



## 2025 4Q Lessons of Faith From Joshua Lesson 1

### Recipe for Success

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

#### SABBATH

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Read Memory Text:

- Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:7 NIV84

What does this text mean to you? What is God saying to Joshua?

In the context of listening to God and obeying, what did Jesus mean when He said to His disciples:

- But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. John 16:7 NIV84

Why was it good for the disciples for Jesus to leave them and how is it related to obedience?

What happens to their development if Jesus stays? Is there a form of obedience that looks good, in which the person behaves appropriately, does the proper actions, but is actually contrary to what God wants?

Is there a type of obedience that interferes with God's design and His intentions for us?

Consider this commentary:

- A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel. The service is looked upon by such a one in the light of drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance.... Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul. *That I May Know Him* 120.

But is there another type of obedience that also interferes with God's desire for us, an obedience done with a good heart wanting to obey? What about a person who desires to obey but looks to whomever is in authority to tell them what to do, to direct them? Is that the obedience God wants from us? Does God want more than the obedience of a well trained dog?

Would God be happy with adult worshipers who start each day with, "Father, I give my life to you and want to be obedient. I don't want to let you down. I don't want to deviate from your will, so you tell me Father, should I wear a blue or green shirt today? And should I wear my new shoes or my old

ones? And it might rain today, should I wear a poncho or carry an umbrella? And should I take the southern or northern bypass today on my way into work? For breakfast, should I have oatmeal with raisins or granola with berries?..."

Is this the kind of obedience that God wants?

What about the obedience that stems from fear of punishment? What is wrong with that?

Have you ever seen children, when the teacher is in the classroom or the parent is in the home, well behaved, but as soon as the adult leaves, chaos. Is this what God wants?

Does this give insight as to why Jesus said it was good for Him to leave His disciples? Would they grow and mature as quickly if He was always there telling them every answer? Wouldn't the Spirit of truth and love that brings truth and conviction allow them to think, study, reason, and grow more quickly as they come to understand the difference between right and wrong and choose the right because it is right, not simply because Jesus told them what to do?

Does this have any application for us?

I came across this quotation from the book *Fundamentals of Christian Education* this week, what do you think in regard to obedience and is it describing principles at play that give insight into why it was good for Christ to leave His disciples—and as we think about this, does it give insight into what God wants from Joshua, the Israelites, and us today?

- The training of children must be conducted on a **different principle** from that which governs the training of irrational animals. The brute has only to be accustomed to submit to its master; but the **child must be taught to control himself**. The **will** must be trained to **obey the dictates of reason and conscience**. A **child may be so disciplined as to have, like the beast, no will of its own, his individuality being lost in that of his teacher. Such training is unwise, and its effect disastrous**. Children thus educated will be deficient in firmness and decision. They are not taught to act from principle; **the reasoning powers are not strengthened by exercise**. So far as possible, every child should be trained to self-reliance. By calling into exercise the various faculties, he will learn where he is strongest, and in what he is deficient. A wise instructor will give special attention to the development of the weaker traits, that the child may form a well-balanced, harmonious character. *Fundamentals of Christian Education* 57.2

In some schools and families, children **appear to be well-trained**, while under the immediate discipline, but when the system which has held them to set rules is broken up, they seem to be **incapable of thinking, acting, or deciding for themselves**. Had they been taught to **exercise their own judgment** as fast and as far as practicable, the evil would have been obviated. But they have so long been **controlled** by parents or teachers as to wholly rely upon them. He who seeks to have the **individuality of his scholars merged in his own**, so that reason, judgment, and conscience shall be subject to his control, assumes an unwarranted and fearful responsibility. Those who train their pupils to feel that the **power lies in themselves** to become men and women of honor and usefulness, will be the most permanently successful.

Their work may not appear to the best advantage to careless observers, and their labor may not be valued so highly as that of the instructor who holds absolute control, but the after-life of the pupils will show the results of the better plan of education... *Fundamentals of Christian Education* 57.3

What do you hear? Do you hear design laws being described?

- Law of exertion
- Law of truth
- Law of love
- Law of liberty
- Law of sowing and reaping

These are the design laws of God the author is advocating to be used in teaching others, and contrasts them with the unwise approach of external rules and rule enforcement to get behavioral compliance. That is the approach of imposed law.

This is exactly the difference in what Come and Reason teaches and promotes, the truth of God's kingdom of love built upon design laws—and we are opposed by the imperialists, those who seek to use authority of office, of decree, of rule, of law to control the hearts, minds, and behavior of others.

What kind of obedience do you think God wants? What kind of obedience do you think God wants from Joshua and the Israelites?

## SUNDAY

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The lesson title for the day is *A new Moses* referring to Joshua. Both Joshua and Moses were types of Jesus—how were they types of Jesus?

- In the context of the sanctuary, Moses represented Jesus in His preincarnate form when Moses was on the mountain and was given instructions for the sanctuary. This represents Jesus planning with God in heaven, before humankind sinned, the plan of salvation. And Moses leaves the mountain and goes to the people and builds the sanctuary. Jesus left heaven and came to Earth to build His sanctuary.
  - “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the **Branch**, and he will **branch out from his place and build the temple** of the LORD. It is **he who will build the temple** of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and **rule on his throne**. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’” Zechariah 6:12–13 NIV84.

If the temple where Jesus ministers is in heaven, why did God say that Jesus would leave heaven, come to Earth to build his temple?

- Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by people as worthless but chosen by God as valuable. Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5 GNT.

Jesus left heaven to build His temple and He is the cornerstone, and it is built upon the apostles, and each of us are to be living stones fit together as a temple for the Lord.

We also believe Jesus returned to heaven and cleanses His temple before He returns, do you think this cleansing work has anything to do with cleansing people from sin? In other words, the cleansing of the temple and the cleansing of the bride the Bible describes are the same event. If you haven't read our magazine [The Wedding of Christ to His Bride](#) I encourage you to do so, or watch the recent [video interview I did on the Sanctuary](#). In the context of the sanctuary, Moses represents Jesus in His phase in planning in heaven the plan of salvation with His Father—Aaron represents Jesus in His high priestly role, the Lamb represents Jesus during His earthly ministry.

Moses also is a type of Jesus in other ways:

- Moses entered into Pharaoh's domain and confronted Pharaoh and overcame his power and delivered the captives and took them to freedom. Jesus came into Satan's domain, this sinful world, and overcame Satan's power to set the captives of sin free.
- Moses went into God's presence and talked to God face to face; Jesus goes into His Father's presence and talks to Him face to face.
- Moses was willing to give his life to save the people; and Jesus gave His life to save humanity from sin.
- Moses was jealous for God's reputation; and Jesus was jealous for the Father's reputation and revealed the character of the Father perfectly.

Joshua is also a type of Jesus:

- Joshua is the name that Jesus had as a human being, and it means Yahweh is salvation. Jesus is literally our salvation.
- Joshua was a servant to Moses before he became leader; and Jesus became a servant, serving God's purpose in the plan of salvation before He became Savior—in other words, it was by His being a servant of God and fulfilling His mission that He became our Savior—as Jesus prayed, “not my will be done by thy will be done.” I think many people don't fully appreciate that Jesus was fulfilling the Father's will, serving the Father, as He completed the plan of salvation and died as our substitutionary Savior.
- Joshua was commander and leader of the people—and Jesus is our Commander and Leader.
- Joshua leads the people into the promised land and Jesus leads His saved into the heavenly promised land.

Read the third paragraph,

- Though dead, Moses still dominates the first chapter. His name is mentioned ten times, Joshua's only four. Moses is called "the servant of the Lord" while Joshua is referred to as "Moses' assistant" (Josh. 1:1, NKJV). It will take a lifetime of faithful service and obedience for Joshua to receive the title "servant of the Lord" (Josh. 24:29, NKJV). *Adult SS Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 7.

There is no question that the Bible calls Moses the servant of the Lord—and Jesus in the parable of the talents, commends the two faithful with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:21,23.

And in Revelation chapter 7, the angel from heaven comes to the angels at the four corners of the Earth who are holding back the four winds of strife and tells them to hold until the "servants of God are sealed in their forehead."

What do you think about this terminology of being a servant of God?

Do you remember Graham Maxwell's book, *Servants or Friends*? Taken from John 15:15, where Jesus says to His disciples,

- I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15 NIV84.

Is there a difference between being God's servant and being His friend? What is the difference?

The servant, as Jesus is using the term in John 15:15, is the one who doesn't understand the master's business yet who does what the master says—and he obeys merely to not get in trouble. He is the one who doesn't understand the master, and he doesn't even care to. He just wants to be obedient, follow the dos and don'ts, and avoid getting into legal trouble. This is the obedience of a well trained dog, or a self-centered person who is focused on their performance, on their rewards, or avoiding punishment. It is the legal mindset of obedience rule-keeping, fear of doing things wrong and looking for the rules or person in authority to tell you what is right. It is the imposed-law mindset.

Whereas the friend is the one who enters into understanding cooperation with the master. The friend also obeys, but he does so from a sense of agreement, loyalty, devotion, love, and trust for and in the master. The friend seeks, as far as possible to understand what the master actually wants, why the master wants it, and will even offer suggestions and enthusiastically seek to bring their creativity and skill to the task. This is design law—understanding how and why things work the way they do and intelligently cooperating because we agree and prefer the methods and ways of the master.

But what struck me recently is that the typical way we think of a servant, the one who does what the master says or what the rules say to avoid getting into trouble or to earn rewards, is the way of the

world, how fallen humanity thinks, the way of the imposed law, rule over by power methods of the kingdoms of this world—and it does NOT represent God’s true servants. People who, like Moses, are called both God’s servant but also God’s friend.

And I had this thought, do you agree? A person cannot be a true and faithful servant of God, one cannot complete the mission for our heavenly master or fulfill His calling, unless they are actually His friend!

In other words, all of God’s trustworthy servants are trustworthy only because they have actually become His friends.

These people actually know God (John 17:3) and, therefore, know His character, design-law methods, and principles and have been won into loyal friendship with Him and, thus, can say of Him what is right (Job 42:7). This is only possible when they have rejected the imposed-law lies and embraced the truth of God’s design laws such that they have stopped worshiping a creature and returned to worshiping the Creator.

And this brings us back to the Revelation 7 passage about God holding back the winds of strife until His servants are sealed in their forehead. In Scripture, God’s true servants are also called His prophets:

- Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets Amos 3:7 NIV84; (see also 1 Kings 14:18; 2 Kings 9:7, 17:23, 21:10; Ezra 9:11; Jeremiah 7:25, 25:4, 26:5, 29:19, 35:15; Ezekiel 38:17; Daniel 9:10; Zechariah 1:6).

God’s trustworthy prophets are not limited to those who foretell the future, as Daniel and John did. Rather, they are God’s spokespersons, the ones who are God’s friends, the ones who know God personally and can say of Him what is right; they are the ones who go to the people with a message from God, a message that only a friend can rightly deliver.

And at this time in history, God is waiting for His people to reject the imposed law lies about Him, return to worshiping Him as Creator so they can be sealed in heart and minds and as His trusting and trustworthy friends, serve Him by giving the testimony of Jesus, the testimony that Jesus gave that He and the Father are one, and that if you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father and that God’s laws are design laws and He is not the source of inflicted torture and death, but the source of life, the Creator, our Savior and Deliverer from sin.

Moses was a friend of God yet was called His servant because only a true friend can provide the service God wants—and that is the service of telling the truth about Him!

True service is taking the message of God’s character of love to the people. This is the work God calls a special end-time group of His servants to fulfill for Him right before His second coming.

## MONDAY

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The lesson suggests the book of Joshua is divided into four sections:

1. Cross
2. Take
3. Divide
4. Service

The first three, represent God's initiative, directions—cross over, take the land, divide it among the tribe, and then the response of the people to serve Him in obedience.

Read last paragraph,

- Thus, the structure of the book itself conveys its main message: God's initiatives are not accomplished automatically. Instead, they require the faithful response of His people. That is, with all that God has done for us—including all that He has done for us that we cannot do for ourselves—we are then called to do what we can do for ourselves, which is to obey what God commands us to do. This is how it has always been in all of sacred history, and it remains so today. For example, the depiction of God's end-time people in Revelation 14:12 conveys the same idea: faith in what God has done for us, which leads to obedience. *Adult SS Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 8.

From what we have already discussed, what kind of obedience does God want?

Is everyone who chooses to obey God, in other words if you ask them why they are doing this or that, they answer, because they are obeying God, actually obey God?

Can a person think they are obeying God when they are not? Isn't the first question, what god are they obeying? Isn't history filled with accounts of people doing all kinds of atrocities in the name of their god?

Could people be thinking and claiming they are worshiping Yahweh and still be God's enemy? What about those Jews who crucified Christ?

And could people think they are worshiping Jesus and call themselves Christians and be His enemy? What about the Dark Ages people who called themselves Christians and burned heretics at the stake?

What then is the key to really being obedient to God? One must actually know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent (John 17:3). We must become His friends in order to give proper service in order to actually obey.

God is wanting His people to mature to grow up, to become His understanding friends and this requires we reason and think and understand His design laws, how reality works, why this is good and that is bad, as Hebrews states,

- But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Hebrews 5:14 NIV84.

God in Christ, provided the way, the means, whereby any individual human can be saved from sin. But, can God, save a sinner from sin, through all that Jesus has done and is doing, without that sinner's individual participation?

Why or why not?

Does God have the power to reach into any being's heart and mind and make changes? Then why doesn't God do that?

- First, if He did He would not be the God of love, truth, and freedom but of lies, coercion, and selfishness.
- Such an action would violate love and liberty
- Such an action would be evidence Satan's charges against God are right
- But, how reality works, if God were to do that, that very action would destroy the individual God wants to save. To make changes in a person's heart and mind against their will either turns them into a robot, a brainwashed drone, or erases them and their unique personhood and replaces them with a new individuality. The only way to save each individual person is by the freewill choices of that individual to participate in the FREE salvation Jesus has provided.

For us to be saved we must choose for ourselves what we believe, who we trust, what we value, who we will follow—we have to choose what we watch, read, internalize into our hearts. Do we refuse to read the Bible? Do we refuse to believe that God created life and human beings in His image? Do we choose to believe in godless evolution? Do we choose to believe that might makes right?

Do we choose to believe righteousness can be achieved by might and power or do we believe "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord." (Zechariah 4:6).

Do we believe the Father is just like Jesus, and was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself, that God is for us and therefore no one can stand against us, or do we believe that the Father is against us, that His justice requires Him to kill us and that we need Jesus to plead to the Father, pay the Father with the blood of a human sacrifice to prevent the Father from torturing and killing us?

Do we have faith, trust in the Father, or do we have faith in the mechanics, the mechanisms, the legal loopholes we have created with our own human law thinking that propitiates the Father, that pays legal debt?



Do we believe that our salvation is determined by a judicial decision by the heavenly judge, and that decision is made based on made up rules and legal claims—like, there is a judgment in heaven and there are legal record books of all the sins you have committed, and when your name is presented in the judgment God opens the book and He looks to see if in that book 1) a legal stamp of acceptance of the legal pardon of Jesus has been applied to your account, and 2) that every sin ever committed has been confessed and the legal pardon has been placed against those sins, and 3) God then turns away from your life record and turns to Jesus' life record and declares, “even though this person is wicked, sinful, and unrighteous, I declare, because he has claimed Jesus as his legal substitute, and because Jesus paid his legal penalty, that this unrighteous person is now considered by me to be legally righteous. I do not see the truth of who he is, and the rest of you are not allowed to see the truth either, my legal ruling declares that I, and therefore all who are loyal to me, will see him as righteous even though we all know he is not.”

Do you think what I just described sounds right? That is what penal substitution theology teaches and it is a fraud, it mischaracterizes God as the source of death, it makes God out to be dishonest, it obstructs true healing and transformation from people, it keeps people afraid of God, and it is all built in the lie that God's law works like human law.

Or do we believe truth, that God's judgments are always the judgments of reality, of what is actually true. That God never lies, never pretends, never creates legal fictions. When God sees the perfect righteousness of Christ when He examines all of His saved, it is because the perfect righteousness of Christ is actually, in reality, in truth, living within them.

- This is why Paul wrote, “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). T
- his is why Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again with a new spirit, a new life, the life of Christ. T
- his is why Peter wrote we are to be partakers of the divine nature.
- This is why Jeremiah and Hebrews says that in the new covenant the law is written in our hearts and minds.
- This is why Paul told Timothy God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and sound mind.
- This is why the symbol of conversion is baptism, we actually die to the old life of fear and selfishness and rise with the new life of love and trust that Jesus restored into humanity.
- This is why Paul told the Corinthians, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV84).

This is reality, we are actually, in truth, in reality, transformed, receive a new life, the sinless life of Christ, the new animating energy of love and trust and that life perfuses us, and as we choose to every day align with and live out His desires, motives, truths, we are transformed and healed.

And this is why the book *Christ's Object Lessons* says the following about why the Father sees the perfect righteousness of His Son when He examines us, and this is using the metaphor of the robe of Christ's righteousness:

- This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity **wrought out a perfect character**, and this character He offers to impart to us. “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we **of ourselves can do is defiled by sin**. [Because everything we do of ourselves is motivated, driven by, animated by the spirit of fear and selfishness we inherited from Adam. And Paul wrote in Romans 14:23 whatever is not of faith, not motivated by a spirit of love and trust is sin, because sin is a breach of trust, it is seeking for self, motivated by distrust.] But the Son of God “was manifested to **take away our sins**...[Not take away God’s punishment for sin, or take away the historical record of sin, but to take away our sin, our sinful fear ridden self-centered spirit that corrupts us and replace it with a new spirit, the spirit of love and trust that animates us and motivates us to love and loyalty to God] By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. **When we submit ourselves to Christ**, [Can God do this for us? Or do we have to choose to surrender, to submit ourselves, our lives to Christ? The penal legal model obstructs this. Understand this clearly, the penal legal model teaches people to submit their sins to God, their crimes to Jesus, so that Jesus can take on the legal responsibility to pay for their crimes and erase those crimes from the legal registry. They are not actually submitting their old life of fear and selfishness, they are operating under the lie of Satan that God’s law functions like human law and seek to protect themselves from legal consequence and claim that an innocent party pay for their crimes. In truth, when we submit ourselves to Christ, we surrender our lives, and say I place my life in your hands, see the wicked way in me, created in me a new heart and right spirit, purge from me everything that is out of harmony with you. Make me, not an accounting book, righteous.] **the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.** *Christ’s Object Lessons* p. 311.

Why is it that when the Father examines us He sees the perfect righteousness of His Son? Because as the Bible teaches, it is no longer I that lives but Christ lives in us. Or as Paul wrote,

- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV84.

This is reality, we become righteous through faith, through trust, we receive a new life. This is also described in the book *The Desire of Ages* in commenting on what Jesus told Nicodemus:

- 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 Revelation describes is the reality of the saved when Jesus returns in these words:

- They overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb [the sinless life of Jesus, Leviticus 17:11 the life is in the blood. These individuals have been reborn to receive the new life, the spirit of Christ, so that it is no longer their old selfish spirit motivating them, but the life of Christ.] and by the word of their testimony; [which is the same testimony Jesus gave, that Jesus and the Father are one. These individuals are Creator worshipers, they have rejected the lie that God's law functions like human law. They don't teach that God needs a human sacrifice offered to Him to pay Him off and prevent Him from killing us, but teach that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. That God was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself. That when we see Jesus we see the Father. And they have partaken of Jesus life, who lives in them, therefore, as the text states next:] they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelations 12:11.

These are the righteous, these are the ones who are like Jesus for they have His actual life reproduced in them and they are in reality righteous. And that is why God sees them as righteous, because they are.

And it is only by receiving the life of Christ through trust that we are enabled to obey God, and do what the lesson references when they cite Revelation 14:12:

- This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. Revelation 14:12 NIV84.

We can only be faithful to Jesus if we have been reborn with His Spirit. We can only be faithful to Jesus if we tell the truth about Him and His Father.

Sadly, many people I have met think that being faithful to Jesus in the end times will come down to observing the correct and only authorized Sabbath—but the Jews who crucified Christ wanted Him down from the Cross to observe the correct and authorized Sabbath. They were not faithful to Jesus. Why? Because they believed in the imposed legal understanding of God's law. They rejected everything Jesus taught, that God's laws are design laws and God's commandments are expressions of love for God and each other. And love cannot be achieved through law and law enforcement.

Satan is the legalist. Satan is the originator of the lie that God makes up rules and uses His power to punish rule breakers. Understand Satan's methods are the methods of edicts, claims, proclamations, the authority of office to assert one's legal right in order to rule over others for the exploitation of them for the benefit of the ruler, in other words it is law because the one in charge said so.

We see this in the Bible's description of his fall:

- How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “**I will ascend** to heaven; **I will raise my throne above** the stars of God; **I will sit enthroned** on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. **I will ascend above** the tops of the clouds; **I will make myself** like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Notice the method—it is one of assertion, of proclamation, of arbitrary declaration, rule-making, the authority of office, of artificially created distinction. This is the system of imposed law, made up rules, it is the way Satan’s kingdom and all the kingdoms of this world operate and why Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.”

And all governments of the world operate on people rising over others, using made up rules, claims, proclamations to rule over, dominate, and ultimately exploit the masses for the benefit of the elites, taxes, armies, workers etc.

But notice the clear distinction in Jesus:

- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, **being in very nature God**, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, **taking the very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Notice—Jesus didn’t claim a position, didn’t assert a position, didn’t use rules to take a position, His position was one of reality. He was in very nature God. This is design law, reality, it is what it is. And He didn’t think that equality with God was something to cling to but voluntarily surrendered it and took upon Himself our actual nature. He didn’t declare, claim, proclaim something, He actually became human. He didn’t declare humanity was righteous with God—He actually, in reality, purified humanity, purged the infection, made the species in reality, the humanity He took upon Himself right with God again.

And we can partake of that reality. And Satan aggressively works to obstruct this truth, this reality, by his lie that God’s law functions like human law and that God only legally declares people to be righteous, while they remain unrighteous.

The entire system of penal legal substitutionary atonement is a satanic lie built upon the lie that God’s law functions like human law and it interferes with the plan of salvation and the cleansing work Jesus is doing in heaven today.

And it leads to other problems. Because of the way human systems work, with some people rising up and ruling over, and then following what the leaders says. Humans are conditioned to believe this is how things work best and the church devolves into a system of elites ruling over, priests, elders, pastors, conference leaders become theological rulers who make rules and interpret the Bible and

decide orthodoxy and the members are to follow the edicts, interpretations, decisions of the leaders or be disciplined, called heretics and purged from the church.

But this is untrue and not what the Bible teaches. Every leader in the church is a sinner and saved by grace and while we are given different gifts none stand above another in God's plan of salvation. While some are gifted with teaching and preaching others are gifted with musical skill, others with finance skill, others with administrative skill, others with medical skill, and we want people with skill to lead in those departments of the organization. But when it comes to salvation, no person can lead your soul. Every person must be persuaded in their own mind. Romans 14:5.

Thus at Come and Reason Ministries, I do not stand above any other person; and every person is invited, encouraged, admonished to think and reason for themselves to ask questions, to study. And my greatest growth happens when my ideas are challenged. I may not agree with you but that doesn't mean I don't appreciate it.

Our pastors and church leaders are to be respected and we value their organizational leadership, but they are not infallible, and they are not the source of truth and we would do serious error to surrender our thinking to any of them.

## **TUESDAY**

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The title for the lesson is Heirs of Promises—what promises and for what purpose?

- You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs according to the promise**. Galatians 3:26-29 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Are these heirs the heirs of the same promise that we read about in the lesson?

What is the promise to which we are heirs?

Was it the promise of Genesis 3:15? What about the promise made to Abraham about the land? What land and who inherits it?

Would these words of Jesus indicate anything about the land that is part of the promise and who the inheritors are?

- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 NIV84

Is this a different promise or the same promise Paul is referencing for those who are in Jesus? What about to Abraham—was this also the ultimate promise?

There were two promises made to Abraham, with two lands, two laws, two agreements, two starting points, two ending points, which corresponds to the two covenants.

One was local and temporary the other universal and eternal.

## Two Covenants

Grace	Law
Eternal/Universal	Temporary/Provisional/Regional
Design law	Imposed law
Law written on the heart	Law written on stone <sup>1</sup>
Entire world	Palestine
All humanity	Jews
Started with Adam's fall	Started with Abraham's call
Purpose: Eliminate sin from universe	Protect Written Word/Avenue Living Word
Applies to all the universe	Applies to Jewish nation in Bible times
Never ends/completes at end of 1,000 years.	Ended at Jesus' crucifixion/resurrection.

What makes one an inheritor of the promise? Faith or trust in Jesus.

So the Hebrews are entering the regional promised land for the purpose of fulfilling the local covenant to be the avenue for the Messiah, be God's witnesses to the world about Him and the plan of salvation, and be the protectors of the Written Word.

## WEDNESDAY

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Read third paragraph,

- Today, in fulfilling the mission entrusted to them by Christ, Christians face similar challenges to those of Joshua; that is, they are required to wage war against their own sinful tendencies, against the principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the hosts of wickedness. Like Joshua, they also have the assuring promise of Christ's presence: " 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age' " (Matt. 28:20, NKJV). As the supporting presence of the Lord was enough to expel the fears of Joshua, so it should be sufficient to

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<sup>1</sup> This does *not* mean that Ten Commandments were done away with or are no longer binding, but that in the new covenant the complete aspect of the law of love (love for God and man), which are codified by the Ten Commandments, are no longer externally written upon stone but are internally written upon the heart (Hebrews 8:10).

banish our doubts and anxieties today. *Adult SS Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 10.

What kind of war are we in?

What are the weapons we are to use?

What is evil and how are we to fight against it?

Can God eliminate evil from His universe by the use of might and power?

Why do you think so many in the church teach He can?

Where does sin and evil operate? How can God eliminate sin and evil from hearts and minds?

## **THURSDAY**

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The lesson asks us to read Romans 3:31:

- Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. Romans 3:31 NIV84

Then read the fifth paragraph,

- To pit faith in the atoning and sacrificial death of Jesus in our behalf against obedience to God's law is to set up a false and dangerous dichotomy. Law and grace always go together. Only a superficial understanding of the role of the law can lead to perceiving "law" and "grace" as opposites. *Adult SS Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 11.

Does it make a difference in how we understand law? If we understand God's law to be imposed, what do we believe Paul meant and how do we hear the paragraph?

If design law, how do we explain it?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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### **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:

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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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