



## The Book of Matthew Lesson 11 2Q 2016 Last Day Events

I received this email this week:

*I have been listening to your broadcasts via You-Tube or MP3 for about a year. The ideas make me want to run in all directions at once like a cartoon cat. I've tried to share with my children and husband, but they feel angry and threatened that ideas about God they have held so long are apparently set at naught. As a person caught in spiritism and other superstitions until the age of 16, the Advent message coming to me in my 16th year--that Heaven is real and that God would only burn you for a little while--seemed bright light.*

*I clung to Jesus, avoiding His mean Father, and thought it maturity when I finally came to be "OK" with the Father. Still, I always believed in my secret heart that God was just looking for a way to kill me. What a revelation to find that He really doesn't want to kill me. It has taken me months to let that notion seep through every nook and cranny of the way I think and live. Still, from time to time I become fearful that letting go of all the rules and simply accepting a God of love is dangerous to my eternal salvation--what if it really isn't so easy?! What if this is a deception or strong lie? Then, I will have lost immortality. What if feeling free in my chest, with no tension when I think about God is actually the lie? There must be something I'm missing. Those notions come to me again and again. It's like the painful life that floods into my hands after I've slept on them and stopped my circulation. The circulating blood is life to my hands, but it still hurts to get the blood flow going again. I fight off the notion that God is dangerous with prayer and with reasoning, thinking, reading, listening to your broadcast, talking with friends who brought me to understand Design Law in the first place.*

*The 'How-To' part of loving is my next task. I am 'nice' and never thought that I was selfish and unloving. I am. Yet, I am no longer resigned to staying that way. My husband and children were raised in Adventism and will have none of my off-beat notions that God is safe, loving, Lord of the Sabbath and is not trying to kill anybody. My youngest son, a late adolescent, actually believes that God kills people despite all our flowery language attempts to hide that fact. He says he loves God, and understands that "God has to do what God has to do, but let's not lie to each other about it, Mom--He kills people." My hope and prayer is that my sons will someday 'hear' this message--maybe when their souls are as hungry and desolate as was mine--though I am seeking ways to make it sooner rather than later. My husband is simply angry that the Adventism he learned at his beloved mother's knee is being impugned on some level, though he can't say how. He will come around because he loves me. I will love, and pray, and wait, and set out literature, and talk Design Law at every chance. I could go on, except that all you really wanted to know was my address so that I can receive three Remedy hard-copies I requested. I will give one to my youngest to take to college with him, one to my eldest son who is dutiful and will read if I ask, and keep the other for myself and my husband. Thank you for*



*your ministry. Please let me know what books I can purchase in quantity to 'seed' the reading table at the front of my church. People are desperate for something to read on Sabbath as the sermons do not always scratch where they itch.*

## SABBATH

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What does the title bring to mind? What do you consider last day events to be? Are we in the “last days”?

What is God waiting for?

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet 3:9

What does this mean? Why do people perish? What is the cause—the reason?

So, what is necessary for people not to perish?

What is repentance?

What does God want from us? He wants our love, trust, loyalty—which means He wants us to experience a change of heart—which is repentance.

Why will people perish if they don't have love, trust, and loyalty to God?

What is the basis of life? From where does life originate? Upon what is life constructed to function?

What happens to people who are out of harmony with love and truth in the presence of God? Why?

So, what is God waiting for? What prevents people from coming to love, trust and loyalty to God? Would it be misunderstanding, preconceived ideas, lies, falsehoods about God?

When you think of last day events, does Daniel 12:4 come to mind:

O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (KJV)

What does this mean? Have you ever seen presentations which show advancement in science, transportation, engineering as fulfillment of this text? Is it?



I don't think so—the Bible isn't a book about science primarily, it is a book about God and His character—so what might this text be referring to?

Consider the NRSV:

But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.”

They have interpreted knowledge to be the knowledge of evil—what do you think?

Again, I don't think so, the Bible is primarily a book about God's character which has been misrepresented by Satan and which Christ came to perfectly reveal.

Could John 17:3 have any bearing?

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Is the knowledge of God what is to increase at the end of time?

**“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

Could the knowledge that is to increase at the end of time be the true knowledge of God? That knowledge which will work to cleanse the temple from the lies about God and prepare a people to meet Jesus?

This is the message of the three angels—

Then I saw another messenger flying in midair, and he had the eternal good news about God's character of love to proclaim to everyone living on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people—which represents a movement of people who arise to proclaim the truth about God's character of love throughout the world.<sup>7</sup> He said in a clear, resounding voice, "Be in awe of God, and glorify him by living his methods of love, because the hour has come for everyone to make a judgment about God, and worship the Designer, Creator and Builder who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water— all of which operate upon his law of love." Rev 14:6.7 The Remedy



What are some of the other signs that Jesus disclosed? Let's read Matthew 24:4-8:

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.

What do you think of these signs? What lessons do they teach us? Have these signs occurred?

What lesson from the analogy of birth pains? How do birth pains progress? And what do they lead to?

Will things get better or worse on earth before Christ returns? Why? Why do things get worse?

Is God using His power to inflict punishment?

Revelation states angels with the vials of God's wrath are poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth—what does this mean?

Through what law lens do you view such texts? What level of moral development?

Levels 1-4 of moral development, those the Bible describe as still on milk and not acquainted with righteousness view such texts through imposed law and conclude God is using power to inflict punishment for disobedience.

Levels-5-7 of moral development—those the Bible describe as the mature, view such texts through design law and understand God is the source of life, and a time comes in human history when people will be let go, or set free by God to reap their choice to be separated from Him.

And what term does the Bible use to describe God's action of letting go and ceasing interventions to protect? God's wrath! Romans 1:18-32, makes clear God's wrath is letting go—so what is happening in Revelation?

God letting go—of what? Who is it that controls nature? God, and what happens if God let's go His control, what will nature do? Why?

Why would God let go? What would cause God to do such a thing? Where is the dwelling place for the Holy Spirit on earth? The hearts and minds of people. Does the Holy Spirit force His way into hearts? So what happens if people permanently harden their hearts to God? The Holy Spirit is slowly withdrawn—why? Who makes the choice to close out the Holy Spirit from earth?



Here is a quote from one of the founders of the SDA church describing the final plagues on earth:

**"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, reproveth, 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." Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

## SUNDAY

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The title is Blind Guides—what do you make of this title? To what are they blind?

The lesson encourages us to read Matthew 23, let's start in verse 13 (from *The Remedy*) and see if we can discover to what the leaders were blind. But as we do, we must remember that Jesus is God and God is love, so what tone do you think Jesus had in His voice as He spoke? I would encourage you to think as if you were speaking to the person you love the most, your spouse, your child and they were in the role of these religious leaders.

<sup>13</sup> "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! Your false teachings obstruct people from being healed and entering God's kingdom of love. You certainly are not healed and do not enter into salvation, but worse still, you actively work to prevent others, who want to be saved, from being healed."<sup>14</sup> Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You con widows from their homes, yet you make public displays of praying long prayers. Unhealed you choose to remain! Your suffering will be most severe.

<sup>15</sup> "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You go around the world trying to convert one person, and when you do, you indoctrinate them so deeply into your false penal system that they become twice the child of lies and selfishness as you are..."

<sup>23</sup> "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You keep rules, such as proudly paying a pre-tax tithe and even giving a tenth of the herbs in



your garden, but you fail to do what actually matters—to live in harmony with God’s Law, which is his design for life. You fail to ‘do what is right because it is right.’ You are not merciful but judgmental and critical, and you cannot be trusted to protect those struggling with sin. You should have lived lives of love for others, without neglecting the simple instructions of God.<sup>24</sup> You are truly irrational and unthinking teachers! You are so focused on keeping the rules—such as dietary laws—that you fail to understand that their purpose is to promote health. You’re so confused that you actually think it would be a virtue to die of starvation rather than eat something not on the 'approved' list.

<sup>25</sup> "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You work so hard to make yourselves look good on the outside, but the inside—the heart—is full of selfishness, arrogance, and greed.<sup>26</sup> You truly don't understand anything about God's kingdom! The mind, the character, the heart—they all must be cleansed first, and then the outside will also be clean.

<sup>27</sup> "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You are like highly polished burial vaults: they look beautiful on the outside but inside are nothing but the bones of the dead, and everything that defiles.<sup>28</sup> You are just like that. On the outside you appear to people as good and righteous, but on the inside you are full of lies, selfishness, and evil. You are great counterfeits!

<sup>29</sup> "Misery is yours, you who teach a legal religion, you penal theologians, you counterfeits! You go to great lengths to give praise and honor to God's spokespersons and church leaders of the past.<sup>30</sup> You say, 'If we would have lived back then, we would never have rejected God’s spokespersons or joined those who killed them.'<sup>31</sup> By such claims you condemn yourselves, because you acknowledge such actions are wrong, yet by your actions today you reveal you are the true descendants of those who murdered God’s spokespersons. You're just like them<sup>32</sup> and your sins pile on top of the sins of your forefathers!

<sup>33</sup> "You slippery serpents! You brood of venomous vipers! You think you can cure yourselves with your own snake oil?<sup>34</sup> It's because of your false remedy—your penal legal trickery—that I am sending my spokespersons, instructors and Bible scholars, some of whom you will attack, kill, and crucify; others you will beat—some physically, some verbally—right in church, running them out of town with beatings and the most vicious gossip.<sup>35</sup> The pure and holy lives that have been sacrificed through history—from Abel all the way through to Zechariah the son of Berekiah, who was murdered right in church, at the altar—testify the truth to you.<sup>36</sup> But the sad truth is that this generation will reject all this evidence.

<sup>37</sup> "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you sick and hard-hearted people who have rejected the Remedy, killed God's spokespersons, and stoned those sent to you with the cure! How my heart has longed to pull you to safety, like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me.<sup>38</sup> Look around: I leave your house to you abandoned without Remedy, and infected



without cure.<sup>39</sup> For I tell you plainly, when you see me next, you will say: 'He is the One sent by God to reveal God's true character and provide the Remedy.'"

To what are they blind? They are blind to the truth about God; they don't understand His methods; they don't realize His law is the basis upon which life is constructed and instead think God's law and government operate like human governments. They are people who lead others into false beliefs, lies, distortions of reality that harden hearts and obstruct healing.

Any examples of blind guides today?

All the theology based on imposed law which represents God as:

- The source of inflicted punishment, suffering and death
- The One who needs to be paid, appeased, or propitiated
- The One who we need to be hidden from or protected from

Can you recall teachings that present ideas that function to protect us from God?

Such examples would be evidence of blind guides. Remember David prayed, "search me and see the wicked way in me" "create in me a clean heart O God and renew your right spirit within me."

- God is for us
- Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen the Father
- The Father was in the Son...
- God so loved the world...

God is our Creator, Redeemer and Friend! This is to be our prayer—"find every defect in me and heal me." But this only happens when we come back to the truth about God as Jesus revealed. Thus, those of us at the end of time are given this warning:

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. Rev 12:17

What are the commandments of God?

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Jn 13:34,35

What is the testimony of Jesus? –would it not be the truth about God that Jesus revealed—if you have seen me you have seen the Father? How many today are holding to Jesus' testimony about His Father and how many today have rejected Jesus' testimony and are presenting another version of God?



In Sunday's lesson it points out that the Jewish nation was chosen by God to be a kingdom of priests and it was prophesied they would be a great nation and many blessings etc. would come to them. However, this didn't happen and Jesus said their house is left to them desolate—how do we understand the prophesies of the OT that never came to pass?

Is it possible, God through His prophets, at certain times in history, will lay out before His people two paths, two futures... if you choose this then this is what you will experience, but if you choose that, then your future will be something entirely different?

Do we ever do this today even without the advantage of foreknowledge: if you choose to continue using drugs your life will be ongoing conflict, problems—relationships broken, brain damaged, health ruined—but if you choose recovery then healing, wellness, and salvation will be found?

Can we do similar things today? Was God doing this in OT times, laying out before them two paths—and when they chose the one path the other closed for them?

Do we have such options before us as individuals? What about before the organized church? Could the institutional church get so lost in its institutional goals it fails to fulfill its purpose for Jesus?

2000 years ago this happened, but from the nation of Israel (i.e. the membership of that organization) came individuals who did fulfill God's purpose. Could such a thing happen today—could individual members from institutional churches come together around the final message of mercy and take that message to the world while the institutions focus on institutional matters?

## **TUESDAY**

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What is the abomination that causes desolation? This is where we can see a dual application to Christ's words—He was warning the people in His day about fleeing Jerusalem before its destruction.

Now, did Jesus have a prophetic vision in which he actually saw the future events—or did He so understand God's methods and principles, and also the character and nature of Satan, that He could make this prediction?

For instance:

- If I let go this pen what happens? Can you predict such a future event, even before it happens? How can you?
- If a person has a pattern of drunk driving and continues to drink and drive can you predict what will eventually happen? How can you predict this?
- If a woman is married to a man who has beaten her severely for years, and she leaves him. Then he asks her to return and states that he will never do it again, but he gets no treatment to help with his anger issues. He makes no repentance before God, can you predict what will eventually happen if she returns? How can you predict this?





- If you knew God was using divine power to hold back the scorpions and snakes in the desert around ancient Israel, could you predict what would happen if God stopped using His power to do this? What? Snakes and scorpions would infest and people would get bitten. Why would this happen? Does it take prophetic gift to predict this?
- What happened to Israel at the time of Daniel when God removed His protective hand? The nation of Babylon came and conquered them—why did Babylon do this? Was such action on the part of Babylon predictable?
- Could Christ predict, knowing that the Jewish nation had just rejected Him and would therefore be set free to reap their choice to be without God’s protection, that Satan would inspire the worldly powers to come and destroy the nation of Israel, and especially the Temple—the object lesson designed by God to teach His plan to heal and restore? Was such a future predictable to all who understand God’s nature, character, how God’s law works, the choice of Israel, and the nature and character of Satan and selfish humanity?

When we understand Design Law, and understand the nature of things, some things are predictable without having special revelation—remember the story of the scorpion and the frog—the scorpion asks the frog for a ride across the lake. The frog says “no if I let you on my back you’ll sting me and I’ll die.” The scorpion responds, “If I stung you we would both drown and die. I wouldn’t do that.” The frog says, “Okay hop on.” Half way across the lake the scorpion stings the frog, as the poison is making its way through the frog the frog says, “Why did you do that, now we are both going to drown.” The scorpion said—“it’s my nature.”

Scorpions sting, snakes bite, Satan destroys—God heals and saves—always! This is always predictable.

Now, does anything I have said mean that God does not give special revelation to His prophets? Does anything I have said mean Jesus didn’t have special revelation when He spoke? No, it doesn’t mean that. It isn’t either one or the other. Both are true. Those who are friends of God will understand His character, methods, laws, and the nature of Satan and the world and thus can predict certain outcomes from this. But God will also, when God sees fit, provide special revelation revealing future events to some of His spokespersons.

What I am trying to lead people to understand is that we can have much greater maturity in our thinking. Life can become less mysterious and more predictable as we come ever closer to God and understand His design and the nature of things.

## WEDNESDAY

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The Second Coming—what do we expect to happen before this day?



ISIS believes in a second coming. They are “Adventists.” They have an apocalyptic vision for the future. They believe they have a role to play and they are committed to their role. They believe they are to incite a world war which will usher in their messiah to come and kill all their enemies.

Do we have a vision and understanding of how the future is to go and do we have a role to play?

Revelation chapter 7 describes these events—an angel telling the four angels to hold back the winds of strife until God’s spokespersons are sealed, and then they let loose, calamities happen, but from the witness of the spokespersons a great multitude from all over the world is saved.

What role do we have to play?

First we must become so settled into the truth in understanding and character that nothing can shake us from it. We must be sealed of God, transformed in heart to love like He loves.

In this process we are to be honing our ability to share the truth about God with others, speaking, sharing, loving others—revealing God’s true character.

And we are to choose—to commit ourselves to a cause—are we as committed to Goodness, Truth, Love, Freedom, Kindness, Integrity, Gentleness and true Godliness as ISIS is committed to their cause?

Then we share in every way possible the truth about God’s kingdom, His methods of love and we expose as graciously as possible the distortions that obstruct God’s healing plan.

Can we predict what will happen to us if we are effective in presenting the truth about God? God will bless our efforts, we will gain more skill and success in presenting the truth, and Satan and Satan’s agents will attack us and seek to undermine what we are doing. Is this predictable?

## THURSDAY

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Read last paragraph, “Jesus is clear...” Do we expect Jesus to return?

Is the idea of coming when not expected for all people or only the unfaithful? Do the faithful remain expectant? Remember the parable of the unfaithful servant? Luke 12:42-48 (from *The Remedy*)

<sup>42</sup>Jesus gave this answer. "Who then is an intelligent and wise manager—one qualified to share the Remedy effectively in order to nurture the master's staff? <sup>43</sup>It will be the most awesome experience for that aide when the master returns to find them reliably doing so. <sup>44</sup>Truly, that aide will be trusted with all the master possesses. <sup>45</sup>But what if the master’s aide is self-centered and says to himself, ‘The master has been gone a long time, and who knows when he will return?’ and rather than nurturing the staff, they berate, abuse and mislead them, and then



go and use the master's resources to party with gluttons and drunkards? <sup>46</sup>That aide will be totally surprised, caught completely unaware, on the day their master returns. The master will let that wicked servant go, cutting their relationship and casting them out with all the other counterfeits and frauds who have peddled false remedies.

<sup>47</sup>"The aide who understands the Master—his design, the problem being addressed, and how to apply the Remedy—and either doesn't heed his instructions or applies a false remedy will suffer many blows: a guilty conscience, warped character, damaged reason, broken relationships and ultimately, a destroyed soul. <sup>48</sup>But the one who doesn't know about the Remedy or how to apply it and therefore doesn't share it, or applies a false remedy will suffer few blows—regret, disappointment, and grief. The more you are given, the more you possess to share with others; the greater your abilities, the more gifts you have to give away.

What about the parable of the 10 virgins, all were asleep, but 5 were still ready and had oil in their lamps, what does this mean?

**The oil of grace** gives to men the courage, and **supplies to them the motives, [heart change]** for doing every day the work that God appoints to them. **The five foolish virgins had lamps (this means a knowledge of Scripture truth), but they had not the grace of Christ.** Day by day they went through a round of ceremonies and external duties, but their service was lifeless, devoid of the righteousness of Christ. **The Sun of Righteousness did not shine in their hearts** and minds, and they had not the love of the truth which conforms to the life and character, the image and superscription, of Christ. **The oil of grace was not mingled with their endeavors.** Their religion was a dry husk without the true kernel. **They held fast to forms of doctrines,** but they were deceived in their Christian life, full of self-righteousness, and failing to learn lessons in the school of Christ, which, if practiced, would have made them wise unto salvation.-- Review and Herald, March 27, 1894.

In the parable of the virgins, five are represented as wise and five as foolish. The name "**foolish virgins**" **represents the character** of those who have not the genuine heart-work wrought by the Spirit of God. The coming of Christ does not change the foolish virgins into wise ones. When Christ comes, **the balances of Heaven will weigh the character, and decide whether it is pure, sanctified, and holy, or whether it is unclean, and unfit for the kingdom of heaven. Those who have despised the divine grace that is at their command, that would have qualified them to be the inhabitants of heaven,** will be the foolish virgins. They had all the light, all the knowledge, but they failed to obtain the oil of grace; they did not receive the truth in its sanctifying power. {RH, August 19, 1890 par. 8}

Notice the judgment is about the accurate diagnosis of the heart of each person, who has actually partaken the Remedy provided by Christ and been changed to be like Christ in character, and who has only put on an external profession of being a follower of God but never actually partaken of the Remedy.



## **MONDAY**

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Signs of the End is the title for the day—what are signs of the end?

- The knowledge of God’s true character is increasing yet at the same time many millions are rejecting God
- Time prophecies have been fulfilled
- Wickedness abounds
- Natural disasters and calamities
- The earth is warming?
- World economies are increasingly enmeshed
- Islamic terrorism is rising—is this a sign of the end?
- others?

## **FRIDAY**

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Read and discuss questions



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

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

***The Remedy***—Is Now Available in Print Version in the US. We have printed 10,000 to give away and will reassess demand for them after those are gone. We are shipping a small number to Canada and Australia. **How to get copies:** In the US email [orders@comeandreason.com](mailto:orders@comeandreason.com) with a valid US postal address; In Canada email [canada@comeandreason.com](mailto:canada@comeandreason.com) and in Australia/New Zealand email [Australia@comeandreason.com](mailto:Australia@comeandreason.com) and request the number you want and we will ship them to you. If you are giving them away please give them only to people who want them. In other words, don’t put one at every seat in the church, or place setting at a potluck, or car in a parking lot. Such distribution methods result in vast numbers being thrown away. Let people know they are free and allow them to take one if they want too works best.

**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 in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

**Thursday, June 9 at 1:30 PM Eastern Time** Dr. Jennings will appear on the *Lifestyle Magazine* show, “Healing The Mind” that he recorded previously. It is scheduled to air on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Keep in mind that TBN can preempt the show at their discretion.

**October 14-16:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

**October 19, 20:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

**October 21, 22:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Cape Town, South Africa