



Jeremiah 4Q 2015 Lesson 12 Back to Egypt

I received this email this week:

Dear come and reason Team,

I have been blessed beyond measure by the messages you have sharing. I live in the United Kingdom and am the PM Leader of my church.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit I am planning a revival program for my church in January. I believe God led me to you via a friend who went to the General Conference Session earlier this year. I have been fasting and praying and asking God to direct me as to what He wants me to do for the revival.

As a people we have been lost in church for so long that we cannot see how lost we are and God has made it clear to me personally, for a while now, it is because I had a distorted view of who He is. When I came upon your messages a few weeks ago everything God has been showing me came together in my mind.

I so want to share these truths with my church family, to see others wake up to the love of our God.

Would it be ok to use the material and the concepts from your program in the revival program?

I thank you for allowing God to use you in this magnificent way.

SABBATH

To what is the title referring? When the threats of Babylonian aggression came, some of the people thought they could seek protection from Egypt.

If we consider the history of Israel as not only historical fact, but an object lesson—actors on a cosmic stage—what is the lesson?

- The Hebrew people were in bondage in Egypt—human beings are in bondage of sin
- Pharaoh represents Satan—who governs the world of false gods, coercion, oppression, and the powers that enslave.
- Moses represented Jesus—the deliver who delivers humanity from the power of Satan and sin



- Now, years later, the people have rebelled against God, and they are under threat, to where do they turn? Back to their previous slave master. What would this represent to us today?
 - People who have had sin problems in their lives seek God and get deliverance, but often walk away from God and disconnect from Him and then problems begin piling up in their lives and what do many do? Turn back to their previous habits that enslaved them—alcohol, drugs, tobacco, overeating, porn, shopping, overwork, romances, novels, movies, etc. etc.
- What did Israel get from Egypt? What do we get when we go back to our previous destructive habits?

Read first paragraph, “This week’s lesson...” I think we all agree that God cannot force people to be saved, but what do you think of this idea described as “the limits of grace?”

What is the typical definition of grace? Unmerited favor? How about this as a definition of grace—unearned remedy or free remedy or remedy one did not develop? But the definition I like best for grace is God’s work to heal, restore and sustain His universe!

Does God become less gracious when we refuse Him? Does the Remedy to sin become less effective if we refuse it?

So, as the lesson suggests, what limits grace? Our refusal! We must be clear to NEVER suggest God stops being gracious. Many do, many teach that God one day stops being gracious and starts being something else, something, which as they describe is not worthy of our love and trust.

The next paragraph states, “Even after everything he warned about came to pass, the people still clung to their sins and paganism and rebellion, openly defying the prophet to his face and scorning the Word of the Lord to them.”

Is this happening today in Christianity? How?

What is the essence of paganism? Broadly speaking worshipping any god but the true god—but what is the bottom line that all false gods have in common?

The Bible repeatedly draws the contrast that false gods are not the Creator—why? I believe it is because God is trying to help people realize the difference between the laws of false gods and Himself.



False gods—gods who cannot create—cannot build the fabric of space, time, matter, intelligence, relationships and thus their laws are not the protocols upon which all reality stands and operates. False gods therefore ALWAYS use imposed law which requires the god to punish disobedience, thus the false god requires some action be done to the god in order for the god not to act out violently. This is the essence of what almost all Christianity teaches—and what often happens when we try to share the true Good News that God is not like that? What happens? We are ridiculed, rejected, and people cling to their pagan god concept.

SUNDAY

Read last paragraph, “As the chapter...” Was Babylon the primary threat facing Israel? What was? The primary threat was not Babylon, but the religious and political leaders in Israel that were teaching falsehood about God.

What is the primary threat facing Christianity today—is it, as we are often told—atheism, Islam, pluralism, the liberal media?

What is the reason so many people have turned away from Christianity and oppose it? Is it because Christianity clearly and consistently reveals a God like Jesus and its members consistently love others more than self?

Do the great opposers of Christianity oppose genuine love, kindness, altruism, gentleness, willingness to help others, respect for freedom of others, truthfulness and honesty?

No! They oppose the false Christianity that has dominated the church for over 1000 years—the view that God is dictator like, his law is imposed rules that God governs like human agents; that He has tribunals, keeps records of wrongs, will punish horribly for all eternity, that God is so biased He will kill the innocent in place of the guilty. They oppose the coercive Christianity that in times past held inquisitions, burned people at the stake and demanded kings bow to it; and they oppose the Christianity of today which wants to legislate its beliefs in order to coerce everyone to obey its tenants, to have all children indoctrinated into its way of thinking.

Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to



live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever til the end of time! But he loves you.—George Carlin

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”—Richard Dawkins

“I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world.”—Richard Dawkins

The greatest threat to Christianity is the false version of Christianity based on the idea that God’s law functions no different than our own, which today presents itself most clearly in the entire penal substitution theory of salvation. This is the greatest threat and this is what has led to so much rebellion. Why? Because it is a violation of God’s law, the law of liberty, and when one violates liberty, not only is love destroyed but rebellion ensues.

A theologian with his master’s in theology, almost has his PhD and who has worked as a pastor in the church for decades, emailed me this week asking if I believe God punishes. I presented our position with Bible and EGW quotes, and he absolutely could not comprehend what we teach.

He insisted over and over again that God is angry and wrathful and does inflict punishment and will torture and kill the wicked in the end. In his last email to me he said the following, which is diagnostic:

Again, I see both active and passive punishment here. I am comfortable with that. He is God. He can do anything He wants to do. I cannot question His actions. Satan wants me to, but I won't go there.

Do you see the problem here?

- His god is the source of inflicted punishments
- His is arbitrary and can do anything he wants
- We are not allowed to question and think
- And to question and think is framed as a satanic idea

This neatly sums up the trap much of Christian leadership finds itself in.



MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “The also vowed...” I am stunned at the lesson’s interpretation of this—was this a confession of faith? This is no different that what the devils said to Christ—we know who you are Son of the Most High God—was that a confession of faith? The devils believe and tremble, is their belief a confession of faith?

What is being revealed by the suggestion that this was a confession of faith? That the lesson is operating on imposed law construct, behavior, it is not about change of character and heart; it is about performance. They were sinners, but they did their legal requirement—they confessed and made claim.

This is the fraud of penal substitutionary theology—the idea that we need to confess and lay claim to the legal payment, do the right rituals and then boom, you are a person of faith and are saved. No, faith is trust in Jesus, which requires one actually know Him, and this trust leads to an opening of the heart, a relationship ensues and the entire inner person is transformed by the indwelling Spirit!

Read fourth and fifth paragraphs, “God has to warn...” Does this sound like people who are trusting God? Was their previous proclamation of loyalty real if they are now seeking to go to Egypt?

Is it the confessions and proclamations that matter, or is it the motive that generates the proclamation?

It is the motive—one can confess, convert, proclaim loyalty, but have a heart that is not truly changed so they are not healed; they remain infected with fear and selfishness and in rebellion against God, albeit now within the guise of religion.

Consider this story from EGW:

A few weeks after this, on our way to Boston we took the steamer at Portland. A violent storm came up, and we were in great peril. The boat rolled fearfully, and the waves dashed into the cabin windows. There was great fear in the ladies' cabin. Many were confessing their sins, and crying to God for mercy. Some were calling upon the Virgin Mary to keep them, while others were making solemn vows to God that if they reached land they would devote their lives to His service. It was a scene of terror and confusion. As the boat rocked, a lady turned to me and said: "Are you not terrified? I suppose it is a fact that we may never reach land." I told her that I had made Christ my refuge, and if my work was done, I might as well lie in the bottom of the



ocean as in any other place; but if my work was not done, all the waters of the ocean could not drown me. My trust was in God; He would bring us safe to land if it was for His glory... {1T 80.3}

Through the mercy of God we were all landed safe. But some of the passengers who manifested much fear in the storm made no reference to it, only to make light of their fears. One who had solemnly promised that if she were preserved to see land she would be a Christian, mockingly cried out as she left the boat: "Glory to God, I am glad to step on land again!" I asked her to go back a few hours, and remember her vows to God. She turned from me with a sneer. {1T 81.2}

I was forcibly reminded of deathbed repentance. Some serve themselves and Satan all their lives, and then as sickness subdues them, and a fearful uncertainty is before them, they manifest some sorrow for sin, and perhaps say they are willing to die, and their friends make themselves believe that they have been truly converted and fitted for heaven. But if these should recover, they would be as rebellious as ever. 1T 81

Is it about confession and claiming legal blood payments before the heavenly court or about a change in heart? Think of Proverbs 1:27-30:

When calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. ²⁸ "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. ²⁹ Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, ³⁰ since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, Prov 1:27-30

Why does God not answer? Because they are not seeking healing, transformation of heart, a relationship with God, they are seeking to escape consequence, but with no part of them intent on a new heart and right spirit.

The last paragraph states they had a stark choice—what of today do we have a stark choice? How would you describe our choice?

Who will those who are following after the beast of Revelation think they are following? What could you say that makes the choice more distinct?



TUESDAY

Let's read Jeremiah 42 and 43, thoughts?

42 Then all the army officers, including Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest approached ² Jeremiah the prophet and said to him, "Please hear our petition and pray to the Lord your God for this entire remnant. For as you now see, though we were once many, now only a few are left. ³ Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do."

⁴ "I have heard you," replied Jeremiah the prophet. "I will certainly pray to the Lord your God as you have requested; I will tell you everything the Lord says and will keep nothing back from you."

⁵ Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with everything the Lord your God sends you to tell us. ⁶ Whether it is favorable or unfavorable, we will obey the Lord our God, to whom we are sending you, so that it will go well with us, for we will obey the Lord our God."

⁷ Ten days later the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. ⁸ So he called together Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him and all the people from the least to the greatest. ⁹ He said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your petition, says: ¹⁰ 'If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you, for I am grieved over the disaster I have inflicted on you. ¹¹ Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him, declares the Lord, for I am with you and will save you and deliver you from his hands. ¹² I will show you compassion so that he will have compassion on you and restore you to your land.'

¹³ "However, if you say, 'We will not stay in this land,' and so disobey the Lord your God, ¹⁴ and if you say, 'No, we will go and live in Egypt, where we will not see war or hear the trumpet or be hungry for bread,' ¹⁵ then hear the word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah. This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'If you are determined to go to Egypt and you do go to settle there, ¹⁶ then the sword you fear will overtake you there, and the famine you dread will follow you into Egypt, and there you will die. ¹⁷ Indeed, all who are determined to go to Egypt to settle there will die by the sword, famine and plague; not one of them will survive or escape the disaster I will bring on them.' ¹⁸ This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'As my anger and wrath have been poured out on those who lived in Jerusalem, so will my



wrath be poured out on you when you go to Egypt. You will be an object of cursing and horror, of condemnation and reproach; you will never see this place again.'

¹⁹ *"O remnant of Judah, the Lord has told you, 'Do not go to Egypt.' Be sure of this: I warn you today ²⁰ that you made a fatal mistake when you sent me to the Lord your God and said, 'Pray to the Lord our God for us; tell us everything he says and we will do it.' ²¹ I have told you today, but you still have not obeyed the Lord your God in all he sent me to tell you. ²² So now, be sure of this: You will die by the sword, famine and plague in the place where you want to go to settle."*

43 *When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the Lord their God—everything the Lord had sent him to tell them—² Azariah son of Hoshaiiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The Lord our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there.' ³ But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon."*

⁴ *So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the Lord's command to stay in the land of Judah. ⁵ Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered. ⁶ They also led away all the men, women and children and the king's daughters whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah. ⁷ So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the Lord and went as far as Tahpanhes.*

⁸ *In Tahpanhes the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ⁹ "While the Jews are watching, take some large stones with you and bury them in clay in the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes. ¹⁰ Then say to them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will set his throne over these stones I have buried here; he will spread his royal canopy above them. ¹¹ He will come and attack Egypt, bringing death to those destined for death, captivity to those destined for captivity, and the sword to those destined for the sword. ¹² He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt; he will burn their temples and take their gods captive. As a shepherd wraps his garment around him, so will he wrap Egypt around himself and depart from there unscathed. ¹³ There in the temple of the sun in Egypt he will demolish the sacred pillars and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.' "*



Many major lessons let's focus on a few.

Do we get confirmation their so-called confession of faith was not a confession of faith? If we look through the theater lens what is the object lesson that applies to us?

Remember Egypt represents the world of sin, so:

- What does it mean that God told the remnant to stay in Israel?
 - That we are to stay in relationship with God, loyal to His law of love and faithful to His principles, trusting Him with the outcomes
 - thus they remain free!
- What does it mean that God promised blessings?
 - That when we trust Him, in the end we have all things restored, and here and now our decisions work to bring healing and blessings, even while enemies might be oppressing us
- What does it mean that they wanted to go to Egypt?
 - They want to return to the protection of the systems and methods of the world, i.e. selfishness, coercion, warfare, bribery, deceit, treaties, legal proclamations, human laws and enforcement, and
 - today this is a religious system with human laws, legal payments, coercive enforcement etc. i.e. penal substitution theology.
- What does it mean that they will die by sword, famine, or plague?
 - Those who reject God's methods today and instead claim security in legal payments live under the fear of coercive punishment, and will die either by:
 - violence of others,
 - spiritual starvation as they no longer ingest truth,
 - the infection of selfishness the plague of sinfulness in their own characters.
- What does it mean God's anger and wrath will be poured out?
 - That God surrenders people to reap that which they have sown
- Why does God speak in such ways?
 - Because the audience to whom He is speaking is currently operating at level one maturity and at this level the God who is powerful is the one who they listen to.
- What does it mean that God sent this message to them through Jeremiah?
 - That God never stops being the source of truth and light, and that today God has people all over the world sharing the true picture of Him and educating people on the devastating results that will happen if people persistently refuse to reconcile to God, if people stay living out of harmony with His design



- What do we learn from the response of the people?
 - That those who have solidified their characters in selfishness will refuse and deny truth and blame the messengers of love and truth
- What does it mean God will send for His servant Nebuchadnezzar to destroy?
 - Listen to this quote from EGW about the future last plagues:
 - "I was shown that the **judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them**, but in this way;
"They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then **He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.**
"It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of."
 - Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

Doesn't that sound just like what God did in Jeremiah's day, He removed His restraining hand, because the people chose to separate themselves from Him, and the destroyer came. Just what Revelation 7 describes.

Read last paragraph and bottom pink section, "Human nature is human nature..." This is one of the greatest tools of Satan, to play on emotions and get people to make decisions that go against their own reason, their own judgment, their own understanding of what is healthy and best. And once the unhealthy decision is carried out, the person then begins forming all kinds of lies and self-deception to avoid the guilt and shame associated with their choice, the blame game being one of those actions.

However, how can following a "clear thus saith the Lord" be another form of self-deceit and avoidance of truth?

By refusing to think, by refusing to evaluate the meaning, by taking passages at face value when they support the belief that one needs to hold to in order to avoid the truth and hide in their own self-deception. Thus, "my Bible says God throws people in the lake of fire and I take the Bible over your reasoning."



WEDNESDAY

The lesson points out that the refugees who thought they would find protection and safety in Egypt were wrong. How does this apply to us today?

What about those who are searching for eternal security, i.e. protection, in:

- penance
- rituals
- pilgrimages
- church attendance
- dietary conformity
- Sabbath observance
- legal substitutionary atonement
- blood payments to an offended god
- the gods of the world

What are the gods of the world today?

Read last paragraph, “When self-denial...” What is being described here?

- self-denial
- enlightenment of our minds
- freedom to follow the truth

Where is the change, the impact of God’s actions occurring in this description? In the sinner, not in a heavenly court room!

What are the wonderful things of God’s law? Realizing the amazing beauty of God’s design law and breaking free of the oppressive darkness that imposed law brings.

What does it mean “responsible in proportion to the light” one has? That it is not about performance, deeds done, actions taken, but about the motive of the heart, i.e. the character transformation! The healed/saved are those who have hearts that love truth and are willing to follow and apply it wherever it leads!

What does this mean, “The claims of his law are just and reasonable, and through the grace of Christ he expects us to fulfill his requirements.”



What does God's law claim? That God is love and life is constructed to work in harmony with His character of love and is actually an expression of that love.

What does just mean? Right, so God's design for life, which is the principle of giving in a free environment is the only right way for things and it is reasonable because this is how life is actually built to operate.

And it is through Christ's power/grace that we are enabled to not only understand God's design/law but to live in harmony with that law. Why does God expect us to do so? Because He expects us to be sensible and choose life and not death—it would be like offering a drowning man a lifeline of the water, we expect him to take it.

What would keep a drowning man from taking the lifeline? Believing some lie that lifeline is from of a terrible enemy about to torture and destroy him.

Thus, when we are enlightened to see the truth of our situation, our condition, God's character of love, it is reasonable that we take the hand of our Savior, and Christ expects we will do the reasonable thing, i.e. choose His Design, when we understand it.

So, are there other EGW quotes that supports this idea of what the law requires?

- **The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character;** {DA 762.2}
- **But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.**--RH, Apr 5, 1898. (2SM 211.) {2MCP 564.1}
- **The divine law requires us to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.** {A New Life NL 32.1}
- **His law requires your heart's supreme affection for your Maker. It requires you to do unto others as you would have them do to you.** {BEcho, February 15, 1889 par. 8}
- This is the voice of God to you, my brethren and sisters who profess to keep the law of God. **That law requires that you love your neighbor as yourself.** Are you doing it? {RH, March 11, 1884 par. 10}
- **The law requires us to present to God a holy character. It demands of men today just what it demanded of Adam in Eden,--perfect obedience, perfect harmony with all its precepts in all relations of life, under all circumstances and conditions.** {ST, May 30, 1895 par. 2}



Why does God’s law require this? For the same reason the law of respiration requires you to breathe, it is how life is constructed to operate—the ONLY way life can exist.

THURSDAY

Read third paragraph, “The rationale...” What does it mean they offered incense to the queen of heaven? Who was the queen of heaven?

FRIDAY

Asks a profound question, “What if you don’t believe in God, how can you know good from evil?”

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

Romans 2:12-15: “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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ (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, ¹⁵ 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.)”

Read and discuss the questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Welcome Gary Jones! Gary is a retired non-commissioned officer in the Canadian Army who has moved to Chattanooga in order to be a volunteer team manager for Come and Reason Ministries. He is currently looking for a space that our Ministry can lease to serve as a storage and distribution hub for our materials. Once this is established he will be reaching out and working to promote this message here and abroad. Our Ministry now has a phone number: **(423) 661-4734**, and Gary will be manning that number.

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

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase– 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.

January 8-9, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, California.

January 29-30, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at The Haven Church in St. Helena, CA.

February 20, 2016: Class will meet at Hamilton Community Church due to the Courthouse being unavailable.

March 11-12, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Village Church, College Place, WA.

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