



THE
Power OF
LOVE

**TRAINING
AND
EQUIPPING
COURSE**

WORKBOOK

WELCOME

Hello, friend!

Thank you for attending this inspirational Bible teaching and fellowship. Our goal is to help you become a more effective and bolder Christian witness – empowering you to take the life-changing light of God’s love to the world in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ.

As you know, Christianity is truly in crisis. More people who identify as religious are leaving churches – and unbelief is on the rise. Why? We are learning that many are leaving because they have conflicting messages from churches; they simply aren’t able to harmonize an “Old Testament God” with the “New Testament Jesus.” The problem is that a wrong picture of God can destroy our peace, assurance, and souls. But the right picture will change everything!

Our time will be spent studying together and using Scripture, nature, and experience to reason our way to a better, clearer, and refreshing understanding of God’s love and His will. Not only will you learn everything you need to share this message, but you’ll also have complete confidence that this message is sound biblically and logically – giving you the courage to share boldly and joyfully. After all, that’s the mission God has given us!

The Big Overview

Some of the points below you have heard before, and others may be new to you. That’s okay! We’re here to learn and to think – our motto should be the same as the Lord’s admonishment to Isaiah: “Come, let us reason together.”

- God is the Creator, and His laws are the protocols upon which reality is built.
- When God created, He created all things in perfection, flawless, all operating in perfect harmony with the laws upon which life was built by Him to operate.
- Sin is breaking God’s law – being out of harmony with His design – which naturally results in pain, suffering, and death.
- God is now, and has been, working to eradicate sin and save/heal His creation.

- We are finite; God is infinite. No one, including me, knows all truth – we all know “in part and see through a glass darkly.”
- Everyone here comes from a different background, with different stories, different experiences, many different denominations, but we all suffer from the same condition and are in need of the same remedy provided by God.
- It is okay to disagree; seeing things from different perspectives gives us opportunity for growth.
- Understanding this, our salvation depends on healing hearts and minds; it’s not about getting right answers on quizzes.
- The truth heals us and sets us free; thus we will pursue truth, which is moving ever toward the infinite source of truth – our God of truth.
- It is more important to have a heart that loves truth and will grow in truth than it is to have all the right answers today. How many people, when Christ returns, will know with 100-percent accuracy every verse of the Bible? But how many will have been restored to a Godlike character?

Helpful Tips

1. This workbook contains all the presentation slides with places to take notes. Full-color slides for each session are available for free download at **comeandreason.com/love** as PowerPoint files. Permission is granted herein to use in the spirit of this course. The font files, Big Caslon and Lato, are also available to install if needed.
2. There is a citation guide with references for the many concepts we will be discussing this weekend. It will be a good witnessing tool to use with people who want to know where these concepts can be found in their Bible – and from other Christians throughout history who have also recognized and taught these truths.

Once again, our goal this weekend is to learn to trust God completely and, in that trust relationship, develop a Christlike character, and grow in our understanding of God, His methods, principles, designs, and purposes. Let’s also practice God’s principles – living in harmony with His design laws – so that we can effectively take the remedy to the world and, ultimately, see Jesus come.

Thank you for attending. We hope and pray that God will bless our time together.



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SESSION 1

In the Beginning: An Accurate Diagnosis of the Sin Problem

What Kind of Being Is God?



God Is Love

- God is not forgiveness, though He is forgiving.
- God is not power, though He is all powerful.
- God is not knowledge, though He is all knowing.
- All other attributes of God are attributes of His core character, which is love.

How Does Love Function?

- Love is not self-seeking.
- Love is other-centered, giving, beneficent.
- What actions would an other-centered God of love do?
- Would this God create?

In the Beginning, God Created



How Would the God of Love Create, Construct, and Build His Universe to Operate?

- In harmony with Himself or out of harmony?
- Would we expect God's creation to operate in harmony with love?
- What might we call those design parameters?
- Laws—what kind of laws would these be?
- Harmony with these laws results in what?

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach

Scripture: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Science: "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20

Experience: "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34:8
"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'"

John 20:27

**The Problem When We Separate
the Three Threads**



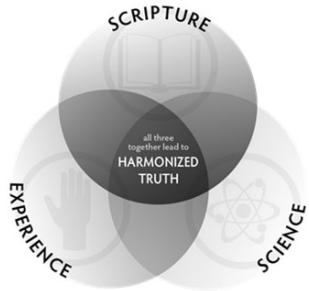
**The Problem When We Separate
the Three Threads**



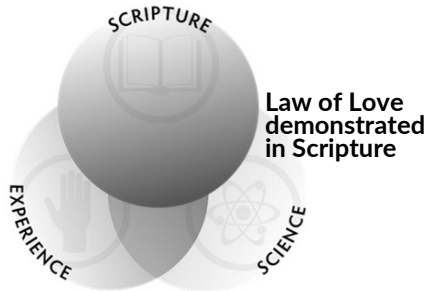
**The Problem When We Separate
the Three Threads**



Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



The Bible Defines God's Law as the Law of Love

"The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Galatians 5:14

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right." James 2:8

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

The Law of Love

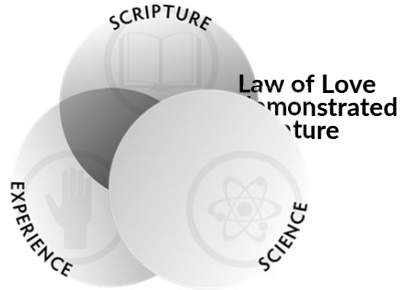
"Love is not self seeking." 1 Corinthians 13:4, 5

"God is love." 1 John 4:8

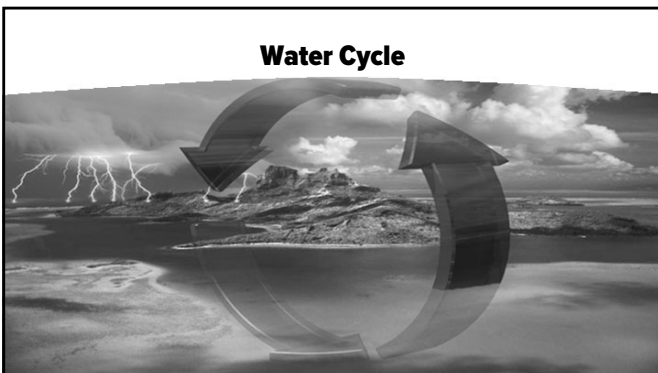
"His eternal power and divine nature." Romans 1:20

"He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." Proverbs 21:21

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



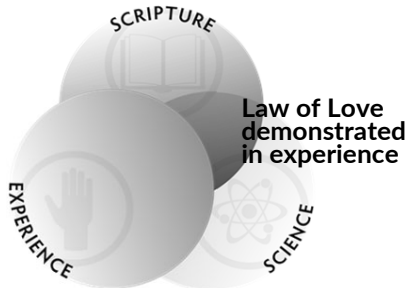
Water Cycle



CO₂ > O₂ Cycle



Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



Law of Love Demonstrated in Experience

Youth who volunteer experience:

- Greater academic achievement, civic responsibility, and life skills that include leadership and interpersonal self-confidence. Post, "S. Altruism and Health Perspectives from Empirical Research," Oxford University Press, New York, 2007: p. 20, 21

Adults who volunteer (after accounting for variables such as education, baseline health, smoking, etc.) experience:

- Longer lives, less illness, less disability, less depression, less dementia, and live independently longer than those who do not. Ibid., p. 22, 26

"The law of the Lord is perfect." Psalm 19:7

If God built the universe to operate upon the Law of Love, then what happened?

Where Did Sin Begin?

- Sin began in heaven.
- With whom?

Sin Began in Heaven

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Ezekiel 28:14, 15



Over What?

What did Lucifer do to deceive 1/3 of the angels?

What did he say?

What issue did he raise?



Lucifer's Temptation

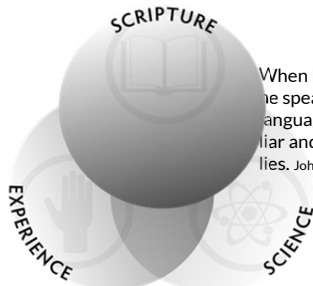
Did he tempt them to chip up the streets of gold?

Did he tempt them with alcohol or drugs?

Did he suggest he had more power than God and challenge God to an arm-wrestling contest?



What Did Lucifer Do?



When he [Satan] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

Falling Dominoes of Destruction

- Lies believed = broken love and trust.
- Broken love and trust = fear and selfishness (survival of the fittest).
- Fear and selfishness = destructive acts (sins).
- Destructive acts (sins) damage the mind, character, and body = a terminal condition.

Imagine You're an Angel in Heaven



How did God respond?

Jesus said, “Let There Be Light”



“Let the Firmament Come Forth”



“Let the Land Come Forth”



“Let Us Make Man in Our Image”

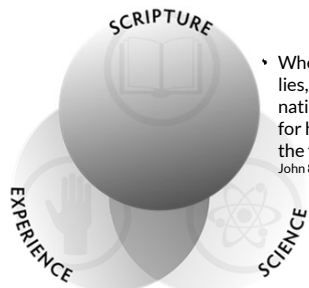


“Let Them Be Fruitful and Multiply”

What Was the Original Purpose of this Creation?

- To create beings with god-like powers and reveal God's character, methods, and principles more fully.
- What would be revealed if Adam and Eve had children in a perfect world?

What Did Satan Do?



- When he [Satan] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:44

Falling Dominoes of Destruction

- Lies believed = broken love and trust.
- Broken love and trust = fear and selfishness (survival of the fittest).
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When Adam and Eve Sinned

- Did God get changed?
- Did God's law get changed?
- Did the condition of humankind get changed?

**“I have been evil from the day I was born;
from the time I was conceived, I have
been sinful.”**

Psalm 51:5 GNB

Accurate Diagnosis

- Sin is transgressing God's design parameters for life, **which damages sinners** by taking them out of harmony with the basis of life and results in death unless the Creator fixes the damage.
- Humanity has a terminal condition in need of healing.

Key Learning Points

- God is love.
- God's laws are design protocols for life, thus Scripture, science, and experience, rightly understood, always harmonize.
- Breaking God's laws damage those who break them
- Humankind was changed by Adam and has a terminal sin-condition.
- God, through Christ, has provided the remedy.

Discussion Questions

What is God's character?

How does love function?

What kind of law is God's law?

What caused Adam and Eve to sin—what caused God's law to break in them?

What was the result of believing lies and breaking trust with God? Who got changed?

So, what is the problem sin caused that the plan of salvation is designed to fix?

Then, where must the action of Christ's work be applied in order to save sinful humans?

How can we use the integrative evidence-based approach to clarify the meaning of the Bible?

How can we apply God's design law of love to determine which doctrines are true?

Was there a time when God existed but hadn't yet created?

Was God still love then? What is the implication?

Why does understanding how love functions support the understanding of the Trinity?

If Jesus is not fully God, what would His death reveal about God?

Who wants us to believe that God is not love?

SESSION 2

The Result: Fear, Shame, and the Masks We Wear

Adam and Eve Ran and Hid Because They Were Afraid



What Is Sin?

- Transgression of the law
- What law? Design law, law of love
- What happens to the sinner? Fear—fear of rejection, punishment, abandonment, with subsequent acts to protect self—fig leaves, lying, and seeking to avoid or destroy those who would expose the truth—which leads to isolation and greater fear.
 - Do we wear our social masks?
 - Why does this happen?
 - Are there laws involved?

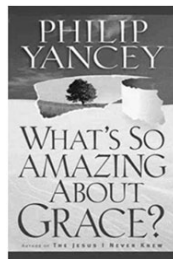
How Did God Respond?

- “Adam, where are you?”
- “Who told you that you were naked?”
- What did Adam do to try to deal with his nakedness?
- How well did that work?
- Was God his enemy?
- Why didn’t he go to God?

What Is Needed to Fix This Condition?

Truth and Love

What Is Needed to Fix This Condition?



Learning Points

- It's not just cognitive—knowing the facts.
- It's experiential—who we are in heart and character.
- We must know God—not as a fact, but as a real being whom we love and trust.
- Thus, Christian witness must include loving people, grace, compassion, along with the truth.

Discussion Questions

Did the young woman in Philip Yancey's book break God's law?

What caused her to break God's law?

Was there any penalty or punishment to her for doing so?

From where did the penalty or punishment come?

What kind of law is this?

What is it that she needed more than anything?

What caused her the greatest concern?

Did she find healing?

From where did healing come?

Did you see love in this story?

Did the young woman have to provide a payment to her family in order for them to love her and forgive her?

Does this have any bearing on the reality of human sin and God's solution?

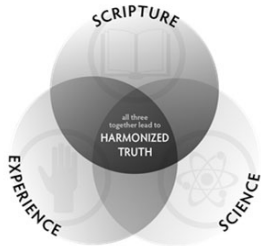
What would the young girl have done if she believed that her family would be required by law to stone her?

Why didn't the family stone her? Do they love more than God?

SESSION 3

The Law of Liberty

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



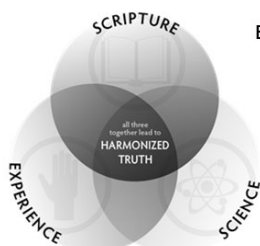
Scripture

- "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." Psalms 119:45
- "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2Corinthians 3:17

Violate Liberty: Three Predictable Consequences

- Love is damaged and eventually destroyed.
- A desire to rebel is instilled in the heart.
- Individuality is eroded (creating a shadow person).

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



Experience

- Consider when you have been coerced.

Zechariah 4:6

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.

How does the Spirit work?

- Truth
- Love
- Freedom

Keys to Discernment

- Use Integrative Evidence-Based Approach
- Always start with "what law lens?"

Physical Side

- Violate laws of health one loses liberty.
- Freedom is only experienced when in harmony with God's design.

Key Learning Points

- Law of liberty is a design law.
- Love only exists in freedom.
- All doctrines must harmonize with God's design laws.
- Punishment for sin comes from the condition of being out of harmony with God's law, not from God thus..."The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law." 1Corinthians 15:56
- What is the power to kill a person who jumps off the Empire State Building, or is trapped underwater?

Discussion Questions

Can love exist without freedom?

Describe various ways in which liberty is violated.

What traditional Christian doctrines or teachings have God violating liberty?

How do we harmonize the law of liberty—that love cannot exist without freedom and, therefore, God cannot be saying, “Love me or I will torture and kill you”—with the many Bible texts that describe punishment and death for sin?

How does understanding design law resolve this tension?

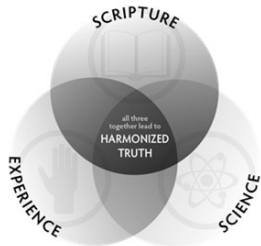
What does this text mean: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law?”
1Cor 15:15

When does love intervene in another’s life and temporarily restrict freedoms? And what is the purpose and the end goal in doing so?

SESSION 4

The Law of Worship

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



Scripture

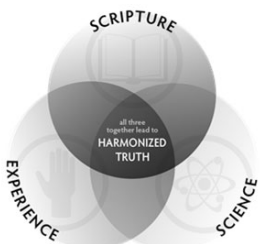
- "Thou shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
- Why?

The Law of Worship

Also known as "modeling"

By beholding, we become changed.
2 Corinthians 3:18

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach

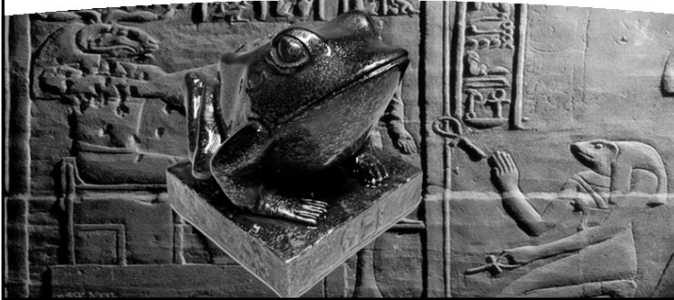


Scripture

- "Thou shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
- Why? By beholding, we are changed. 2 Corinthians 3:18

**The question is not whether we worship.
Rather, the question is:
What are we worshipping?**

Hekek



Karni Mata



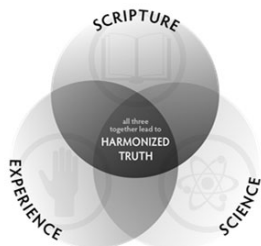
Karni Mata Rat Temple, India



Karni Mata Rat Temple, India



Integrative Evidence-Based Approach

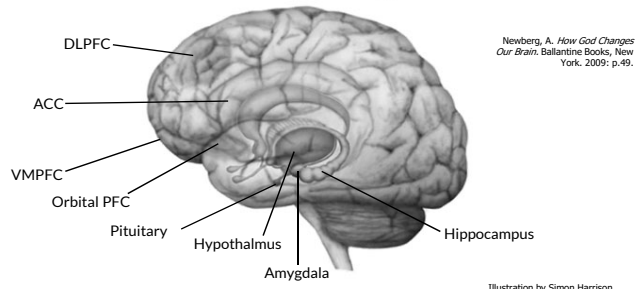


Scripture

- "Thou shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
- Why? By beholding we are changed. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Science

God Construct Changes Brain



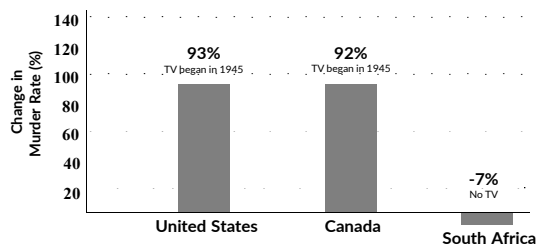
Television and Violence

Television was introduced in ...

- Canada and the United States in 1945
- South Africa in 1974

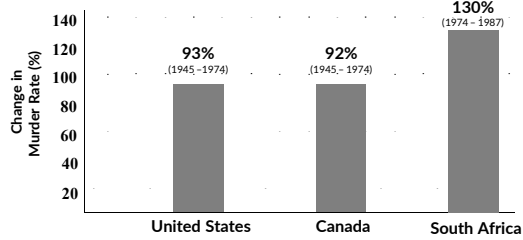
Centerwall, B. S. "Television and Violence." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 267 (1992): 3059-3063.

Change in Murder Rate USA, Canada, and South Africa (1945–1974)



Centerwall, B.S., *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 267 (1992): 3059-3063.

Change in Murder Rate After Introduction of Television in USA, Canada, and South Africa



Centerwall, B.S., *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 267 (1992): 3059-3063.

TV and Attention

In 2007, Drs. Zimmerman and Christakis researched the effects of

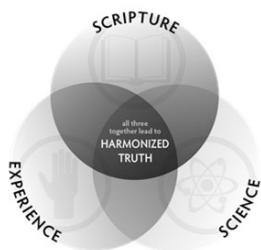
- Violent theatrical programming
- Non-violent theatrical programming
- Educational programming

Findings

- Theatrical programming, violent or non-violent, caused attention problems; educational programming did not.

Pediatrics, 5 Nov 2007; 120(5):986-992

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



Scripture

- "Thou shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
- Why? By beholding we are changed. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Science

- Meditation on God of love calms fear circuitry and is healthy for the brain.
- Fear-inducing God concepts activate amygdala and stress pathways.

Experience

Religiosity vs. Spirituality

- A 2005 study by Dyslin and Thomsen found:
 - Extrinsic religiosity was a significant predictor of child abuse.
 - Intrinsic spirituality was not.
- A 2003 Study by Webber and Cummings found:
 - Physical abuse has a negative relationship with spiritual development but not with religiosity.

Rwanda, 1994

- Over one million people were slaughtered in four months.
- Primary killing zones: churches
- Multiple pastors, priests, and nuns were convicted of war crimes.
- Clergy killed parishioners, and parishioners killed clergy.

Longman, Timothy, *Christianity and Genocide in Rwanda*, p. 6,7.

Rwanda, 1994

"Believing that their actions were consistent with the teachings of their churches, the death squads in some communities held mass before going out to kill. ... People came to mass each day to pray, then they went out to kill. In some cases militia members apparently paused in the frenzy of killing to kneel and pray at the altar."

- Those with an authoritarian God concept participated in the killing.
- Those with a benevolent God concept helped the refugees.
- Regardless of denomination

Longman, Timothy, *Christianity and Genocide in Rwanda*, p. 6, 7.

How Can This Be?

Neuroplasticity

- The ability of the brain to rewire, grow new neurons, delete unused pathways.
- The brain is in state of flux, remodeling itself based on activity.

Neuroplasticity

- The brain can change—structurally—rewire.
- But only if we change which circuits are firing.
- Theologies that chronically fire fear circuits grow stronger, resulting in greater inflammatory cascades, with greater risk of:
 - Mental health problems (depression, dementia)
 - Relationship conflicts
 - Physical health problems
- If we teach God's love, the fear circuits calm resulting in a reduction in inflammatory cascades, which results in:
 - Healthier brains, bodies, and relationships.

Key Learning Points

- Law of worship is a design law.
- We are changed biologically and characterologically based on what we worship.
- Only the truth about our God of love is healing.
- Fear-inducing God concepts are harmful.

Discussion Questions

Does our picture of God make a difference to our health?

Does the law concept we hold (design vs. imperial) impact our view of God?

What happens to us if we hold to a punitive picture of God?

What was the most significant distortion about God that you were taught?

What helped you see it differently?

SESSION 5

God's Law and Government vs. Human Law and Government

How Do You See God and His Law?

AS
DESIGNER
OR
DICTATOR?

How Do You Understand Law?

Designer

- The protocols upon which life is built—laws of health, laws of physics, laws of thermodynamics, law of love

Dictator

- Rules imposed that require external enforcement

**Two Types of Law:
Design vs. Imposed**

Design—Law of Love

- Violations incompatible with life
- Violations require the Designer to heal, fix, restore, lest death ensue
(John 3:17)

Imposed—Imperial Rome

- Violations not incompatible with life
- Violations require ruling authority to punish, impose death, lest unpunished rebellion ensue

Two Types of Law: Design vs. Imposed

Design—Law of Love

- Christ's mission is to destroy sinfulness, destroy Satan, and restore mankind.
- The problem is sin in man.
- True view of God

Imposed—Imperial Rome

- Christ's mission is to pay legal penalty to God, appease God, and propitiate His wrath.
- The problem is anger in God.
- Pagan view of God

Two Ways to Govern/Wield Power

Jesus—God

- John 13—has all power, but washed feet, healed sick, fed hungry and served; the ruler gives freely to support us.
- Wins hearts with love
- Leaves free
- Is open and truthful

Imperial

- Uses power to control others, impose laws and penalties, demand service; we are taxed to support the state.
- Demands obedience through fear of punishment
- Coerces
- Is secretive and deceptive

Two Types of Law

Design—Law of Love

- Sabbath—heal others.
- Woman caught in adultery: forgive, change heart, to live a new life
- Those who disagree? Leave them free. Romans 14:5
- Love your enemies (give life for others).
- Sacrifice self for others
- Turn the other cheek

Imposed—Imperial

- Keeps rules and don't heal
- Woman caught in adultery: stone, punish disobedience.
- Those who disagree? Imprison, torture, kill, or ostracize (Dark Ages).
- Kill your enemies (crusades).
- Demand others serve and obey you
- Violence against family

Reaching the Lost

I.V. Heroin User Infected from Dirty Needles

Design Law

- Breaking Laws of Health
- Does he want to go to the doctor, have his deeds revealed, have the doctor pronounce judgment (diagnosis) and sentence (therapeutic treatment)?

Imposed Law

- Breaking laws of the land
- Does he want to go before the magistrate, have his deeds revealed, and the judge pronounce judgment and sentence?

What Is Biblical Justice?

- Defend the poor and fatherless; Do **justice** to the afflicted and needy. Psalm 82:3
- Wash yourselves clean. Stop all this evil that I see you doing. Yes, stop doing evil and learn to do right. See that **justice** is done—help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend widows. Isaiah 1:16, 17 GNT

What Is Biblical Justice?

- The Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. The Lord is a God of **justice**. Isaiah 30:18 NIV
- This is what the Lord says to the dynasty of David: "Give **justice** each morning to the people you judge! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors." Jeremiah 21:12 NLT

What Is Biblical Justice?

- Delivering the oppressed!
- Not punishing the oppressor.
- Why?
- Because God's law is the design protocol for life, and deviations are naturally destructive to the breaker of the law.

Key Learning Points

- Use Integrative Evidence-Based Approach
- Always start by asking, "What law lens?"
- Governments are built upon the laws of each society.
- God's law is design law—protocols upon which life is designed, requiring God to heal and restore lest death ensue.
- Human laws are imposed rules requiring imposed punishments.
- Justice is defined by the law—design-law justice is healing, imperial-law justice is imposing punishment.
- Teaching that God's laws are like human laws distorts God's character, incites fear, undermines trust, and obstructs the plan of salvation.

Discussion Questions

What is the difference between God's government and human governments?

Do human governments have a different law?

Which type of law is more reliable, predictable, and unchangeable?

What is the just or right action to take when someone violates design law?

What happens to our view of justice if we replace design law with imposed law?

Then what happens to our view of God?

Give an example of where God has been misunderstood or misrepresented because of assuming His law functions like human law.

What stories, analogies, examples from life or nature have you found effective in helping people see the difference between God's law and human law?

SESSION 6

Explaining the Old Testament Through Design Law

“Cursed Is the Ground”

Imposed Law

- God uses His power to inflict punishment for disobedience.

“Cursed Is the Ground”

Design Law

- The protocols for life is broken.
- Nature is deviating from God's design.
- Nature is separated from God's full presence.
- An enemy is sewing seeds of decay. *Matthew 13:38*
- Nature groans under the weight of sin. *Romans 8:22*
- Weeds, thorns, thistles, and death now infect.
- Thus, it becomes harder to reap a harvest.
- God pronounces reality—*not* inflict punishment!

Why Man to Rule Over Woman?

“Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”
Genesis 3:16

Imposed Law

- God is using His power to inflict punishment, and thus, it is God's will.

Design Law

- God is describing what naturally results when selfishness rules in the heart.
- The strong dominate the weak, and the weak long to be protected by the strong.

Why Did God Sometimes Act to Put People in the Grave?

Imposed Law

- God was punishing people for disobedience and sin.

Design Law

- Understands a larger reality...

After Humankind Sinned, What Did God Do?



How Did Satan Respond?

- What strategy could Satan utilize to prevent Christ from coming as a man to save us?
- Would God have Jesus born to a woman like Jezebel?
- Would God force a woman against her will to be the mother of Jesus?

How Did Satan Respond?



How Did God Respond?



Why Did God Sometimes Act to Put People in the Grave?

- After humanity sinned, could it be saved without Jesus?
- At the time of the flood, there was only one righteous man left on the entire earth. The avenue for the Messiah was almost closed.
- How long did God wait to act?
- Always acts of mercy and redemption, not punishment for sin!

How Do You Understand Bible Stories?









Ancient Israel

- Real, historic people who did real things, all accurately recorded as history in the Bible.
- "... as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come." 1 Corinthians 10:11
- Millions of individuals lived—but only a few recorded. Why? It's teaching a larger lesson!

Seven Miracle Births

1. Sarah–Isaac: The promised one who will be sacrificed.
2. Rebecca–Jacob: Overcomes fear and renamed Israel, the father of a nation built upon twelve sons; Jesus overcame temptation to be the cornerstone of the church built upon twelve apostles.
3. Rachel–Joseph: Sold into slavery, but became a ruler to save people; Jesus became a servant but is exalted to be a ruler.

Seven Miracle Births

4. Monoah's wife–Samson: Blessed with the strength to deliver Israel and rule over them; Jesus has the strength to deliver us from sin and rule the universe.
5. Hannah–Samuel: Became high priest; Jesus is our High Priest.
6. Shunammite woman: Child died and was resurrected; Jesus died and rose again.
7. Elizabeth–John the Baptist: Greatest of prophets; Jesus was the greatest of all prophets.

Ancient Israel

- Real, historic people who did real things, all accurately recorded as history in the Bible.
- "... as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come." 1 Corinthians 10:11
- Yet also teaches us a larger reality!

David and Showbread vs. Uzzah

- Sanctuary is theater teaching plan of salvation.
- Showbread represents Christ—our source of life.
- Sharing Christ brings life—thus, David and his men live.
- Ark represents unity with God.
- Only possibly through Christ.
- Uzzah “theatrically” went into God’s presence without Jesus.

Keys Learning Points

- God is Creator; His laws are design protocols.
- God is working to heal and restore.
- Satan is working to obstruct and destroy.
- The Old Testament reveals evidences of God’s grace battling Satan in order to bring Jesus and complete the plan of salvation.
- Real historical figures teaching a larger reality.
- Rituals were theater to teach a larger reality.
- Symbols must be connected to the reality to which they point.

Discussion Questions

What was happening in the Old Testament?

Does viewing the stories through design law change our understanding of what was happening?

What is the difference in declarations and evidence? Which is more powerful in revealing truth?

What is the difference between Bible declarations and Bible evidence? Which is more powerful in revealing truth?

What is the wages of sin or the punishment for sin? Sleep death or eternal death?

Has anyone in history yet died the second eternal death? Then is it accurate and right to describe God's actions as inflicting the punishment for sin since no one in history has yet died it?

What other stories in the Old Testament are clarified by understanding design law?

SESSION 7

What Jesus Accomplished at the Cross

**What was the problem sin caused
that the plan of salvation
is designed to fix?**

When Adam Sinned

- Did God get changed?
- Did God's law get changed?
- Did the condition of humankind get changed?
- Then where must the work of Christ occur to save humankind?
- Do we see why He had to become human?

What Did Jesus Accomplish?

Imposed Law

- A1** • He paid the penalty to protect us from legal condemnation and God's wrath.

A2 Design Law

- Something much more profound. He provided the remedy to our sin condition and made possible this creation's restoration back to God's design.

What Did Jesus Accomplish?

He revealed truth, which exposed Satan as liar, secured the unfallen universe, and win humanity back to trust:

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

What Did Jesus Accomplish?

He destroyed Satan and his power:

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14

Satan’s Power

- Lies—Satan is the father of lies. John 8:44
- Life eternal is knowing God. John 17:3
 - Eternal death is not knowing God.
 - Satan’s power is the lies he tells about God, that if we believe will keep us from knowing Him.
 - Christ revealed the truth which destroys the lies and wins us back to trust.

What Did Jesus Accomplish?

- He revealed truth, which exposed Satan as liar, secured the unfallen universe, and won humanity back to trust:
- Destroyed Satan and his power.
- Destroyed the infection of selfishness and cured humankind.
“Christ Jesus, who has **destroyed death** and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel!” 2 Timothy 1:10

How Did Jesus Destroy Death?

- What is the basis of life?
 - God—the life emanating from Him flows out to all who are in unity with Him and who continue to live in harmony with His design.
- What happens if one breaks this design?
 - One severs the connection with the source of life—dying they die.
 - Death is the natural outcome of selfishness.

Sin Is Deviation from God’s Design and, Thus, Sin Destroys the Sinner

- “For sin pays its wage—death.” Romans 6:23 GNT
- “Sin when it is full-grown brings forth death.” James 1:15 RSV
- “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction.” Galatians 6:8
- “In rejecting God’s structure and establishing our own, in violating God’s intention for the creation and substituting our own intentions, we cause our own disintegration.” Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intervarsity Press, 1996, p. 542

Historic SDA View

- “We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death.” ¹ Selected Messages, p. 235

How Did Jesus Destroy Death?

- In order to destroy death, Christ had to restore humanity back into harmony with the law of love—the law of life.
- Christ loved perfectly and refused to act in order to save Himself.

What Did Jesus Accomplish?

- He revealed truth, which exposed Satan as liar, secured the unfallen universe, and won humanity back to trust:
- He destroyed Satan and his power.
- He destroyed the infection of selfishness and cured humankind.
- Destroyed the devil's work.
“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.” ¹ John 3:8

Historic SDA View

"The life of Christ is to be revealed in humanity. Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God; but Satan has labored to obliterate the image of God in man, and to imprint upon him his own image." E.G. White, *Lift Him Up*, p. 48

Christ restored God's image in humanity!

Jesus Christ Was Unique

- Adam was formed from dust .
- Eve was formed from Adam's side.
- You and I were born from a sinful mother and father.
- Jesus was formed in none of these ways:
 - "When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." Galatians 4:4, 5
 - The Holy Spirit was His Father. Matthew 1:18

Jesus Came to Cure Humanity

- In Jesus, the two antagonistic principles fought it out:
 - Love others or survival of the fittest (selfishness)
- Jesus restored the love of God into the human species and reconnected humanity to God's circle of love/life!

Jesus, in Humanity, Exercised Love to Overcome the Desire to Save Self

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." Luke 4:1, 2

Temptations Overcome

- Turn stone to bread—save yourself
- Jump down—prove yourself
- Bow down—save yourself

Jesus' Temptations

- Jesus was "tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin." Hebrews 2:14
- And each one of us "is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." James 1:14
- Did Jesus experience the internal temptation to save Himself?

Jesus at Gethsemane

- Did Jesus experience powerful feelings?
- What did His feelings tempt Him to do?
 - Save Himself
- But with each temptation, Jesus gave Himself in love instead.
 - "No one can take my life; I will give it freely." John 10:18

At the Cross, More Temptations to Save Self

"He saved others," they said, "but he can't **save himself**! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him." Matthew 27:42

"The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him **save himself** if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.'" Luke 23:35

In Jesus, Love Destroyed Selfishness, in His Human Nature

"Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." Matthew 16:25

When Jesus refused to use His power to save Himself, but instead gave Himself freely, He destroyed death—selfishness being the basis of death—and brought life and immortality to light.

2 Timothy 1:9, 10

Historic SDA View

"The foe who in the wilderness had confronted Christ assailed Him now with fierce and subtle temptations. Had Jesus yielded for a moment, had He changed His course in the least particular to save Himself, Satan's agencies would have triumphed, and the world would have been lost." E.G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 486

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

- Because Adam infected humankind with selfishness and life requires that the law of love be restored into humanity.
- If Christ, at any point along death's approach, had used His power to stop death from consuming Him, who would He have saved?
- The only way to destroy selfishness was by experiencing temptation to act selfishly—but, with a human brain, choose to love perfectly; thus, He established a new, perfect human character.
- Christ restored the law of life into humanity by giving Himself freely in love.

Jesus Rose Again as the Inevitable Outcome of His Victory

- Christ destroyed selfishness, the basis of death.
- Christ restored the law of love into humanity, the basis of life.
- His resurrection was the only outcome of the law of love being restored!
 - "The law of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul." Psalm 19:7

Christ Procured the Remedy

"Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, **once made perfect**, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." Hebrews 5:9, 10

- Wasn't Jesus always perfect?

He was always sinless!

- But character cannot be created; it must be developed by the choices of the individual agent.
- Once Jesus developed a perfect human character, He became the source of salvation or healing.

John 6:53, 54

- Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."
- Flesh: Bread and Word: Truth—destroys lies and wins to trust.
- When we trust with an open heart, the Holy Spirit takes Christ's life and reproduces it in us:
 - "... no longer I that live but Christ lives in me." Galatians 2:20
 - We become "partakers of the divine nature." 2 Peter 1:4

Historic SDA View

"The law requires righteousness—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and **developed a perfect character**. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them." E.G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 762

Why Does the Law Require a Righteous Character?

For the same reason the law of respiration requires that we breathe!

Keys Learning Points

- Sin changes the sinner to be out of harmony with God and His design for life.
- God's design (law) for life could not change, so in order to save humankind, we had to be changed (restored) to be in harmony with His design (law).
- Jesus came to accomplish this work while simultaneously revealing truth and destroying the lies that broke the circle of love and trust.
- The primary lie being that God's law functions like human law.

Discussion Questions

What was the problem that sin caused that the plan of salvation was designed to fix?

What did Christ accomplish?

What happens to how we understand the mission of Christ if we substitute imposed law for design law?

If we accept the lie that God's law functions like human law, then what is the problem that sin caused that Christ needed to fix?

Does such an idea change how we see and understand God?

How do we participate in what Christ accomplished for us at the cross?

How can the legal view of salvation actually obstruct what God is trying to accomplish through Christ in the hearts/minds of people?

SESSION 8

Seven Level of Moral Decision Making

How Do You Tell Right From Wrong?

Level 1: Reward and Punishment

- The most basic level
- Right—if rewarded
- Wrong—if punished
- Nazi soldiers
- Ancient Israel as slaves in Egypt

Ruler Must Be Powerful

- Rulers establish right to rule by powerful displays of might and vengeance on enemies.
- Mercy or failure to punish is viewed as weakness and immoral by Level 1 thinkers.
- People at Level 1 see a God of mercy, one who doesn't inflict punishment, as a “marshmallow God” and insist that God must use His power to inflict torment and death.

God Meets People Where They Are

- God “took vengeance” on the gods of Egypt.
- God displayed power with ten plagues to demonstrate the impotence of the Egyptian gods
- “I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God.”
Deuteronomy 29:6

Level 1 Is So Primitive, It Doesn’t Require a Brain

- Thinking is completely sidelined.
- Animals, plants, and even bacteria avoid painful stimuli and grow toward rewarding stimuli.
- This level of functioning is not worthy of human beings created in the image of God.
- It is Satan’s goal to reduce us to “brute beasts, creatures of instinct” operating at Level 1.

Level 2: Marketplace Exchange

- Quid pro quo: You do something for me in return for something of an agreed-upon value.
 - As ancient Israel said after the law was read, “All the Lord has said, we will do.”
- “Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.”
 - Vengeance is a moral duty—to not pay someone back with equal amounts of pain and suffering is considered immoral.
- This is the health/wellness gospel.
 - If you do these rituals or say this prayer for so many days, you will be blessed of God.

Level 2 Barely Requires a Brain

- Thinking at this level is minimal.
- Animals—dolphins, monkeys, and dogs—can do things in exchange for a treat.
- Motives remain self-focused.
- Level 2 functioning is not worthy of beings created in the image of God.

Level 3: Social Conformity

- “Everyone’s doing it.”
- Right at Level 3 is determined by the consensus of one’s peers or the community.
- Individual vengeance is not allowed, but group punishment is considered mandatory.
- This was ancient Israel when they wanted kings and when they collectively punished/stoned/ostracized.

Level 3 Doesn’t Require Thinking

- Level 3 thinkers look to others to determine what is right and wrong.
- Many herd animals follow the crowd, even if it is right over the cliff.
- Again, this level of functioning is not worthy of beings created in the image of God.

Level 4: Law and Order

- Right and wrong is determined by a codified system of rules and imposed punishments.
- Judgment is deferred to elected or other constituted authorities.
- Authority figures are rarely questioned: "He must be right, he's the judge"—mayor, president, pastor, pope, God, etc.
- As ancient Israel at the time of Christ said, "We have a law."
- Much of the modern world sits at Level 4—with imposed laws, judicial systems, and coercive enforcement.

Level 4 Has a Minimal Level of Thinking

- At Level 4, one only has to think, "What are the rules?" and, "What is the law?"
- Doesn't have to understand why.
- Doesn't have to consider variables—if the rule says it, one must do it.
- Security is found in law-keeping: "I can't be punished if I keep the rules," or in a legal loophole law-keeping—substitutionary law-keeping and legal payments made to appease the legal authority.

Level 5: Love for Others

- Right is determined by doing what is actually beneficial for others.
- People have value regardless of the "law"—e.g., African-Americans have value regardless of Jim Crow laws.
- Right is determined not by checking the rulebook, but by doing that which is actually good for another.
- This was Jesus healing on the Sabbath, socializing with tax collectors, and touching lepers. Also: the Good Samaritan, apostles picking grain on the Sabbath, and David and the showbread.

Level 5 Requires Other-Centered Thinking

- Level 5 is the first level that moves the decision making away from self to others.
- Requires consideration of various options.
- This level doesn't require high cognitive intelligence but does require some emotional intelligence with compassion and concern for others.
- It's about right motives, not right answers.
 - Except you become like little children ...

Level 6: Principle Based

- Understands design law.
- Right and wrong is determined by harmony with how life is actually constructed to operate.
- One doesn't do something "because the rule says so," but because it actually works that way.
- This was Jesus and the apostles after Pentecost.

Level 6 Requires Thinking

- Level 6 not only has a concern for others but a realization of how God constructed life to operate.
- One thinks/reasons through cause and effect.
- Mature individuals don't use illegal drugs, not because they are illegal, but because they violate the laws of health. Thus, even when made legal by the state, they still don't use them.

Level 7: Understanding Friend of God

- Not only love for God and others ...
- Not only understands God's design for life ...
- But also understands and intelligently participates in God's purposes.
- "I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father." John 15:15 Message

Level 7 Is Highest Level of Thinking

- Jesus operated at Level 7.
- As will those who are ready for translation.
- The Scriptures describe those who are ready to meet Christ when He returns as:
 - "Being sealed in their foreheads with the seal of God." Revelation 7:3
 - "Those who do not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." Revelation 12:11

The Seven Levels Through a Child Brushing Their Teeth

Level 1: Reward and Punishment

- It is wrong not to brush because Mom will be mad and the child will be punished. It is right to brush because the child will be praised.

Level 2: Marketplace Exchange

- This is the child who says, "I'll brush if you read me a bedtime story," or the parent who says, "Brush and I'll read you a bedtime story." Don't brush, no story. Do brush, get story.

The Seven Levels Through a Child Brushing Their Teeth

Level 3: Social Conformity

- It is wrong not to brush because one will be teased at school; it's right to brush in order to be accepted.

Level 4: Law and Order

- There is a family behavior contract, with codified expectations and written consequences. Don't brush and lose a prescribed privilege; e.g., no cell phone for that day. Do brush and maintain the privilege.

The Seven Levels Through a Child Brushing Their Teeth

Level 5: Love for Others

- Realizing that it would inconvenience parents to take him to a dentist and pay dental bills and, therefore, desiring to reduce burdens on them, the child brushes.

Level 6: Principle-Based

- The child understands the second law of thermodynamics (even if he can't name it)—that if energy isn't put into the system, it will decay. Therefore, he brushes because this is how things work best.

The Seven Levels Through a Child Brushing Their Teeth

Level 7: Understanding Friend of God

- Not only loves others and understands God's design ...
- But also realizes that he is made in God's image and that the body is the Spirit's temple.
- Knows that failure to brush causes decay, increases sickness, and undermines one's ability to fulfill God's purpose.
- So one brushes as a good steward to maintain one's health in order to be of greatest usefulness in God's cause, be a good witness to others, and demonstrate love for God and fellow human beings.

At All 7 Levels, Teeth Are Brushed ...

- But only Level 5 and above can be trusted.
- Level 4 and below require some external threat or oversight to enforce the behavior.
- Level 4 and below have a selfish motivation; they have no heart change.
- Level 5 is the first level that the law is internalized, where the law is written on the heart and the motive changes to love!

Imposed vs. Design Law

Levels 1 – 4

Views life through
imposed-law lens.

Levels 5 – 7

Views life through
design-law lens.

Keys Learning Points

- There are different levels of determining right and wrong.
- Levels 1 – 4 are rooted in fear and selfishness and, thus, operate upon imposed law.
- Levels 5 – 7 are rooted in love and truth and, thus, operate upon design law.
- Only those who “die to self” and are “reborn” with love as the motive of action (level 5) can be trusted.

Discussion Questions

What is the primary motive for those operating at level four and below?

What helps people reevaluate their understanding and mature in their methods?

What has helped you mature in your moral decision making?

What methods have you found helpful in dealing with people at level four and below?

How could understanding these levels be misused to cause hurt or division?

What is the healthy/mature way to use these insights?

SESSION 9

Atonement: The Reality and Satan's Mass Fraud

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 1: Reward and Punishment

- Because God said don't do something, yet they did, He got offended and responded with angry vengeance, taking the life of Jesus in our place.
- Known as the Satisfaction Theory of Atonement

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 2: Marketplace Exchange

- Because Satan had rights to this earth after the Fall and claimed the lives of the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve, and God struck a bargain with him to exchange the life of Christ for the life of humans. (Or, as in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Aslan had to give his life to the White Witch to free the son of Adam.)
- Known as the Ransom Theory of Atonement

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 3: Social Conformity

- So that all will agree that God's government is fair in dealing with sin.
- Known as the Governmental Theory of Atonement

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 4: Law and Order

- To pay the legal penalty that the law demanded and the heavenly judge imposed. The Law must be kept; humanity broke the Law. Someone had to pay the penalty. Jesus paid that penalty, so the integrity of the Law was maintained.
- Known as the Penal Substitution Theory

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 5: Love for Others

- Because God loves us too much to let us go and His death was the means to reach us with His love and restore us to trust in Him.
- Known as the Moral Influence Theory

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 6: Principle Based

- It was the only means to fix what sin had done to God's creation. When humanity sinned, it deviated from God's design for life and their condition was terminal. Christ came to fix what sin did to this creation. Thus, "He who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Known as the Christus Victor and Recapitulation Theory

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 7: Understanding Friend of God

- Christ died to reveal truth and win humanity to trust (John 8:32), destroy death (2 Timothy 1:10), destroy sin and Satan (Hebrews 2:14), restore humanity back to God's ideal (1 John 3:8), and secure the universe unfallen in its innocence. "All things in heaven and in earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross" (Colossians 1:20).
- The Healing Reality

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 7: Understanding Friend of God

- Doing right because it is right, and right doing is pleasing to God.
- Neither God nor His law—defined as the eternal principles upon which He bases His government—change, but our understanding of His law changes, and the human species is changed to live in harmony with that law.

Why Did Christ Have to Die? The Atonement Through the 7 Levels

Level 7: Understanding Friend of God

- At this level, we understand that God speaks to people at each level of their understanding.
- However, it is a mistake to stay stuck at earlier levels of understanding and refuse to mature, regardless of how valid and useful they were in their own context.

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Satisfaction Theory

- Creation is out of harmony with God and in a terminal condition.
- God is like a parent whose child is dying of leukemia—what is the only thing that will satisfy?
- A remedy that heals and saves!
- “He will see the **result** of the suffering of his soul and **be satisfied**.”
Isaiah 53:11

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Ransom Theory

- A ransom is the price required to free someone from bondage.
- What holds us in bondage?
- Lies about God and our carnal natures.
- What is the price to set us free?
- Truth and a new nature (bread and wine).

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Governmental Theory

- God rules on design law—love, truth, and liberty.
- God can heal minds—i.e., win to love and trust—only in harmony with His methods: “God’s kindness leads you toward repentance.” Romans 2:4
- Thus, God’s government and design laws are sustained as the only method upon which life, health, and peace operate.

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Penal Substitution Theory

- This theory is not found in Scripture but was created by Martin Luther to counter the Purgatory doctrine.
- But it is based on the same root: the imposed-law lie
- “Added law” (Ten Commandments, ceremonial laws, etc.) is rightly understood as setting healthy boundaries for the immature to protect, diagnose, teach, and lead to Christ for healing.

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Moral Influence Theory

- Accepted as part of the reality needed to heal humanity.
- But understood as being incomplete—in addition to winning us to trust, a real remedy to fix the damage of sin and to restore God’s original design for human character was needed.

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Christus Victor and Recapitulation

- Understood as Christ’s victory over all opposition to His methods here on earth.
- Truth overcomes lies; love overcomes selfishness
- Jesus took up a humanity broken and damaged by sin and perfected it!

Mature Way to Understand the Bible Metaphors

Healing Reality

- Accepts Moral Influence Theory of truth to destroy lies and win to trust.
- Accepts the victory of Christ over Satan directly and over humanity's carnal nature to destroy the infection of fear and selfishness and restore love within.
- Realizes all things in heaven and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross. *Colossians 1:18-20*

Keys Learning Points

- Atonement is reconciliation, reunification, "at-oneness" with God and His design law for life.
- Humankind could not fix itself to restore us to unity with God and His design law for life.
- Jesus became human and restored humanity to unity with the Creator.
- Those who trust Jesus will experience His perfection reproduced in them via the indwelling Spirit.

Discussion Questions

What is atonement?

Why are there so many theories of atonement?

What are the metaphors designed to reveal?

Why is penal substitution an obstacle to atonement?

What has helped you in your understanding of atonement?

How does the metaphor of marriage reveal true atonement?

What are the Bible links that reveal this?

When discussing atonement with someone who adheres to the penal/legal model, why is it necessary to first determine how each person understands God's law, before any discussion of atonement can be beneficial?

Hint: If the diagnosis is wrong, then the treatment is wrong—atonement is the treatment plan—the law helps us accurately diagnose what is wrong.

SESSION 10

Applying What We Have Learned: Determining Who is Trustworthy

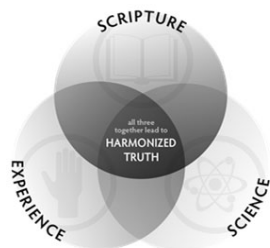
Trust Is Based on What?

The other person loves you more than self.

From Sessions 1 and 2

- “Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.” John 2:24, 25 NIV
- We are born in sin Psalm 51:5—and our hearts are naturally selfish and fear-ridden.
- We cannot trust those who have not been reborn to love God and others.

Integrative Evidence-Based Approach



Scripture

- “Thou shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3
- Why? By beholding we are changed. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Science

- Meditation on a God of love calms fear circuitry and is healthy for brain.
- Fear-inducing God concepts activate amygdala and stress pathways.

Trust Is Based on What?

The other person loves you more than self.

The other person has self-governance.

From Sessions 3 – 7

- We are to "become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be **infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." Ephesians 4:13, 14 NIV84
- Would you trust your six-year-old child to take your paycheck to the bank?

Trust Is Based on What?

- The other person loves you more than self
- The other person has self-governance
- The other person has wisdom — knows design law — how reality works — or at least demonstrates capacity for growth in truth

From Sessions 3 – 7

- "... the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." Hebrews 5:14 NIV84
- We must grow to understand God's design laws, how reality actually works—including the law of liberty.
- Level 4 thinkers can have self-governance, but they violate liberty in rule enforcement.
- Level 4 thinkers misinterpret the Bible through the imposed-law lens and become like the dictator-god they worship.

Trust Is Based on What?

- The other person loves you more than self.
- The other person has self-governance.
- The other person has wisdom—knows design law and how reality works—or at least demonstrates a capacity for growth in the truth.
- You have the ability/capacity to trust.

From All Sessions

We must ...

- Experience the truth about God—be won to trust in Him
- Open the heart, be reborn, and experience His love
- Heal the wounds of our past with God's truth and love
- Choose to apply God's principles to our lives
- Trust those who are trustworthy

Discussion Questions

What undermines trust?

What happens when we trust someone who is selfish?

What happens when we trust someone who isn't mature?

What happens when we trust someone who isn't wise?

How does fear of getting hurt or exploited impact our ability to trust?

Who are we to trust with our beliefs about God, i.e., our eternal destiny?

Upon what do you base your trust in God?

Why can we have absolute trust in Jesus and His Father? What evidence have they provided?

How do you determine what is true?

SESSION 11

Death and Resurrection

What Is the Nature of Humanity?

"Now may the God of peace himself make you completely holy and may your **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be kept entirely blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." ¹ Thessalonians 5:23

Humans are tripartite: **body**, **soul**, and **spirit**.

- **Body** > *Soma* > Hardware
- **Soul** > *Psyche* > Software/Mind/Individuality
- **Spirit** > *Pneuma* > Energy/Breath of Life

To Be Operational, Must Have All Three

Body	<i>Soma</i>	Hardware
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Soul	<i>Psyche</i>	Software, Mind, Individuality
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Spirit	<i>Pneuma</i>	Energy, Breath of Life
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When Our Computers Run Out of Power, Into What State Do They Go?

They "sleep."

How does the Bible describe those who "die"?

They "sleep," but as Jesus said, those who believe in Him will never die.

Martin Luther Described Death as a Sleep

"It is enough for us to know that souls do not leave their bodies to be threatened by the torments and punishments of hell, but enter a prepared bedchamber in which they sleep in peace."

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.

When Our Computers Run Out of Power, Into What State Do They Go?

- When your computer "sleeps," it is not destroyed.
- What happens if your computer is backed up on the "cloud" and then someone destroys your machine?
- Don't be afraid of those who can kill the body (hardware) but cannot kill the soul (Psyche/Software). Matthew 10:28

What Happens When We Die?

- The **Body** (*soma*)—hardware—disintegrates to dust.
Genesis 3:19; Psalm 44:25; Ecclesiastes 3:20
- The **Spirit** (*pneuma*)—life energy—returns to God.
Ecclesiastes 12:7
- The **Soul** (*psyche*)—software/individuality—is safe with Christ in heaven, stored in the Lamb's book of life; the heavenly "servers." 2 Corinthians 5:6–8; Revelation 3:5, 21:7
- The person "sleeps," waiting to be "downloaded" into new hardware, a new body.

Paul's Description

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who **fall asleep**, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him**. The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise first**. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What Did God Do in Old Testament Times?

- **Imperial Law View:** God punished; He executed.
- **Design Law View:** God simply turned off the power (pulled the plug) to put them "to sleep." It was like shutting down a computer; no one was yet destroyed.
 - He did this to keep open the avenue for Messiah.
 - No one has had to deal with the full, unveiled truth of their lives.
 - This is why the wicked are raised to life again.

Sequence of Future Events

- Christ returns with His heavenly servers, creates new bodies for the righteous, and downloads their software (individualities, psyche) and they live again. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- The righteous living are transformed to meet Christ together with the resurrected righteous.
- The wicked on earth are put into sleep mode, and the unrepentant already in sleep mode are left that way.
- At the end of the 1,000 years, the unrepentant are awakened (raised) from sleep mode. Revelation 20:5

Why Raise the Wicked?

- Because God is love and every person is given true freedom to determine their own eternal destiny.
- They are raised to finish their lives.
- And in so doing, they reveal that God's actions in putting people in sleep mode in no way determined their destiny.

1,000 Years After the Righteous Raised

- Jesus, the saints, the New Jerusalem, and the holy angels come to earth.
- The unrepentant are raised to life (souls downloaded from heavenly servers into imperfect bodies) with the same characters and train of thoughts as when they were put into sleep mode—just as a computer is turned on after years in sleep mode. Revelation 20:5

1,000 Years After the Righteous Raised

- An unspecified period of time goes by while the unrepentant prepare for war and march on the New Jerusalem. Revelation 20:7-9
- The New Jerusalem is on earth, with Christ and the saints inside, **and the city gates are open** the entire time! Revelation 21:25

1,000 Years After the Righteous Raised

- Yet no one comes in! Why? And what does it reveal?
- All the unrepentant stay out because they are so settled into Satan's lies about God that they don't want to go in.
- They all stay out by their own choices. Thus, it is shown that God's action to power-down people into sleep mode in no way determined their destinies.
- Even with the evidence of the New Jerusalem on earth, they won't be convinced.
- Each person finishes their own life by their own choice—consistent with the laws of love and liberty; i.e., no coercion ever!

Keys Learning Points

- Human beings are tripartite (body/soul/spirit).
- To be operational, we must have all three parts.
- Being in sleep mode is not the death of sin.
- The death of sin is when individuality (software) is eradicated.
- All who are eternally lost are lost, because they don't want to be in God's kingdom.

Discussion Questions

What kind of being would God be if He created humans with immortality in Eden (either knowing they would sin or not anticipating they would sin)?

What Scripture is contradicted by the idea that humans were created immortal?

How is the sleep death (first death) an evidence of God's love, mercy, and grace?

Why is the biblical understanding of the nature of man (three parts) more consistent with science than Eastern philosophies of reincarnation?

What other problems arise if we accept the view that the sleeping dead are not asleep but conscious in heaven?

Would heaven be joyful if conscious souls watched their loved ones suffering on earth?

What is learned by raising the wicked at the end of the 1,000 years?

If God is the source of life, what happens to those who are no longer connected to Him? In other words, how can a created being have life if they are separated from the source of life?

SESSION 12

The Sanctuary Metaphor

Cleansing of the Temple

All Bible Metaphors Point to One Reality

- Parables
- Illustrations
- Metaphors
- Object Lessons
- Rituals
- Similes



God's character and
methods of Love and His
plan to heal and restore
His universe.

**If There Is No Reality
To Which a Metaphor Points,
Then It Is No Longer Metaphor.
*It Is Fantasy!***

**There Isn't An Element In The Old
Testament Sanctuary That Is Meant To
Be Taken Literally.**

Object Lesson

"The gifts and sacrifices being offered were **not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper**. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order... But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, **because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**" Hebrews 9:9,10, 10:3,4

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Passover:** As soon as humanity fell into sin, God passed over their sins. "He left the sins committed before hand unpunished." Romans 3:25
- Christ is the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8
- **Time covered by the Passover:** from Adam's sin until Jesus' victory at the cross.

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Unleavened Bread:** Immediately, God ^{all} began dispensing truth unmixed with error to nurture and save, but it was internalized by those in sin, represented by the bitter herbs.
- This also represents the time from Adam's fall until Christ's victory.
- Eating the unleavened bread symbolizes the internalization of Jesus.

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Feast of First Fruits:** The first fruits of the victory over death.
- **The Wave Sheaf:** Represents Jesus, the ultimate first fruit, who was buried and rose again in sinless perfection.
- Those who arose with Him on resurrection morning to everlasting life.

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):** The pouring out of the Holy Spirit to apply what Christ achieved and bring forth a harvest of healed souls.
- This occurred after Christ's death on the cross as the benefits of His achievement were dispensed into trusting human hearts.
- Symbolically spans the time from Pentecost (ad 33) until the Loud Cry.

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Trumpets:** A special message for the end time.
- **The Loud Cry:** Awake, prepare, get ready—it is time to be reconciled and brought back into unity, at-one-ment, with God again!
- **Late 18th and Early 19th Century:** the Great Awakening in Christianity

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Atonement:** Reunification with God; oneness with Him
- The healing and restoration of Christlike character within; a settling into the truth from which one cannot be moved.
- From the mid-19th century until the second coming of Christ

Annual Feasts: The Fall to Restoration

- **Tabernacles:** After we have been restored to at-one-ment in heart, mind, and character, Christ returns and we tabernacle with Him again in the earth made new—our new Eden garden home for eternity!

Day of Atonement:

The Fulfillment

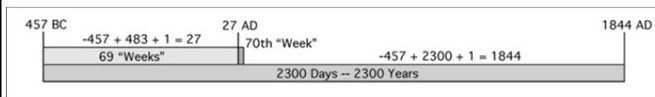
William Miller

Baptist Preacher

Daniel 8:14: 2,300 days/years and the sanctuary will be cleansed



Miller's Prediction



William Miller

Daniel 8:14: 2,300 days/years and the sanctuary will be cleansed

Cleansing of the Sanctuary:
Second Coming of Christ
October 22, 1844—the "Great Disappointment"

SDA Church (1863): The only church that teaches the cleansing of the sanctuary



After the Great Disappointment

"They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy and shadow of what is in heaven**. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: 'See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.'" Hebrews 8:5

- If earth was not the sanctuary, then it must be the heavenly sanctuary.

Common SDA View of the Antitypical Day of Atonement (Cleansing of the Sanctuary)

- The 2,300 days ended 1844.
- Sanctuary is not the earth, but a building in heaven.
- Christ entered the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary.
- He began cleansing the sanctuary from the sins of people.
- The Investigative Judgment began.
- All cases of professed followers are reviewed.
- God's judgment is vindicated through this process.
- It ends human probation.
- It culminates in the Second Coming.

Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 312

The Entire Doctrine Is Taught as a Legal Process

- Investigation of records
- Legal accounting
- Judicial findings
- Rendering legal judgment
- Removal of the record of sins from the books

The legal view of the atonement is all predicated upon a single Idea:

That God's law functions no differently than the laws that sinful beings make.

God's Law Is Design Law

Designer

- The protocols upon which life is built: the laws of health, laws of physics, laws of thermodynamics, law of love, etc.

So What Is Really Happening in the Sanctuary in Heaven?

What are the “records” in heaven?

Parchments? Books?
Data Recordings?

What Is Recorded in the Heavenly Books?

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose **name** is found written in the book—will be delivered.” Daniel 12:1

“He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his **name** from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.” Revelation 3:5

In Scripture, what does the “name” symbolize?

Character

Founder of the SDA Church Wrote:

"Remember, your character is being daguerreotyped [photographed] by the great Master Artist in the record books of heaven, as minutely as the face is reproduced upon the polished plate of the artist. What do the books of heaven say in your case? Are you conforming your character to the Pattern, Jesus Christ? Are you washing your robes of character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb?" *Testimonies on Sexual Behaviour, Adultery, and Divorce*, p. 62

At Death

- The body returns to dust. Genesis 3:19; Psalm 44:25; Ecclesiastes 3:20
- The spirit—life energy—returns to God, who gave the breath of life. Ecclesiastes 12:7
- But what about the soul—the psyche, the individuality, the software? Where does that go?
- To the heavenly database/records

Blood in the Sanctuary Another Metaphor

- If you wanted a way to record every individual person distinctly from other individuals, what would you want?
- Their DNA, which is found in their blood.
- Thus, the metaphor of taking blood into the sanctuary represents the recorded individualities/souls.

Sin Offerings All Year Long

- Symbolically placed trust in Jesus (lamb); their lives are symbolically transferred to the sanctuary—the life is in the blood.
Leviticus 17:11
- But those who trust in Jesus are still sinners; they have not been perfected; thus, their sinfulness needs to be removed from them.
Leviticus 16:16
- This sinfulness was symbolically removed on the Day of Atonement—the cleansing of the sanctuary—which prepares God's people to tabernacle with Him.

Blood Represents Repentant Sinner

"Day by day the repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle and, placing his hand upon the victim's head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. The animal was then slain. ... **The blood, representing the forfeited life of the sinner**, whose guilt the victim bore, was carried by the priest **into the holy place** and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed." *The Great Controversy*, p. 418

Blood of the Repentant Sinner

This is why the blood of the sin offering contaminated the sanctuary, but the blood of the atoning sacrifice cleansed it.

When Jesus Returns and the Saints Are Resurrected

- Are they resurrected in sinfulness or sinless perfection?
- Did they die in sinless perfection?
- Then does something need to happen in their souls/individualities before resurrection to perfect them?
- Will the thief on the cross arise with the heart of a thief?
- Will Martin Luther arise an anti-Semite?

What Is the Cleansing of the Sanctuary?

The final removal of all the defects from the individualities, stored datasets, of all those who have trusted Jesus, before He returns.

Cleansing of the Records Is the Final Purifying of the Characters of the Saved

"We believe without a doubt that Christ is soon coming. This is not a fable to us; it is a reality. When He comes, He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time."

Counsels for the Church, p. 214

Why Wait Until 1844?

Because of The War!

"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." 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

What Kind of War?

"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

Paul Describes the Little Horn Power

"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.**" 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

What Temple?

The Spirit Temple!

How did Satan "set himself up" in God's temple?

- By changing how we view God's law—from design to imposed. Daniel 7:25
- And by presenting God as dictator, cosmic executioner, source of punishment and death.
- Thus, the world goes into an age of darkness.
- And God's ability to cleanse His people is obstructed.

If The Spirit Temple Is The One Defiled, How Is It Cleansed?

How Did God Respond When The Spirit Temple Was Infected With Imperial Law?

God Prophesied That a Time Would Come When The Temple Would Be Cleansed.

Daniel 8:14:
Unto 2,300 days/years
and the sanctuary will be cleansed.

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi [3:1–3], are descriptions of the same event.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 426

Jesus Cleanses Us!

"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

Who Are the Levites?

- "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood." 1 Peter 2:5
- The Levites are the priesthood of believers! These are what Christ cleanses when He comes to His Temple.

When Is The Temple Cleansed?

The Significance of 1844

- Since Adam's fall, God has been working to restore humanity to trust in Him.
- In Old Testament times, God also worked to keep open the avenue for the Messiah.
- Jesus came to fix what Adam's sin did to the species human.
- After Jesus achieved the Remedy to sin, Satan counterattacked by infecting human minds with the imposed-law lie and the legal salvation scheme.

The Significance of 1844

- God was still working to win people to trust, but defects were not fully removed in those who trusted God.
- Since 1844, Christ has been opening the records—datasets of individualities—and removing all residual defects. He is applying the template of His perfect character, purifying them so that when they arise, they will be sinless and perfect.
- He is also working in the lives of the living to achieve this healing in all who trust Him, which requires that the lies about God be eliminated from our minds, including the imposed-law lie.

The Fifth Seal of Revelation

"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the **altar** [sanctuary] **the souls** [individualities] of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, 'How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you **judge** the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?' **Then** each of them was given a **white robe** [cleansed character], and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed [cleansing of the living saints]." Revelation 6:9–11

Why Wait Until 1844 to Start the Final Cleansing Work?

- Because Jesus needs to not only perfect the sleeping saints, but also the living saints—and that requires that those alive on earth understand the truth about God sufficiently enough to expunge the lies about God that have been widely accepted, especially the imposed-law lie with its penal/legal theologies.
- “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Revelation 14:7 NIV84

Keys Learning Points

- The plan of salvation is the plan to heal sinners to sinlessness.
- Christ came as the second Adam to reveal truth and procure the Remedy (sinless human character).
- In His person, the species human was saved (put right, healed, justified).
- Jesus directs all heavenly agencies for the salvation of humans.
- Those won to trust, He transforms into His likeness. We become partakers of the divine nature, conformed to the likeness of Jesus.
2 Peter 1:4 ; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 2:16, Galatians 2:20
- So that when He comes, we will see Him as He is “for we shall be like Him!” 1 John 3:2

Discussion Questions

How can you share this concept with people not familiar with the metaphor of the sanctuary?

Is it necessary for people to know and understand about this prophecy or doctrine in order to experience what is being taught?

If people are not open to this doctrinal idea, then what approach would be beneficial with them?

What truths can help a person experience heart-healing and at-one-ment with God without accepting this prophetic insight?

What will people function like who experience Jesus' cleansing of their hearts and minds to prepare them to see Him face to face? (Rev 12:11)

How do we handle the criticism that Daniel 8:14 applies to Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC?

How does penal substitution theology obstruct God's plan to heal His people?

What is Bible perfection? (Hint: Maturity of character, i.e., loving God and others more than self, Job, Daniel, three worthies, Stephen, Apostles, Rev 12:11)

SESSION 13

The Truth About Hell

What Is the Truth About the Consuming Fire,

**That Is Consistent With Scripture, and
Harmonizes With The Laws Of Love And Liberty?**

"The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless:
'Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can
dwell with the everlasting burning?'" Isaiah 33:14

Who Dwells in the Consuming Fire?

"He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects
gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who
stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against
contemplating evil." Isaiah 33:15

Evidence from Scripture

Moses and the bush Exodus 3:2
Sinai Exodus 24:17
Solomon's Temple dedication 2 Chronicles 7:2
Lucifer amongst fiery stones Ezekiel 28:14, 16
Ancient of days and rivers of fire Daniel 7:9, 10
God is a consuming fire Hebrews 12:29
New Jerusalem Revelation 22:5

The Lie of Satan?

- The place you don't want to go is the place of eternal burning and consuming fire—but that place is *God's very presence!*
- The righteous are transformed—just as Moses' face radiated after 40 days in God's glory. Exodus 34:29–35
- But the people shrank back—why?
- The wicked are destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8

A Fire That Destroys the Wicked, but Heals the Righteous?

It is a fire that consumes sin.

And what is sin made out of?

Lies and selfishness

What consumes a lie?

TRUTH!

What consumes selfishness?

LOVE!

The Holy Spirit Is the Spirit of:

- Truth and love John 16:13; 1 John 4:8; Galatians 5:22
- At Pentecost, the Spirit fell and they saw two streams of fire—the fire of truth and love—but no one got burned and the building didn't catch on fire. Acts 2:3

Further Evidence

"Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu ... offered unauthorized fire before the Lord. ... So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord... Moses summoned [their cousins], and said to them, 'Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp.' ... So they came and carried them, **still in their tunics**, outside the camp, as Moses ordered." *Leviticus 10:1-5*

What Happens To Those Solidified In Lies And Selfishness When They Come Into Unveiled Love And Truth?

- Patients who wish their abusers would admit what they did.
- "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." *Proverbs 25:21, 22; Romans 12:20*

Origen of Alexandria

"Scripture indicates that every sinner kindles for himself the flame of his own fire, and is not plunged into a fire which has been previously kindled by someone else or which existed before him."

Origen on First Principles, translated by Butterworth, p. 141



Lucifer's End

"By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you." Ezekiel 28:18

What About Revelation 14?

"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever.'" vv. 9-11

What About Revelation 14?

- The word translated **brimstone** or **sulfurous fire** is the Greek word *thion*, a form of the word *thios*, which means divine, Godhead, divinity.
- Therefore, the word translated **brimstone** is more accurately translated as "divine incense" or "holy fire," because it is the fire of God's presence!
- As the text says: "He will be tormented with burning sulfur [*thion*—truth and love] in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."

What About Revelation 14?

- What about the “smoke of their torment rising forever”?
- Smoke is what remains after something is burned; thus, this language is symbolic of the memory of what happened to them—how unremedied sin caused such suffering and torment and ultimate destruction.
- This will never be forgotten.

Keys Learning Points

- Our God is a consuming fire.
- God’s presence is the source of infinite love and truth—described as fire—but it is not combustion.
- It is the fire that consumes lies and selfishness.
- The righteous live forever in this fire.
- The wicked are consumed by it.

Discussion Questions

What objections do you anticipate when presenting this view of hell?

How will you answer those objections?

Can there be eternal torment if there are no immortal souls?

Does the fire ever go out if it is the fire of God's life-giving glory?

Why do the wicked die in the end?

What kind of place would heaven be, being bathed in the fires of infinite love and truth, to people who are solidified in lies and selfishness?

Can love be forced?

Will God force people to live in His presence who do not want to be there?

Revelation 20:14 says, "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death." How can death be killed?

So what then would the lake of fire be?

Does this give insight as to why the Bible teaches this fire occurs "in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb?" (Rev 14:10)

SESSION 14

The Judgement

The Judgment

- Imagine that your spouse believes a lie that you have had an affair and has moved out. If you want him or her back, what will you have to do?
- Who is on trial? Who is being judged?

The Judgment

- "Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: 'That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.'" Romans 3:4 NKJV
- "God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, 'You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when you are being tried.'" Romans 3:4 GNB

First Judgment

- Satan lied about God.
- Jesus reveals the truth about God.
- We must judge: Is God like Satan says—or is God like Jesus revealed? (Elijah Carmel)
- This judgment of ours determines whether we choose to trust God and open our hearts or not.
- "I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because **the hour of his judgment** has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'" Revelation 14:6, 7

Second Judgment

“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. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. **‘So I will come near to you for judgment.’**” Malachi 3:1–5

Second Judgment

- This is the Judgment of the Great Physician, diagnosing what is wrong and determining the best therapeutic intervention.
 - God bringing “judgments” upon rebellious people throughout history to alert, to convict, to redeem, to protect, to redirect, and to keep open the avenue for Messiah (Flood, Sodom, captivity).
- Jesus’ work in the heavenly sanctuary to determine (judge):
 - Who has trusted Him and given Him access to their hearts
 - What residual elements of sin remain to be removed in order to perfect them for the resurrection and second coming

Third Judgment

- “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to **judge**. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4–6
- “Do you not know that we will **judge** angels?” 1 Corinthians 6:3
- During the 1,000 years, the saints review the history of what transpired and the lives of the lost and of angels, so that no doubt is left in any mind as to why the unrepentant are not in heaven.

Fourth Judgment

- “I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were **judged** according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” Revelation 20:11, 12
- And what is recorded in the books of heaven?
- **Character!**

Fourth Judgment

- “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on **the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken. **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**” Matthew 12:33–37 NIV84
- What is being described? Character—the actual condition of each heart, a diagnosis of what actually is.

Fourth Judgment

- The end of the 1,000 years, when:
 - New Jerusalem gates are open and no one comes in.
 - The wicked acknowledge they were wrong and God was right—but they attack the city anyway.
 - They then experience the fire of unveiled truth, cry for the mountains to fall upon them, reaping what they have sown: eternal non-existence.
 - And all the saved judge that God could have done nothing more to save them.
 - There is no human law court determining guilt or innocence and imposing punishments—that is Satan’s lie.

Keys Learning Points

- There are four judgments!
- Confusion occurs when they are mixed together.
- These judgments are about reality, the actual condition of hearts and minds, not legal standing.

Discussion Questions

Where is the war between Christ and Satan fought? (1Cor 10:3-5)

What does God want from us? (love, trust, loyalty, devotion)

Can love, trust, loyalty be achieved by threats of punishment?

What undermines your ability to trust a trustworthy person? (lies)

If someone lies about you to your spouse and your spouse falsely believes you are cheating, and you love your spouse and want reconciliation—what is required?

Who is on trial?

Do you see how God is being judged?

What happens if we believe God's law functions like human law? What happens to our view of God?

From where does the punishment for sin come according to the imperial/imposed-law model?

From where does the punishment for sin come according to design law?

Who do we want to be protected from if we believe God's law functions like human law?

Do you see how the human-law model of judgment obstructs God's plan?

SESSION 15

The Final Message: Preparing People to Meet Jesus

Jesus Said:

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

What kingdom?

- The kingdom of the Creator God of Love whose laws are design laws
- Has that message gone to the world?

Beastly Intoxication

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the **maddening wine** of her adulteries." Revelation 18:2,3

- The "maddening wine" is the lies about God that the entire world accepts —specifically that God's laws are imposed and God functions as enforcer and source of inflicted pain, suffering and death.

Law of Worship

- By beholding we are changed. 2Corinthians 3:18
- "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:2
- "We know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." 1John 3:2
- Which requires we reject the imperial view of God with the human law construct and worship the Creator.

Revelation 14:6-8

"I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'

"A second angel followed and said, 'Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.'"

Sabbath An Aid In Human Healing

What law lens do you understand Sabbath through?

- "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27
- "Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy...for in six days God created..." Exodus 20:8-11

How is Sabbath understood through design law?

- "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy." Exodus 31:13 NIV84, Ezekiel 20:12,20

Remember The Sabbath To Keep It Holy...

- If you have an orgy of pagan worship on the Sabbath, have you made it less holy?
- If you live righteously on the Sabbath, have you made it more holy?
- Are we keeping the Sabbath holy or keeping ourselves holy?
- Can we keep ourselves holy only one day per week?

What Is The Purpose Of The Sabbath?

- Sign—mark, flag, pennant, banner—and resource for healing.
- How did the Sabbath become a day of rest and worship? By its creation.
- What was happening that week and why is the Sabbath so significant?
- Satan alleged that God is arbitrary and God's law is imposed law requiring punishment.

What Is The Purpose Of The Sabbath?

- God responded by creating this planet and humankind — revealing what?
- Then God said, "Universe you have heard the allegations, seen the evidence, now take your time, think for yourself, and come to your own conclusion. I rest my case."
- Day 1-6 of Creation week reveals God is powerful; day seven reveals His Character — truth, presented in love, leaving free.

Sabbath A Sign

- Consider the flag of the United States...
- The Sabbath became a day of worship by design, by creation and represents God's government of love.
- Sunday became a day of worship by legislation and represents imperial law the systems of this world.

Sabbath A Sign

- Those who present the seventh-day Sabbath as an imposed rule that requires God to punish, are not Sabbath-keepers—consider the Jews who crucified Christ
- People who worship on Sunday, but present truth, in love while leaving others free are Sabbath keepers.
- It is about two systems of governing—two types of law: Design versus Imposed/Imperial.
- The days are connected directly to their origins as signs of the two governments.

The Final Message

- Is the truth about God as Creator whose character is love and laws are design laws.
- Freeing people from the enslavement of the beastly imperial view of God.
- Thus, restoring in people God's design law of love (written in the heart/character).
- Such, that "they do not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." Revelation 12:11

The Final Message

- "We know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." 1John 3:2
- The Sabbath is evidence of God's character and a blessing to humankind as it is a resource for us to exercise our trust in God by remembering God's design laws and practicing them in our lives.

Discussion Questions

What do you say to people who argue that salvation, in the end, is determined keeping the Sabbath?

Can a person observe the Bible Sabbath and be God's enemy? (Jews who crucified Christ)

If the specific day one goes to church upon is not the true issue what is? (The law/methods one practices and the God one worships—design versus imperial)

What is the method of God when it comes to worship and what is the method of the beast? (Truth, love, freedom [Rom 14:5], versus deceit, pride, coercion—imperialism)

What makes a system, method, or worship practice beastly?

What is the Sabbath a sign of?

How is the Sabbath connected to holiness? Who makes us holy?

If we recognize ancient Israel are actors in a drama, what lesson is there from the connection between Sabbath rest and holiness?

SESSION 16

How the War Is Waged: What God Wants

Waging War

"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." 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Satan's Weapon: Lies

- Lies believed leads to broken love and trust.
- Broken love and trust leads to fear and selfishness (survival of the fittest).
- Fear and selfishness leads to destructive behavior.
- Destructive behavior leads to damage mind, character, body.

Healing Solution

- Truth believed destroys lies and wins to trust.
- Restored trust opens the heart, allowing God to pour love into our hearts—which casts out fear. Romans 5:5
- Love and trust results in acts of service, giving, beneficence, and altruism
- Acts of service results in growth in godliness and witnessing the kingdom of love.

Lies

Lies about God's law, which leads to distrust.

- Lies about God—source of pain and death
- Antithetical beliefs—love me or I will torture you in hell—which damages the mind

Truth about God's law, which sets free.

- Design-law lens
- Sin is source of pain suffering death.
- The power of sin is the law.
- God is always good and the source of life.

Lies: Symbolism/Ritual Without Meaning or Wrong Meaning

"The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?' says the Lord. 'I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? **Stop bringing meaningless offerings!** Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; **I am weary of bearing them.**" Isaiah 1:11-13... "Come, let us reason together." v. 18

Lies: Symbolism/Ritual Without Meaning or Wrong Meaning

- Power in blood, cleansed by blood
 - What law lens—how does reality work?
- Covered by robe
 - What law lens?
- Symbolism without meaning darkens the mind, turns off the reason, impairs the judgment, and prevents genuine healing.

Blind Faith

- Believing without evidence
- How much truth supports Satan? How much supports God?
- So, what strategy would Satan use?
 - Believing based on "faith" without inquiry, without evidence. Which is known as ...
- Spiritualism—the pursuit of knowledge without the investigation of evidence or use of reason
- What evidence has God provided?
 - Scripture, nature/science, experience

Trusting Emotions

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." James 1:13, 14

Feelings can lie!

Surrendering Judgment to Others

- Every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind. Romans 14:5
- The mature develop by practice the ability to discern right from wrong. Hebrews 5:14

What God Wants

- Our loving friendship—trust, loyalty, love, devotion
- Which cannot be achieved by the methods of the world (Satan)—with imperialism and threats of punishment
- Only by the way the Spirit works: “Not by might nor by power.”
Zechariah 4:6

God’s Warriors

- Present truth in love, leave others free
- Think for themselves
- Harmonize Scripture, nature/science, experience
- Understand and put into practice God’s design laws
- Move past symbolism to reality
- Have genuine wisdom—are understanding friends of God John 15:15

Discussion Questions

What types of attacks have you experienced by Satan?

What lies have been most difficult for you to eliminate?

What truths have been most impactful in your life?

How does the Holy Spirit work—what methods are used?

Why can God not win with might and power (Zech 4:6)?

How is justice described in the human-law model?

What is the justice of God?

What law determines what is right or just?

Give a personal example of the justice of design law that exposes the fallacy of human justice.

What if a child refuses all your actions to heal and save them, what is the just action for you to take?

What happens and why?

SESSION 17

Effective Public Speaking

Know Your Material

- Know what you know, and know what you don't know.
- It is okay not to know everything!
- Your anxiety level impacts audience—be confident, be relaxed.
- Be excited and passionate.
- Practice multiple times alone and, if necessary, before family/friends.

Know Your Audience

- Shape the presentation to speak in their language.
- Are you speaking to Christians or non-Christians—same denomination or different?

Tricks to Getting Started

- Put one hand on the podium.
- Tell a personal story—make it short and relevant.
- The story (or opening) should be rehearsed many times so that you know it by heart.
- Read as little as possible.

Record Yourself

- Listen and critique.
- Eliminate unnecessary words (um, you know, etc.).
- Speak clearly, pronounce words precisely, with clear articulation (no mumbling, no soft/quiet voice).
- Learn to tolerate silences.
- Modulate your voice—no monotone

PRACTICE!

Physical Presentation

- Dress appropriately, which differs for each audience.
- Make eye contact with the audience, but change points of focus.
- Minimize turning your back to the audience.
- Don't fidget.
- Don't put hands in pockets or wring your hands.

Use Effective Visual Aids

- Do not make slides too busy ...

- In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ³ And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it* was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. ⁶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. ⁹ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the *dry land* appear: and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the *dry land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it* was good. ¹¹ And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it* was good.
- ¹³ And the evening and the morning were the third day. ¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. ¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it* was good. ¹⁹ And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. ²⁰ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. ²¹ And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it* was

Use Effective Visual Aids

- Do not make slides too busy.
- Do not make slide too plain ...

Plain Slides Are Boring

- Plain slides don't hold interest.
- Plain slides are uninspiring.
- Plain slides can be distracting.
- Plain slides show little imagination.
- Plain slides suggest you didn't put in much effort.
- In other words, learn how to effectively use your presentation software. (In this case, I'm using PowerPoint, but there are many others with different capabilities and features.)

Use Effective Visual Aids

- Do not make slides too busy.
- Do not make slides too plain.
- ~~DON'T USE WEIRD OR DIFFICULT TO READ FONTS.~~
- Don't overuse animations.
- Visuals should aid, not distract, from the presentation.

COME AND REASON REFERENCE GUIDE

THE INTEGRATIVE EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO FINDING TRUTH HARMONIZING SCRIPTURE, SCIENCE/NATURE, AND EXPERIENCE

God Speaks to Us Through Nature:

1. But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? (Job 12:7, 9 NIV84).
2. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands (Psalm 19:1 NIV84).
3. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse (Romans 1:20 NIV84).
4. Since complete happiness is knowing God, in order that no one should be prevented from finding that happiness, he has kindly put in our minds the seed of true religion we have already spoken of and has also displayed his perfection in the whole structure of the universe. So he is constantly in our view and we cannot open our eyes without being made to see him. **His nature is incomprehensible, far beyond all human thought, but his glory is etched on his creation so brightly, clearly, and gloriously that no one however obtuse and illiterate can plead ignorance as an excuse.** So with absolute truth the Psalmist exclaims, "He wraps himself in light as with a garment" (Psalm 104:2). It is as though he was saying that when God created the world for the first time, he put on outer clothes. He hung up gorgeous banners on which we see his perfection clearly portrayed. In the same place the Psalmist aptly compares the spread of the heavens with God's royal tent and says he, "lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind" (Psalm 104:3): sending out he wind and lightning as his swift messengers. Because the glory of his power and wisdom is more ablaze in the heavens, it is frequently called his palace. Wherever you look, there is no part of the world however small that does not show at least some glimmer of beauty; it is impossible to gaze at the vast expanse of the universe without being overwhelmed by such tremendous beauty. So the author of the epistle to the Hebrews sensitively describes the visible world as an image of the invisible (Hebrews 11:3). **The superb structure of the world acts as a sort of mirror in which we may see God, who would otherwise be invisible.** For the same reason the Psalmist attributes language to heavenly bodies, a language which all nations can understand (Psalm 19:1). ... However, although the display which God gives of himself and his eternal kingdom is brightly reflected in the mirror of creation, we are so stupid and dim that we deserve no benefit from them. How few of us, as we look up to the skies or around at the earth, ever think of the Creator! We tend to overlook him and content ourselves with simply looking at the creation... Creation lights up all these bright lamps to demonstrate the glory of the Creator to us, all in vain. Although they shine on us from every direction, they are quite insufficient in themselves to lead us into the right way. They do, undoubtedly, throw out some sparks, but these are put out before they can give a brighter

glow (John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* ed. Tony Lane and Hilary Osborne, p. 32, 33).

5. The pure of heart see all things full of God. **They see him in the firmament of heaven, in the moon walking in brightness, in the sun when he rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.** They see him “making the clouds his chariots, and walking upon the wings of the wind.” They see him “preparing rain for the earth,” “and blessing the increase of it” (John Wesley, Sermon 23, “Sermon on the Mount, III,” §I.1, Works 1:513).
6. Some people, in order to discover God, read books. **But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things.** Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. **Instead He set before your eyes the things that He had made.** Can you ask for a louder voice than that? Why, heaven and earth shout to you: “God made me!” (St. Augustine, Sermon 126.6 in the Angelo Mai collection, *Miscellanea Augustinian* 1:355-68, ed. G. Moran (Rome, 1930), in Vernon Bourke, trans. *The Essential Augustine*, Hackett, Indianapolis, 1974, p.123).
7. For it follows, “All the beasts of the wood shall drink” (Psalm 104:11). We indeed see this in the visible creation, that the beasts of the wood drink of springs, and of streams that run between the mountains. But since it has pleased God to hide his wisdom in the figures of such things (as animals and parts of creation), not to take it away from earnest seekers, but to close it to them who care not, and open it to them that knock. **It has also pleased our Lord God Himself to exhort you by us to this, that in all these things which are said as if of the bodily and visible creation, we may seek something spiritually hidden, in which when found we may rejoice.** ... Holy Scripture witnesses this in many places (St. Augustine ~ *Expositions on the Book of Psalms*. Commentary on Psalm 104, v.10-11. *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, Vol. XII, pg. 511, 512, Ed. Philip Schaff. Erdmans, 1989).
8. Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him. Nature speaks to our senses without ceasing. The open heart will be impressed with the love and glory of God as revealed through the works of His hands. **The listening ear can hear and understand the communications of God through the things of nature** (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 85).

God Speaks to Us Through Life Experiences:

9. Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8 NIV84).
10. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe” (John 20:27 NIV84).
11. God speaks to us through His providential workings and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. In our circumstances and surroundings, in the changes daily taking place around us, we may find precious lessons if our hearts are but open to discern them (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 87).

God Speaks to Us Through Scripture:

12. Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ... They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:27, 32 NIV84).
13. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living (2 Timothy 3:16 GNB).
14. God speaks to us in His word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 87).

God's Method for Establishing Truth Harmonizes Scripture, Science/Nature, and Experience:

Jesus taught that God provided these three threads to be harmonized:

Quoted Scripture (in Synagogue, to disciples, and on road to Emmaus)

Taught God's truths with examples in nature: wheat falls to ground dies to bring life, parable of sower, provisions for sparrows and the lilies of the fields, healing ministry acting out plan of salvation.

"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe'" (John 20:27).

John Wesley (Methodists) taught that Scripture is to be harmonized with experience and reason:

15. Scripture is to be understood in harmony with tradition (the evidence of God's principles working through history), experience (personal life experience with God), and reason (rational evidence-based thinking). This came to be known as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral.

Ellen White (Seventh-day Adventists) taught that Scripture is to be harmonized with science and experience:

16. **The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God's dealing with human life.** Here are the treasures from which Christ's workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 125).
17. Rightly understood, both the **revelations of science and the experiences of life are in harmony with the testimony of Scripture to the constant working of God in nature** (*Education*, p. 130).

18. **Jesus followed the divine plan of education.** The schools of His time, with their magnifying of things small and their belittling of things great, He did not seek. **His education was gained directly from the Heaven-appointed sources; from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures and of nature, and from the experiences of life—God’s lesson books**, full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart (Ibid., p. 77).
19. The Scripture says, “All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 13:34, 35). **Natural things were the medium for the spiritual; the things of nature and the life-experience of His hearers were connected with the truths of the written word. Leading thus from the natural to the spiritual kingdom, Christ’s parables are links in the chain of truth that unites man with God, and earth with heaven** (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 17).

God Calls Us to Reason and Think for Ourselves:

20. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind (Romans 14:5 NKJV).
21. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:15 NRSV).
22. “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Isaiah 1:18 NIV84).
23. 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).
24. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15 NIV84).
25. Merely to hear or to read the word is not enough. He who desires to be profited by the Scriptures must meditate upon the truth that has been presented to him. By earnest attention and prayerful thought, he must **learn the meaning of the words of truth**, and drink deep of the spirit of the holy oracles (Ellen White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 59).
26. God **never** asks us to believe, without giving **sufficient evidence** upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by **testimony** that God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that **appeals to our reason**; and this testimony is abundant. Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. Our faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration. Those who wish to doubt will have opportunity; while those who really desire to know the truth will find plenty of evidence on which to rest their faith (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ* p. 105).
27. **We must study the truth for ourselves. No man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who he is**, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a

criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject one to another; but at the same time, we are to exercise the ability God has given us, in order to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment. We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God. (Ellen White, *Testimonies to Ministers* 109,110; first published in *Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed., pp. 128,129; cf).

28. Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, **power to think and to do**. The men in whom this **power** is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to **develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought**. ... Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 17).
29. **All whom God has blessed with reasoning powers are to become intellectual Christians. They are not requested to believe without evidence**; therefore, Jesus has enjoined upon all to search the Scriptures. Let the ingenious inquirer, and the one who would know for himself what is truth, exert his mental powers to search out the truth as it is in Jesus. Any neglect here is at the peril of the soul. We must know individually the prescribed conditions of entering into eternal life. ... **We cannot allow these questions to be settled for us by another's mind, or another's judgment**. ... We cannot trust the salvation of our souls to ministers, to idle traditions, to human authorities, or to pretensions. ... The Lord positively demands of every Christian an intelligent knowledge of the Scriptures (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, March 8, 1887).

God's Law Is Design Law—Protocols Upon Which Life Is Built:

30. So if you faithfully **obey the commands** I am giving you today—to **love the Lord your God** and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul ... (Deuteronomy 11:13).
31. Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, **love is the fulfillment of the law** (Romans 13:10).
32. The **entire law** is summed up in a single command: "**Love** your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14).
33. If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, "**Love** your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right (James 2:8).
34. Jesus replied, "**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "**Love** your neighbor as yourself." **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments** (Matthew 22:37–40).
35. For these **commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light**, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for

the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and **the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished** (Proverbs 6:23–29 NIV84).

36. You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die (Genesis 2:17 NIV84).

- What law is being described here?
- Does God say to Adam and Eve that He Himself will kill them *or* simply that they will die?
- What kind of law would cause someone to die as a result of the act?

37. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes (Psalm 19:7, 8 NIV84).

- When David wrote the Psalms about meditating upon God's law, what was he writing about?
- What do you hear in this Psalm?
- Is David describing rules or a law upon which life is built—a law that has inherent consequence?

38. "The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "**This is the covenant** I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 31:31–34 NIV84).

- What kind of law was Jeremiah referring to here?
- What kind of law can be written into the heart?
- What is the heart? (The character, the deep identity and wellsprings of motive, value, methods, and affections.)
- Is the heart part of a living being?
- Is God's law living principles or dead rules?
- Does the law of love operate on stone, on parchment, or is the law of love a living principle upon which life is based?
- Does lifeless rock love? It doesn't give or receive!
- This is the law given at Sinai and this is the Old Covenant a list of rules, a diagnostic code, a tool to expose the actual sick condition of hearts to lead people to the New Covenant, which is restoring the living law of love into the living being.

39. The same power that upholds nature is working also in man. **The same great laws that guide alike the star and the atom control human life. The laws that govern the heart's action, regulating the flow of the current of life to the body, are the laws of the mighty Intelligence that has the jurisdiction of the soul. From Him all life proceeds.** Only in harmony with Him can be found its true sphere of action. For all the objects of His creation the condition

is the same--**a life sustained by receiving the life of God, a life exercised in harmony with the Creator's will.** To transgress His law, physical, mental, or moral, is to place one's self out of harmony with the universe, to introduce discord, anarchy, ruin (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 99).

The Law of Love Is the Protocol of Life

- 40. Love is life.** All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love. Everything is, everything exists, only because I love. Everything is united by it alone (Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*, p. 1379).
- 41. All the law is fulfilled in one word, and that is, love.** See Rom. 13:10. All obedience begins in the affections, and nothing in religion is done right, that is not done there first. **Love is the leading affection, which gives law**, and gives ground, to the rest; and therefore that, as the main fort, is to be first secured and garrisoned for God. **Man is a creature cut out for love; thus, therefore is the law written in the heart, that it is a law of love.** Love is a short and sweet word; and, if that be **the fulfilling of the law**, surely the yoke of the command is very easy. Love is the rest and satisfaction of the soul; if we walk in this good old way, we shall find rest (Henry, M. 1994. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*, (Matthew 22:34–40), Peabody: Hendrickson).
- 42. In brotherly love the circle of the Father, the Son and the people** of the Son constitutes a fellowship which is not of this world. **The love of God is the final reality for the life of this fellowship, and abiding in His love is the law of its life** (Kittel, G., Bromiley, G.W., & Friedrich, G., Eds., 1964. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 53, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans).
- 43. The great King, God, is love; His law is the royal law of love, and that law, like Himself, reigns supreme.** He “is no respecter of persons”; therefore, to respect persons is at variance with Him and His royal law, which **is at once a law of love and of liberty** (Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D., 1997. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, James 2:8, Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc).
44. In living for self, he has rejected that divine love which would have flowed out in mercy to his fellow men. Thus, he has rejected life. **For God is love, and love is life** (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 258).
45. By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God—God's thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, “I have declared unto them Thy name”—“merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth”—“that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which “angels desire to look,” and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary **it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven**; that the love which “seeketh not her own” has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 19).

46. But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. “I do nothing of Myself,” said Christ; “the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.” “I seek not Mine own glory,” but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. **In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe.** All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus, through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, **the law of life** (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 21).
47. Christ came to the world with the accumulated love of eternity. Sweeping away the exactions which had encumbered the law of God, **He showed that the law is a law of love, an expression of the Divine Goodness. He showed that in obedience to its principles is involved the happiness of mankind,** and with it the stability, the very foundation and framework, of human society (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 76).
48. **Let it be made plain that the way of God’s commandments is the way of life. God has established the laws of nature, but His laws are not arbitrary exactions.** Every “Thou shalt not,” whether in physical or in moral law, implies a promise. If we obey it, blessing will attend our steps. God never forces us to do right, but He seeks to save us from the evil and lead us to the good (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 114).

The Law of Liberty

49. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts (Psalm 119:45).
50. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17).
51. “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty (Zachariah 4:6 NIV84).
52. **The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles** of righteousness. God desires from all his creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of his character. **He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all he grants freedom of will, that they may render him voluntary service** (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 493).
53. With untold love our God has loved us, and our love awakens toward Him as we comprehend something of the length and breadth and depth and height of this love that passeth knowledge. By the revelation of the attractive loveliness of Christ, by the knowledge of His love expressed to us while we were yet sinners, the stubborn heart is melted and subdued, and the sinner is transformed and becomes a child of heaven. **God does not employ compulsory measures; love is the agent which He uses to expel sin from the heart.** By it He changes pride into humility, and enmity and unbelief into love and faith (Ellen White, *Reflecting Christ*, p. 73).

54. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and **with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience**. EG White *Patriarchs and Prophets* 48.
55. The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience. “Come now, and let us reason together” is the Creator’s invitation to the beings He has made (Isaiah 1:18). **God does not force the will of His creatures**. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. **A mere forced submission would prevent all real development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton**. Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. **It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God** (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 43).

Law of Worship

56. Those who make them [idols] will be like them, and so will all who trust in them (Psalm 115:8 NIV84).
57. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles (Romans 1:21–23 NIV84).
58. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless (2 Kings 17:15 NIV84).
59. This is what the Lord says: “What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves” (Jeremiah 2:5 NIV84).
60. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV).
- 61. It is a law of the human mind that by beholding we become changed.** Man will rise no higher than his conceptions of truth, purity, and holiness. If the mind is never exalted above the level of humanity, if it is not uplifted by faith to contemplate infinite wisdom and love, the man will be constantly sinking lower and lower. The worshipers of false gods clothed their deities with human attributes and passions, and thus their standard of character was degraded to the likeness of sinful humanity. They were defiled in consequence (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 91).
- 62. It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell.** It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to anything more exalted. Rather, he will constantly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 555).

The Law of Exertion

63. One of the divine plans for growth is impartation. The Christian is to gain strength by strengthening others. **“He that waters shall be watered also himself” (Proverbs 11:25). This is not merely a promise; it is a divine law, a law by which God designs that the streams of benevolence, like the waters of the great deep, shall be kept in constant circulation, continually flowing back to their source.** In the fulfilling of this law is the secret of spiritual growth (Ellen White, *God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 285).
64. **It is a divine law that blessings come at some cost to the receiver. Those who would become wise in the sciences must study,** and those who would become wise in regard to Bible truth, that they may impart that knowledge to others, must be diligent students of God’s Holy Word. **There is no other way;** they must search the Scriptures diligently, interestedly, prayerfully. ... And after all their research, there is beyond an infinity of wisdom, love, and power (Ellen White, *That I May Know Him*, p. 194).

Written Law Was Added After Sin:

65. **It [the law] was added** because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator (Galatians 3:19 NIV84).
66. **The law was added** because of transgressions (Gal. 3:19). It was not designed to disannul the promise, and to establish a different way of justification from that which was settled by the promise; but it was added to it, annexed on purpose to be subservient to it, and it was so because of transgressions. The Israelites, though they were chosen to be God’s peculiar people, were sinners as well as others, and therefore **the law was given to convince them of their sin**, and of their obnoxiousness to the divine displeasure on the account of it; **for by the law is the knowledge of sin** (Rom. 3:20), and the law entered that sin might abound (Rom. 5:20). And it was also intended to restrain them from the commission of sin, to put an awe upon their minds, and be a curb upon their lusts, that they should not run into that excess of riot to which they were naturally inclined; and yet at the same time **it was designed to direct them to the true and only way whereby sin was to be expiated**, and wherein they might obtain the pardon of it; namely, through the death and sacrifice of Christ, which was the special use for which the law of sacrifices and purifications was given (Henry, M. 1994. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*, Galatians 3:19–29, Peabody: Hendrickson).
67. The law of God existed before the creation of man or else Adam could not have sinned. **After the transgression of Adam, the principles of the law were not changed, but were definitely arranged and expressed to meet man in his fallen condition.** Christ, in counsel with His Father, instituted the system of sacrificial offerings; that death, instead of being immediately visited upon the transgressor, should be transferred to a victim which should prefigure the great and perfect offering of the Son of God (Ellen White, *Selected Messages, Vol. 1*, p. 230).
68. **The law of God existed before man was created.** The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God’s government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. **It was not then written** but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah (Ellen White, *The Story of Redemption*, p. 145).

69. Adam and Eve, at their creation, **had a knowledge of the law of God. It was printed on their hearts**, and they understood its claims upon them.

The law of God existed before man was created. It was adapted to the condition of holy beings; even angels were governed by it. After the fall, the principles of righteousness were unchanged. **Nothing was taken from the law; not one of its holy precepts could be improved.** And as it has existed from the beginning, so will it continue to exist throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

After the transgression of Adam, the principles of the law were ... definitely arranged and expressed to meet man in his fallen condition. Christ, in counsel with His Father, instituted the system of sacrificial offerings; that death, instead of being immediately visited upon the transgressor, should be transferred to a victim which should prefigure the great and perfect offering of the Son of God. ... Through the blood of this victim, man looked forward by faith to the blood of Christ which would atone for the sins of the world.

The mission of Christ on earth was not to destroy the law, but by His grace to bring man back to obedience to its precepts. ... By His own obedience to the law, Christ testified to its immutable character and proved that through His grace it could be perfectly obeyed by every son and daughter of Adam (Ellen White, *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 131).

70. If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God's law in mind, and **there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone.** And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 364).

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

72. The law of Jehovah, dating back to creation, was comprised in the two great principles, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." These two great principles embrace the first four commandments, showing the duty of man to God, and the last six, showing the duty of man to his fellow-man. **The principles were more explicitly stated to man after the fall, and worded to meet the case of fallen intelligences. This was necessary in consequence of the minds of men being blinded by transgression.** EG White *Review and Herald*, May 6, 1875 par. 13

In Heaven Prior to Sin—Only Design Law; No Written Law

73. But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, **the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of.** In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as

sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery (Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 109).

Satan's Lie—Declaring God's Law Is Imposed, Requiring Force and Infliction of Punishment:

74. You belong to your father, the **devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies** (John 8:44 NIV84).
75. 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 (2 Corinthians 10:3–5 NIV84).
- Satan's lies are always focused on misrepresenting the truth about God.
76. **In the opening of the great controversy**, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice** (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 761).
77. The earth was **dark through misapprehension of God**. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. **This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority.** Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; **His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan**. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise "with healing in His wings" (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 22).
78. God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is **moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power** (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 759).
79. **Satan's representations against the government of God, and his defense of those who sided with him, were a constant accusation against God.** His murmurings and complaints were groundless; and yet God allowed him to work out his theory. God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. **But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force. All the compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** He would not work on this line. He would not give the slightest encouragement for any human being to set himself up as God over another human being, feeling at liberty to

cause him physical or mental suffering. **This principle is wholly of Satan's creation** (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897, par. 7).

80. They do not see that **to deprive man of the freedom of choice would be to rob him of his prerogative as an intelligent being and make him a mere automaton. It is not God's purpose to coerce the will. Man was created a free moral agent** (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 331).
81. Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; for the enemy knew that when divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him. **Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God.** He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge of God might become extinct in the earth. He had caused truth of vital importance to be so mingled with error that it had lost its significance. **The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions, and God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary.** He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God. Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent him before the fallen children of earth. Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes. That men might have salvation he came directly to man and became a partaker of his nature (Ellen White, *Signs of the Times*, January 20, 1890, par. 6).
82. **From the beginning it has been Satan's studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself.** Therefore, he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed **with the attributes of the prince of evil himself—as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving—that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men** (Ellen White, *Heavenly Places*, p. 8).

War Began in Heaven, Over Ideas about God's Law & Character:

83. There was **war in heaven**. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him (Revelation 12:7–9 NIV84).
- The Greek word translated as “war” here is *polemo*, from which we get *polemic*, and is a war of words or ideas—an argument. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), and he waged war by lying about God and God's law. But Jesus said, “the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).
84. 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 (2 Corinthians 10:3–5 NIV84).

85. From the beginning it has been Satan's studied plan to **cause men to forget God**, that he might secure them to himself. Hence, **he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him**. The Creator has been presented to their minds **as clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself—as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving**—that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men. Satan hoped to so confuse the minds of those whom he had deceived that they would put God out of their knowledge. Then he would obliterate the divine image in man and impress his own likeness upon the soul; he would imbue men with his own spirit and make them captives according to his will (Ellen White, *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 738).

86. **It was by falsifying the character of God and exciting distrust of Him that Satan tempted Eve to transgress**. By sin the minds of our first parents were darkened, their natures were degraded, and their conceptions of God were molded by their own narrowness and selfishness. And as men became bolder in sin, the knowledge and the love of God faded from their minds and hearts. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God," they "became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Ellen White, *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 738).

87. **The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing** controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle **between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition** (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 582).

88. **There is no such thing as weakening or strengthening the law of Jehovah. As it has been, so it is. It always has been, and always will be** holy, just, and good, complete in itself. It cannot be repealed or changed. To "honor" or "dishonor" it is but the speech of men.

Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition (Ellen White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 625).

Adam Created After Angels and After Satan's Rebellion:

89. Where were you **when I laid the earth's foundation**? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—**while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy**? (Job 38:5–7).

90. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. ... Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 2:9; 3:1 NIV84).

- The serpent is Satan; see Revelation 12:7–9.

91. Angels on probation had been deceived by Satan and had been led on by him in the great rebellion in heaven against Christ. They failed to endure the test brought to bear upon them, and they fell. **Adam was then created in the image of God** and placed upon probation. He had a perfectly developed organism. All his faculties were harmonious. In all his emotions, words, and actions, there was a perfect conformity to the will of his Maker (Ellen White, *Confrontation*, p. 18).

Old Testament Documents the War to Keep Open Avenue for Messiah:

92. By leading Israel to this daring insult and blasphemy to Jehovah, Satan had planned to cause their ruin. Since they had proved themselves to be so utterly degraded, so lost to all sense of the privileges and blessings that God had offered them, and to their own solemn and repeated pledges of loyalty, the Lord would, he believed, divorce them from Himself and devote them to destruction. **Thus would be secured the extinction of the seed of Abraham, that seed of promise that was to preserve the knowledge of the living God, and through whom He was to come—the true Seed, that was to conquer Satan.** The great rebel had planned to destroy Israel, and thus thwart the purposes of God. But again he was defeated. Sinful as they were, the people of Israel were not destroyed. While those who stubbornly ranged themselves on the side of Satan were cut off, the people, humbled and repentant, were mercifully pardoned. The history of this sin was to stand as a perpetual testimony to the guilt and punishment of idolatry, and the justice and long-suffering mercy of God (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 335).

93. Notwithstanding this terrible lesson [the flood], men had no sooner begun to multiply once more, than rebellion and vice became widespread. Satan seemed to have taken control of the world. **The time came that a change must be made, or the image of God would be wholly obliterated from the hearts of the beings He had created.** All heaven watched the movements of God with intense interest. Would He once more manifest His wrath? Would He destroy the world by fire? The angels thought that the time had come to strike the blow of justice, when, lo, to their wondering vision was unveiled the plan of salvation. Wonder, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth! **God sent His only begotten Son into the world to save the world! Amazing grace!** “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (Ellen White, *1888 Materials*, p. 569).

In Understanding Design Law, We Understand that Death Comes from Sin—Breaking God’s Design Law:

94. The **wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23).

95. Sin when full grown brings forth death (James 1:15).

96. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, **from that nature will reap destruction** (Galatians 6:8).

God's Wrath Is Letting People Go to Reap What Unremedied Sin Brings—Death

97. In some sense, **God's wrath is built into the very structure of created reality.** In rejecting God's structure and establishing our own, in violating God's intention for the creation and substituting our own intentions, **we cause or own disintegration** (Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intervarsity Press, 1996, p. 542).
98. The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18–32, is not something caused by God. The phrase “revealed from heaven” (where “heaven” is a typical Jewish substitute word for “God”) **does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the inevitability of human debasement which results when God's will, built into the created order, is violated.** Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed “from heaven.” It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God's truth (Rom. 1:18–20), that is, the truth about God's nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom. 1:21, 22), idolatry (Rom. 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom. 1:24–27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom. 1:28–32) (Ibid., p. 543).
99. The expression “**God gave them over**” (or “handed them over”), which appears three times in this passage (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, **is to be understood ultimately as God's punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves** (Ibid.).
100. In light of these reflections, **the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained.** ... God loves us with an everlasting love. But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. **The result is disintegration and death** (Ibid.).
101. Sickness, suffering, and **death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer** (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 113).
102. **God destroys no one.** The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence (Ellen White, *The Faith I Live By*, p. 58).
103. **Read the Scriptures carefully,** and you will find that **Christ spent the largest part of His ministry in restoring** the suffering and afflicted to health. Thus, He threw back upon Satan the reproach of the evil which the enemy of all good had originated. **Satan is the destroyer; Christ is the Restorer** (Ellen White, *Medical Missionary*, p. 240).
104. **Satan is the destroyer.** God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards. **All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his destroying work.** We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? **The Lord's restraining power is not exercised** (Ellen White, *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 388).
105. Men have reached a point in insolence and disobedience which shows that their cup of iniquity is almost full. Many have well-nigh passed the boundary of mercy. Soon **God will show that He is indeed the living God. He will say to the angels, “No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy.** Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. **I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work”** (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901, par. 8).

106. **Christ never planted the seeds of death in the system. Satan planted these seeds** when he tempted Adam to eat of the tree of knowledge, which meant disobedience to God (Ellen White, *16 Manuscript Release*, p. 47).
107. **We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin.** The sinner brings punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a **change of character**, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, **men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death** (Ellen White, *The Faith I Live*, p. 84).
108. “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is being interpreted, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” **The wrath of God fell upon Christ. This was the hiding of the Father’s countenance.** Though innocent, Christ was treated as a sinner, that through His merits sinners, though guilty, might be treated as the loyal and obedient children of God. Christ died with the sins of the world imputed to Him, that His righteousness might be imputed to the sinner. When the sense of the loss of His Father’s favor was withdrawn, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of bitterness (Ellen White, *18 Manuscript Release*, p. 731).
109. I was shown that the **judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord** upon them, but in this way; **They place themselves beyond His protection.** He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, **if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan’s decided attacks upon them.**
It is Satan’s power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of (Ellen White, *14 Manuscript Release*, p. 3).

Salvation Is Healing and Restoring:

110. When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and **healed** all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “He Himself took our infirmities, **and carried away our diseases**” (Matthew 8:16, 17 NAS).
111. He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, and by His scourging we are **healed** (Isaiah 53:5 NAS).
112. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were **healed** (1 Peter 2:24, 25 NAS).
113. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind** (Romans 12:2 NIV84).

114. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, **circumcise your hearts**, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 4:4 NIV84).
115. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is **circumcision of the heart**, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God (Romans 2:29 NIV84).
116. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "**I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts**" (Hebrews 8:10 NIV84).
117. **I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them**; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a **heart of flesh** (Ezekiel 11:19 NIV84).
118. Create in me a **pure heart**, O God, and renew a **steadfast spirit within me** (Psalm 51:10 NIV84).
119. **The truth of God, like a good medicine, will continue to heal sin-sick souls** so long as people receive it by faith (Walvoord, J. F., & Zuck, R. B., Dallas Theological Seminary, 1985, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, p. 695. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books).
120. The scribes and Pharisees were starting to look for reasons to accuse and oppose Christ (vv. 3, 11, 34). Thus, when Matthew held a dinner for Christ and invited his "sinner friends," the Pharisees attended to cause trouble. In this passage, **Christ pictures Himself as a physician to heal sinful hearts** and a bridegroom to bring joy to people's lives (Wiersbe, W.W., 1992. *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*, p. 40. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books).
121. **God's healing power runs all through nature.** If a tree is cut, if a human being is wounded or breaks a bone, nature begins at once to repair the injury. **Even before the need exists, the healing agencies are in readiness**; and as soon as a part is wounded, every energy is bent to the work of restoration. **So it is in the spiritual realm. Before sin created the need, God had provided the remedy.** Every soul that yields to temptation is wounded, bruised, by the adversary; but whenever there is sin, there is the Savior. It is Christ's work "to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, ... to set at liberty them that are bruised (Luke 4:18).
- In this work we are to cooperate. "If a man be overtaken in a fault, ... restore such an one" (Galatians 6:1). **The word here translated "restore" means to put in joint, as a dislocated bone. How suggestive the figure! He who falls into error or sin is thrown out of relation to everything about him.** He may realize his error and be filled with remorse; but he cannot recover himself. He is in confusion and perplexity, worsted and helpless. **He is to be reclaimed, healed, re-established.** "Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one." **Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal.** Only he in whom that love flows, even as the sap in the tree or the blood in the body, **can restore the wounded soul.**
- Love's agencies have wonderful power, for they are divine. The soft answer that "turns away wrath," the love that "suffers long and is kind," the charity that "covers a multitude of sins" (Proverbs 15:1; 1 Corinthians 13:4, R.V.; 1 Peter 4:8, R.V.)—**would we learn the lesson, with what power for healing would our lives be gifted! How life would be transformed, and the earth become a very likeness and foretaste of heaven!** (Ellen White, *Education*, pp. 113, 114).

122. 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 righteousness are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God “was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.” Sin is defined to be “the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:5, 4). But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart” (Psalm 40:8). When on earth, He said to His disciples, “I have kept My Father’s commandments” (John 15:10). **By His perfect obedience, He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, 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 (Ellen White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 311).
123. The atonement of Christ is **not** a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; it is a **divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of spiritual health.** It is the Heaven-ordained means by which the **righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us but in our hearts and characters** (Ellen White, Letter 406, 1906, *6 Bible Commentary*, p. 1074).
124. **The law requires righteousness—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God’s holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character**, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus **the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ.** God can “be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 762).

The Truth About Hell—Must Harmonize with Scripture and God’s Laws of Love and Liberty:

125. The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: **“Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with the everlasting burning?”** (Isaiah 33:14).
126. **He who walks righteously** and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil (Isaiah 33:15).

Evidence of God’s Life-Giving Glory Is the Consuming Fire

127. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in **flames of fire** from within a bush. Moses saw that though the **bush was on fire it did not burn up.** So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, **God called to him from within the bush**, “Moses! Moses!” (Exodus 3:2–4 NIV84).

128. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a **consuming fire** on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:17, 18 NIV84).
129. When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it (2 Chronicles 7:1, 2 NIV84).
130. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you **walked among the fiery stones**. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the **fiery stones** (Ezekiel 28:24–16 NIV84).
131. Thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. **His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him.** Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him (Daniel 7:9, 10 NIV84).
132. For **our “God is a consuming fire”** (Hebrews 12:29 NIV84).
133. There will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord **God will be their light**, and they will reign forever and ever (Revelation 22:5 NRSV).
134. The righteous are transformed—just as Moses’ face after 40 days radiated God’s glory (Exodus 34:29–35).
- But the people shrank back—why?
135. The wicked destroyed by the brightness of Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:8).
136. Nadab and Abihu ... offered unauthorized fire before the Lord. ... So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and **consumed them**, and **they died before the Lord**. ... Moses summoned [their cousins], and said to them, “Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp.” ... So they came and carried them, **still in their tunics**, outside the camp, as Moses ordered (Leviticus 10:1–5 NIV84).
137. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you (Ezekiel 28:18).
138. Scripture indicates that every sinner kindles for himself the flame of his own fire, and is not plunged into a fire which has been previously kindled by someone else or which existed before him (*Origen on First Principles*, translated into English by Butterworth, p. 141).
139. If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with **burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever** (Revelation 14:9–11).

- The word translated brimstone or sulfurous fire is the Greek word *thion*, which is a form of the word *thios*, which means divine, Godhead, divinity.
- Thus, the word translated brimstone should more accurately be translated “divine incense” or “holy fire,” because it is the fire of God’s presence!
- As the text says: “He will be tormented with burning sulfur [thion: truth and love] in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.”
- And what about the “smoke of their torment rising forever”?
- Smoke is what remains after something is burned; thus, this smoke is symbolic of the memory of what happened to them, how unremedied sin caused such suffering and torment and ultimate destruction. This will never be forgotten.

140. When Christ shall come in His glory, the wicked cannot endure to behold Him. **The light of His presence, which is life to those who love Him, is death to the ungodly.** The expectation of His coming is to them a “fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation” (Hebrews 10:27). When He shall appear, they will pray to be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them (Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 26).

141. **To sin, wherever found, “our God is a consuming fire”** (Hebrews 12:29). In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God **will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them.** Jacob, after his night of wrestling with the Angel, exclaimed, “I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved” (Genesis 32:30). Jacob had been guilty of a great sin in his conduct toward Esau; but he had repented. His transgression had been forgiven, and his sin purged; therefore, he could endure the revelation of God’s presence. But wherever men came before God while willfully cherishing evil, they were destroyed. At the second advent of Christ the wicked shall be consumed “with the Spirit of His mouth,” and destroyed “with the brightness of His coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8). **The light of the glory of God, which imparts life to the righteous, will slay the wicked** (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 107).

142. This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. **The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life.** He is “alienated from the life of God.” Christ says, “All they that hate Me love death” (Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36). God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. **By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them** (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 764).

143. At last the order to advance is given, and the countless host moves on—an army such as was never summoned by earthly conquerors, such as the combined forces of all ages since war began on earth could never equal. Satan, the mightiest of warriors, leads the van, and his angels unite their forces for this final struggle. Kings and warriors are in his train, and the multitudes follow in vast companies, each under its appointed leader. With military precision the serried ranks advance over the earth’s broken and uneven surface to the City of God. By command of Jesus, **the gates of the New Jerusalem are closed**, and the armies of Satan surround the city and make ready for the onset.

Now Christ again appears to the view of His enemies. Far above the city, upon a foundation of burnished gold, is a throne, high and lifted up. Upon this throne sits the Son of God, and around Him are the subjects of His kingdom. The power and majesty of Christ no lan-

guage can describe, no pen portray. The glory of the Eternal Father is enshrouding His Son. **The brightness of His presence fills the City of God, and flows out beyond the gates, flooding the whole earth with its radiance** (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 664, 665).

144. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart—**all appear as if written in letters of fire** (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 666).

145. **God does not force the will or judgment of any.** He takes no pleasure in a slavish obedience. He desires that the creatures of His hands shall love Him because He is worthy of love. He would have them obey Him because they have an intelligent appreciation of His wisdom, justice, and benevolence. And all who have a just conception of these qualities will love Him because they are drawn toward Him in admiration of His attributes.

The principles of kindness, mercy, and love, taught and exemplified by our Savior, are a transcript of the will and character of God. Christ declared that He taught nothing except that which He had received from His Father. **The principles of the divine government are in perfect harmony with the Savior's precept, "Love your enemies."** God executes justice upon the wicked, for the good of the universe, and even for the good of those upon whom His judgments are visited. **He would make them happy if He could do so** in accordance with the laws of His government and the justice of His character. He surrounds them with the tokens of His love, He grants them a knowledge of His law, and follows them with the offers of His mercy; but they despise His love, make void His law, and reject His mercy. While constantly receiving His gifts, they dishonor the Giver; they hate God because they know that He abhors their sins. The Lord bears long with their perversity; but the decisive hour will come at last, when their destiny is to be decided. Will He then chain these rebels to His side? Will He force them to do His will?

Those who have chosen Satan as their leader and have been controlled by his power are not prepared to enter the presence of God. Pride, deception, licentiousness, cruelty, **have become fixed in their characters.** Can they enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they despised and hated on earth? **Truth will never be agreeable to a liar; meekness will not satisfy self-esteem and pride;** purity is not acceptable to the corrupt; disinterested love does not appear attractive to the selfish. What source of enjoyment could heaven offer to those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests?

Could those whose lives have been spent in rebellion against God be suddenly transported to heaven and witness the high, the holy state of perfection that ever exists there—every soul filled with love... and ceaseless streams of light flowing upon the redeemed from the face of Him who sits upon the throne—could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? **Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no;** years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. **A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire. They would long to flee from that holy place. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice.** Their exclusion from heaven is **voluntary with themselves**, and just and merciful on the part of God.

Like the waters of the Flood, the fires of the great day declare **God's verdict that the wicked are incurable** (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 541, 542).

The Four Phases of Judgment:

The First Judgment—Our Judgment of God, that He is Trustworthy

146. Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when **You are judged**" (Romans 3:4 NKJV).
147. God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, "You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when **you are being tried**" (Romans 3:4 GNB).
148. Paul may here [Romans 3:4] be referring to the central issue in the great controversy between good and evil. **God's character and justice have been, as it were, on trial before men and the whole universe** (see Romans 3:25, 26) (Nichol, F. D., Ed., 1980. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 497. Review and Herald Publishing Association).
149. Jesus said, "**For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see** and those who see will become blind" (John 9:39 NIV84).
150. Now is the time **for judgment on this world**; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when **I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself**" (John 12:31 32 NIV84).
- The word "men" in Greek is not in original manuscript; it was added by translators; it has been removed from this rendering.
151. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and **judgment**: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and **in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned** (John 16:8–11 NIV84).
152. I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of **his judgment** has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" (Revelation 14:6, 7 NIV84).
153. **They thought themselves passing judgment on Christ; but in rejecting Him they were pronouncing sentence upon themselves.** "He that is of God," said Jesus, "heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 468).
154. The lesson is true for all time. Many a man who delights to quibble, to criticize, seeking for something to question in the word of God, thinks that he is thereby giving evidence of independence of thought and mental acuteness. **He supposes that he is sitting in judgment on the Bible, when in truth he is judging himself.** He makes it manifest that he is incapable of appreciating truths that originate in heaven and that compass eternity (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 468).

155. The people who beheld the Savior at His advent were favored with a fuller manifestation of the divine presence than the world had ever enjoyed before. **The knowledge of God was revealed more perfectly. But in this very revelation, judgment was passing upon men. Their character was tested, their destiny determined** (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 475)

The Second Judgment—Jesus' Work as Savior (Physician) to Diagnose and Intervene to Bring Remedy that Cleanses and Cures

156. "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. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. **"So I will come near to you for judgment"** (Malachi 3:1–5).

157. He has set a day when **he will judge the world** with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31 NIV84).

158. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will *not* be condemned with the world (1 Corinthians 11:32 NIV84).

159. When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar [in the sanctuary] the souls [individualities] of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord ... until you **judge** the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" **Then** each of them was given a white robe [cleansing of their characters], and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed [cleansing of the living on earth; see Malachi 3:1–3] (Revelation 6:9–11 NIV84).

160. How great is the long-suffering of God toward the wicked! The idolatrous Philistines and backsliding Israel had alike enjoyed the gifts of His providence. Ten thousand unnoticed mercies were silently falling in the pathway of ungrateful, rebellious men. Every blessing spoke to them of the Giver, but they were indifferent to His love. The forbearance of God was very great toward the children of men; **but when they stubbornly persisted in their impenitence, He removed from them His protecting hand.** They refused to listen to the voice of God in His created works, and in the warnings, counsels, and reproofs of His word, and thus **He was forced to speak to them through judgments** (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 587).

161. Notwithstanding the favor that God showed to the Hebrews, yet because of their lust for the luxuries left behind in Egypt, and **because of their sin and rebellion, the judgments of God came upon them.** The apostle enjoined the Corinthian believers to heed the lesson contained in Israel's experience. "Now these things were our examples," he declared, "to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." **He showed how love of ease and pleasure had prepared the way for sins that called forth the signal vengeance of God.** It was when the children of Israel sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play, that they threw off the fear of God, which they had felt as they listened to the giving of the law; and, making a golden calf to represent God, they worshiped it. And it was after enjoying a luxurious feast connected with the worship of Baalpeor, that many of the Hebrews fell through licentiousness.

The anger of God was aroused, and at His command “three and twenty thousand” were slain by the plague in one day (Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 315).

162. As he set before them God’s commands and threatenings, and **the fearful judgments visited on Israel in the past for this very sin, their consciences were aroused, and a work of reformation was begun** that turned away God’s threatened anger and brought His approval and blessing (Ellen White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 673).
163. **A proper fear of God, in believing His threatenings, works the peaceable fruits of righteousness, by causing the trembling soul to flee to Jesus.** Many ought to have this spirit today, and turn to the Lord with humble contrition, for the Lord has not given so many terrible threatenings, pronounced so **severe judgments** in His Word, simply to have them recorded, but He means what He says. One says, “Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law,” Paul says, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, October 21, 1890).
164. **In the cleansing of the temple**, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God’s purpose that **every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator.** Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the **heart of man becomes again His temple.** God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high **destiny open to every soul.** But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly **the temple of the heart**, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. **In cleansing the temple from the world’s buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin—from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul.** “The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appears? for He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 161).
165. **The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event;** and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25 (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 426).
166. “Who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap; and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **and he shall purify the sons of Levi**, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness” (Malachi 3:2, 3). **Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above, are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters**

must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. *Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil.* While the investigative judgment is going forward in Heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14. *When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing* (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 425).

The Third Judgment—Our Judgment of Angels and the Unsaved During the 1,000 Years

167. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to **judge**. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6).
168. Do you not know that the saints will **judge** the world? (1Corinthians 6:2 NIV84).
169. Do you not know that we will **judge** angels? (1Corinthians 6:3 NIV84).
170. Therefore **judge nothing before the appointed time**; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts (1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV84).
171. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to **judge** (Revelation 20:4 NIV84).
172. **During the 1,000 years between the first and second resurrections, the judgment of the wicked takes place.** Paul points to this as an event that follows the second advent (1 Corinthians 4:5). The righteous reign as kings and priests. John says: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them. ... They shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4–6). (Ellen White, *From Here to Forever*, p. 399)

The Fourth Judgment—The Great White Throne Judgment at the End of the 1,000 Years

173. I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were **judged** according to what they had done as recorded in the books (Revelation 20:11, 12).
174. Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on **the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken. **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.** (Matthew 12:33–37 NIV84).

175. In the day of **final judgment**, every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth. The cross will be presented, and its real bearing will be seen by every mind that has been blinded by transgression. Before the vision of Calvary with its mysterious Victim, sinners will stand condemned. Every lying excuse will be swept away. Human apostasy will appear in its heinous character. Men will see what their choice has been. **Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy will then have been made plain. In the judgment of the universe, God will stand clear of blame for the existence or continuance of evil.** It will be demonstrated that the divine decrees are not accessory to sin. **There was no defect in God's government, no cause for disaffection.** When the thoughts of all hearts shall be revealed, both the loyal and the rebellious will unite in declaring, "Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. ... for Thy judgments are made manifest" (Revelation 15:3, 4) (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 58).
176. God may not now punish the transgression of His law with temporal penalties, **yet in the final judgment death is the portion** of those who violate His sacred precepts (Ellen White, *From Eternity Past*, p. 287).
177. It was not merely to redeem man that Christ came to earth to die. He came to **demonstrate to all the worlds that God's law is unchangeable.** The death of Christ proves it immutable and demonstrates that justice and mercy are the foundation of the government of God. **In the final judgment it will be seen that no cause for sin exists.** When the Judge of all the earth shall demand of Satan, "Why hast thou rebelled against Me?" the originator of evil can render no excuse (Ellen White, *The Great Hope*, p. 4).
178. The **final judgment** is a most solemn, awful event. This must take place before the universe. To the Lord Jesus the Father has committed all judgment. He will declare the reward of loyalty to the law of Jehovah. **God will be honored, and His government vindicated and glorified,** and that in the presence of the inhabitants of the unfallen worlds. On the largest possible scale will the government of God be vindicated and exalted. It is not the judgment of one individual or of one nation, but of the whole world. Oh, what a change will then be made in the understanding of all created beings. Then all will see the value of eternal life (Ellen White, Letter 131, October 14, 1900, as quoted in *This Day with God*, p. 296).
179. Many have been so deceived, their principles so corrupted, that they have no pleasure in the word of God, and it has no power over their lives. **God will test character. In the day of final judgment, when every man shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, nothing will seem to have existence but character and the law of God. Man will be stripped of everything but the character he has formed. All will be seen to be either righteous or unrighteous** (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, February 12, 1901, par. 21).

