



Jeremiah 4Q 2015 Lesson 1

The Prophetic Calling of Jeremiah

SABBATH

Second paragraph states, “Despite decades of fervent warning and pleadings, the people for the most part didn’t listen to the messages he gave them from the Lord.”

Why do you think they didn’t listen?

- Do you think they thought, “We know we are wrong, we know we are fighting against the Lord, but we don’t care”?
- Do you think they didn’t believe Jeremiah?
- Why might they not have believed him?
- Did they have some prophecies or other Scripture they pointed to that caused them to reject Jeremiah?
- And did their misunderstanding of Scripture eventually cause them to reject Jesus?
- I was reading in the book *The Desire of Ages* this a.m. and came across this quotation. The context is Jesus was eating at the feast with tax collectors after calling Matthew and the Pharisees were criticizing Him to His disciples for not fasting and not following their traditions:

Jesus pointed out **the power of false teaching to destroy the appreciation and desire for truth.** "No man," He said, "having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better." All the truth that has been given to the world through patriarchs and prophets shone out in new beauty in the words of Christ. But the scribes and Pharisees **had no desire for the precious new wine. Until emptied of the old traditions, customs, and practices, they had no place in mind or heart for the teachings of Christ.** They clung to the dead forms, and turned away from the living truth and the power of God. DA 279

It was this that proved the ruin of the Jews, and it will prove the ruin of many souls in our own day. Thousands are making the same mistake as did the Pharisees whom Christ reproved at Matthew's feast. **Rather than give up some cherished idea, or discard some idol of opinion, many refuse the truth which comes down from the Father of light.** They trust in self, and depend upon their own wisdom, and do not realize their spiritual poverty. They insist on being saved in some way by which they may perform some important work. When they see that there is no way of weaving self into the work, they reject the salvation provided. **A legal religion can never lead souls to Christ; for it is a loveless, Christless religion.** DA 280



- What was it about how the Jews at the time of Jeremiah used Scripture that prevented them from accepting Christ and hearing God’s message?
 - Holding to previous interpretations and traditions and refusing new truth and light
 - What aided in the ability to resist the light?
 - Failure to interpret symbols, metaphors, object lessons, types into reality
 - Refusing to incorporate the interpretations of Scripture with nature and experience (The Integrative Evidenced-Based Approach), which is what Jesus did
 - Failure to grow past levels 1-4 in moral decision making, which resulted in seeing God as arbitrary and God’s law as imposed
 - These combined errors led to believing law keeping, rule keeping of some sort, behavior, carrying out rituals, observing Sabbath and feast days, doing sacrifices (some legal religion) made them “safe.”
 - Thus they had religion, claimed to be God’s people, but were actually, according to Jesus, of their father the devil

Are we doing better today?

- Could Christianity be caught into a similar situation today, claiming a belief in Scripture but denying the truth about God?
 - Jesus said: “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” Mt 7:22,23
 - But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. 2Tim 3:1-5
- Could the SDA church be vulnerable to this same problem, believing we are secure because we have certain Bible interpretations we cling to, but in reality we are stuck in metaphor and have failed to grasp the reality to which the metaphor points, and have also accepted an imposed law construct while refusing the integrative evidenced based approach? And with these errors could the SDA church be trapped into a false security believing we are special because of law keeping, observing a certain religious day?

What is the message of God for this time in human history?



“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love.” Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

Why is this the last message to be given? How is this message connected to Bible prophecy, such as Daniel 8:14 and the 3 angels messages of Revelation 14 and the message of Revelation 18? And how has the message been corrupted by a false law construct and remaining stuck on metaphor?

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote the following:

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. {FLB 207.4}

What are these prophecies about? How are they taught? What law lens do you understand them through?

If we look through imposed law:

- God has a law that has been broken, the broken law requires just punishments
- God sent Jesus to take our punishment and God put all our sins on Jesus and punished Him in our place paying the proper legal price for the sins of humanity
- God, in order to be just and only give the proper amount of inflicted punishment to the unrepentant, keeps records of all our sins
- Those records are recorded in the heavenly sanctuary
- At the end of the 2300 year prophecy, the sanctuary is to be cleansed, thus the records are opened and a heavenly tribunal takes place in which sins are examined and those legally pardoned, because the sinner claimed the legal payment of the blood of Jesus, are removed from the record book. But any sin not legally pardoned (not repented of) is retained on the books and God will inflict the appropriate amount of punishment on judgment day.
- Jesus is right now in the Most Holy Place in a building in heaven, leading out in this examination, and whenever we pray for forgiveness, He pleads His blood to the Father and



reminds the Father of His merits and the Father grants pardon and the sins are removed that that person's ledger and placed upon the shoulders of our sin bearing High Priest Jesus, who carries our sins out of the sanctuary in heaven and will one day place them on the head of Satan and punish Satan for our sins

- Further, when Jesus entered the Most Holy Place, the ark of the covenant was kept there, and in that ark is kept the 10 Commandment law, and on those tables of stone is written the Sabbath Commandment. So, those who follow their High Priest into the Most Holy Place by faith recognize the continued obligation of the Sabbath Commandment and observe the seventh day of the week. These people are God's end time remnant people, because they observe the right day of the week and trust Jesus to legally pardon their sins and remove them from the records in heaven.
- This people then is to give a message to the world, that all to often comes across like this: "Be afraid of God and worship Him as Creator by observing the seventh day Sabbath, because we are now in the antitypical day of atonement in which God is judging sinners and if you don't worship on the right day your sins will not be removed out of the record books and you will receive the mark of the beast."

This state of being is the exact state of being that Jesus faced 2000 years ago when He faced a religious community, who kept the Sabbath, observed the sanctuary law in dealing with their sins and thus felt secure in the fulfillment of their legal obligations—yet rejected Jesus and crucified the Savior of the world.

How do we see these issues if we view them through Design Law?

- God has a law, which is the protocol of love upon which life is constructed to operate. Mankind is deviant from this law and in a terminal condition. This condition requires God (the Designer) to heal and restore lest death ensue.
- God sent Jesus to take our terminal condition upon Himself and cure the condition, forge a new humanity thus achieving remedy for us
 - For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Eph 2:14-18
 - Here is this same passage from *The Remedy*: "For Christ himself is the Remedy that heals the species and brings peace. He has removed fear and selfishness that cause



division, mistrust, prejudice and hostility.¹⁵ He did this by partaking of our human condition, and—via the exercise of his human brain—he loved perfectly, thereby destroying in his flesh (in the humanity he partook) the selfish survival-of-the-fittest drive along with the lies of Satan. In this way, he destroyed the need for the law (with all its regulations) to expose Satan’s lies and methods. His purpose was to be the template of a new humanity born out of the unification of the two—our selfish, infected condition merged with his sinless state—thereby purging selfishness from the human heart, and transforming, healing, renewing, regenerating and recreating humanity back to God’s original ideal.¹⁶ And in this new being, to reconcile the human race—regardless of ethnic background—into loving unity with God and each other through the revelation of truth at the cross, by which he destroyed the lies of Satan, reestablished trust, and removed fear, selfishness and hostility.¹⁷ He came and demonstrated the truth of God's true character and the offer of peace available to all humanity—to those far away in darkness and those blessed with the truth of God's word.¹⁸ For Jesus reveals the truth about God to all, and—through what Jesus has done—all have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

- God, in order to refute the lies of Satan and reveal His true character has kept records, but not to judge us by, but to demonstrate that all those who are lost are lost because they have refused God’s remedy.
- There is also another set of records in which our sins are recorded, but these records are not judicial records; they are the actual individualities of each person whose characters are perfectly recorded in heaven. In other words, every unrepented sin is recorded in the character of the unrepentant. This is why Jesus says, “Let him who is righteous be righteous still...” Here is a quote from one of the founders of the SDA church, because this is what was supposed to be understood in teaching the sanctuary message:
 - 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? "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be" [Revelation 22:12]. . . . {Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce 62.1}
 - Every passing hour of the present is shaping our future life. These moments spent in carelessness, in self-pleasing, as if of no value, are deciding our everlasting destinies. The words we utter today will go on echoing when time shall be no more. **The deeds done today are transferred to the books of heaven, just as the features are**



transferred by the artist onto the polished plate. They will determine our destiny for eternity, for bliss or eternal loss and agonizing remorse. Character cannot be changed when Christ comes... {Testimony to Ministers 429.3}

- You must remain pure and true and firm, **remembering your character is being imprinted upon the books of heaven.** {Our High Calling 317.4}
- Those records (of a person's character) are recorded in the heavenly sanctuary—because the heavenly sanctuary is constructed out of living stones, the actual people who make up the temple where God lives by His Spirit.
- At the end of the 2300 year prophecy, the sanctuary is to be cleansed, and this cleansing is the cleansing of the hearts, minds, characters of His people:
 - “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. **Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple;** the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. ² 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. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **he will purify the Levites** and refine them like gold and silver. Mal 3:1-3
 - “In the building of the sanctuary as a dwelling place for God, Moses was directed to make all things according to the pattern of things in the heavens. God called him into the mount, and revealed to him the heavenly things, and in their similitude the tabernacle, with all that pertained to it, was fashioned.

“So to **Israel**, whom He desired to **make His dwelling place**, He revealed His glorious ideal of **character**. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai and when God passed by before Moses and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Exodus 34:6. ...

“Through Christ was to be fulfilled the **purpose** of which the **tabernacle was a symbol**--that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. **In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul.** It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. (Education 34-36)



- “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 appeareth? 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." Mal. 3:1-3. (DA 161).
- Jesus is right now in the Most Holy Place in heaven, leading all the agencies at His disposal in the work of cleansing the minds, hearts, and characters of His people from the lies about God, the removal of selfishness, and the restoration of righteousness. They are the building blocks of His heavenly sanctuary.
 - “**The cases of all are pending in the heavenly sanctuary.** Day by day angels of God are watching the *development of character*... All defects must be remedied. **The character must be assimilated to the character of Christ**... At an infinite cost a fountain has been prepared for *our cleansing*. **In the blood of the Son of God we may wash our garments of character, and make them white.**” (ST, April 17, 1901).
 - What is the reality these symbols point toward?
 - Blood of Jesus = Character of Jesus
 - Garments = Our character
 - Washing in the blood of Jesus = Remove selfishness and assimilate the selfless character of Jesus
- "Fear God and give him *glory*, because the hour of *his* judgment has come.” (Rev. 14:7).



- What is God’s glory? His character, and how do we give Him glory? By allowing Him to heal us so we reveal His character at the time of *His* judgment! **“Through trial and persecution the *glory--the character--of God is revealed in His chosen ones.*”** (AA 576).
- And this people who are being cleansed from lies about God—realize His true character of love, and His design for His universe, the law of love, of which the Sabbath is a sign, begin living lives that reveal the truth about God in their characters while leaving everyone free. The methods of presenting truth, in love while leaving others free is symbolized by the Sabbath, the day in which God rested from presenting the evidence of His character. The Sabbath is the evidence of Design law—created at the end of Creation week, built as a day of reflection and consideration and worship of God.

Which message are we presenting to the world? Are we today listening to God’s prophets? Or are we like Israel, stuck in misunderstanding of metaphor and blinded with a penal/legal theology because of accepting the imposed law construct?

We cannot do our mission as an end time people until we come back to the truth about God—His character and law of love!

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “The prophets...” What do you hear the authors emphasizing? The need for people to realize their sin—no doubt, but do you hear them suggesting this is a condition of heart and mind that needs healing, or a legal problem that needs a legal solution?

Read second paragraph, “God’s judgment was not...” How do you understand “God’s judgment” referred to here? In other words, how do you understand God’s actions in Old Testament times?

Do you see it as God evaluating the behavior of Israel, keeping track of the number of sinful acts, and when the bad deeds reached a certain intensity, without proper elimination through the sanctuary service, then God was required by justice, to pronounce them guilty of treason against the divine government and impose just punishments? Such descriptions are level 1-4 thinking and are based on Satan’s view of God’s law.

Understanding God as Creator and Builder of reality, we understand that:



- God was diagnosing the situation and intervening with loving education (His prophets telling them of the tragic results of continuing out of harmony with God’s design) and when they refused to following God’s treatment plan God either:
 - set them free to their own choices OR
 - Intervened with therapeutic actions intended to heal and restore all who would allow it, including at times excising malignant and necrotic lesions
- That those who refuse treatment, are eventually given up to their own choices and reap the results... slavery in Babylon etc.

Read fourth paragraph, “This task involved...” What motivation do you hear being cited here? This is level one thinking, reward and punishment—better do what God says because He can inflict more severe judgments than human beings—and provide better rewards.

Bottom pink read, “What are the prophets...” Consider these messages from Micah, Isaiah and Amos, three of God’s spokespersons—what are they saying God wants?

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Mic 6:6-8

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ “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.

¹² When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me.

New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your evil assemblies.

¹⁴ Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen.



Your hands are full of blood; ¹⁶ wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong,
¹⁷ learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.
¹⁸ “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.
ISA 1:10-18

“I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies.
²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.
²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
AM 5:21-24

What is the message? The Lord does not want a legal religion; He doesn't want formalism, ritual; He wants healing of the inner man, a restoration of true righteousness, which is the law of love being written on the heart and mind. (Heb 8:10)

MONDAY

Last paragraph states the priests were to be moral and spiritual leaders... What is the lesson we are to learn from them?

In the Old Testament drama—the sanctuary stage play—who do the priests represent?

- The priesthood of believers; if you are a believer in Christ you are a priest.
- The white robes symbolize the character of Christ we are to assimilate into our hearts. Thus, we are to be spiritual leaders in the world.
- As the Levites camped between the other tribes and the sanctuary, leading the other tribes closer to the sanctuary (reunion at-one-ment with God) so too, we are standing as God's envoys to the world and are to be leading the peoples of the world back to a knowledge of God.

But the priests of Israel became infected with a legal religion and failed to actually know God and thus they led people into such darkness they rejected their Creator—the one to whom all the symbols pointed.



Is Christianity doing a better job of leading people to the truth about God than the priests of Old Testament Israel? Are we doing this or are we obstructing people from knowing God by perpetuating the false legal view of God that presents Him as cosmic executioner and the one from whom we must be protected? Did Christianity become infected with an imposed law concept and the world fell into an age of darkness, from which it still hasn't exited?

The Bible predicted this, "See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." ISA 60:2,3

What is the darkness that covers the people? It is, as we read earlier today, darkness about God! We are to be lights, we are to take the knowledge of His true character and His design law of love to the world. This is the three angels messages, we are to be giving glory to God by revealing His true character to the world! What obstructs us? The infection of imposed law—which distorts everything, clinging to metaphor and symbol, and rejecting the integrative evidenced based approach!

TUESDAY

The first paragraph tells us that Jeremiah was speaking "the word of the Lord." What does this phrase mean? Does it mean the literal words were chosen by God? Or does it mean a message from God was being communicated?

When we read the Bible and understand it is the word of God, do we view the words as inspired or the people who wrote those words as inspired and thus it is about the message not the specific words chosen?

Here is an historic quote from Ellen White about inspiration. Do you agree?

The Bible is written by **inspired men, but it is not God's mode of thought and expression.** It is that of humanity. **God, as a writer, is not represented.** Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But **God has not put Himself in words,** in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. **The writers of the Bible were God's penmen, not His pen.** Look at the different writers. {1SM 21.1}

It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man's words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind is diffused. The divine mind and will is



combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God.--
Manuscript 24, 1886 (written in Europe in 1886). {1SM 21.2}

Then, can we feel comfortable using different words as long as we communicate the same message?

WEDNESDAY

The last paragraph states, “Imagine having to stand before hostile leaders or unruly people and give them sharp words of rebuke and warning.”

For whom are sharp words of rebuke necessary? For the immature, the hard of heart, those who don’t want to listen or think or reason.

People have different levels of psychological development, which generally means their ability to assimilate and deal with truth. People develop what are called defense mechanisms to, according to modern theory; protect the ego, the self, from disintegration. In reality, it is to protect selfishness from being removed from the heart, for these mechanisms are about denying truth, avoiding reality that would bring conviction and lead one toward maturity and healing. Those with the most primitive defenses often need strong confrontation—rebukes. If someone is wrong, but has an open heart and is willing to listen and learn, such words are not needed.

Here are some of the defense mechanisms:

Pathological:

- **Denial:** Refusal to accept external reality because it is too stressful, anxiety provoking (Addicts, narcissists, antisocials -- “I don’t have an addiction problem, I can handle it, It wasn’t me...”)
- **Distortion:** Twisting the mind around truth in order to avoid it (“This only happened because my boss doesn’t like me...”)
- **Splitting:** Extreme segregation of events into all good or all bad categories (black and white thinking)

Immature Defenses:

- **Acting out:** Unconsciously acting out in behavior unresolved emotional distress—a person who was molested and has unresolved issues might act out with promiscuity



- **Wishful thinking:** Making decisions on what one wishes life would be like instead of evidence and facts. Choosing to stay in a relationship based on wishing it will turn out right or he/she really loves you rather than based on the evidence of their conduct
- **Idealization:** Investing someone with greater virtue, intelligence, authority, value, than they rightly possess—thus deferring to their opinion and seeking their approval
- **Projection:** Seeing in others one's own defects and fears. A person who doesn't like to go to the store because of fear or feeling of others looking at them critically.
- **Passive aggression:** Anger toward others manifested passively, rather than directly admitting anger and dealing with it, one presents as supportive or not angry, but then undermines, often through procrastination or failure to do a good job.
- **Somatization:** Experiencing psychological distress with physical symptoms

Neurotic:

- **Displacement:** Separating emotions from real target, angry at boss but yells at wife
- **Hypochondriasis:** Insecurity about self manifested as excessive worry and preoccupation with one's health
- **Intellectualization:** Avoiding uncomfortable emotions via intellectual examination
- **Isolation:** Separating emotions from events, describing a traumatic event in great detail but showing no emotion about it
- **Rationalization:** Justifying one's actions as right or not having done a wrong, excuse making
- **Comparing self with others:** Finding someone who is worse in some trait of character and comparing self to that person as a means of avoiding dealing with one's own defect
- **Regression:** Reverting to behaviors that were appropriate at an earlier stage of development, whining, temper tantrums, rather than mature communication

Mature:

While the previous are all about avoiding the truth, the mature are all about assimilating and dealing with truth and overcoming defects of character:

- **Respect:** Recognizing the value and worth of others and the legitimacy of their thoughts and ideas
- **Acceptance:** Admitting and dealing with reality
- **Patience:** Willingness to delay gratification for a greater good
- **Courage:** The mental ability to stand one's ground and deal with issues
- **Moderation:** Self-restraint, keeping to reasonable limits, avoiding extremes not just in behavior, but beliefs
- **Humility:** Recognition of one's limitations and while healthy self-value, doesn't over esteem oneself



- **Mindfulness:** Ability to live in the here and now, rather than stuck in past (either past victories or failures) or living in future fantasy, either of success or failure.
- **Gratitude:** Have a thankful heart or mind toward life
- **Altruism:** Seeking to help others, valuing others more than self
- **Tolerance:** The exercise of the law of liberty, deliberately allowing others the freedom to do what you disapprove of
- **Mercy:** Compassion, grace, kindness to those under one's power or authority
- **Forgiveness:** Relinquishing one's desire for vengeance or retribution
- **Anticipation:** Realistic planning for future problems or needs—using seat belts
- **Humor:** Processing distressing emotions with witticism and humor

Which mechanisms do you use?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “The prophet is...” Would it be better to say Jeremiah's mission was to transmit a message from God rather than the words of God?

What do you think about the idea “The emphasis here is not on the human or on human potential; it is on God's sovereignty and power alone.”?

What does this mean? If it is about God's sovereignty and power, why does Zechariah say “not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord?” 4:6

Is God sovereign? ABSOLUTELY! But how does His sovereignty work? Always through HIS law and design, which is the law of love and liberty, as love cannot exist without freedom. Thus coercive power or threat or might is never used. Here is an historic view:

“Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; **but from Christ's kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished.**” AA 12

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. E.G. White Desire of Ages 759



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... This principle is wholly of Satan's creation. E.G. White Review & Herald, September 7, 1897

Read third paragraph, “One could argue...” Did you notice how the lesson rightly said, “He does not force anyone to obey and be healed.” ?

But what then does it mean “If His people will not respond to Him, His words of judgment and punishment will certainly be fulfilled as His words against Israel were fulfilled in the book of Jeremiah.”

Can God be saying, “You are free to decide, but if you decide against me I will judge you and punish you”? Is that freedom?

This is the problem of imposed law, it always puts God in the wrong light as a dictator, which is Satan’s view of God.

FRIDAY

read and discuss question 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website:
http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase– ALL GLITCHES NOW FIXED in the IOS Version! So please UPDATE to latest version.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes.

September 23-26: American Association of Christian Counselors World Convention at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, and Dr. Jennings will be doing a preconference workshop and regular conference presentation, as well as commencement speaker for Light University graduation.

October 24: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Puyallup, WA:

- Friday, October 23rd at the North Hill SDA Fellowship Church at 7:00PM. Located at: 10106 36th St. E., Edgewood, WA.
- Saturday, October 24th at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup in the Expo Hall. (10:00AM - 4:00 PM)
- For more information email, Godandyourbrain@icloud.com.
- There is also a God and Your Brain Events page on Facebook.

January 9, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, California.