



## The Book of Matthew Lesson 1 2Q 2016 Son of David

I received this email from an online listener:

*I recently downloaded the Remedy app and have been reading it alongside my other Bibles during my quiet time.*

*So many times, turning to your paraphrase is like using (pardon the illustration) nasal spray, in that it often clears the congestion of some tricky passages. Like I said, I have only had it for a few days, but thus far it's been a joy.*

*Thank you and the team at Come and Reason for making this resource available, and may God use it to further grow His Kingdom.*

Here is another email recently received:

*THANK YOU so much for you podcast. My wife, sister-law, and best friend have had their lives impacted TREMENDOUSLY! Please use this offering for whatever ministry needs it most. Blessings!*

An update from Gary Jones and Come and Reason Ministries in Canada:

*We have started receiving email request for DVDs from across Canada and we have purchased envelopes and a tape gun for shipping the DVDs. We have set up an account with Canada Post that gives us a 5% discount. We also started a Bible study class with non-Adventists; we have 5 to 7 people coming so far. One person in the class has already said that the DVDs and the book *Could It Be This Simple?* has changed his way of thinking and has give him back a God that he loves, not fears. Another guy comes from a Mormon and Baptist back ground, he also likes the *Could It Be This Simple?* book and has requested a couple of copies he can share others.*

*We are working on starting other study Class in Nova Scotia, Plus helping the ones others have started. I received a email from someone in Alberta yesterday asking for 5 DVDs for their class and I know of one other class in British Columbia as well. Do you thing C&R could maybe build a page on the C&R Web page that could be set up for people that would like to start a home and or church study groups but do not know where to start and how to plan a class? I would be willing to work with some others from the C&R family in Tennessee to discuss what and how to put together a study group starter page.*



*P/S you said some people from the church would not like the C&R approach to sharing the gospel, well it's starting to happen.*

## SABBATH

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Read memory text: "He will save His people from their sins." MT 1:21 NKJV

What does this mean? What lens do you read this text through—design law or imposed law?

If this is through imposed law what is commonly taught?

One of our class members emailed me a paragraph from a sermon she heard in her church a couple of weeks ago. What do you think?

"Jesus died on Calvary. Here's a question: '**What did it do for God?**' It is called, in theological terms, the 'objective' side of the atonement.

What did it do for God? God was involved, the Bible says 'God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself'. So, what did it do for God? **There was a legal issue.** Man had broken the law, the punishment was death. How is it God can preserve His law, preserve His righteousness, preserve His integrity, and take care of man at the same time? The cross has an objective side - what God did, what God accomplished - it's called by theologians the 'forensic' side, forensic meaning legal. There was a legal issue and God solved it with the cross. We can read in Romans 3 verse 26, it identifies the struggle that God had regarding the salvation of man. It says in verse 26, 'To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.' So, how can God be just and justify the sinner at the same time? That's the side called the objective side. What did the cross do for God? Well, it settled the legal problem. It gave mankind the opportunity to be right with Him." <http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/audio.collegedalecommunity.com/2016/EN-2016-01-30-Faith-and-Works.mp3>

What law lens is this pastor preaching through? This is through human law constructs, not God's law, this is a false understanding that misrepresents God and is part of what keeps Christians trapped in a form of godliness with no power.

God's law is not imposed but design law. When we understand this then we realize that the memory verse means what it says, Jesus came to restore us to wholeness, to heal us, to cleanse us, to fix what is broken in us, to cure us from sinfulness.



Save—the Greek *sozo* actually means to heal, to make whole, to restore—so if you are injured, poisoned, snake bitten—and go to the ER and say “Please, save me!” For what are you asking? Healing! This is salvation!

In fact salvation is the root salvo—from which we get salve, (ointment to heal) or salvage (to reclaim from the garbage and restore to good use).

There is nothing in Bible salvation that has to do with a judicial process—those are man’s laws, God’s laws are the laws of life, and it is all about healing and restoring.

From *The Remedy*:

She will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus—God heals—because he will heal and restore humanity from selfishness and sin."

The pastor used Romans 3 to promote the idea of a forensic legal atonement, notice how Ellen White uses the same Scripture:

**The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give.** [Why does the law require this? As a payment? No, for the same reason the law of respiration require we breathe—it is how life is designed/constructed to operate] 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.** [Is this subjective or objective? This is the objective achievement of Christ that the legal theologians miss. In other words they diminish Christ's true achievement of actually rebuilding the species human to perfection and instead pervert Christ's sacrifice of healing love into a legal payment to an offended god.] **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.** [remission of sins through what? God's forbearance NOT a legal payment] 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.** [Notice this is Christ developing a perfect human character and then healing humans back to this perfect state. This is healing, this is design law, this is how life is actually built to work!] **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." Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2} [If you see your child drowning, is it right or just to pull them from the water and administer CPR to revive them? What law are you operating under? Why if you want them to live must you do this? This is God's justice and what He accomplished for us through Christ.]

The lesson points out that, “humans might look on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart.”



What is the outward appearance? It is behavior, and what kind of law monitors behavior? Imposed law! But what about the heart? What kind of law monitors the heart?

## SUNDAY

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Matthew starts his book by establishing the genealogy of Jesus, thoughts about this?

The lesson asks us to discuss what the following texts tell us about Jesus?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:1-3

What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?

- Was there a time Jesus didn't exist?
- Was there anything made that didn't come through Jesus?
- What type of being is described in this passage?
- Who then, is Jesus?
- This verse doesn't tell us, but why do you think Jesus was the member of the Godhead through whom all things were made?

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:1-3

What do we learn about Jesus from this verse?

- Appointed heir over all things—what is the context?
  - It is the context of fallen humanity and God reaching out to communicate to fallen men, and having used all other means of communication, God finally sends His Son, and appoints His Son heir over all things.
- What does this mean?
  - Some use passages like this to suggest Jesus isn't fully God, or isn't eternal because He was appointed heir. He was appointed Adam's replacement, the second Adam, the human heir to the human kingdom, by becoming incarnate and curing the terminal condition that Adam plunged the world into. Yet, this being—is the one who actually made all things, thus is able to cure and fix it!
- He not only made all things, He achieved the remedy and having done so, returned to His rightful place in the universe—next to His Father.



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Micah 5:2

What do we learn about Jesus from this verse?

- That Jesus would become human
- That Jesus would rule over Israel—and who does Israel represent in the little theater? –The entire world!
- And where does Jesus come from? –Ancient time—eternity!

While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’ <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?” Mark 12:35-37

What do we learn of Jesus from this verse?

- That Jesus is king David’s Lord!

Read fourth paragraph, “By coming to dwell..” What do you think of the idea that Jesus was revealing God to angels?

How many people say they have a hard time believing in God because they can’t see Him, that if they were in heaven they could believe more easily? What, then, about this idea that one of the goals of Jesus coming to earth was to reveal God to angels?

Do you ever think that here on earth we get a better view of God from earth than the angels in heaven? How?

- We must first recognize that Jesus is fully God—if we take the view that Jesus is anything less than God, then Jesus reveals a God who is willing to sacrifice a lesser creature to protect Himself.
- But, accepting Jesus is fully God, what do we learn about God in Jesus that the angels needed to understand?

What did Jesus reveal about God that needed to be revealed to angels?

- **But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe.** To this result of His great sacrifice--its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man--the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: "Now is the judgment of this world:



now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me." John 12:31, 32. **The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin.** {PP 68.2}

- **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. DA 19, 20
- **To the angels and the unfallen worlds** the cry, "It is finished," had a deep significance. **It was for them as well as for us** that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory.

**Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.** {DA 758}

- **That which alone can effectually restrain from sin in this world of darkness, will prevent sin in heaven. The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels.** Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, **for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven.** Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God.

**The plan of salvation, making manifest the justice and love of God, provides an eternal safeguard against defection in unfallen worlds, as well as among those who shall be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.** {5BC 1132.8}



Did angels need God revealed to them? Col 1:18-20, why?

What kind of a war are we in? Is it over might and power? Why not? Can God get what He wants by exercising might and power?

Why was it necessary for Christ to become human?

Why didn't Christ merely manifest in human form like He did in OT times to Abraham? –Because that is not how reality works, the way reality works—God's law—is that Christ had to actually partake of the sinful/sick/terminal condition in order to cure it.

God could create a new species out of dirt at any time he chooses, but to save this particular species, Christ had to partake of it and cure the infection and restore it back to God's original design—the only design upon which life actually works!

## **MONDAY**

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The lesson emphasizes that Jesus is a descendant of David—why is this important? It establishes that Jesus was actually human, but also in the little theater that Jesus was a member of the royal line, the one prophesied to be ruler, king, deliverer.

Have you considered David was a type of Jesus?

- David was the least significant of his brotherhood—Jesus became not just a human, but a slave, humbling Himself to the cross (Philippians 2:5-8)
- David was a shepherd whose flock was being attacked by a lion and who singly and alone defeated the lion—Jesus is our Shepherd whose flock is being attacked by Satan a roaring lion and Jesus singly and alone defeated Satan
- David and his people were attacked by an army with a giant leading it, all the people were afraid, but David, trusting God, defeated the giant cutting off his head—the human race was attacked by an angel army led by the father of lies and Jesus left all power behind, became a lowly weak human and by trusting His Father defeated that giant crushing his head—just as the Scripture says.
- David broke with tradition and fed his men show bread, applying design laws of love and health over arbitrary rules—Jesus broke with tradition and healed on Sabbath, touched lepers, spoke to women, foreigners, prostitutes, tax collectors, refused to stone the woman caught in adultery and instead applied design law—law of love and healing!
- David was pursued and harassed by his own government and attempts were made on his life, but he eventually becomes king—Jesus, as a human, was pursued and harassed by his own government and multiple attempts were made on His life, but even though they eventually kill him, he destroys death and arises to be King of Kings!
- David fell into terrible sin as king and repented and out of his repentance came forth, from that terrible event, wisdom—Solomon. Jesus became sin though He knew no sin, and from that



terrible experience came forth the true wisdom of God—God’s perfect character of love restored into humanity!

I mentioned above that one of the things David and Christ did, is that they ignored arbitrary rules and applied design law, the law of love. What do you think about this quote, which my sister emailed me this week?

The great sin of the Jews was their rejection of Christ; **the great sin of the Christian world would be their rejection of the law of God, the foundation of his government in Heaven and earth.** The precepts of Jehovah would be despised and set at naught. Millions in bondage to sin, slaves of Satan, doomed to suffer the second death, would refuse to listen to the words of truth in their day of visitation. Terrible blindness! strange infatuation! {4SP 22.2}

Do you hear the warning that the great sin of the Christian world will be in accepting human law instead of God’s law? And God’s law is the foundation of His government—which means what? The protocols upon which reality is built. When we exchange design law for human imposed law concepts we fall into this category of rejecting God’s law!

## TUESDAY

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Read first three paragraphs, “Women weren’t...” Why would such a woman be specifically listed in the genealogy of Christ? Well, consider the men who are in the genealogy of Christ?

- Abraham—warrior, liar, polygamist
- Jacob—liar, polygamist
- Judah—polygamist and adulterer
- David—murderer and adulterer
- Solomon—polygamist, idolater, child killer
- Manasseh—idolater, murderer, child killer

These are just the highlights—what does it tell us?

That the entire human race is infected with sin and that all suffer from the same condition, male or female, and all are in need of the same solution. Further, it tells us Christ didn’t inherit any advantages, but took upon Himself our humanity, with all its liabilities.

So, back to the women in the genealogy of Christ three women are mentioned besides His mother Mary: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth—what do all three have in common? –They are not descendants of Abraham!

This is the point, not that Tamar pretended to be a prostitute, or that Rahab was a prostitute, or that Ruth was the descendant of incest—the big point is that they were NOT Jews, Hebrews, descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!



What does this signify—why is this important? It reminds us that Jesus didn't come to save only the Jews—He came to save the entire race!

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “As has often...” thoughts? What does this mean?

What does Romans 5:12-14 mean?

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— <sup>13</sup> for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

What do you hear happening? Is it that the world is condemned under a judicial death sentence and the heavenly magistrate is lining people up and executing them? No, that death reigns because of the condition of humanity since Adam's sin, even before the written law was given at Sinai, because it wasn't about a legal problem but a condition of being out of harmony with design law—the law upon which life is constructed.

Here is this passage from *The Remedy*:

Therefore, the infection of distrust of God—which deformed humanity's heart and mind with selfishness and fear, and which results only in death—infected the human race when Adam accepted Satan's lies about God and broke trust with him. This infection of fear and selfishness is inherited by all human beings, so all are born infected.<sup>13</sup> This is revealed by the fact that before the written law was given, the infection of distrust, fear and selfishness was already present in the world. But this infection of distrust, fear and selfishness is not diagnosable without the law.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, even without being diagnosed as infected with this terminal condition, humans still died, all the way from the time of Adam to Moses—even those who did not break a specific command, like Adam did—revealing that the problem is the infected state of our minds and not a legal issue with God. Adam, the first man, being the conduit through which the infection entered humanity, also represents the one man who is the conduit of the antidote that cures all those who accept it.

Remember Oswald Chambers quote about not being condemned because of the heredity of sin, but for not accepting the remedy to the heredity of sin?

Read last paragraph, “That's the point...” Does one's view of the sin problem contribute to greater or lesser discouragement?



In other words, when we view sin as a legal problem, and our behaviors as demerits to be punished does it result in greater discouragement?

What about when we view it as a health problem?

## THURSDAY

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Read second paragraph, “It’s a great irony...” What does it mean that the people who came to worship Christ were Gentiles?

How did they know about Christ?

**The light of God is ever shining amid the darkness of heathenism.** [What does this mean? Can a person be walking in a saving relationship with God in a heathen religion?] As these magi **studied the starry heavens**, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, **they beheld the glory of the Creator.** [What were they studying? Who were they learning about? What kind of law would they discover in studying nature?] Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures. **In their own land were treasured prophetic writings that predicted the coming of a divine teacher.** [Are these prophetic writings included in the 66 books of the Bible?] Balaam belonged to the magicians, though at one time a prophet of God; by the Holy Spirit he had foretold the prosperity of Israel and the appearing of the Messiah; **and his prophecies had been handed down by tradition from century to century. But in the Old Testament the Saviour's advent was more clearly revealed.** The magi learned with joy that His coming was near, and that the whole world was to be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord. {DA 59.3}

Does this mean people can come to know God from sources other than the Bible?

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup> For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. <sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, <sup>15</sup> since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) Rom 2:12-15

Did these wise men become Jews? Did they sacrifice at the Temple? Did they keep the feast days? Were they believers in Christ? Will they likely be in heaven?

What lessons for us today?



Read last paragraph, “This story should...” How many feel secure in salvation because of membership in an institution?

Is salvation found by institutional affiliation? What does it mean to be saved?

## **FRIDAY**

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Read and discuss questions



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Request for Stories:** Dr. Jennings is working on a new book on the power of love to transform lives. **He is seeking stories of how love was transformational in a person's life.** This could be by experiencing the truth about God's love and coming to understand His character of love, or by experiencing love through how someone treated you.

### Please understand the following regarding submitting your story:

1. Submitting a story does not guarantee it will be included in the upcoming book (not all stories will fit with the flow of the book, the publishers and editors will have a say in what stories are included). Just because a story is not included doesn't mean the story is not valuable, only that it did not fit with the flow of this particular book.
2. Please limit the story to 1500 words
3. When you submit the story please include the following signed statement:
  - a. This story is mine to share and I authorize Timothy Jennings to use this story in any of his books in all formats without expectation of any compensation.
4. Please indicate one of the following:
  - a. I **do not** want my real name to be used. Please change the pertinent details to protect my confidentiality.
  - b. I **do** want my real name used. Please keep the pertinent details accurate to me.

If you would like to submit a story please email it to: [stories@comeandreason.com](mailto:stories@comeandreason.com)

Dr. Jennings has been named a *Champion of Health* by True Health Broadcasting Network in association with Health Institute for Preventive Care, Access, Research and Education (HIPCARE) and True Health TV and will be presented with the "*Legacy Champion of Health*" award at a Gala on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), Atlanta, Georgia.

This award is being presented to Dr. Jennings, as it states in the award letter, "because of your unselfish commitment to community health exemplified by your leadership in the community and as author of "*The God-shaped Brain*" and "*Could it be this Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*".

*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](http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886)

*The Remedy* – Dr. Jennings' New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

*The Journal of the Watcher* is now available as a **HARD COVER book at Amazon** as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.



**April 1-2, 2016:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Spring Branch Hispanic SDA church, Houston, TX.

**May 18-20:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at *The Struggle Is Real* Conference at Seacoast Church in Charleston SC, for more info and to register click this link <http://www.2016summit.net>