt of the transgressor. "Whosoever hath sinned against Me," He said, "him will I blot out of My book." *Patriarchs and Prophets* p. 326.
- In the prayer of Moses our minds are directed to the heavenly records in which the names of all men are inscribed, and their deeds, whether good or evil, are faithfully registered. [books are the description of where individualities/identities/characters are recorded. Thus our books register the reality of our lives.] The book of life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God. [Names represent character/individuality, not linguistic identification]. If any of these depart from Him, and by stubborn persistence in sin become finally hardened against the influences of His Holy Spirit, their names will in the judgment be blotted from the book of life, and they themselves will be devoted to destruction. [Describing reality—why the lost are lost, because they have hardened their hearts and minds in sin, into fear and selfishness and are beyond responding to the Spirit of truth and love.] Moses realized how dreadful would be the fate of the sinner; yet if the people of Israel were to be rejected by the Lord, he desired his name to be blotted out with theirs; he could not endure to see the judgments of God fall upon those who had been so graciously delivered. [This is a revelation of his love for the people, which reveals the Father and Son's love for fallen man. John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son..." They, the Godhead, would rather die Themselves, than lose us. This is how Moses intercessions reflect that of Christ. Remember EGW elsewhere described how it was a struggle with the Father to surrender Jesus and how Jesus plead with the Father to allow it.
  - Said the angel, "Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? No, no." It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them. Angels were so interested for man's salvation that there could be found among them those who would yield their glory and give their life for perishing man. "But," said my accompanying angel, "that would avail nothing." The transgression was so great that an angel's life would not pay the debt. Nothing but the death and intercession of God's Son would pay the debt and save lost man from hopeless sorrow and misery. EW 127.1

- My view of this is that God so loved the world He sent His Son, but would have preferred, as any Father would, to come Himself. It was never a question of the Godhead to save humanity from sin, it was a struggle among them as to which member would take up the burden of incarnation to complete their joint mission. You can imagine if you had a child dying in some situation and they could be saved but it would require sacrifice to do it, how you might have a struggle as a parent allowing one of your children take up the burden rather than you doing it yourself. This is what I understand the struggle to be. EGW wrote elsewhere:
  - **Had God the Father come to our world and dwelt among us**, veiling His glory and humbling Himself, that humanity might look upon Him, **the history that we have of the life of Christ would not have been changed** in unfolding its record of His own condescending grace. **In every act of Jesus**, in every lesson of His instruction, **we are to see and hear and recognize God**. In sight, in hearing, in effect, **it is the voice and movements of the Father**. But language seems to be so feeble! I refrain, and with John exclaim, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not" [1 John 3:1].--Letter 83, 1895, emphasis mine.
- So, how do we understand Jesus pleading His case to the Father? Is it to prevent the Father from hurting us or to be the One whom comes instead of the Father to save us? This is how Moses represents Christ's pleading, Moses is pleading just like Jesus, I will sacrifice myself to save them. The intercession of Moses in behalf of Israel illustrates the mediation of Christ for sinful men. But the Lord did not permit Moses to bear, as did Christ, the guilt of the transgressor. "Whosoever hath sinned against Me," He said, "him will I blot out of My book." *Patriarchs and Prophets* 326. [Moses could not experience the guilt of sin that Adam brought upon the race, Jesus as the second Adam experienced the guilt that sin causes and which ultimately separated Him from His Father.]

So then what is God's wrath?

From the SDA Bible Commentary:

- **The wrath of God.** That is, the divine displeasure against sin, resulting **ultimately in the abandonment of man** to the judgment of death (see Rom. 6:23; John 3:36). The wrath of the infinite God must not be compared to human passion. God is love (1 John 4:8), and though He hates sin, He loves the sinner (SC 54). However, God does not force His love upon those who are unwilling to receive His mercy (see DA 22, 466, 759). Thus, **God's wrath against sin is exercised in the withdrawal of His presence and life-giving power** from those who choose to remain in sin and thus share in its inevitable consequences (see Gen. 6:3; cf. DA 107, 763, 764; SC 17, 18)...

When **God's wrath** against sin fell upon Christ as our substitute, it was **the separation from His Father** that caused Him such great anguish. "This agony He must not exert His divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequence of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression" (DA 686). Finally, on the cross, "the wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul

of His Son with consternation. ... **The withdrawal of the divine countenance** from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man” (DA 753).

Thus, as Paul explains in Rom. 1:24, 26, 28, God reveals His wrath by turning impenitent men over to the inevitable results of their rebellion. This persistent resistance of God’s love and mercy culminates in the **final revelation of God’s wrath on that day when the Spirit of God is at last withdrawn**. Unsheltered by divine grace, the wicked have no protection from the evil one. “As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose” (GC 614). Then fire comes down from God out of heaven, and sin and sinners are forever destroyed (Rev. 20:9; cf. Mal. 4:1; 2 Peter 3:10).

But even this final revelation of God’s wrath in the destruction of the wicked is not an act of arbitrary power. “**God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life**” (DA 764). God gives men existence for a time so that they may develop their characters. When this has been accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. “**By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire**” (ibid.; cf. GC 543). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, pp. 477–478, emphasis mine.

This is exactly correct and this is what we teach, yet the critics of our ministry in the church take a different position and teach that God’s wrath is the use of God’s power to inflict punishment, and then they turn around and accuse us of not being in harmony with Adventist beliefs, when they are the ones who are failing to align with the truth and the church.

The lesson also points out that when Moses saw their idolatry and partying, he threw down the tablets of stone and broke them. And later he cut stone and God wrote on the second set a second version of the Ten Commandments that differ from the first set in one particular, the reason for the Sabbath.

This is important for a couple of reasons:

First, what does it illustrate that in the ark the unbroken law was placed there and not the broken set?

If the lesson of this illustration is to teach that the broken law is being covered by Christ and the penalty is being paid by His blood, then the broken pieces of the law would have been placed in the ark.

However, the lesson is NOT about legal payments for breaking the law. The lesson is about restoration, healing, and recreation, thus the unbroken law was placed in the ark, which symbolizes God writing His law into our hearts and minds. And the symbolism of what went into the box is an illustration of how God heals us. The three elements were manna, the law, and Aaron’s rod that budded. And the manna went in first, which represents Jesus, the bread of heaven, the word made flesh, that we must ingest, partake the truth as it is in Jesus which destroys the lies and restores us to

trust, then in trust we open the heart and we are reborn with the Holy Spirit bringing us the spirit of Jesus, the living law of love is written upon our hearts and minds, and then we who were dead in trespass and sin bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Thus, the lesson of this acted out illustration is one of design law healing and refutes the imposed law legal punishment lie.

Second, the change in the Sabbath language reveals what God wants for us but how He has to step down and meet us where we are and communicate in childlike ways for the immature. The Sabbath in the first set was given because God is Creator, it is a call to recognize that His laws are design laws, how reality works, that we have real freedom with Him. But they couldn't comprehend freedom, couldn't comprehend design law, they were level one might and power thinkers and thus God met them where they were and reminded them He is powerful and He was able to destroy their enemies in Egypt and set them free. God wants maturity, for us to be His understanding friends who have His law written upon our hearts and minds, but He meets us where we are and uses external rules and might and power like a loving parent who has rules not to play in the street, protecting from self destruction until we grow up and realize it was never about the rules or external punishment, it was about the law of worship, how worshiping a false god destroys our hearts, minds, characters, and souls.

## THURSDAY

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Read fourth paragraph,

- In Exodus 32:32, the word translated “forgive” is from a verb whose basic meaning is to “bear” or “carry,” such as in Isaiah 53:4, which reads (about Jesus): “Surely He has borne our griefs” (NKJV). It is the same verb—translated “forgive” in Exodus 32:32, and “borne” in Isaiah 53:4. What a powerful insight into the process of salvation and forgiveness and what it cost God to save us. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 93.

What did it cost God to save us?

Was the cost a legal one? Did God need to receive a payment for Him to be able to save? Was the ransom price paid to God?

To whom was it paid?

John 6:53—to you and me.

And we will study for all eternity what it cost God to save us, the sacrifice is an infinite sacrifice.

For God so loved the world He GAVE us His only begotten Son, He did not loan Him, He gave Him. Jesus took up humanity and has kept His humanity.

## FRIDAY

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Read second paragraph, a quote from *Patriarchs and Prophets* and discuss:

- Love no less than justice demanded that for this sin **judgment should be inflicted**. God is the guardian as well as the sovereign of His people. **He cuts off** those who are determined upon rebellion, that they may not lead others to ruin. In sparing the life of Cain, God had demonstrated to the universe what would be the result of permitting sin to go **unpunished**. The influence exerted upon his descendants by his life and teaching led to the state of corruption that **demand the destruction** of the whole world by a flood. The history of the antediluvians testifies that long life is not a blessing to the sinner; God's great forbearance did not repress their wickedness. The longer men lived, the more corrupt they became. *Patriarchs and Prophets* p. 325.

What do you hear? Are we reading through imposed human law or design law? Are we including the entire weight of the 66 books of Scripture and also this author's other writings to correctly understand the meaning, or are we so steeped in Romanism, the idea that God's law functions like Roman law that we read this as penal legal?

What kind of judgment should be inflicted? Is it the judgment of law and law enforcement, or the judgment of a physician intervening to cauterize a lesion, to stop the spread of disease, to provide remedy?

What is the context?

After humankind sinned, could any human be saved without Jesus? No! Thus, the context is that the entire human species is dead in trespass and sin, terminal in sin, and will die unless Jesus comes. God promised in Genesis 3:15 that Messiah was promised. What is happening through the OT is Satan working to stop God's plan to save humankind and God intervening to bring Jesus to save humankind and also eradicate sin from His universe.

Why did the world at the time of the flood and their condition demand God intervene to destroy them? Because at the time of the Flood there was only one righteous man left and his family, the rest of the entire world had been so hardened in sin they were beyond reach, they would not respond to God. Thus, if God was going to save humanity from sin, He had to act to keep open the avenue for Messiah, because if Noah and his family die, the plan of salvation is lost.

But realize, that destruction was mortal destruction, it was the first death, the sleep death, not the wages of sin death. This is the death of grace, the death of mercy, the artificial state of suspended animation when the living being sleeps in the grave awaiting resurrection. They come up out of the grave with the same current of thoughts as when they died. This is not the punishment for sin, which is eternal death.

This first death, which is an act of saving grace to save and heal, is what God controls and is referred to in texts like:

- “See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand. Deuteronomy 32:39 NIV84.
- “The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. 1 Samuel 2:6 NIV84.

This is the artificial state of grace that God controls and this state would NOT exist if God was not acting in love and grace to create this sleep state. This is NOT the wages of sin death. The wages of sin death is the second death, the eternal death, the death from which there is no resurrection, and that death doesn't happen until after the judgment and at the end of the 1000 years. And that death is not caused by God, it is caused by sin and Satan is the one who holds the power to that death, which God, through Jesus destroys:

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

Sin is the cause of eternal death.

- “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy **him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.**” Hebrews 2:14 NIV84, emphasis mine.
- “Christ Jesus, who has **destroyed death** and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” 2 Timothy 1:10 NIV84, emphasis mine.
- “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**” 1 Corinthians 15:24–26 NIV84, emphasis mine.

And Satan holds the power of eternal death, not God, for eternal death comes as a result of sin separating us from God, and we do not have life separated from God. And Christ destroys death by destroying sin and reuniting His universe into eternal love and loyalty with God, the source of life.

Those who hold to the lie that God's law functions like human law teach that God is the source of death that He inflicts upon people who do not appease His wrath by claiming the blood of Jesus as their legal payment to pay their sin debt.