

## 2025 3 Q Exodus Lesson 2

### The Burning Bush

by Tim Jennings

#### SABBATH

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Read first paragraph,

- God's call to us will often change the direction of our lives. However, if we follow that call, then we discover that God's path is always the best route for us. However, sometimes—at first—it isn't easy to accept God's call. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 14.

Haven't you found this to be true? In my life I have seen this more than once.

While I always wanted to be a physician, when I started medical school the only specialty that I, with certainty, did not want to go into was psychiatry. But the Lord had another plan, and I felt a real call to specialize in psychiatry. And when I told my medical school advisors and my family of my choice, initially, all of them tried to talk me out of it. But I knew that is what I was called to do.

As many of you know God blessed me with a scholarship to medical school with the US Army and after graduating I did my residency with the Army and then served as the Division Psychiatrist for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, and Chief of Psychiatry at Winn Army Hospital and I thought I would complete at least a 20 year career in the Army. But God had another plan, and I was led back to the Chattanooga area and opened a private practice in Dalton Georgia, where I met my wife Christie—and what a blessing—**God really had a better plan that I had!**

And as many of you know, my passion as a psychiatrist has been to integrate God's truth, God's methods and principles with modern science to bring healing to people. Therefore, I not only studied psychiatry, but have deeply studied God's Word and in 2004 asked to start a Sabbath School class at the Collegedale University Church, which was approved—and we started Come and Reason Class. Some of you have been part of this class since that time.

I had no aspirations beyond that class at our local church and thought that was all God called me to do, but God had a different plan. And events unfolded such that in 2010 we resigned our class at the University Church, moved our membership to the Hamilton Community Church and founded Come and Reason Ministries—which will turn 15 years old this year. And since founding Come and Reason Ministries God has blessed us and this ministry has grown and we have reached hundreds of thousands all over the world that we would never have reached teaching a class in our local church.

As you know, Come and Reason Ministries is a not for profit ministry that produces and gives away materials teaching the truth about God's character of love and design law methods that bring healing

to hearts and minds, and we have never done a fund raiser or solicited donations, and God has blessed us to be able to continue to grow, produce more, give away more, reach more people.

And I thought this was God's plan, for me to have my practice in Chattanooga and lead Come and Reason Ministries. Yet, God had another plan—for me to be medical director at Honey Lake Clinic (HLC). And this is very interesting because HLC was founded in 2017 and the founder Karl Benzio MD, began asking me to come and be medical director back then, but I have no memory of those conversations. Christie, however, does remember him asking multiple times over several years when we would see each other at the AACC.

What was happening is that he would mention this to me, but I never even allowed the idea to register because I believed I was where God wanted me to be, here running our Ministry. So, I wasn't even aware this was open for me. So God got my attention, by Dr. Benzio nominated me to be the Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Liberty University, which resulted in them offering me that position to start a Christian psychiatry residency program.

As you know I took that position, believing God was calling me there, and in the interim, Come and Reason Ministries had decided the fall before to purchase this property and renovate it to give us a permanent place of our own and not be dependent on others. This property and renovation was completed just at the time I started at Liberty which allowed me to continue to teach remotely—God's timing was perfect.

So I thought I would be at Liberty opening a residency program, but as you know that didn't happen for a variety of regulatory and system obstacles (which God certainly foreknew), and then, the very weekend things ended at Liberty I was again presented with the medical directorship at HLC, (which had been there all along), and have now taken that position. And HLC and Come and Reason Ministries now have a very close collaboration. Not only has God led me to form this ministry and to medical directorship of HLC, but through that relationship God has opened new avenues for our materials and this healing message about God to reach more people.

But now for the rest of the story. When I left the military in 1997 and opened my practice in Dalton, GA. I began talking with various leaders in the SDA church about creating a mental health treatment program that integrates all the healing truths we know from God's Word and our founders, the various natural remedies along with the best in modern neuroscience. I began writing books, my first *Could It Be This Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*, which was initially published by the Review under its Autumn House label back in 2007. But in 2010, when we resigned our SS class and opened Come and Reason Ministries, the publisher canceled the contract and returned all rights to me. And since then, we have published and distributed well more than 100,000 copies of this book, have developed a workbook that is approved and used in multiple prisons across the country and the book has been translated into 10 languages and is given away in various countries around the world.

But, I had been advocating for our church to invest in holistic scientifically based Christian mental health treatment programs, but unfortunately they never did—so God led me to HLC which is the only Christian Residential Treatment program with fully integrated Christian principles and modern

science, all the natural remedies and more are included in our program and, as you would expect when God's design law methods are applied, we see remarkable healing.

So, yes, if we trust God, He will often lead us in directions we didn't anticipate but His leading is always best.

Read second paragraph,

Such is the case for Moses and his call by God, which specifically began at the encounter with the Lord at the burning bush. Although Moses may or may not have known about the laws of combustion, he knew that what he was seeing was a miracle, and it certainly caught his attention. No question, the Lord was calling him to a specific task. The issue was: Would he answer the call, regardless of the radical new change in his life that this call would bring? At first, he was not very receptive to it. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 14.

What do you think of the sentence "Although Moses may or may not have known about the laws of combustion, he knew that what he was seeing was a miracle, and it certainly caught his attention"?

I really wished they would have said something like this,

Although Moses may or may not have known about the laws of combustion, he knew that what he was seeing was **not normal fire that something quite different was happening**, and it certainly caught his attention.

Whether innocent or intentional, the lesson's description puts in people's minds that this was normal fire of combustion, where matter undergoes a chemical oxidation reaction typically with oxygen that produces gaseous products (smoke), and that God was somehow performing a miracle to prevent the chemical reaction from destroying the bush—similar to the miracle He performed to protect Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego in the combustion fire in the furnace.

But this is exactly NOT what was happening, the bush was not being oxidized. This was not the fire of combustion and a miracle from God. It was the glory of God which looks like fire but is not combustion.

Let's read the text, for there is some incredible information in this encounter that is vital to recognize and understand and because it hasn't been accurately understood various errors have crept into Christian teachings.

- Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the **angel of the LORD** appeared to him **in flames of fire from within a bush**. Moses saw that though the **bush was on fire it did not burn up**. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—**why the bush does not burn up**." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, **God called to him from within the bush**, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I

am.” “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.**” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:1-6 NIV84 emphasis mine.

If we recognize the Bible is an inspired record of real people and real events, then we must read it as such and form evidenced-based understandings. This means thinking what happened, what transpired, what occurred, what was revealed. And what is happening here?

There is a bush that looks like it is on fire, but it does not burn up. That raises the question that Moses had, why?

So what are the option? One is that it is combustion but God is performing a miracle to basically heal or recreate the elements of the bush that are being oxidized in the fire so that it never gets consumed or God puts a shield around the bush so it isn’t getting oxidized, but then what is the source of the oxidizing fire?; OR we realize that this is a different type of fire, something that looks like the fire of combustion, but is not the fire of combustion.

How can we know? We look to the rest of Scripture to see if there is further evidence that there is something that looks like fire but is not combustion, and what are the identifiers of when this fiery looking energy is present and are those identifiers present at the bush:

- When Solomon’s Temple was dedicated, the priests couldn’t enter because the brightness of God’s fiery glory was too great, but the temple did not burn down (2 Chronicles 5:14, 7:1–3).
- Before his fall, Lucifer walked among the “fiery stones” of God’s presence (Ezekiel 28:14, 16).
- God takes His throne and “rivers of fire” come out from Him, yet billions stand in this fire without any harm (Daniel 7:9, 10).
- Prior to his crucifixion, in a body still subject to death, Jesus was bathed in heavenly fire, yet no harm came to Him. His clothes didn’t even get scorched (Matthew 17:2).
- Hebrews plainly tells us that “our God is a consuming fire” (12:29).
- The Song of Solomon states: “Love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away” (8:6, 7).
- But when the children of Israel—unrepentant, still filled with sin and selfishness—saw Moses’ face, they shrank back and begged him to wear a veil. They couldn’t stand the heavenly light (Exodus 34:33–35).
- Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu “So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ... Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron’s uncle Uzziel, and said to them, “Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary.” So they came and carried them, **still in their tunics**, outside the camp, as Moses ordered. Leviticus 10:1–5, emphasis mine.

Do we have biblical evidence that there is something that looks like fire, but it is not the fire of combustion? And does the Bible describe, reveal, and document that this non-combustion is what is seen when God is present, in other words, one of the indicators that this is the non-combustion energy that looks like fire rather than combustion is we have evidence of God's presence?

So, in the context of the burning bush, do we have solid biblical evidence that this is not the fire of combustion? And why is this important? What doctrine is impacted by understanding this truth? The final end of sin and sinners, what hell is and how God destroys sin and purifies His universe. The final end comes when, after the 1000 years, God unveils His life-giving glory, which He has been veiling since Adam sinned, and the entire Earth is covered in His glory, as described in Isaiah and Revelation. The righteous will live forever in this life-giving glory and we will radiate it like Elijah and Moses did on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus. But the wicked hate the fires of love and truth emanating from God and when bathed in this life-giving glory, which God in mercy has been shielding this world from so all who are willing can be converted and healed, their sin which they can no longer deny brings them terrible torment of soul, heart, and mind and they voluntarily choose to surrender their lives. They prefer not to live than to live in a universe bathed in infinite truth and love. And death and the grave are thrown into this lake of fire, the fires of God's life-giving glory—for life is what kills or destroys death and the grave. And God cleanses His universe in the only way possible that destroys fear and rebellion, through His holy methods of truth, love, and absolute freedom. Every intelligent being in the universe knows God is not the source of pain, suffering, or death, it is sin that causes this.

And this is why it is critical to recognize this fire is not the fire of combustion

If you would like a more thorough written biblical description of [The Truth About Hell](#) click the link to the blog.

The other major truth from this encounter at the burning bush is that it gives insight into Jesus as fully God, as Jesus is the member of the Godhead speaking from the bush and also the physical form Jesus chose to manifest Himself in prior to becoming a real human being; the text states that the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the bush.

And if you would like to explore this question, who is this angel of the Lord who is also God, see our blog [Are Jesus and Michael One and the Same?](#) For the Bible references documenting this.

The fact that Jesus sometimes in the past appeared in the form of an angel gives insight into the war in heaven:

- And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Revelation 12:7-8 NIV84.

## SUNDAY

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Read the second paragraph,

- Yet, this time was not simply for Moses to smell the flowers (or perhaps, in this case, the desert cactus?). These years of walking with the Lord changed him and prepared him for a leadership role. God also used Moses in this quiet wilderness to write, under divine inspiration, two of the oldest biblical books: Job and Genesis (see Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 251; Francis D. Nichol, et al., eds., *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1140). Moses also received from God crucial insights about the great controversy, the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, the patriarchs, and, most important, the plan of salvation. Thus, Moses was instrumental in passing on to all humanity the true knowledge of the living God, our Creator and Sustainer, and knowledge about what God is doing in view of the sin that has wreaked havoc on this planet. Biblical and salvation history make little sense apart from the crucial foundation that, under inspiration, Moses gave us, especially in the book of Genesis. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 15.

I agree with this completely, these 40 years in Midian were vital to prepare Moses for his role as deliverer and leader of the people.

Our pamphlet, [The Book of Job and the Last Days: Seven Truths to Prepare for Christ's Return](#) examines seven vital truths that were essential for Moses to learn before going back to Egypt and facing Pharaoh and these same seven are vital for us to learn as we face the final events that will lead us out of this world to our heavenly promised land.

And those seven are:

### 1. The War Is Bigger than Us

The first chapter of Job starts with a revelation of a war that is universal, a conflict that goes far beyond Earth and human beings, a controversy that began in heaven and is centered upon God's character and trustworthiness. The Bible confirms this elsewhere:

Moses needed to understand that what was happening on Earth was part of a larger conflict involving the entire universe, a war over two antagonistic principles and methods. Is God love, the source of truth, a righteous being who gives of Himself for the welfare of His creatures, one who sacrifices self to uplift others (Philippians 2:5–11), a being who gives His intelligent creatures real freedom?

Or is God no different than what Satan alleges, a powerful being who makes up rules and then uses power to enforce His rules with inflicted punishments? Does God run His universe upon truth, love, and liberty, in which all of His laws are design laws, protocols upon which reality is constructed to operate, or does God function no differently than Pharaoh, a power-monger who made up rules, punished rule-breakers, and enslaved people to do his bidding?

Foundational to understanding what is happening in our world is the knowledge that we are caught up in a cosmic war, a war that began in heaven and spread to Earth, a war over God's character, law, methods, and principles, a war in which the sword of God's truth battles against the lies of Satan, in which the power of love fights against fear and selfishness, in which liberty stands firm against coercion and control, in which forgiveness destroys resentment and hate, in which kindness eviscerates cruelty, in which meekness overthrows pride and arrogance, in which grace overcomes guilt and shame, in which trust in God breaks down the gates of hell that entrap souls and restores hearts and minds to friendship with God.

The first truth Moses needed to understand, and the first truth we need to understand, is that the war is bigger than us, that it involves the entire universe. And we need to remember this as the final events are unfolding around us.

## **2. The Enemy Force Is Led by a Supernatural Deceiver**

- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12 NIV84.

The book of Job reveals that there is an enemy behind the scenes, a being of supernatural ability who wars against the kingdom of God. He is the father of lies, the destroyer, the one "who holds the power of death" (Hebrews 2:14). He is the source of rebellion, the originator of distrust in God, the fracture point in breaking away from God's perfection, of deviating from His design laws of life and, thus, Satan severed the life-link of love and truth upon which God's kingdom functions. Alienation from God is death, and Satan's lies, when believed, break the bonds of love and trust and result in fear, selfishness, guilt, shame, ruin, and death—unless remedied by our Savior.

Moses needed to understand this truth in order to confront Pharaoh, to comprehend how Adam and Eve fell, how lies had tricked Eve into breaking trust with God and how that broken trust had changed her and her husband, who chose rebellion with her. They were changed from holy, righteous, loyal beings who lived in perfect harmony with God and His law of love into beings who distrusted God, who were filled with guilt and shame and were consumed by fear and selfishness. God's law was displaced, and the law of sin and death infected their souls.

We, like Moses, need to understand that the battle between good and evil is not a physical struggle, not a war of might and power, but a conflict over two antagonistic principles vying for every intelligent heart and mind, a war instigated by a supernatural being seeking to replace God in our hearts and minds. To whom will we be loyal? Whose law and methods will we embrace and practice? Who will we trust?

## **3. Pain, Suffering, and Death Originate with Satan—But God Gets Blamed**

Job reveals the truth that pain, suffering, and death do not come from God—rather, they come from God's enemy; yet, in this fallen world, God gets blamed.

As the various attacks upon Job were unleashed, one of his servants reported to him:

- The fire **of God** fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you! Job 1:16 NIV84, emphasis mine.

God gets blamed, yet the book of Job leaves no doubt that Satan was the one who caused the destruction.

We find the same thing happening throughout human history. A hurricane destroys a city, and God gets blamed. Insurance companies even label tornados and other natural disasters as “acts of God.” Patients blame God for their physical sickness, and parents ask, “Why did God give my child cancer?”

The Bible reveals that God’s power is exercised in order to hold the principalities and powers of darkness at bay (e.g., 2 Kings 6:17; Psalms 34:7, 91:11). He sends His angels to restrain and limit Satan’s power. The book of Job demonstrates that God has placed limits on Satan, but when those limits are loosened, Satan destroys.

Scripture also tells us that God’s angels are currently holding back the four winds of strife as heaven waits for the servants of God to be sealed (Revelation 7:1–3). When these people are sealed, only then will the angels let go what they have been holding back and the forces of Satan are freed to cause all kinds of harm.

As the final events unfold and the four winds of strife are loosed, we need to remember the lesson of Job that God is our protector and Satan is the destroyer. God is the source of life; Satan is the source of death. God is our friend, benefactor, and Savior; Satan is our enemy, exploiter, and destroyer.

#### **4. Family and Friends Can Be Used to Tempt and Discourage**

The book of Job reveals that in trying times, the devil can work through our closest family and friends to tempt and discourage us. Job’s wife encouraged him to “curse God and die” (2:9 NIV84), and his friends misrepresented God (42:7) and were “miserable comforters” (16:2 NIV84).

Moses needed to understand this because his brother and sister would turn against him (Numbers 12:1–16), and the people he helped save would constantly complain to him and about him.

Jesus experienced the same struggles. His brothers didn’t believe Him and sought to tempt Him to act contrary to God’s plan (John 7:1–5); Peter was also used by Satan to tempt and discourage Jesus (Matthew 16:22, 23). Jesus said, “Your worst enemies will be the members of your own family” (10:36 GNT).

As we face the final events before Christ’s return, we need to remember this truth. We need to realize that we, like Job, Moses, and Jesus, may have family members and friends who tempt and discourage us. But we, like Job, must not believe discouraging family and friends; we must remain loyal to Jesus.



## **5. Bible Perfection Is About Unshakable Love, Trust, and Loyalty to God. It Is Not About Task Performance or Rule Compliance**

After Satan presents himself before the heavenly counsel, God says to him,

- Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a **perfect** and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Job 1:8 KJV, emphasis mine.

Job was not sinless; he was a sinner saved by grace, but God describes Him as “perfect.” Why? Because Job achieved what Jesus has instructed us to achieve:

- Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:48 NIV84.

The perfection that Jesus is speaking about here is the perfection of love, trust, and loyalty. God is perfect in love, perfect in trust, and perfect in loyalty. And we are to so mature in our love for God and others that no matter what trials come, we would rather die than break our trust with God.

There have been many sinners throughout history who became friends of God who achieved this maturity, this steadfast devotion to Him. This faithfulness, this loyal love, is biblical perfection:

- Daniel would rather be thrown into the lion’s den than to betray God.
- Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego would rather be thrown into a fiery furnace than to betray God.
- And while Job had questions, while he didn’t understand what was happening to him, he would not break trust with God.

This is what God wants for His people on Earth when the four winds are loosed in the last days. He wants us so settled into our love for and our trust in Him that nothing can shake us from Him.

We must become like Job, sealed and perfected in our love for and loyalty to God; only then will we be among the victorious who “overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death” (Revelation 12:11 NIV84).

The book of Job makes clear that Bible perfection is not about deeds and tasks but about loyal love to our Creator.

## **6. Health and Wellness Are Not Evidence of Righteousness**

The book of Job reveals that the righteous may suffer tragedy, loss, sickness, and poverty. It also reveals that being right with God does not equate with success in this world.

- His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” John 9:2, 3.

Like Jesus’ own disciples, many people have failed to realize this truth and have falsely concluded that if someone is poor or suffering with disease, it is because they have been abandoned by God, cursed by God, or are being punished by God, while being healthy and wealthy is evidence of being in good standing with God.

They don’t recognize that Jesus’ own life was one marked by poverty, abuse, mistreatment, rejection, torture, and death. Certainly, His suffering and lack of material blessings were not evidence of being under God’s curse or punishment.

Moses needed to understand this to fulfill his mission, in order to return to the rich land of Egypt and not be tempted. He needed to know that his wanderer’s clothing and shepherd’s rod were not evidence of a lack of God’s blessing.

The people of God who are preparing to face the last days and for His soon return need the same truth—to build up our security on heavenly treasure and not earthly wealth.

## **7. The Highest Calling for Each of Us Is to Say of God What Is Right**

Ultimately, the book of Job reveals that the central issue in the cosmic war is the truth about God. As Jesus told us,

- “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3 NIV84.

If we want life, health, and happiness, we must return to the truth about God as revealed by Jesus. To reject the knowledge of God as revealed by Jesus damages the mind and corrupts the character.

The book of Job makes the truth about God the eternal central truth. The story begins in heaven with Satan alleging that God bribes, that God manipulates, that God is lying when He says that Job is perfect and righteous in all his ways.

God’s character and trustworthiness are called into question. As the book unfolds, we see Satan doing evil but God being blamed for it. We see humans accusing God and misrepresenting Him. But through all of it, Job stays faithful. He refuses to blame God.

Instead, Job continues to take the position that if he could just talk with God, God would explain things in a way that made sense. And in the end, Job is commended with the highest praise that a friend of God can receive; he is commended for having said of God what is right (42:7).

At this time in history, the true friends of God are called to do the same. We are called to say of God what is right. Revelation 14:7 calls for a people to present the everlasting gospel—the eternal good news about God—to the world, to give God glory by revealing Him to the world, because the time has come for everyone to make a right judgment about God.

Satan has lied about God, and God has been blamed for all the evils that Satan has originated. God is still accused of being the source of pain, suffering, and death. God is still being represented as a cosmic dictator who makes up rules and uses His power to torment and execute those who refuse to love Him and obey His rules. Thus, God calls for His friends today, those who are like Job, to say of Him what is right, to tell the world that God is exactly like Jesus revealed Him to be, that He is the source of life, health, healing, and happiness, and that it is Satan and sin that are the source of pain, suffering, and death (Hebrews 2:14; Romans 6:23; James 1:15; Galatians 6:8).

## MONDAY

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The lesson starts by focusing on the Angel of the Lord, we have already covered that, but are there any questions?

Read third paragraph,

- The suffering of God’s people in Egypt is colorfully described as a groaning and a deep cry for help. God heard their cry and was concerned (Exod. 2:23–25). He called them “my people” (Exod. 3:7). That is, even before Sinai and the ratifying of the covenant, they were His people, and He would cause them to dwell and prosper (if they would obey) in the land of Canaan, as He had promised their fathers. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 16.

What do you understand the term “my people” to mean?

- Does this mean they have a different way to salvation than the rest of the peoples of the world?
- Does it mean God loves them more than other peoples of the world?
- Does it mean that God is racist and makes racial preferences based on one’s genetic heritage?

What does the term mean?

If you are an employer do you ever say, “my employees”? Do you ever say, “my people”? What do you mean by that?

If you have ever coached a ball team to you ever say, “my players”? Do you ever say, those are “my people”?

Does God mean by saying “my people” that those people are His employees, His team members, being called and engaged for a mission, a purpose, a calling, to represent Him, to advance His

purposes, to not only be the avenue for the Messiah, but the community through whom His truth, methods, principles, and plan of salvation will be made known to humanity?

We must be careful when we read and hear terms like “my people” that we don’t allow a false meaning to enter our minds, like the genetic descendants of Jacob are somehow God’s people by race. No, the only people that are God’s people are the people that are actually on God’s team, advancing God’s cause, promoting God’s truth, methods, principles, regardless of race, tribe, nation, kindred, or people group.

## TUESDAY

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The lesson title is The Name of the Lord and focuses our attention on Exodus 6:3, which reads:

- And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty (El-Shaddai), but by my name JEHOVAH (Yahweh) was I not known to them. Exodus 6:3 KJV

What do you think about this?

Consider these texts:

- He also said to him, “I am the LORD (Yahweh), who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” Genesis 15:7 NIV84
- Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD (Yahweh) it shall be seen. Genesis 22:13-14.

And Jacob’s dream of the ladder, we read:

- There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD (Yahweh), the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.” Genesis 28:13 NIV84.

So, what does Exodus 6:3 mean that God was not known by His name Yahweh or Jehovah to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

- And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty (El-Shaddai), but by my name JEHOVAH (Yahweh) was I not known to them. Exodus 6:3 KJV

Consider this text, does it help us with this question?

- I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose **rider is called Faithful and True**. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and

on his head are many crowns. **He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.** He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God.**

Revelation 19:11-13 NIV84, emphasis mine.

What does this mean—He has a name that no one knows but himself, but he is called Faithful and True and his name is the Word of God?

In Scripture name means character—then why is the name on Jesus only known by Him, and Scripture more than 200 names for Jesus?

The reason Jesus name is only known by Him is because Jesus is infinite God and only infinite God can know infinity, in other words know the full and complete knowledge of God. Jesus has more than 200 names because He is infinite and as infinite truths and aspects associated with Him. Through all eternity future we shall grow to know more and more about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and yet never become infinite God, thus we will never know His name fully.

This is what is happening in the Exodus text. God is telling Moses (and remember Moses wrote the book of Genesis and already used the words Jehovah and Yahweh when writing those accounts about his forefathers, thus He knows those words were known by them) that though his forefathers knew the word Yahweh they did not know the full name, character, revelation of God. And that in the events occurring now Yahweh would reveal more about Himself and His name would become known in new ways that his forefathers did not know.

## WEDNESDAY

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The lesson focuses on Moses reluctance, excuses and God's meeting these excuses with interventions.

Moses asks God, What if they don't believe I spoke with you. And God gave Moses three miracles: Rod turns to a snake; hand becomes leprous and then healthy; water turns to blood.

Moses then objects because he isn't a good speaker, so God tells him his brother Aaron is already on the way and will speak for him.

What do you make of this encounter? What lessons do we learn?

- Does this mean Moses didn't love God?
- Does it mean Moses didn't love his people?
- Does it mean Moses didn't want his people freed from slavery?

What spirit, motivation, drive, energy do you think was motivating Moses to have these concerns?

Wasn't it fear? He was afraid the people wouldn't believe him. He was afraid of how he would be perceived as a public speaker, would he mumble, stutter, misspeak, be laughed at.

Where did this spirit of fear come from in Moses? Adam—when Adam sinned he corrupted his spirit, the animating motivating energy that God breathed into him when he created him. Adam changed his spirit from a spirit of love and trust to fear and selfishness, as did Eve. And we are all born in sin conceived in iniquity (Psalm 51:5). In other words, we are all born with a spirit of fear.

That is why we must be reborn with a new spirit of love and trust.

So Moses is being tempted with feelings of fear, leading him to seek ways to protect self. Was Moses in rebellion against God? No!

This is critical to understand. We are all born in sin and conceived in iniquity. We all struggle with the spirit of fear. Before conversion we are truly powerless and form all kinds of beliefs and attachments designed to reduce our fear and make us feel safe.

After conversion we have a new spirit, the spirit of love and trust, the Spirit of Jesus living in us. But we, like Moses, are often still tempted by the spirit of fear.

When this happens, we must do exactly what Moses did, talk to God, listen for His answers, and then choose to go forward making a truth and love decision in governance of self, not a fear-based decision. Even though we might feel the feeling of anxiety and fear, which I believe Moses still had, he went forward acting upon the truth and love and as he did his fear and concern for self reduced, to the point he eventually offered his own life for the people.

## THURSDAY

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The lesson focuses on the event where an angel of the Lord appeared in a threatening manner to Moses because his youngest son had not been circumcised and how his wife Zipporah quickly circumcised the boy and touched Moses feet with the bloody foreskin and the angel left Moses alone.

Zipporah is very unhappy and calls Moses a bloody husband.

The lesson quotes a paragraph from the commentary *Patriarchs and Prophets* and leaves out a short portion which I find interesting, let's read the paragraph they quote and include the portion they edited out:

- On the way from Midian, Moses received a startling and terrible warning of the Lord's displeasure. An angel appeared to him in a threatening manner, as if he would immediately destroy him. No explanation was given; but Moses remembered that he had disregarded one of God's requirements; **yielding to the persuasion of his wife**, he had neglected to perform the rite of circumcision upon their youngest son. He had failed to comply with the condition by which his child could be entitled to the blessings of God's covenant with Israel; and such a neglect on the part of their chosen leader could not but lessen the force of the divine precepts

upon the people. Zipporah, fearing that her husband would be slain, performed the rite herself, and the angel then permitted Moses to pursue his journey. **In his mission to Pharaoh, Moses was to be placed in a position of great peril; his life could be preserved only through the protection of holy angels. But while living in neglect of a known duty, he would not be secure; for he could not be shielded by the angels of God.** *Patriarchs and Prophets* p. 255-256, emphasis mine.

What do you think of this explanation as to why these events occurred?

Certainly if we neglect known duties we take ourselves out of God's plan and should not expect God to work to advance us on the wrong path, but to do exactly what He did here, intervened to alert us we are on the wrong path with opportunity to get back on the right one.

Further, Moses was going to lead the people, how could he as a leader expect them to comply with their duties if he doesn't comply with his? So this was important for him as leader to give an example of fidelity, integrity, exactness, and attention to detail in his duties to the Lord.

But what about why Moses did this? Evidently this was the second son and the first was circumcised, but the wife was not happy and he neglected to do this because of his wife's influence.

Have we seen this as a pattern through the Bible?

- Eve influences Adam to eat the fruit
- Job's wife encourages him to curse God and die
- Sarah influences Abraham to take Hagar
- Rebekah influences her son Jacob to deceive his father
- Zipporah influences Moses to neglect his duty
- Delilah influences Samson to share his secret
- Solomon's wives influence him to worship false gods
- Jezebel leads Ahab into Baal worship

Why do you think the lesson clipped this phrase?