



2025 3 Q Exodus Lesson 13

The Tabernacle

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read first paragraph,

- The principal task of God's people in the Old Testament (as well as for us today) was to live in close relationship with the Lord; to worship and serve Him; and, also, to present the right picture of God to others (Deut. 4:5–8). *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 104.

This is well said—God's people throughout history are not called to elitism, to cultism, to exclusive salvation. They are not called to secret societies in which there are elite members with secret rites, no. God's people throughout all history are called to surrender their old life of fear and selfishness in trust to Him, be reborn with a new heart and right spirit, live daily in a trust relationship with Him and fulfill His calling, His purpose, His mission for each of us—which is to be lights to the world, to share the truth about God, His kingdom, His design law reality to the world to give others every opportunity to choose to know God and also be saved.

Read second paragraph,

- In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve hid from God because their sin made them afraid of Him. Sinfulness makes humans naturally afraid of God, and this fear twists our view of His character. The good news is that God takes the first step to span this rift and, on His initiative, He repairs the gap and the broken relationship. He calls the sinner back to Himself: “ ‘Where are you?’ ” (Gen. 3:9, NKJV). *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 104.

This paragraph expresses powerful truths—let's unpack them:

- When Adam and Eve sinned, God did not get changed in any way—He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow; nor did God's law get changed; it is an expression of His character and is eternal as it originates in Him and is the protocols built into the operations of reality. To change God's law would be to destroy the universe as God built it.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, they were changed—as the lesson said sin naturally causes fear of God—why? Because what is sin?
 - Transgression of the law—that is old KJV English, but the NKJV and all modern translations translate it as **sin is lawlessness**. This means sin is operating out of harmony with the law, breaking the law, which in this case is the law of love. For the Bible says in Romans 14:23...

- Whatever is not of faith or trust is sin—so sin, functionally is a breakdown of love and trust, to act outside of trust in God, is sin. That is why the righteous or just live by faith, or trust. They are righteous not because every action is behaviorally performed without flaw, nor every belief they hold is perfectly accurate in all factual details, but because they live by faith, by trust, and in that faith or trust are led to grow, mature, develop, improve, remove errors with truth. This is how Job was perfect and how we are to be perfect, in our restored trust and loyalty to our Creator. This is how David, was a man after God's own heart and how God could say to Solomon,
- “As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever...” 1 Kings 9:4–5 NIV84.
- How could God say this about David—because David, while he struggled with sin in his life, he stayed faithful to God, he never gave his heart to other God's, and when his sin was brought before Him, he went to God for God's forgiveness, grace, and healing.
- So how did fear, caused by sin, which is a breakdown of trust, get into Adam and Eve?
- Satan is the Father of lies:
- Lies believed break the circle of love and trust
- Broken love and trust cause fear and selfishness
- Fear and selfishness cause acts of sin—
 - including trying to advance self by taking the fruit, running from God, hiding from God, making one's own covering to make one look righteous, blaming God, teaching more lies like God is the one who was changed, God is angry, God is wrathful, God needs something done to Him to change Him so we can be saved.
- Acts of sin damage mind, body, relationships, character—terminal condition—this state of being is out of harmony with how God constructed life to operate and without active intervention from God results in death—eternal separation from God and non-existence.

The lesson stated in the second paragraph,

- The good news is that God takes the first step to span this rift and, on His initiative, He repairs the gap and the broken relationship. He calls the sinner back to Himself.

What does this mean?

Yes, God took the initiative to save humanity from sin.

Yes, God calls all humans back to himself.

Yes, God Himself repaired the gap between the species human and Himself.

If you didn't read my blog two weeks ago, which is a response to a publicly posted misinformation paper by Eugene Prewitt that has been circulating for more than a decade, I encourage you to not only read it, but download the pdf and have it in your files to share with any pastor or church leader who brings up the Prewitt paper. But in the opening of that paper, I lay out the landscape of the differences and the following is included there:

The Bible teaches that when Adam sinned, he corrupted his own nature and infected himself with a spirit of fear and selfishness; ever since, every person is born infected with that same corrupting spirit of fear and selfishness (Psalm 51:5; 2 Timothy 1:7).

Jesus became a real human being, descended from Adam through Mary. But the Father to Jesus' humanity is the Holy Spirit. Through the person of Jesus Christ, our humanity was saved when He was tempted in all points like us, including through powerful human emotions that tempted Him to act to save self, but Jesus only and always chose perfect selfless love (Hebrews 2:14; James 1:13–15; Luke 22:39–45; 2 Timothy 1:10). At the cross, Jesus killed, destroyed, purged, the spirit of fear and selfishness and replaced it with His perfect spirit of love and trust. Thus, the human species was saved in and by Jesus. And each of us can partake of that salvation through faith. The book *The Desire of Ages* describes this beautifully:

- Nicodemus had come to the Lord thinking to enter into a discussion with Him, but Jesus laid bare the foundation principles of truth. He said to Nicodemus, It is not theoretical knowledge you need so much as **spiritual regeneration**. You need not to have your curiosity satisfied, but to have a **new heart**. You must receive a **new life** from above before you can appreciate heavenly things. Until this change takes place, **making all things new**, it will result in no saving good for you to discuss with Me My authority or My mission. *The Desire of Ages* p. 171, emphasis mine.

This is what Paul experienced and described when he wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). Paul received a new life, the life of Jesus, the spirit of love, and thereby the living law of love became the animating, motivating power in Paul, replacing the spirit of fear and selfishness that he inherited from Adam. As he told Timothy, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV). No, the spirit of fear is the life, the spirit, we inherited from Adam, and salvation requires that this spirit be crucified and replaced with the Spirit of Jesus, via the work of the Holy Spirit. This is reality, and this is the good news the early church took to the world.

Thus, in the person of Jesus, God took the initiative to restore the human species into sinless perfection and right relationship with God. And through what Jesus accomplished, every other human being is offered what Jesus described to Nicodemus, what Paul experienced, a new life, to be reborn, through trust in God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—and that is how we are individually restored into a right relationship with God.

But, can God repair a broken relationship with a sinner by Himself? No! God did, through Jesus, restore the species human to right relationship with Himself, and simultaneously provided everything necessary for any individual human to be restored into right relationship with Him, but that restoration **requires** the consent, choice, and cooperation of the individual sinner.

Read the third paragraph,

- Thus, our primary mission is to present the correct character of God and His loving and righteous acts to those around us. When people are attracted to God and are convinced of His unselfish love toward them, they will give their lives to Him and obey what He tells them to do, knowing that it is for their own good. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 104.

This is also well said. Our primary mission is to lift up God, the truth about who God is as revealed in all His revelations to us, first and foremost Jesus, but also through His acts through history, His creation, nature, and the experiences of life. All of which teach God as Creator and His laws as design laws, the protocol upon which reality is built.

This is the mission of God's people today, the message of the 3 angels of Revelation 14—to call people to make a right judgment about God, to stop worshiping Him as an imperial dictator who makes up rules like the king of Babylon and uses external power to punish rule-breaking like Babylon, but worship Him as Creator, the builder of reality, whose laws are design laws that when broken cause pain, suffering, and death and the only path to life is restoration and healing by our Creator God.

The world is rapidly heading to the final events before Christ's return and Satan is going to impersonate Jesus—and when he does he will present as an incredible being of beauty, magnificent, glorious, speaking melodiously, healing diseases, apparently raising the dead—(his fallen angels will impersonate the dead) and these impersonators of the dead will give their testimony that Satan is Jesus.

Satan will quote Scripture, just as he did when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness. He will talk about love, grace, but also justice. And then, he will describe how God's justice required punishment, the death penalty, but God loved us too much to make us pay that penalty, so He sent Himself, God's Son, to be punished in our place and pay that penalty. He will then plead with compassion to surrender to him, to accept His legal payment for your sins and worship him because he will claim he loves us and doesn't want us to have to be executed for our sins. But he will also state, that law and justice requires that sin be punished and if we won't accept him and the legal payment he made to pay for all our sins, then he will be required to kill us for our sins, after torturing us an appropriate length of time first. And every single person, except the elect of God, will accept him because they will all have accepted the lie that God's law functions like human law and justice is the use of power to punish sin.

Only the elect of God, only those who have come back to worship God as Creator, who have realized God's laws are design laws, the protocols of life, and have in that love and trust been reborn and have the living law of God written upon their hearts and minds will be protected. They are protected by the love and trust operating in them, they recognize the fraud for what it is, because they know you cannot get love and trust by use of might and power, that law and law enforcement through punishment causes distrust, fear, and selfishness, which is sin, and it cannot be eliminated through inflicting external legal punishments, in fact, distrust and rebellion spread.

And sadly, many people who have called themselves Christian, will come to Christ when the true Jesus returns and claim that they were His followers, performing miracles, casting out demons, and doing ministry, but He will sadly tell them to go away because He never knew them.

Understand what that means—Jesus isn't say He doesn't know who they are, He knows the hairs on every single head. He is saying He doesn't know them in the relationship, in connection, in love and trust, not cognitive awareness.

Life eternal is that we might know God and Jesus Christ John 17:3—this isn't knowing about God it is knowing Him personally, in love and trust.

If you studied the life of Abraham Lincoln and got a Ph.D. in Lincolnology, does that mean you know Abraham Lincoln?

This is what Jesus is saying—you may have degrees in theology, you may have spent your lives reading the Bible and studying about God, but that is not the same as knowing God. These people have accepted lies about God, most specifically, they would be like the Pharisees, highly religious Bible believing people who zealously seek to live out the blueprint—but all from a spirit of fear and selfishness based upon the lie that God's law functions like human law, imposed rules, with imposed punishments. They have never been reborn with a new heart and right spirit, why? Because they prefer the other god, they prefer the law making, rule-enforcing, power over, punishing god who functions like their unconverted hearts.

SUNDAY

If you haven't seen this video, I recommend it: Why Charlie Kirk kept the Sabbath:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RXIZMzw1lc>

The lesson focuses on the Sabbath—how is the Sabbath involved in the war between Christ and Satan?

I just described a future scenario where Satan impersonates Christ—many Adventists believe that they will be protected because they know the true Bible Sabbath is Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, and they believe that Satan will exalt Sunday and deny the sacredness of the Sabbath. They argue that nowhere in Scripture is there an authorization for the change in the Sabbath—which is true. Thus, they declare, man cannot change God's law, only God can change God's law, therefore, they believe they will be able to tell Satan's counterfeit based on his promotion of Sunday and denial of the Bible Sabbath.

Problems with this approach:

1. It still presents God's law as imposed law, a rule that God made up, and requires infliction of punishment for breaking. So, even when they have the right day of the week, they are still worshipping the wrong god. Satan doesn't care if you worship on the seventh-day Sabbath as long as you are worshipping him.

Did the Jews who crucified Christ have the wrong Sabbath? In fact, why did they want Jesus off the cross by sunset? To keep the Sabbath—but which god were they actually worshiping? If you are not sure, Jesus told them in John 8, when they claimed to be children of and worshipers of Yahweh—that in reality they were of their father the devil.

So merely identifying which day of the week is the Bible Sabbath and worshiping on that day is not enough to prevent one from following Satan.

If one teaches that the seventh-day Sabbath is an arbitrary test of obedience, a day set apart merely by declaration, by rule, then you have the right day, but you are still worshiping a creature, not the Creator. Why? Because the Creator builds reality and His laws are design protocols that life is built upon, creatures cannot create reality, we make up rules that require enforcement through inflicted punishments.

Those who oppose our ministry take the view that God's laws are imposed and God's government functions like human governments, where justice is the infliction of proper punishments. They have many right doctrines, like the Pharisees in Christ's day did, but they have the wrong understanding of law, believing it functions like human law, and thus they worship the wrong god.

And via the law of worship, by beholding we are changed, 2 Cor 3:18, they become like Satan in character and can kill the Creator while claiming to be Sabbath observers.

2. Second problem with the legal approach to understanding Sabbath is that they are vulnerable to Satan deceiving them in one of two ways:

- One—when he impersonates Christ saying something like, “Christians, thank you for seeking to evangelize the world with my gospel of truth and love. I know you have all been sincere and seeking to do your best. But sadly, through the ages, my true Bible Sabbath was lost sight of and replaced by a Roman sun holiday that celebrates the pagan gods. I know you were innocent in this and I see the secret intents of your hearts, so there is no sin in what you did. But now, that I have returned, I am declaring the truth, my Sabbath, the day over which I am Lord, the day I set apart in Eden when I rested, is the seventh-day of the week, made holy by me in Eden and that day has never changed. All who want to receive my salvation, my grace, my forgiveness for their sins, it is time to be lovers of truth, to leave behind human traditions and return to worshiping me in spirit and in truth and that means worshiping me on my Sabbath day. And Seventh-day Adventists, thank you for following the Bible and giving witness to my holy day. Well done my faithful servants. But, if anyone refuses to worship me on my holy day, if you won't accept the free salvation I offer through my shed blood to paid your sin debt. Then, sadly, I will be required by law and justice to execute you. Please, don't make me do that. I love you, have died for you, and only want to save you.”
- Two—the deceiver says something like this, “Christians, thank you for seeking to evangelize the world with my gospel of truth and love. Sadly, I have observed that within my church there has often been disagreement and argument. I inspired my prophets to with the Bible to give you guidance and settle matters of confusion. But Satan, my enemy, has come into the flock

and sown seeds of confusion and the church suffered long in the Dark Ages with many pagan traditions that infected the flock. I inspired the Reformers to call people back to my heavenly truths. And many people have embraced and followed the truth, returning to the Scriptures. But one of the areas that has remained confused is my weekly Sabbath. I want to particularly thank the Seventh-day Adventists because they have conscientiously sought to restore the holiness and sacredness of my name through rightly pointing out that nowhere in Scripture is there a record of my having changed the holiness of Sabbath to Sunday. Many Christians, throughout history, understood that upon my resurrection, my victory over sin and death, that I did mark Sunday as the memorial of my victory and changed worship to that day, but you Adventists, have rightly noted that nowhere in Scripture is that changed authorized or declared. Well done! You are correct—and now that I am here in person, I am declaring a change in the day to Sunday, a day throughout all eternity future will be my weekly Sabbath, the day in which we will celebrate my victory over sin and death and your salvation.”

For those Adventists who believe God’s law functions like human law, and is subject to change, they will be extremely vulnerable to either of these deceptions or another similar, even more subtly and powerfully done.

But for those who value design law—they know this cannot be done, and the attempt to do so is evidence that it is Satan, not Jesus.

Why can this not be done? And it goes exactly to the question of how one understands God’s law—design laws or imposed rules. Imposed rules can be changed, design laws cannot be changed, even by God, without destroying His current creation.

Yes, God certainly has the ability to change various laws within nature—laws of physics for instance, but understand reality, if He does that, the universe as we know it destroyed and replaced with something else.

- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” Matthew 5:17-18 NIV84.

My paraphrase:

- "And don't think that I have come to destroy what the Old Testament — Torah and Prophets — taught about God and his methods; I have not come to destroy but to fulfill them.¹⁸ Here is the simple truth: Heaven and earth would disappear if even the slightest change were made to God's design protocol for life — what you call his Law. I am not here to destroy the Law, but to accomplish everything it requires.” Matthew 5:18-19 REM

When we return to design law we understand why the Sabbath is eternal and what makes it holy, why any attempt by Satan to change the day is evidence of his impersonation of Christ and the elect will recognize it.

But we only recognize this if we understand the Sabbath through design law, if we have the right day, but understand it through imposed law, we are not protected, in fact we are still worshiping the false view of god.

So what makes the Sabbath holy?

In November 2024, had a lively discussion with a local pastor in Australia regarding God's law and particularly, what makes the Sabbath holy.

What our different views boiled down to was the pastor took the position that the Sabbath is holy because God **declared** it to be holy. It was made holy by God's **executive action** as Sovereign of the Universe at the end of creation week to set it apart by His **declared** word.

What I understand the pastor to be saying is that the Sabbath is holy not because of some inherent aspect of its creation, not something built into the Sabbath by God's actions that objectively sets it apart, but because God used His Sovereign right as Creator and Ruler to make an edict, a ruling, a proclamation, a declared statement.

This is the type of law and authority, methods, mode, used by created beings, the artificial use of position, of office, of power, to set something apart arbitrarily because the ruler said so, not because **it is so**.

For instance, Caesar declaring that purple is a color reserved only for the royal family is an arbitrary rule made up by the one in office, not by something inherent in the color. It is a made-up rule that is declared by the ruling authority and then enforced by external judicial process. This is the law of creatures, imposed rules with externally imposed penalties.

Satan deceives people into worshiping him by getting them to take Bible truths and set them in his law, his methods, his mode of function and thus his character.

- By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. Genesis 2:2, 3 NIV84.

The pastor's interpretation of this passage is that God's actions are the actions of a ruler imposing a difference by His word or authority.

But notice what the text actually says. In this Bible text, we do not have a *declaration* from God, we have a description of history, of actions, of reality. God rested on this day where He worked on the other days.

God blessed and sanctified the Sabbath by action, conduct, and creation—by reality. The Sabbath was made, created, built into time by the God who controls space and time, whose laws are the basis of the operations of all reality. And the Sabbath was made in the context of a war against God’s rulership. The Sabbath was set apart from the other six days **not** when God used power but when He **stopped** using power, when He **rested**, when He **refused** to enforce law by the use of power and, instead, left all His creatures free to think and decide for themselves!

The Sabbath was created at the end of the creation week of this planet and is invested, made, created, and built by God with the revelation of truth, love, and freedom—when God refused to use external power to punish Lucifer, to force Satan to comply, **when God refused to operate in the way of a creature**. Thus, the Sabbath is holy, made and created as a sign, evidence, revelation, and demonstration of God’s character of love and design-law methods. It exists because God exists and because God is love—and love exists only in freedom.

God declared the reality of the sacredness, holiness, and blessedness of the Sabbath day, for in six days God created but on the seventh day **He rested!** The Sabbath day is special, distinct, set apart **but not by God’s declaration**; it is so by God’s **action** in its creation—for it reveals the glory and holiness of God. **The Sabbath is not holy because God declares it holy; no, He declares it holy because it is holy!**

But, for those still struggling with the declarations of God making it so, rather than revealing what is so, consider the following evidence in the very narrative of creation, when God made an actual declaration:

- The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18 NIV84.

Was it good for man to be alone *until* the Lord said this? Was it only when the Lord said it was not good that it became not good? Or did the Lord say it because there was something missing and He had not quite completed His creative work yet—and it was, in reality, not good to leave it uncompleted? Did God’s declaration make it so, or was it already so, and thus God, who always speaks truth, declared it to be so?

Those who operate upon the human-law model automatically think that God’s verbal statements are the legal edicts that make it so. Whereas those who see God’s law as design law understand His statements are announcements of truth, of the way things actually are.

At the Second Coming, when Jesus separates the “sheep” from the “goats,” His action, His judgment, His proclamation, does NOT make some into sheep and some into goats; His separating them is based on reality, on who they have chosen to become. (Matthew 25:31–33).

God will one day declare:

- He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. Revelation 22:11 NKJV.

This declaration does not cause some to be unjust and filthy and others to be righteous and holy, it is the voice of truth describing what already is.

Thus the Sabbath is a blessing to humanity to call us to recognize God as Creator, and this means design law, the laws built into the operations of reality, and specifically truth presenting in love while leaving us free all embodied in the Sabbath. God will not use power to inflict eternal punishment upon sinners. He will cease using power that He has been using to hold the destructiveness of sin at bay and all who insist on sin will experience what their choice causes, separation from the source of life, and eternal death.

The lesson states there are five crucial points we are to glean from the Bible Sabbath:

1. God as Creator
2. The Messiah will come
3. God will establish His kingdom and the Sabbath is a foretaste
4. Salvation comes from the Lord

And

- 5. God is the ultimate Judge of all people. Those who persistently defy and deny Him will have no future, but He freely gives eternal life to those who follow Him. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 105.

How do we understand God as judge? Doesn't it all depend on how we understand God's law?

If we understand God's law as imposed, then we understand God acts as judge who determines guilt and innocence, legal pardon, what are just punishments to inflict etc. Thus any Christian model that has a god who functions like a human judge, making legal rulings whose judgments cause or determine the outcome, which require the use of external power to enforce justice through punishment, this is evidence of Satan's infection, the imposed law lie.

If we worship God as Creator and understand His laws are design laws, we realize God's judgments are always reality based, not legal. They are:

- The diagnostic judgments of what is true, what is wrong
- The therapeutic judgments of what is necessary to heal, save, and restore—these therapeutic judgments are manifested in God's actions throughout human history for the fulfillment of the plan of salvation, and individually in our own lives.
 - The Flood was God's therapeutic judgment to keep open the avenue for the Messiah

- God's action with Saul on the Road to Damascus was God's therapeutic judgment in his life to bring him to repentance
- Jesus' work in the heavenly sanctuary is of this nature:
 - First make an accurate judgment of who have trusted Him and opened their heart to Him so that He can work in them to cleanse them from sin; and who are like the Pharisees, made a public claim to be loyal to God, but in truth have closed their hearts to Him and refuse to let Him work in them to restore them to righteousness in accord with His will and good pleasure.
 - Second, in those who have opened their hearts in trust to Him, He works in them, as David prayed, search me and see the wicked way in me, create in me a clean heart and right spirit. All those who have been restored to genuine living faith, trust, in Jesus, He enters into their heart and mind and cleanses them from all fear, selfishness, sin, rebellion, corruption, bad habits, so that in the resurrection, people like Martin Luther who died trusting Jesus, but not yet in this life experiencing victory over his hatred of the Jews and alcohol addiction, or the thief on the cross who had no time to mature, will not arise with hearts that hate, addictions still to be overcome, or desires to steal—they will arise perfected, cleansed, for Christ will have removed from their hearts, minds, characters, motives, every element of residual sinfulness that were still in operation when they fell asleep in Him. This is a therapeutic judgment, like a cancer doctor identifying cancer cells and eradicating them.
- The reality-based judgments of when someone has destroyed the faculties that respond to truth and love and no further time, evidence, love, mercy, grace, truth, will have any ability to save because they are beyond responding to it—let he who is filthy be filthy still.

MONDAY-THURSDAY

The lesson focuses on the Sanctuary. First thing to recognize is that the entire OT Sanctuary is theater, it is object lesson, it is symbolic, it is acted out lessons to teach reality. But there is not one element in that Old System that brought salvation, they were all symbols pointing to Jesus, the reality, who brings salvation.

And while it is intricate in incredible detail, that we have unpacked many times, in fact if you haven't watched our seminary [The Sanctuary and Feast Days](#)—and would like to move past symbols to reality, I encourage you to watch it.

So, while incredible details represented through all the elements, what is the overall message or theme of the OT sanctuary?

Humans are alienated from God by our sin and God has chosen to come down and veil His glory in order to tabernacle, or dwell with, humanity for the purpose of bringing humanity who is alienated from God, back into unity with God.

God's glory in OT was veiled by the tabernacle/temple building on the day Solomon's temple was dedicated; God's glory in the NT was veiled by the temple of Jesus' human body.

The system of sacrifices and feasts taught, through symbols, God's plan to both save the species from sin, and to save individual sinners from sin, and how the righteous participate in God's plan of salvation.

- **Passover:** The first feast in the annual cycle was the Passover. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God "passed over" their sins. He "left the sins committed beforehand unpunished" (Romans 3:25 NIV84) and promised a Passover Lamb who "takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29 NIV84). This feast had its fulfillment in Jesus—the Passover Lamb, who was crucified on Passover Friday. The time in human history covered by this feast was from Adam's sin until Christ's death on the cross.
- **Unleavened Bread:** This feast was concurrent with the Passover and symbolizes that after Adam's sin, God immediately began dispensing truth unmixed with error (symbolized by the unleavened bread) to nurture and feed His children. The bitter herbs represent the bitterness caused by sin, which became a part of human life. Both the Lamb slain and the bread without yeast represent Christ, the source of truth and healing for sinful humanity.
- **The Wave Sheaf:** This was also symbolic of Christ, who is the sinless first fruit raised from the dead. Just as the wheat is buried in the ground, symbolically dying, and comes forth in newness of life, so also Christ was buried in the ground, came forth in newness of life, and brought forth many righteous with Him. The time frame represented by this ceremony was from the time of Christ's resurrection until Pentecost—the time Jesus and those resurrected with Him witnessed in person in Jerusalem (Matthew 27:52, 53).
- **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):** The truth spreads and takes root in many hearts and a harvest is experienced. This was fulfilled during Pentecost two thousand years ago, when the Holy Spirit fell upon those believers of the early church and the truth about God spread throughout the known world. The time frame covered is from AD 31 (Pentecost) until the nineteenth century.
- **Trumpets:** A special message for the end of time that is to awaken the end-time church (symbolized by the ten virgins in Christ's parable) from their slumber and announce Jesus, the Bridegroom, is coming soon. Prepare! Get Ready! Christ is coming back soon! This trumpet call is to call the people to the wedding of Christ, the Groom, with His bride, the church, and occurred with the Great Awakening in the nineteenth century.
- **Atonement:** At-one-ment is the time immediately before the second coming of Christ, when the Groom puts the final cleansing touches upon His bride, wedding her to Himself, purifying her into complete harmony of heart, mind, motive, method, and character with Him, for "we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). This is the time in which we are living today!

- **Tabernacles:** This feast symbolically taught the time after the wedding (two becoming one), when the saints tabernacle (dwell) with God away from the world of sin in the earth made new. This is the wedding supper of the Lamb.

We are living in the time of the Day of Atonement. The time in which Christ bring His people into at-one-ment with Him. It is the time, when the cleansing of the sanctuary occurs, which is the same as Christ cleansing His bride, the church. It is the time when the people of God are eternally united with Him their Groom and Savior. This, this same time is depicted as a wedding. The wedding of Christ and His church.

- Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the **wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” [Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.] Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘**Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!**’” Revelation 19:6–9 NIV84, emphasis mine.

There is a wedding, and then there is the wedding supper. The wedding itself is the uniting in loving commitment of heart, mind, and soul of the two spouses. The wedding celebration follows that joining. The wedding is not a “legal” event but a holy covenant of love and trust—of placing our committed and unshakable faith in the other.

Some might be uncomfortable with the idea that the wedding of Christ to His church takes place before the second coming. But consider:

- When do the saints experience their hearts being bonded into unshakable loyal love to Jesus—before or at the second coming?
- When do the saints experience the cleansing of their hearts and minds from fear, selfishness, guilt, and shame so that they can stand firm in every trial—before or at the second coming?

Just as wives traditionally take the name of their husbands, we take the new name that Christ gives us:

- I will make those who are victorious pillars in the temple of my God, and they will never leave it. **I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem,** which will come down out of heaven from my God. **I will also write on them my new name.** Revelation 3:12 GNT, emphasis mine.

It is at the wedding that the saints of God are sealed and have God’s name written upon their hearts and minds such that they are settled in their loving devotion to Him; they are faithful to their Groom and will not betray Him. They will not give their love, affection, or selves to another suitor or betray their Groom for the pleasures of this world or even to protect their temporal lives (James 4:4). They are like Job, who, though faced with terrible trials and tribulations, could not be shaken out of his

loyalty and devotion to God and, thus, was described by God as “blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil” and was commended by God for saying what is right about God (Job 1:8; 42:7 NIV84).

This new name that God writes upon the saints at the wedding is also described as the New Jerusalem; which the lesson references on THURSDAY:

- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the **Holy City, the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband**. ... One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you **the bride, the wife of the Lamb**.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and **showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God. Revelation 21:1, 2, 9, 10 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Because a marriage is the joining of two intelligent beings in the bonds of love and trust, Revelation could not be describing Jesus being married to inanimate material. The highly symbolic book is not suggesting that Jesus weds a lifeless city; rather, it uses the imagery of a city to depict a people from every corner of the earth who have characters that shine like pure gold, living in glorified immortal bodies, bonded in intimate union with Jesus.

By using the imagery of the New Jerusalem to depict the bride, the Bible gives us another important clue to help us unravel this mystery of Christ cleansing His people and the two becoming one.

The New Jerusalem, which is called the bride, is described structurally as being in the shape of a cube (Revelation 21:16). This is the exact shape of the most holy place in the sanctuary (1 Kings 6:20). And as we compare the New Jerusalem to the most holy place, we discover multiple God-inspired parallels:

- The most holy place was covered in gold; the heavenly city is paved in gold. In Scripture, gold is symbolic of the purity of Christ, the righteousness and holiness of God’s character of love.
- The most holy place was lighted by God’s Shekinah presence; the city is lighted by God’s eternal presence (Revelation 21:21, 22).
- In the most holy place was the covenant box, the place where the covenant was accomplished—the covenant of cleansing, uniting, bonding; in the city are the saints, the living temples in whose hearts the new covenant (marriage covenant) is accomplished.
 - The manna was the first element placed in the covenant box and represents the saints first partaking of the “bread of heaven” (John 6:32–35), Jesus the living Word made flesh (John 1:1, 14; 6:53–58); the truth as it is in Jesus wins them to trust (betrothal/conversion).
 - The law was the second item to go into the covenant box; this represents the saints, once betrothed (converted) to Christ, opening their hearts to Him; He writes His living

law of love into their hearts and minds (wedding/new covenant/cleansing) and renews them in righteousness.

- Aaron's rod that budded was the last item to go into the covenant box; this represents the saints who were dead in trespass and sin but, having accepted the proposal (converted) and experienced the union (wedding/cleansing), come alive and bring forth peaceable fruits of righteousness. This symbolically represents both the reborn life bringing forth Christian fruits and also the glorification of those wedded to Christ living eternally fruitful lives in loving union with the Lord.
- The most holy place is where the high priest conducted a special ceremony: the ceremony of atonement; the ceremony of cleansing; the ceremony of washing away sin and purifying the people (bride); the ceremony of bringing the people into "**at-one-ment**" with God, of two becoming one. In other words, it was a wedding ceremony! And this ceremony happened at the end of the annual cycle of feasts, right before the Feast of Tabernacles; i.e., tabernacling or cohabitating with God.

Just as the Old Testament Passover feast had a real and literal fulfillment when Jesus died as our Passover Lamb on Passover Friday, so also there is a real and literal cleansing, uniting, bonding, and at-one-ment of the Bridegroom and His bride that precedes the second coming. We are living in that time right now!

Just as Paul described in Ephesians chapter five, Jesus cleanses His bride in order to bring His people into at-one-ment with Him. This is the marriage of the Lamb, when Jesus cleanses her from all defilement and clothes her in the white robes of His righteousness—the two become one. This cleansing work is the function of our heavenly High Priest and was acted out symbolically during the Day of Atonement ceremony. When Jesus finishes cleansing His people (bride) from sin, we are then able to stand in His presence without any further "mediating" work by Jesus, because He has restored us to oneness with Himself and the Father.

This cleansing of His temple (people) prior to His second coming is also described by Malachi:

- See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly **the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant**, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **he will purify the Levites** and refine them like gold and silver. Malachi 3:1–3 NIV84.

The cleansing of the bride and the cleansing of the sanctuary describe the same event. Jesus is now in heaven working to completely heal the hearts and minds of those who have exercised faith in Him (accepted His proposal) so that when He returns, we are able to stand in His presence and see Him face to face (1 John 3:2). We who are alive on the earth cooperate with Him for the healing and cleansing of our minds, hearts, and characters to make ourselves ready for His return:

- Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and **give him glory!** For the **wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” [Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.] Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” Revelation 19:6–9 NIV84.

Of course, some might be wondering about the millions of faithful people who have died throughout history prior to this time of atonement. What about them? Are they not already cleansed? Are they not already wedded to Jesus? Some Christian traditions, teaching that the dead are with Jesus the very moment of their death, might ask: Wouldn’t the righteous dead have experienced this cleansing, uniting, at-one-ment with Jesus at the time of their death, when they were taken to heaven? Is there really any need for this end-time cleansing prior to the second coming?

This is where the Bible reveals another beautiful truth. The church—the people of God, the bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem, the most holy place where God dwells—is also described as Mount Zion, and this is the place where the “names” of the righteous are written:

But you have come to **Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.** You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose **names are written in heaven.** Hebrews 12:22, 23 NIV84, emphasis mine.

In the Bible, names represent character, our individuality, our unique personhood. When Jacob, whose name means “deceiver,” was fully converted and, in his union with God, experienced victory over his fear and selfishness, his name was changed to Israel, “one who with God overcomes.” Jacob became a “new man” and, thus, received a new name that was representative of his new transformed heart.

So, during this special time, Jesus is making diagnostic and therapeutic judgments to cleanse His people and purify them so that when He returns we will be able to stand in His unveiled glory, for we shall be like Him.

This is reality—healing and restoring sinners to righteousness. And this reality is obstructed by the imposed law legal framework which teaches a legal judicial process is happening in record books rather than in hearts and minds. God waits, delays, for His people to reject the Roman law infection and return to worshiping Him as Creator, opening their hearts to Him, and cooperating with Him for their cleansing from sin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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West Polish Conference | Trans-European Division
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October 16-18, 2025, Newbold College England: Dr. Jennings will be they keynote speaker for the college's week of spiritual emphasis. For more information contact:

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Head of Student Life and Chaplaincy
Campus Ministries Coordinator
Newbold College
Email: dpuskas@newbold.ac.uk

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South Africa: Jacques van den Heever is Director and has many of our resources in print and available in English and Afrikaans. You can contact Jacques at: comeandreason.sa@gmail.com (Additionally, Afrikaans material is available for download on our website under the languages tab).

Materials in Australia: Simon and Maani Harrison Direct Come and Reason in Australia and New Zealand and have a Facebook group in Australia and Come and Reason resources available there: You can email Simon at australia@comeandreason.com

