

God the Teacher - FOT Day 5

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The title for my sermon today is:

God the Teacher

God is teaching us about His law—He’s teaching the world about it. Both the effects of keeping God’s law of course and the effects of not keeping it. Winston Churchill was quoted as saying:

He must indeed have a blind soul, who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below.

That design really is embedded in this plan that God has designed and is executing right now on this earth. We don’t know why God has decided to execute this plan right now but what a blessing it is to know about it and to be a part of it. We are a part of what God is doing and He has given us knowledge that this world just doesn’t have. We’ve been given knowledge of the Holy Days which really teach mankind about the different parts of God’s plan. Right now, we are observing the Feast of Tabernacles, representing the millennium, a wonderful 1000 years of peace that we’re picturing right now and we think must be awfully close. That follows the return of Jesus Christ who will be ruling all nations under God the Father.

Preceding that time is a crescendo of evil such as this world has never experienced. Jesus Christ told us about that and we can see it building even as we speak. I would like to turn to Matthew 24:15. The disciples asked Jesus about the end time.

Matthew 24:15 *“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, ‘spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand),*

16) “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17) Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

18) And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

19) But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20) And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

21) For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22) And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. (NKJV)

Without God's intervention, there will be nothing left of this world, humanity, mankind—everything will be gone. But God does promise to send Jesus Christ to intervene before we destroy ourselves. It seems like right now we are searching for life on other planets and I've heard it said that one thing that might be a problem in finding other life on other planets is that mankind tends to destroy himself. Anyway, that was Christ's prophecy and it's ahead of us and is very, very close.

I want to take a look at what God is doing and we begin with Psalm 147:5.

Psalm 147:5 *Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. (NKJV)*

So, it says here that God has an infinite mind. Now look at Job 38:1.

Job 38:1 *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:*
2) *Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?*
3) *Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.*
4) *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.*
5) *Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?*
6) *To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,*
7) *When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*
8) *Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;*
9) *When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band;*
10) *When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors;*
11) *When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!'* (NKJV)

Continue in chapter 42:1.

Job 42:1 *Then Job answered the LORD and said:*
2) *'I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. (NKJV)*

Essentially all God does is perfect. It's hard for our human minds to really grasp that and understand it, but I think it's pretty easy to see that God does not make mistakes. Everything He does is perfect; He has an infinite mind. The idea of an infinite mind is beyond us, it's foreign to our understanding, but Jesus Christ said "*with God all things are possible*". Look at Romans 1:20.

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse ... (NKJV)*

So the visible things are clearly seen; what we have around us. You can understand what God has done by looking at what He has created in this physical world and our own bodies—God’s mind is perfect.

In a sermon last month, I quoted from two books by Michael Behe. He wrote of the mind-boggling complexity of design in various organs in the human body. It’s amazing. Christ said at the end time that knowledge will be much increased and it really has been. In biochemistry there are instruments now that allow people to actually trace what’s going on in certain organs of the body chemically, protein by protein—how they interact and the whole sequence of events. It is truly mindboggling. We can see that complexity in everything around us. Animal, vegetable—we can see things growing, everything is programmed with DNA; even the growing plants and trees are programmed. So we see this same complexity in everything, in all the living creatures.

The James Web telescope became operational recently and has been sending back amazing photographs. I read that a telescope can see a nickel—a five cent piece—four kilometers away, if you can imagine the design of that telescope. One astronomer looking at one of the pictures commented:

Looking at the image you can realize there is no blank sky.

You build a better telescope and you see further and you just see more stars. It goes on and on and on with no end. It says in Psalm 145:4, that God counts the number of stars and calls them all by name; talk about an infinite mind. All creation really has that complexity that we can’t really understand in our finite minds. What if you were a being like God with infinite knowledge and wisdom and power and you wanted to share your being with others? In other words, to create a family of spirit beings like yourself. What would you do? Let’s look at Genesis 1:26-28.

Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

27) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (NKJV)

We might look back at 1 John 3:1.

1 John 3:1 *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (NKJV)

This is what God is doing; He's creating a family of spirit beings in His own image. Given God's infinite power and ability, creating these things would certainly be possible. But it would have to be done with great care, because what if you design and create a being who doesn't have the character necessary? There would be a great danger involved there. With God's infinite knowledge, He understands good versus evil, He understands the source of real happiness. He knows the awesomeness of pure, unselfish love. He understands the uplifting value of beauty. This is God's character; He knows all things. He also understands the effects of greed, selfishness and hatred and He has to make sure that the beings He is creating have to understand that just as well.

So how do we go about it? It requires a perfect educational plan. Look at Job 36:22.

Job 36:22 *Behold, God is exalted by His power; Who teaches like Him? (NKJV)*

God is the ultimate teacher and He is teaching us, He is teaching the world. Who can teach like God? No one can. That's my title, "God the Teacher". As Rick mentioned, being a teacher most of my life, that's how I think—how I think of things. I believe that a concept this whole world is missing is that we are in God's school. We are involved in this curriculum that God has designed to teach us how to be the spirit beings that He is looking for. Beings created in His image. Keep in mind, God doesn't make mistakes. This earth has been His schoolhouse and was designed especially—the physical environment and everything else—as a huge globe. It is so huge it appears flat to us. Over history many seafaring men were afraid of sailing off the edge of the earth. I don't know what they thought would happen if they fell off the edge of the earth, but it was a dire thing to possibly look forward to.

The earth is round but is so large it appears flat to us. It provides confinement. But since it appears as a flat surface we can travel in any direction and never run out of any distance to travel, so we don't feel trapped. The earth contains a great variety of elements that we can combine to form all kinds of materials. It contains oil and gas for fuel. It contains other materials that we can dig from the ground or grow on the surface. Things that we can use and that have become our rich environment that God has provided for us. Things that we can learn to design and create on a scale of our own.

I've taught many laboratory classes, so in my mind I kind of picture this earth as a laboratory that God has designed for us. In laboratory experiments we would learn many things and we learned from many mistakes. Mistakes and blunders that we had made. I think that's how we learn some indelible lessons. Really, the best way to learn is to make a blunder and see what you've done and figure out what you should have done. I can go back in my own life, which I think is an assorted mess of many things I have done wrong. Sometimes, when daydreaming or thinking back over life I remember some particular thing and think, "If I could only go back and do this instead of that." But

that's not the idea. The idea is you make a mistake and learn from it. If you can determine what you should have done, then that's the lesson—you've learned the lesson. Unfortunately, I don't always learn the lesson. I've heard that human intellect is that awesome thing that allows us to recognize a mistake when we make it again. I think that applies to me as well.

I have taught at electric power labs and we've had a snap and a crack and sometimes a flash and a boom but nothing too serious. This was back in the 1970's when we used huge motors and generators and things that students don't see in today's laboratories. I think if government regulators would look back and see what we used back in those days, they would be dumbfounded. Even those big switches we threw and the contacts were open, but nobody was killed. Back then we had merry-go-rounds and teetertotters on playgrounds. Now the only teeter totters you see are on these highway signs that say that up ahead is a playground. Those signs are obsolete now because there are no teeter totters.

Man tries to make everything safe and in doing that it relieves us of a lot of our liberties. God allows us to make mistakes and we have hurts in our lives. He allows us to sin and to learn the consequences of sin. Many years ago, I was given an article written by a former Elder in the Worldwide Church that said that God had a plan A and a plan B, depending on whether Adam and Eve took the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or the Tree of Life. I have read similar things from other Christian sources and I totally disagree with that. I have heard that Adam and Eve took of the wrong with tree. I don't agree with that either. As I said, God's knowledge is infinite. Look at Romans 11:33.

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

34) *"For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"*

35) *Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"*

36) *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (NKJV)*

I think it's a human problem to try and relate our minds to the mind of God. We might say, "I'll try this and if it doesn't work, I'll try plan B". The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was killed from the foundation of the world. That indicates that He was predesigned to suffer for us and to go through the crucifixion. That means there was only one plan; that Adam and Eve were actually foreordained to take of that Tree of Good and Evil. So, God has a purpose in all that He does. Some will deny it, but God has a purpose for Satan. Look at Luke 4:5. The devil was trying to tempt Christ.

Luke 4:5 *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.*

6) *And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.*

7) *Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."* (NKJV)

Satan was actually given authority by God the Father over these 6000 years of God's plan and for a short time after the millennium. During the millennium he will be bound up and not able to influence the world; but God actually gave him that authority. Let's go back to Genesis again. Adam and Eve are in the garden and being forced out.

Genesis 3:22 *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—*

23) therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24) So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (NKJV)

If Adam and Eve had taken of the Tree of Life, they would have been given eternal life but wouldn't have had the training to be God beings, so that couldn't be. I'm saying here that it was preordained for Satan to guide them to that Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. So, God does have a purpose in everything that He does. God has a curriculum prepared for these human beings that He is training and that includes introducing us to every kind of evil. Satan was not a mistake. God allowed Satan to influence this world because a source of evil was necessary in this training program. What are some of the aspects of God's educational plan for mankind? I have five points to consider.

1. God provides exposure to a wide variety of experiences.

It's been said that in school, we are taught a lesson and then given a test. In real life we are given a test or experience to teach us a lesson. So, it's the other way around; everything man does is backwards from the way God does things. God will want these beings that He is working with to experience a great variety of things in this environment. He would want us to experience joy—especially love. To experience loss, tragedy, fear, and even hatred; to learn creativity, accomplishments, destruction. Ecclesiastes says there is a purpose for everything under heaven and God has allowed all of these things as teaching elements in His plan. God has designed people to have different abilities so they would have need for one another and cooperation. This is especially true in marriage, where God designed male and female so that they could come together, have children and learn to train children just as God is training us. In other words, God is providing enough experiences to build wisdom and character.

2. There must be an exposure to everything evil.

Under this I have a part A and a part B.

2A. Evil grows and propagates.

Look at James 1:14.

James 1:14 *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

15) Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (NKJV)

There's that propagation that takes place in sin and mankind. I thought I would go back over my life's experiences. I started school in 1945 which is pretty ancient to most of us. We have a lot of old people here who could maybe relate to some of these things. I think I can see this progression and what has happened in that time. It wasn't that there was no evil back then. The 1940's was called the greatest generation. We had just come through a troubled war with a lot of suffering and misery. It was a very different world and a very different society. It's really hard for young people to imagine today—for example, how do you show a child today a rotary telephone? It's just a different concept. There was patriotism, there was respect for religion. We considered ourselves mainly a Christian nation. Christianity had been hijacked by a lot of pagan ideas but I think we tried to follow God as a nation and God honored that, I think, to a great extent. He made us a great, great nation after the war in the '40's.

I think there were also true values. When you graduated from high school you were considered part of the adult world. High school then would teach a vocation and most people just went out and got a job, as my parents did. My mom went to work as a secretary right out of high school; she had all the talents she needed. She had learned shorthand—people don't often know the word anymore. There were dictating machines back then, as they had to have some way of transcribing what was said. Dad went out of high school as a carpenter and from my age of four to age ten, he built three houses that we lived in, from scratch. He would get a load of gravel and sand and start mixing concrete and make a foundation, frame the house, and put on the roof—do the wiring and plumbing and septic system, the whole works—all that he learned in high school, if you can believe that.

I visited a university back when I was in grade school and I remember seeing students then who considered themselves adults. The male students wore jackets and ties and the female students wore very nice dresses. You can compare that to today. If you happened to go to college, that's how it was, but not all that many went. Abortion and homosexuality were illegal. Anyone having premarital sex was an outcast and there was beautiful music on the radio, even on AM radio.

Things had changed a lot by the time I got to high school. I went to a large, old high school that had a vocational building where you could learn some trades and a commercial building where you could learn some business topics. But it wasn't as intense as it was back in my parents' days. I took the electronics classes but it wasn't something that would send you right out to take a job. They were grooming us at that time for college—that was the big thing.

We still dressed neatly; at least the men wore trousers and a nice shirt. Given that picture, I think you can visualize the progression from the '40's to now and how it's gone. That was my experience. What about the experience in the Worldwide Church? I think most of us can relate to that. I graduated from college in 1965 and I went for a job interview and on the way, I had a chance to swing by Los Angeles. I had been listening to the World Tomorrow broadcast and was getting the Plain Truth magazine and getting some of the booklets. I was quite curious and had no idea that there were churches. What was this organization? From the Los Angeles airport I took a bus to Pasadena and went looking for Ambassador College, which wasn't all that easy to find back in those days. There was a little plaque in the bushes that said Ambassador College, but I found it and went in and a student gave me a tour of the campus. I was quite impressed, especially with the motto, "Recapture true values". It seemed a real thing back then from the people that I talked to. So, I applied for admission to the college. I wasn't accepted because it was hard to get in back in those days. It wasn't long before I was attending a church in Seattle as a member and that was really the beginning of my experience in the church.

Unfortunately, the seeds of destruction appeared in the church. There was competition, jealousy, lust for position and that is just so human—that's just what happens and hard to guard against. Look at Mark 10. Here is a conversation between Christ and the apostles, starting in verse 35.

Mark 10:35 *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."*

36) *And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"*

37) *They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."*

38) *But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*

39) *They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;*

40) *but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."* (NKJV)

In other words, prepared by the Father.

41) *And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.*

42) *But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.*

43) *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.*

44) *And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.*

45) *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*" (NKJV)

Unfortunately, that advice that Christ gave to the apostles then, really hasn't been followed in the churches. I guess the question is, can we be happy if we see someone elevated over us?

2B. Evil has terrible results.

Which I think we are seeing right now even as we speak. As I said evil prevents true happiness, love is replaced by lust, envy, competition and greed. Evil causes the ultimate destruction of everything. I've already read Matthew 24 and what Christ said about that. Unless He returns, everything will be destroyed.

3. God practices tough love.

Hebrews 12:2 *... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

3) *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

4) *You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

5) *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

6) *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

7) *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

8) *But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

9) *Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

10) *For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. (NKJV)*

God chastens us so that we might learn to be partakers of His very nature.

11) *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (NKJV)*

So, God does chasten us, He does actually use "tough love". One of the most important aspects of God's training program is probably one that is hardest for Him. He is such a loving Being and He has to teach us the effects of evil. He has to teach us that the

absolute results of every kind of evil and it requires a great measure of “tough love” in some cases. Perhaps heart breaking, I would think, for God, but He has to exercise that option. This unfortunately, requires God to let us be immersed in evil in many, many different situations. We can't be isolated from it. We have to experience it firsthand, even taking part in it and seeing the results of evil in our own lives. That means we have to commit wrong doings and see what the effect is and then learn from that. This lesson is so important that we must see firsthand how evil can lead to the complete and absolute destruction of everything—this earth and mankind. In today's permissive and socialistic society is the opposite of tough love. Welfare programs become more and more lax and are generating a society of spoiled adults.

4. There is a two-tiered part to God's educational plan.

Look at 1 Corinthians 15:20.

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

21) *For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.*

22) *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

23) *But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*

24) *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. (NKJV)*

We talk about the Firstfruits and the rest of mankind and hopefully, we picture ourselves as a Firstfruit because God is showing us all this truth and the actual purpose that He is working out. Again, I have a part A and part B.

4A. The Firstfruits.

Matthew 13:10 *And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"*

11) *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

12) *For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*

13) *Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*

14) *And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;*

15) *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them. '*

16) *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; (NKJV)*

God has given us knowledge that we are accountable for at this time. Let's look at 2 Corinthians 6:1.

2 Corinthians 6:1 *We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*

2) *For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (NKJV)*

This is our day of salvation and we are accountable for the understanding that God has given us. I have what I call the prime directive—I think I've mentioned this in a sermonette or two—but let's look at Matthew 18:2.

Matthew 18:2 *Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,*

3) *and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

4) *Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

Unless we humble ourselves and become like little children, there is no way to enter the Kingdom of God—Jesus Christ said that very directly. Knowing the ego, vanity and deception of human nature this is perhaps the hardest thing to accomplish and test to pass. It's something we need to examine ourselves on, very, very deeply. I feel collectively and I certainly include myself in that, I'm not there yet. If I had to take a test right now, I'd probably fail but hopefully we can all learn that humility that God requires.

4B. The rest of mankind.

Let's look at Proverbs 1:20.

Proverbs 1:20 *Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares.*

21) *She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:*

22) *"How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.*

23) *Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.*

24) *Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,*

25) *Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,*

26) *I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,*

27) *When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.*

- 28) *“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.*
- 29) *Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD,*
- 30) *They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke.*
- 31) *Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.*
- 32) *For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them;*
- 33) *But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.” (NKJV)*

Knowledge has been available to this whole world and has been ignored. Mankind has a history of refusing knowledge. There are more Bibles in the world than any other book and are readily available but just not utilized. God has provided mankind with knowledge of Him. He has done that for a very clear purpose. Look at Luke 24:13. This is after the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ—just shortly after He had been resurrected and the apostles didn’t believe that He had risen from the dead and here are two disciples who are walking.

Luke 24:13 *Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.*

- 14) *And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*
- 15) *So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.*
- 16) *But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.*
- 17) *And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” (NKJV)*

Continuing in verse 30. They had come together and were sitting down to a meal.

- 30) *Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.*
- 31) *Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. (NKJV)*

This is one example and there are others where God can completely hide something from a person’s mind. You don’t recognize a person, you don’t realize what’s happening, so God has control of our mentality. Turn to Isaiah 29:9.

Isaiah 29:9 *Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink.*

- 10) *For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.*

11) *The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."*

12) *Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please."*

And he says, "I am not literate."

13) *Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths*

And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

14) *Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden. (NKJV)*

So, this is really where we are, the whole society, different facets of it are all just perverted in one way or another. Religion is perverted, the so-called mainstream Christianity has replaced all of God's Holy Days with pagan customs. They know longer regard Christ's laws. The scripture for that is Matthew 15:8.

Matthew 15:8 *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

9) *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*" (NKJV)

That was true of the Pharisees back in Christ's day and it is true of the churches of today.

1 Corinthians 1:20. The education system.

1 Corinthians 1:20 *Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (NKJV)*

The whole education system is perverted; they basically teach evolution instead of creation because they are just so given to no knowledge of God. So, what can they do? Where else can they go? They have to come up with some kind of a doctrine even though evolution has been pretty much debunked and yet still there's nothing else to grasp onto and it is still being taught. Romans 1:22.

Romans 1:22 *Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

23) *and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

24) *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,*

25) *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

- 26) *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.*
- 27) *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*
- 28) *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*
- 29) *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,*
- 30) *backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*
- 31) *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; (NKJV)*

That's today's world. This blindness was really necessary—a part of God's plan. It was necessary that evil could accumulate and we could learn evil. Having no knowledge of God, mankind was completely free to go their own way and come to this point. Learning the consequences of good and evil and coming to absolutely abhor every kind of evil really is a requirement that God is requiring and what He is teaching us and will ultimately be teaching mankind. Taking the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden really didn't fit that educational plan.

God has allowed the world to be ignorant, absolutely blinded from the truth and this right way of life and why? Isn't it so the whole world can see where evil leads. How best to learn evil by practicing it? Ultimately to total destruction.

5. God's plan has a termination.

Revelation 21:1-7.

- Revelation 21:1** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*
- 2) *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*
- 3) *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*
- 4) *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*
- 5) *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*
- 6) *And He said to me, "It is done! [In other words, His plan is complete] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

7) *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.* (NKJV)

Mankind has been going through 6000 years of this educational plan, preparing to be spirit beings. We've been shown good, we've had our noses rubbed in every kind of evil and God will not allow another Satan. Genesis 2:8.

Genesis 2:8 *The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.*

9) *And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.* (NKJV)

In the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil—the key word is knowledge. We have been in the time of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil “from that time on”. There are mainly consequences of good and evil, coming to have an absolute abhorrence for every kind of evil is what this life right now is all about. It's an absolute requirement for becoming members of God's family. So now and for the last 6000 years we've been in this time of the knowledge of good and evil. I think we are very close to the end of it but the process has to reach its conclusion. In any educational system, there has to be testing and God is going to come to know what's truly in our hearts for each and every one of us. He tested Abraham, He tested Job and He's going to test us. I fear there is going to be a final exam and we are going to have to pass that. I think the hardest thing is to show God that we have humbled ourselves and become like little children before Him. There really is no other way, like Christ said, to enter His Kingdom.

So, knowing ego, vanity and the deceptions of human nature, isn't this the most difficult timeframe to pass. Christ said *narrow is the gate that leads to eternal life and few there be who find it.* God has been teaching and still is teaching us, what is required to become His children. His curriculum still requires a final lesson, showing mankind the ultimate results of evil and that's where the earth is almost completely destroyed. When that is done a beautiful world will dawn for all mankind. At the Feast we are looking forward to that time. The wonderful World Tomorrow that I heard about on the radio so many, many years ago.