



2025 4Q Lessons of Faith From Joshua Lesson 3 Memorials of Grace

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read the first three paragraphs,

- The police officer signaled. John had to pull over. The officer asked for his driver's license, and, at that moment, it dawned on John that he had left his wallet, with his driver's license, in the office. John explained what happened, and the officer asked about his job. John responded that he was a professor. As the officer gave John a ticket, he told him not to think of it as a fine.

"It's tuition," he said. "When people want to learn something, they pay tuition. This is your tuition to learn not to forget your license when driving. Have a good day, professor!"

As human beings, we are prone to forget things that are not constantly in our sight. We forget to return phone calls, respond to emails, water the plants, send birthday wishes, and so forth. The list could go on. Forgetting about our spiritual needs, however, could have more severe consequences than simply receiving a fine, especially because we are dealing with what is, literally, our eternal destiny. *Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 22.

Did you smile when you first read the officers witty reply?

But what do you think of the overall message here?

Do you find justice in what the officer did?

What kind of law is the officer applying?

In comparing the professor's forgetting his license with how we may spiritual things, what are they suggesting?

Are they suggesting that if we forget to observe the Sabbath for instance, that we will have a ticket issued in our record in the heavenly court, and if we don't get the blood of Jesus applied to that oversight in our legal record, then the heavenly judge will have to find us guilty and kill us?

Are they suggesting our salvation is dependent upon our memory?

I have had more than one person in my life tell me that they worry about the judgment because they are afraid that there might be some sin that they have forgotten to confess and therefore the legal payment of Jesus was not legally applied to that sin on their sin registry in the heavenly legal court

system, and therefore, in the judgment God will still be required to punish them for that one sin they forgot to confess.

I haven't shared this story in many years, but this is from my book *Could It Be This Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*, the chapter on the seven myths of forgiveness.

During last week's AACC World conference in Nashville, we had people from all over the country come up and tell us how much this book has helped them and their patients.

- John was a member of a conservative Christian denomination who believed that, in order to be saved, he must repent of each specific and individual act of sin. His belief caused him great insecurity in his Christian walk. He constantly worried that he might forget to confess something that would prevent his salvation.

Finally he became so troubled that he suffered a heart attack and was rushed to a hospital emergency room, where his heart stopped four times. Each time, the medical staff defibrillated his heart, and each time it started again. Later he recounted that between each defibrillation he woke up thinking, *I hope there isn't some sin I forgot to confess that will keep me out of the kingdom*. John believed that God doesn't forgive until we ask.

Consider a first-grade boy who sees one of his classmates with a pen that lights up when squeezed. Coveting the pen, he steals it. As he grows up, he continues to steal things along the way until one day, as an adult, the authorities arrest and punish him.

After being caught, he repents and experiences a true change of heart. From that point onward he is honest in all his dealings. He goes out of his way to avoid even a hint of dishonesty. If he encountered a gray area on his taxes, he always chose to pay extra rather than do anything that might get construed as cheating. Accepting Christ as his Savior, he lived in harmony with God the rest of his life. But he never remembered about the pen in first grade. Do you think that when he comes up in the judgment God would meet him with the following verdict?

"You have been a true and trusted friend, like David of old, a man after my own heart. You have been honest and faithful and have been healed in the inner man. Your heart is right and you love and practice methods in harmony with mine, but you never asked to be forgiven for stealing the pen in first grade. I'm sorry, but you can't enter heaven."

We can't imagine God being so arbitrary. The issue isn't whether we remember every mistake we ever made. Instead, the issue concerns the condition of our heart and mind. Have we been healed? Has God restored His image within us?

-- *Could It Be This Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*, p. 112-113.

It isn't about forgetting—it is about choosing to surrender our old fear-driven life to Jesus and receive a new life, be reborn with a new spirit of love and trust, and then choosing to prioritize God and His kingdom, so we establish routines with God, not out of rule-keeping, but just like with our family,

because we love Him. This is not a matter of forgetting, but saying in our heart that we value God more than the things of this world. But if we value things of this world more than God, regardless of what religious behaviors we engage in, that has serious consequences on our spiritual health.

SUNDAY

Read third paragraph,

- The term translated “sanctify” (Josh 3:5) or “consecrate” (ESV) refers to a purification process similar to what the priests followed before beginning their service in the sanctuary (Exod. 28:41, Exod. 29:1) and what the people of Israel carried out prior to God’s revelation at Sinai (Exod. 19:10, 14). This consecration involved the laying aside of sin and the removal of all ritual impurities. The same command appears in Numbers 11:18, relating to an impending miracle of God. Such a preparation also was required before battles were fought in a war (Deut. 23:14). Before God can fight for Israel in battle, they must show their allegiance to Him and trust in Him as their Commander. -- *Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 23.

What is being sanctified, consecrated, purified? The lesson points to the ritual purification, the ceremonial cleansing—like our baptism ceremony today.

Did such ceremony, ritual, including water baptism, actually purify, sanctify, or consecrate anything?

What is the purpose of such ritual? It is object lesson, metaphor, symbolism to teach reality—what is the reality it is to teach? The cleansing, sanctifying, purifying, consecrating of people, of hearts and minds, of the spirit temple!

Does the language of sanctify or consecrate in relation to the sanctuary service bring any other texts or doctrines to mind?

What about Daniel 8:14 and the cleansing of the sanctuary?

Here is the NIV for Daniel 8:14:

- “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.” Daniel 8:14 NIV84.

This doctrine has been soundly criticized by many, one criticism that has probably been the most effective, is the criticism that the 2300 days are not prophetic days and should not be interpreted as 2300 years, and instead apply to Antiochus IV’s desecration of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabees and the defeat of his forces and the rededication of the temple at that time. And I have heard this for years, but never really paid much attention to this criticism, until recently one of

our class members challenged me to do so. And I really appreciate that challenge, and have dug in on this.

To be clear, there are multiple lines of argument that suggest this possibility, thoughtful people have not just conjured this up or invented it from nothing, but have concluded this from, I believe their honest searching for truth. But that doesn't mean they are correct.

In fact, I do not believe their view is correct, and I thought it might be helpful to review the reasons why I reject the Antiochus interpretation and conclude that the 1844 date is valid for this prophecy.

I also believe that had the SDA church accepted the message given to it in 1888 and embraced the truth that God's laws are design laws, they would not have created the opening for this other interpretation. What I am saying is that, I believe the error is not in the date, but setting the cleansing of the sanctuary message into a legal fiction, attempting to explain this salvation work through human imposed law lens has opened the door for this criticism.

So, the reasons why I think Daniel 8:14 applies to 1844 and also what it is referencing.

The Story Arch of Scripture

The story arch of Scripture is God's creation of a sinless humanity in governance of a sinless planet in a universe in which Lucifer has already rebelled and a war of ideas, methods, principles focusing on God's trustworthiness was raging. When Adam and Eve believed the lies about God and broke trust with Him, they were changed from beings motivated by love, truth, trust, loyalty, to beings motivated by fear and selfishness.

This break with God would have resulted in death immediately (as God is the source of life) if God did not intervene (intercede) and suspend those consequences for a time to allow His plan of salvation to be accomplished (Romans 3:25). Right there in Eden, as recorded in Genesis 3:15, the Messiah was promised to destroy sin and Satan and provide salvation (Hebrew 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:10).

Adam and Eve's sin did not change God or God's law but changed them. They were no longer motivated by the spirit of love and trust, but fear and selfishness. Their condition became terminal, dead in trespass and sin. They did not have a *legal* problem but a *lethal* problem.

They needed salvation, a remedy, a cure, a new life, a new sinless spirit, a new animating energy, which they could not conjure, create, work for, discover, obey themselves into, find through ritual, ceremony, or in any other means provide for themselves. Thus Jesus, the "Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world" (Revelation 13:8), became a real human being, descended from Adam, through David (Romans 1:3), and was tempted in all points like us, but without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus, in His humanity, destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness and replaced it with His perfect sinless life, spirit, animating life-giving power resonate with perfect truth, love, and trust.

Upon His resurrection He ascended back into His Father's presence *in His humanity!* Jesus returned to heaven with His love-gift to His Father, the redeemed, cleansed, restored, perfected, sinless humanity that He purged and purified through His sinless life and voluntary sacrificial death. Thus He returned to His Father's presence immediately, just as He told Mary and John, and took up His station, not only as the Son of God, but as the Son of man, as the second Adam.

His victory, in His person, set the species human right with God (justified the race) but it also provides what is necessary for every individual human sinner to be saved from sin. But individual sinners must participate, partake, receive, what Jesus provides and this is done through faith, through restored trust.

When we are won to trust and open our hearts the Holy Spirit takes the sinless life of Christ and shares it with us. We become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), we are reborn with a new Spirit (John 3:3), a new animating motivating energy or life, the life of Jesus and then it is no longer our sinful fear-ridden selves living, but Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20). And this work is metaphorically acted out and described in the sanctuary system.

Understanding this story arch of Scripture, man's fall and God's intervention through Jesus to save, we understand that in Daniel God foretells His plan to save, heal, cleanse and reconcile His people to Himself. Before we can be fully in God's presence again, we must not only experience God's forgiveness, we must be cleansed, purified, freed from the corruption from the control of fear, selfishness, guilt, shame, that sin causes. This is why the Bible describes the church being washed, purified, cleansed, before Christ returns. He does this work to present Himself with a pure bride who is ready to stand in His presence. The cleansing of the bride/church and the cleansing of the sanctuary are the same event.

Antiochus IV's desecration of the temple does not fit in this story arch. It has no place in the plan of salvation, and serves no purpose for God to foretell through prophecy. In fact, how the Antiochus event does fit in the Bible story arch is as another counterfeit to God's truth:

Satan's Counterfeit

Satan has counterfeited God's truth all through history and he has a counterfeit interpretation of Daniel 8:14, which is the Antiochus interpretation

- Cain had a counterfeit offering to what God requires
- Magicians in Egypt counterfeiting the miracles of God
- Various false prophets throughout history
- Baal worship—Baal, son of El, god of weather, fought the great serpent, fought Mot, god of death, died, rose again to bring life to the land—but Baal required sacrifice, payment, and appeasement. It is a legal religion.
- Jeroboam setting up alternate worship centers in Bethel and Dan to Jerusalem
- The mystery religions at the time of Jesus, with dying rising saviors, baptisms in blood, various communion services.

- The legal counterfeit to true Christianity when Constantine converted.
- Satan seeks to counterfeit all of God's truths, and he inspired Antiochus to do what he did and sets up a counterfeit to the true message of Daniel.

1844 Fits Daniel's Pattern

The 2300 years ending in 1844 with Jesus starting the cleansing work fits with the theme of Daniel's other prophecies.

Daniel's prophecies have a recurring pattern—they prophecy the story arch of the Bible all the way down to Jesus setting up His kingdom.

- The multi-metal man ends with the rock destroying the kingdoms of this world and Jesus setting up His kingdom.
- The lion, bear, leopard, grotesque beast, ends with the destruction of the beast and Son of man coming in the clouds
- The ram and goat cover the same story arch, and the interpretation given by the angel to Daniel tells us that the prophecy "concerns the time of the end" Daniel 8:17. And this little horn power will be destroyed but not by human power, Daniel 8:25.
- Understanding that story arch of Daniel 8:14 is not about the Jewish building desecrated by Antiochus, but about the true temple desecrated and cleansed by Christ before His return.

Harmonizes with Other Prophecies of the Same Event

The cleansing of the sanctuary before Christ's return is such an important element in the plan of salvation that the Bible describes it in multiple places and Daniel 8:14 fits perfectly with these other revelations:

- Daniel 7:13 Jesus coming to receive His kingdom and opening the books
- Malachi 3, Jesus coming to His temple to cleanse it
- The parable of the wedding feast
- The day of atonement object lesson of the OT sanctuary,
- The cleansing of the bride of Christ

Evening and Mornings

Some struggle with the 1844 date because the text of Daniel 8:14 uses the language of evenings and mornings rather than days. The modern translations read,

"It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated." Daniel 8:14 NIV84.

The objection asserts that this language does not represent 2300 days, but 2300 evenings and mornings, so 1150 days. However, this requires one to forget God's own description of a day in Genesis one: "there was evening, and there was morning—the first day" (vs. 5 NIV84). The conclusion therefore, that the 2300 evenings and mornings do not represent actual days requires a new, non-biblical, interpretation. So interpreting this as days is consistent with the Bible itself.

Cleansed or Justified?

Another objection is that the word translated in the KJV as "cleansed" is more accurately translated as justified or made right or put right. This is correct, the SDA Bible commentary affirms this, and it is not a problem at all when one returns to design law. In fact, the understanding of justified or put right makes the application to 1844 even more accurate.

Humanity, by Adam's sin, became corrupted with fear and selfishness and no longer in rightness of function, trust, love, truth, with God. In Jesus, humanity was put right, set right, justified, restored to perfect unity and oneness with God by Jesus' purging the infection of fear and selfishness and restoring sinless perfection within humanity, which is reality-based cleansing, purifying, renewing of the spirit temple—the reality of which the building was pointing (John 2:19).

But some object that such a cleansing, purifying, rightifying work is required for sinners before the second coming of Christ. I think this is because of the infection of Roman law and the legalization of Christianity—the teaching that sin and salvation is a legal problem and sins are legal crimes that require external legal enforcement through inflicted punishment and salvation therefore, is legal adjustment in books, rather than cleansing of hearts and minds.

Because imperial/imposed-law requires punishment for wrongdoing, the church of the Dark Ages taught that sin must be punished. This led to the doctrine of purgatory, where after death, conscious souls have their sins purged through punishment. In Roman Catholic theology, entrance into heaven requires the "remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven," for which indulgences may be given which remove "either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin," such as an "unhealthy attachment" to sin.¹ Those who die in grace, but who have not yet fulfilled the temporal punishment required due to their sin can do so in purgatory.

One of the major doctrines that the great reformer Martin Luther rejected was the teaching that conscious souls are punished in purgatory. He disagreed with this doctrine in two ways:

- First, he did not believe in a conscious soul that could experience punishment, and instead taught that the saints sleep peacefully: "It is enough for us to know that souls do not leave their

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The celebration of the Christian Mystery." The Holy See. The Catholic Church. Retrieved 14 March 2017.

bodies to be threatened by the torments and punishments of hell, but enter a prepared bedchamber in which they sleep in peace.”²

- Second, Luther put forth a new theory designed to free people from both the fear of purgatory and the exploitation of indulgences to buy loved ones their freedom from further punishment in purgatory. He expanded Anselm’s satisfaction theory of atonement by adding inflicted punishment. Luther taught the idea that all sin by all humans from all time were placed on Christ at the cross and punished by God at the cross. Thus, for the saints, there were no unpunished sins remaining to be punished, thus there was no need for purgatory.³

Unfortunately, the same root lie underpins both purgatory and Luther’s solution—that God’s law functions like human law and that breaking the law (an act of sin) requires punishment. And the legalistic Adventist pioneers who rejected the 1888 message about God’s laws being design laws, clung to that lie and made the same error Luther did—placing the sanctuary doctrine in a false legal setting and teaching the same distortion as purgatory—that all sins require punishment, either they get punished in Jesus, or God will punish people the appropriate time they deserve after the 1000 years. And the sanctuary doctrine is falsely taught as legal accounting and determining how much punishment each person deserves for their sins. The Catholics have the sins being punished in purgatory in order to purge the soul and save the sinner, the legalistic Adventists have the sins are punished after the 1000 years simply to torture for legal justice sake before execution.

Returning to design law we rightly realize that the cleansing, justifying, putting right is not a legal accounting, but an actual healing of hearts and minds, putting people right with God again. As Abraham experienced. He was born with a natural state of enmity to God, his heart was naturally driven by fear and selfishness, but Abraham experienced a change from distrust to trust. And only AFTER Abraham’s heart has been changed, set right, put right with God, did God recognize, account, and declare that Abraham was justified or righteous because his heart, was in fact, reborn with a new spirit of love and trust and he was set right.

So, the 1844 date fits with the unfolding of time, and the work that needs to be done prior to Christ’s second coming to cleanse the true sanctuary, the one built by Christ with Him being the chief cornerstone. And it fits with history as a real event that is required for this cleansing occurred.

² Weimarer Ausgabe, 43, 360, 21–23 (to Genesis 25:7–10); also Exegetica opera latina, Vol 5–6 1833 p. 120 and the English translation: Luther’s Works, American Edition, 55 vols. (St. Louis: CPH), 4:313.

³ Paul Althaus, Die Theologie Martin Luthers, 7th ed. (1994), 179, 191-195.

A Real Event Happened in 1844

Something really happened in 1844—it is a historical fulfillment of the prophecy. What happened in 1844? Attention was drawn to Jesus as our heavenly High Priest, His soon return, the preparatory work before His return, and the message of the 3 angels began to be preached. All of this is evidence of the cleanse the sanctuary before the second coming. And this is consistent with how reality works—if one returns to design law, it fits exactly with what must happen before Christ returns and how it happens. How is this evidence?

After Christ's ascension into heaven Paul wrote:

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that **he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**" 2Thessalonians 2:4, emphasis mine.

This man of sin did not ride up into heaven and throw Jesus off His throne and proclaim himself to be God in the heavenly courts—no, he did this by replacing the truth about God in the hearts and minds of people with a false version of God. He did this by getting people to believe the lie that God's law functions like human law, and therefore they worship a god who is like Satan in character, the one who is the source and wielder of death. Thus he set himself up in the spirit temple proclaiming himself to be God. This man of sin is the little horn that Daniel tells us wars against the saints:

I beheld, and the same horn made **war** with the saints, and **prevailed against them; until** the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints** of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:21,22 KJV, emphasis mine

But this is not a physical war, it is a war of lies versus truth centering on the character of God:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage **war** as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish **arguments** and every **pretension** that sets itself up against **the knowledge of God**, and we take captive every **thought** to make it obedient to Christ. 2Corinthians 10:3-5, emphasis mine.

And the lie that God's law functions like human law became orthodoxy with Rome and the man of sin was winning, until the saints were given judgment to discern the difference and make a right judgment about God. As Paul wrote:

Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail **when you are judged.**" Romans 3:4 ESV

Thus the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 is God looking down the corridors of time and informing Daniel that the little horn power, the man of sin, will war against the saints and prevail until judgment is given to

the saints, until they gain the ability to discern the truth and judge God to be the Creator and not an imperial dictator, until the hour of God's judgment comes (Revelation 14:7). The saints must understand reality and have the lies that hold them captive removed. And this ability to make a right judgment about God and have their spirit temples cleansed will not occur for 2300 years, because it requires the recovery of the evidence, the Bible must be translated into the language of the people. But when that prophecy comes to completion the message will go forward that the hour of God's judgment has come—the hour for people to make a right judgment about God.

God told Daniel that 490 years will be cut off from that 2300-year period for the Jews to complete their mission and the Messiah to come and complete His mission and do away with the sacrificial system. But it will be 2300 years before the temple where the little horn, man of sin, sets himself up in will be cleansed. Because of how reality works, the cleansing of the spirit temple requires truth be recovered and understood, lies rejected, trust established and hearts renewed. God cannot cleanse hearts and minds by might and power, only by truth and love (Zechariah 4:6; Romans 2:4). Malachi's prophecy describes the same event as Daniel 8:14 and makes clear what is being cleansed are the saved:

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, emphasis mine

This cleansing of the Levites, is the cleansing, justifying, reconsecrating, rightifying of the sanctuary because as the Bible teaches:

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood." 1Peter 2:5, emphasis mine.

Him who overcomes I will make a **pillar in the temple** of my God. **Never again will he leave it.** I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Revelation 3:12, emphasis mine.

The cleansing of hearts and minds only happens through the application of the truth in love, it requires the individual to choose to agree, to believe, to trust. Thus, Jesus could not cleanse the sanctuary from the lies about God and restore trust as long as people believe the lie that God's law functions like human law and that God is the source of inflicted pain and death, because that view keeps Satan enthroned in the temple.

So to me Daniel 8:14 and the 1844 date fit perfectly—a real event happened, the Millerite movement which called people to prepare for Christ's return, which led to a real event, the great disappointment, which led to restudying and re-examining the Scripture, to uncover and understand the truth of Great Controversy over the character and government of God, which brought forth the truth about God's law

being design law, which empowers us with judgment, so we can make a right judgment about Him and give the final message of mercy to the world that will cleanse His sanctuary.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph,

- The authors of the Bible knew and testified to the fact that the God who created the world was never limited or constrained by His creation. Nothing is impossible (Heb. “too wonderful”) for Him to accomplish (Jer. 32:17). His name and His nature are wonderful (Judg. 13:18), and He is beyond our comprehension. *Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 24.

Is this an absolute truth or limited truth?

If God is not constrained or limited by His creation—then why is their sin in the universe? Aren’t Satan, the third of the angels who rebelled, and human beings part of His creation? And has God’s will been constrained and limited by Satan and sinners—or are we saying, as some have done but we DO NOT, that it was God’s will for Satan to sin, for Adam and Eve to sin?

And if God cannot be limited by His creation, are we saying that God does not want every person to be saved? Or does He, and therefore, when everyone is not saved, why are they not saved if God wants them saved? Isn’t it because they have limited God’s power and will in their lives?

So, the statement in the lesson is true only in regard to inanimate non-sapient nature. Inanimate non-sapient nature cannot limit God in anyway, but given the reality of how love functions, the reality of God’s nature and character, that God is love and truth, and love requires freedom, that God’s will and power to heal and save is restrained and limited by the choices of intelligent beings to believe lies, prefer selfishness, and reject Him.

Didn’t we just read how in 1888 church leaders resisted and obstructed God’s will and desire?

Now, are we saying God doesn’t have the power to make changes in the hearts and minds of creatures if He wanted to? No, we are not limiting God’s power, we are understanding reality, how love works and why the Bible says that it is “not by might nor by power but by the Spirit says the Lord” (Zech 4:6) that God wins. Because if God were to use power to reach inside a person to change their heart and mind against their will, without their preferring and choosing it, then God would erase them, destroy their individuality and make either a robot, or replace them with another individual. Yes God has the power to make such a change, but He cannot use power in that way and achieve what He wants, the salvation of every unique individual. Thus, our choices can limit His will.

TUESDAY

The lesson is about remembering God's actions, interventions, blessings, deliverances in our lives. Why is this important?

The last paragraph in Wednesday's lesson quotes EGW,

- "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, p. 196.

Thoughts about this? Do you find this to be true? Does recalling and remember God's leading in the past strengthens your faith, your confidence, and gives you courage to face new problems and obstacles and if we forget we will have more fear and anxiety?

What have you found helps you to remember God's leading in the past?

Read last paragraph,

- The potential question of future generations is significant because it is formulated in a personal way: "What are these stones to you?" Each new generation must internalize and understand the meaning of these stones for themselves personally. The faith in a miracle-making God can be kept alive only if each generation rediscovers the significance of the mighty acts of Yahweh for themselves. Such a faith will make a major difference between living out faithfully Bible-based traditions and traditionalism, the dead religion, deprived of its original value and fervor, of the living generation. In the end, we need to make our Bible-based faith our own. No one, especially our ancestors, can believe for us. *Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 25.

What do you think about this paragraph? I am really troubled by it, it seems so superficial.

The lesson said,

- The faith in a miracle-making God can be kept alive only if each generation rediscovers the significance of the mighty acts of Yahweh for themselves. Such a faith will make a major difference between living out faithfully Bible-based traditions and traditionalism, the dead religion, deprived of its original value and fervor, of the living generation. In the end, we need to make our Bible-based faith our own.

So belief in a miracle working God, having Bible-based traditions, and Bible based faith....hmmm....Jesus said,

- "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord,

Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Matthew 7:21-23 NIV84.

These people are doing miracles, so they believe in a miracle-working God, and the God they believe in is Jesus, so they are Christians, and they are prophesying in His name, so they are believing in the Bible and doing ministry—but they are actually workers of iniquity—how is that?

First, miracles can be counterfeited. Satan can do various miracles, Satan can quote the Bible... and we believe Satan is going to impersonate Jesus and allow himself to be worshiped as Christ. So, are the instructions from the lesson helpful in preparing people to have saving faith, or could people apply those instructions and be one of the workers of iniquity that Jesus described?

What makes the difference? The true worshipers of God actually know Him, which means they know He is the Creator, and His laws are design laws and they are His friends and they know that love, loyalty, trust, devotion, friendship cannot be achieved through law and law enforcement, through punishment and thus they reject the Romanization of Christianity, the lie that God’s law functions like human law. But these workers of iniquity will be just like the religious leaders who crucified Christ, they all believed in the Bible, the Sabbath, health reform, tithing, and the sanctuary system—but they set it all in the imposed law fear based punishing god concept and rejected the Creator and killed Him.

THURSDAY

Read third paragraph,

- Psalm 114 also ties the two events together, not because the author did not see a chronological difference between them but because of the theological significance that the two crossings share. Thus, both events are seen as contributing to a change in Israel’s status, once from slavery to freedom, then from nomadic landlessness to nationhood. In these psalms, the examples of the two crossings illustrate the change in status of the author from oppression, poverty, helplessness, and humiliation to safety, well-being, salvation, and dignity. *Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 27.

Do you recognize any object lesson application to us?

Once we come to Christ, we die to self, we go through the watery grave of baptism and arise to a new life, animated by the Spirit of Christ and are no longer part of this world, we are wanderers here in a wilderness world of sin, this world is not our home, we are longing for our promised land.

- All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would

have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:13-16 NIV84.

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph,

- Generally, we perceive forgetfulness as a normal trait of all human beings. However, forgetfulness in the spiritual sense can lead to serious consequences. *Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2025, Lessons of Faith From Joshua*, p. 26.

Has the SDA church forgotten anything that it needs to remember, particularly from the 1888 GC? Consider this eyewitness testimony to what transpired there:

- “When I purposed to leave Minneapolis, the **angel of the Lord** stood by me and said: "Not so; God has a work for you to do in this place. **The people are acting over the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** [God, through Moses, was leading the people to the promised land and Korah led a rebellion that resulted in the people being lost in the wilderness for the next 40 years] I have placed you in your proper position, which **those who are not in the light will not acknowledge; they will not heed your testimony;** but I will be with you; [And those who rejected the truth that God’s law is design law, and insist that God’s law functions like human law, led the church into the wilderness and we have failed to lead people to Creator worship. And the leaders today who insist on the penal legal fraud also reject EGWs testimony on these issues. They shipped her to Australia then, and they deny her testimony that God is not to be regarded as an executioner of the sentence against sin, nor the one who punishes the sinner for their sin, but the sinners choices causes their own punishment by cutting themselves off from God who is the source of life. The legal leaders still reject her testimony.] My grace and power shall sustain you. It is not you they are despising, **but the messengers and the message I send to My people.** [We see this today and saw this at the GC meeting in St. Louis. We saw it in the interview on AMC, where those who hold to the lie that God’s law functions like human law reject the message of God’s character and methods of love, reject the truth that His laws are the laws of life, reject the special message given to this church that calls people back to Creator worship.] They have shown contempt for the word of the Lord. **Satan has blinded their eyes and perverted their judgment;** [How does Satan does this? Connect this with what we discussed about the cleansing of the sanctuary. The little horn wages war against the saints by teaching God’s law functions like human law, and when believed the man of sin sets himself up in their spirit temple proclaiming himself to be god. And he wins until judgment is given to the saints, until the saints choose truth and have their spirit temples, their hearts and minds, cleansed by the truth and are able to make a right judgment about God. But these people prefer the imposed law lie and thus their judgment is perverted. And the sad reality is, just like the Jewish nation 2000 years ago, just like our church in 1888, many of these people with perverted judgment (and you can diagnose this by asking them how they

understand God's law functions), are in leadership positions in the church. And their judgment cannot be trusted. Even when they act with a sincere heart, they act the role of Saul of Tarsus before Damascus road. Because they are not actually converted. Note the next words of the quote] and unless every soul **shall repent** of this their sin, this unsanctified independence that is doing insult to the Spirit of God, **they will walk in darkness**. I will remove the candlestick out of his place except they **repent** and **be converted**, that I should heal them. They have obscured their spiritual eyesight. They would not that God should manifest His Spirit and His power... Manuscript Release vol. 3 p 191. [This is the latter rain. These individuals who reject the design law truth, who cling to imposed law, with imposed legal punishments, with a god who requires legal blood payments do not want the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and in fact interfere with it. Consider what the same author also wrote about the 1888 GC]

- **An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions**, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren [E.J.] Waggoner and [A.T.] Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan **succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them**. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. **The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted**, and by the action of **our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world**. *Selected Messages Vol. 1* p. 234.

Do we have a lot to unlearn? Yes, there is a need for repentance, to reject the lie that God's law is imposed like Rome's to repent of all the lies we have told about God, that He is the source of pain, suffering, and death, that He needs to be appeased or paid by the blood of a human sacrifice. God will not pour His Spirit upon people to empower them to tell lies about Him. If we want His Spirit to be poured out, we must choose to embrace the truth about Him as Creator and reject the lies that present Him as dictator, and that requires to we return to design law.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Jennings Speaking:

October 10-11, 2025 Bydgoszcz, Poland: Dr. Jennings will be the keynote speaker for the Impact Congress presented by the West Polish Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information contact:

Patrycja Niewolik-Stüpp

Dyrektor Sekretariatów: Misji, Zdrowia oraz Kobiet

Mission, Health and Women Director

West Polish Conference | Trans-European Division

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October 16-18, 2025, Newbold College England: Dr. Jennings will be the keynote speaker for the college's week of spiritual emphasis. For more information contact:

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