



2025 3 Q Exodus Lesson 3

Rough Start

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read third paragraph,

- Those who trust in God will face numerous trials. When we persevere, however, God brings solutions that come on His terms and in His time. His ways may conflict with our expectations for quick and instantaneous solutions, but we must learn to trust Him regardless. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 22.

How do we understand the fact that those who trust God will face numerous trials, with Jesus statement,

- Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:17 NIV84.

What does Jesus mean? As you think of the problems in the world, the various groups of Satan fighting back and forth in society, the pressures to join one or the other, the attacks on truth, on love, on freedom—are you at peace or does your heart become troubled, and are you tempted to be afraid?

How do we understand this? Where is this peace?

Paul wrote,

- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 NIV84.

Somehow, we are to have peace, but Jesus also said that the more we follow Him, the more persecution, conflict, and mistreatment we will experience. Jesus Himself was the target of all kinds of injustice and abuse, so how do we understand this peace Jesus promised?

- Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Romans 5:1 NIV84

The peace Jesus promised is not peace with the world, in fact He said,

- “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a

daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.” Matthew 10:34-36 NIV84.

Jesus is not talking about cutting ties with godly, loving, Christlike family, but with family that are hardened against Him and being used to obstruct His healing work in our lives. I think my paraphrase makes what Jesus is describing easier to understand:

- "Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people. I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law. A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family. Matthew 10:34-36 REM.

So where is this peace we are supposed to experience? Peace with God, that we are no longer warring against God and heaven, that we have been reconciled with Him and trust Him, but as we are reconciled to Him, reborn and have a new heart and right spirit, we have war with ourselves, our old nature, our fears, insecurities, and old selfish habits, and with all those in the world who are not reborn with the Spirit of Christ.

But what is the key that unlocks the door of the heart to experience this peace with God? Jesus said,

- “Though **I have been speaking figuratively**, a time is coming when I will **no longer use this kind of language** but will tell you **plainly** about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. **I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you** because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.” Then Jesus’ disciples said, “**Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech.** Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.” “You believe at last!” Jesus answered. “But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. **“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.** In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:25–33 NIV84, emphasis mine.

What is the key to peace with God? The truth that Jesus does not need to pray the Father for us—why? Because God has never been against us, but always for us as Romans 8:31 says, that God so loved the world He sent His Son to accomplish His purpose of defeating Satan, destroying Satan’s power, freeing humankind from sin and restoring humanity to perfection through His substitutionary sinless life and voluntary sacrifice. In other words, what gives us peace is to recognize and worship God as Creator, whose laws are design laws and understand sin deviates from God’s design and corrupt the sinner and causes death unless removed by God. When we realize this, we are no longer afraid of God who is trying to save us and instead are afraid of sin, afraid of distrusting God, afraid of believing lies

about God that keep us from trusting Him. Thus, the truth about God sets us free from the lies and opens our heart to trust God again and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY

Read memory verse,

- Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.’ ” Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.” Exodus 5:1–2 NIV84.

Read the fourth paragraph,

- Egypt, with the pharaoh as king, is symbolic of a power that denies God’s presence and authority. It is an entity that stands in opposition to God, His Word, and His people. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 23.

The lesson is absolutely right, and this memory text reveals an important fact for understanding Bible prophecy—Egypt is not only a real nation that interacted with Israel during Bible times, but is used symbolically to represent one of Satan’s forces on Earth, and this text provides the qualifier that makes a person or group part of spiritual Egypt—and that is people and groups who deny the existence of or belief in our Creator God.

This would be the pagans through history, but in more modern times the evolutionist, Marxist, communist, humanist, scientist, naturalist, during the French Revolution those who worshiped the goddess of reason, today’s modern green movement, who are modern day Earth-worshippers, and most of the platform and positions of the political left.

Satan has always had people and groups denying God and worshiping something else, but he has had another group that he pits against the godless and they are those who do believe in the God of Abraham but who believe God’s law functions like human law and will use the power of the state, of law and law enforcement to advance their religion and beliefs in God. This group in Bible symbolism is represented by Babylon, in the Bible story arc the first nation to have a legal code, the code of Hammurabi, and when Nebuchadnezzar saw the three worthies protected by Jesus in the fiery furnace he gave a law that anyone who speaks bad about their God would be killed.

Both of these groups are Satan’s and he is after the third group in history, the people faithful to God. You will see in the history of Israel as recorded in Scripture that Satan will seek to seduce the faithful with godless paganism, and often has succeeded. He continues today to seduce people with godlessness in all its various forms, and many people in our society have been seduced into it—evolutionism etc.

Satan, having secured people to his camp by getting them to believe in godlessness, then inspires them with evermore deranged and delusional thinking because having rejected God they have no connection with the source of truth and therefore no reality-based ability for determining truth. They will take facts and twist them through a false narrative that fits their false assumptions and biases. And because their spirits are controlled by fear and selfishness, they will be more sensitive to the influence and interpretations of demonic forces while insensitive to the Holy Spirit that they have rejected, and it is therefore, not possible for such people to have genuine peace or mental health. Therefore, they will constantly be seeking to comfort themselves in maladaptive ways—pleasure seeking, thrill seeking... But one of those maladaptive ways that ungodly people use, and this includes the ungodly who are in the church and claim a belief in God, is when they experience the emotional and mental turmoil that sin causes, fear, guilt, feelings of inadequacy, not at peace with themselves, they rather than going to God to be reborn, instead project out of themselves their own insecurities and dissatisfaction, blame others for their internal convictions and lack of peace, demand that others affirm them, support them, tell them they are okay in their ongoing ungodly and dysfunctional life choices and if they don't receive that external validation then they accuse and attack anyone who refuses to comply with their demands.

Satan uses these deluded and hurting souls to exploit and manipulate others through intimidation, fear, empathy, compassion, threat, all designed to get those not already in his camp to collude, accept, participate in, and practice his reality-denying, anti-truth, anti-love, methods.

But this method of living is a violation of the laws of truth, love, and liberty. Those on the godless left advance fantasies that contradict objective truth, things like:

- there is no God; we evolved from slime
- there is no male and female; gender is just made up mental construct
- the climate change hoax, designed to create fear in order to exploit
- people are good or bad based on the color of their skin hoax
- rioting, burning, destroying property, breaking into retail stores, and looting is peaceful while not using the right pronouns in one's speech is violence
- the COVID hoax—and what I mean by the hoax is not that there was no virus, there was, the hoaxes were—1) that it was a natural virus from a wet market and not a man-made gain of function mutation to enhance human infection; 2) that masks would stop spread 3) that the experimental RNA injections were proven safe, despite never having been used and therefore no safety data 4) that the experimental jabs would provide immunity 5) that three feet of separation would provide protection 6) that healthy children are at significant life-threatening risk from the virus 7) that COVID is more dangerous than seasonal flu 8) that natural immunity does not provide protection, and many more lies.

All of these lies and hoaxes are advanced by the left to incite fear, get people to surrender thinking to various voices of authority and surrender liberties in order for those who control government to determine orthodoxy for society so that these godless deluded souls can feel safe in their godless and destructive life choices.

Satan rejoices when he gets people to believe any of these hoaxes and join with the godless forces in society. But his real agenda is to use this godless forces and their irrational actions to inflame the true people of God with outrage so that they will be willing to betray truth, love, and freedom in the pursuit of truth, love, and freedom. How?

By joining forces with Babylon, which in the Bible is the symbolic representation of Satan's counter to Egypt. While Egypt represents the godless Babylon represents those who believe in the God of the Bible but who also believe the God of the Bible runs His government by imposing laws and enforcing those laws with the infliction of externally imposed just punishments and therefore these people pursue a course of seeking justice through the use of human laws and law enforcement. Let me be clear, I am not speaking of simply using impose law and force to restrain evil, to imprison criminals, but to promote what they believe is right, laws designed to advance their moral code into the private lives and choices of individuals.

What the godless left doesn't comprehend is that the more they respond to their own fear with desperate acting out, violence, riots, crazy and irrational positions designed to get their own way rather than love others, they are fueling, inciting, and empowering the very forces of the imperial god worshiping right that will eventually destroy them.

The true worshipers and friends of God are in neither of these camps, but are those who seek to bring God's design laws of truth, love, freedom to bear upon **hearts and minds** and turn people away from the corrupt systems of this world and back to a love and trust relationship with the God of heaven. Such people, in governance of self, will advance the truth in love, **but leave others free** to decide for themselves, just like Jesus did.

Read the fifth paragraph,

- Pharaoh's next declaration that "I will not let Israel go" reveals even more this rebellion against the living God, further making Egypt a symbol, not only for the denial of God but for a system that fights against Him. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 23.

Do we see this exactly happening from the godless left today? Understand, the problem isn't merely that the godless left, Marxism, communism, evolutionism, wokeism etc., choose for themselves to believe their lies, no, they actively and abusively seek to force their godless and corrupt methods and beliefs upon others and to destroy those who won't go along—just like Pharaoh did.

In every land where Marxism and communism gains power, the truth about God is suppressed and individual liberties are denied. These godless powers always seek to take the hearts and minds of people captive, and when godly people rise up and say, "Let God's people go, let us worship God as He calls us to do," these godless powers always say no. Always say, "Who is God that I should know Him. We will not let you worship God." And these powers always fight against truth, love, and liberty.

MONDAY

The lesson points our attention to the events of Exodus 5,

- Then they [Moses and Aaron] said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.” But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!” Then Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working.” That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and foremen in charge of the people: “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ Make the work harder for the men so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.” Exodus 5:3-9 NIV84.

What lessons do we learn from these events?

First, I believe this are historical, they really happened as described, and God had them recorded in Scripture to teach us important lessons. What are we to learn from these events?

What is the dynamic here? In this first confrontation with Pharaoh does Moses present a demand to set the people free? Did Moses and Aaron make threats against Egypt or Pharaoh, let the people go or Egypt will suffer plagues? Or is something else going on? What is it?

They present their duty to God and request religious liberty—to let the people worship God in accordance with the dictates of their conscience and to fulfill their duty to Him.

Did Moses or Aaron call upon Pharaoh to worship Yahweh? Did they make assertions about the falsehood of the gods of Egypt? Did they make a request that was outside the ability or domain of an earthly ruler or inappropriate for earthly governments to grant?

How did Pharaoh respond and what does this reveal?

Pharaoh demonstrates several things:

- He does not value human beings as beings created in the image of God, but sees human beings as a resource, as a commodity to be used to advance the power of the state.
 - This is the exact way Marxism and communism see people. Everything is owned by the state, there is no God, and people have value only as they contribute to the state. If they cannot contribute then they are to be eliminated, which happens in every Marxist and communist country. Why? Because the denial of God removes the influence of the Holy Spirit from hearts and fear and selfishness take greater control and the people

come into ever closer unity with Satan and his evil forces and are more easily influenced to carry out Satan's goals of destroying the image of God in people.

- Pharaoh doesn't believe in the existence of the God of heaven and therefore believes Moses and Aaron are lying. But in truth he is the one who is delusional, believing lies, which again is a perfect type of all the various godless forces through history who accuse the worshipers of God of believing in myths and being uneducated.
- Pharaoh, cut off from God by his belief in lies and worshiping idols, inspired by demons, has no love in his heart. He really doesn't understand or appreciate the laws of truth, love, or freedom, but he does understand the law of sin and death, the law of fear and selfishness, survival of the fittest. Therefore, he sees this request as a threat to him, his power, his nation, and responds with the exercise of new imposed law with law-enforcement through inflicted punishment intended to cause increased stress and fear upon the Jews to intimidate them and get them to turn against Moses and Aaron and ultimately against God by seeking to protect self by actions designed to make their own lives easier, but in reality are an evidence of distrust in God.
 - Do we see this dynamic being playing out in our society today? As voices rise up and call for the restoration of liberties, the freedom of people to speak as they choose, to worship God as they choose, to set healthy boundaries with others, that the godless rise up with actions designed to cause stress and fear, like riots, burning buildings, blocking traffic, making death threats, deplatforming, threatening one's job, all intended to discourage the voices of truth and love and get them to back down?

And how did the Hebrew leaders respond to Pharaoh's edict, what did they say to Moses and Aaron?

- The Israelite foremen realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, and they said, "May the LORD look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us." Exodus 5:19-21 NIV84.

Did the Israelite foremen thank Moses and Aaron? Did they exercise faith in God and praise Him knowing God was actively working to confront evil and set them free? Or did they focus on the threats, the evil demands, the power of the godless, and their own selves, and therefore they became more fearful, more distressed, and rather than trusting God they turned on God's agents and accused them of making their lives worse?

Do we see this dynamic being played out in our society today?

I saw this during COVID when the voices of truth, love, and freedom were attacked by their own people and churches and accused of wanting to spread death and make life harder for others.

I see the same thing when I expose the mind manipulation done through modern wokeism on issues of climate and gender, some will email me and assert I am making life harder. No, we are speaking truth in love and leaving others free to decide for themselves. You will not find in my writings or lectures

where I have called for people to restrict the religious and civil liberties of others or to violate God's design laws in the treatment of others, but to always advance the principles of God and expose the corruption that seeks to infect hearts and minds with lies, fear, and selfishness.

TUESDAY

After the people accuse Moses and Aaron of making things worse, Moses goes to God and we read this at the end of Exodus chapter five:

- Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all." Exodus 5:22-23 NIV84.

What do you hear? Is Moses accusing God of bring trouble on the people?

Did you notice this:

- Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, **why have you brought trouble upon this people?** Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, **he has brought trouble upon this people**, and you have not rescued your people at all." Exodus 5:22-23 NIV84, emphasis mine.

Moses is not accusing God of bringing trouble upon the people, Moses clearly understands Pharaoh is bringing the trouble upon the people, then what does Moses mean by the expression "why have you brought trouble upon this people?"

This is important on several levels. First, when reading Scripture, it is important not to lift a verse or phrase here and there and form our beliefs. If people take a sentence here or there they can create all kinds of false ideas. This passage is one that could easily be misconstrued, in fact, this type of thinking and expressing has been misconstrued by many, which leads to the second point: How God is connected to or involved with the outcome of freewill choices, how sometimes the Bible seems to say God causes something, when the cause is the choice of the human being, not God. These events and this text record how reality works, how design laws functions.

In this text Moses recognizes God took an action by sending Moses and Aaron with a message to Pharaoh—if God had not presented this message to Pharaoh, then Pharaoh does not have to consider it and make a decision upon it. Therefore, Moses recognizes God brought these events about by sending Moses to present the issue to Pharaoh.

But Moses also recognizes that Pharaoh's response is Pharaoh's and not God's and that God is not using power to cause Pharaoh to act in this way. Moses understands reality, how love and liberty

work, how people have real freedom. He realizes God made a choice and Pharaoh responded to that choice and now Moses is calling on God to act and overcome the rejection of Pharaoh.

But many, who don't understand design law, don't understand how reality works, who have been indoctrinated into Satan's lies that God's law functions like human law, a system of rules enforced through inflicted punishment, falsely believe that God, as Sovereign, uses His power to make things happen the way He wants them to happen. Thus they read texts like this and falsely conclude God was the one who was troubling Israel.

This same misunderstanding is more potently and destructively advanced on the issue of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

Paul in Romans is addressing this very misunderstanding about law to the legalistic Jews who believed God makes things happen the way He wants. Throughout the book of Romans Paul makes the case that God is Creator, His laws are design laws built into nature so that men are without excuse (Romans 1:20) and that those who respond to the truth about God as revealed in nature and trust God even if they never have had Scripture presented to them, are saved by having the law of God written upon their hearts (Romans 2:12). He goes on to make the case that this is through faith or trust in Jesus, not through imposed law and law-enforcement or rule-keeping.

But the Jews did not like this, they claimed God is in charge and makes things happen the way He wants. So Paul responds to this view that God is Sovereign and can run His universe any way He wants with the argument that if you really believe God is in charge, who are you to tell Him how He can do things. He can heal and save any He wants, not just genetic descendants of Jacob. Ultimately leading to these verses in Romans 9:

- What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. Romans 9:14-18 NIV84.

And sadly, many have read these verses to mean God used His divine power to take away freedom from Pharaoh and force Pharaoh to have a hard heart for the purpose of demonstrating His mighty power. Such an interpretation is based upon human law thinking, imposed rules enforced to get one's way. And such a view does not increase faith or trust in God, but undermines it, makes us more fearful and discouraged, what if God decides to harden my heart etc.

But when we return to design law, we recognize reality, the truth, and the beauty of God's character. As a first rule, always read the Scriptures and gain as much data on the point in question before forming one's conclusion. So in regard to the hardening of Pharaoh's heart and who is responsible, the Scripture says:

- “The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But **I will harden his heart** so that he will not let the people go.” Exodus 4:21, emphasis mine.
- “But **I will harden Pharaoh’s heart**, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.” Exodus 7:3,4, emphasis mine.
- “But **the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart** and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.” Exodus 9:12, emphasis mine.

Well there you have it, the Bible said it, I believe it, and that settles it. God used His power to deny Pharaoh the opportunity to respond to truth, God made Pharaoh’s heart hard. If that were true, then Satan’s accusations against God are correct, and we would be wise not to trust God. But fortunately, that is not true, and not what these texts mean, and why we must keep reading from the inspired record:

- “But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his heart** and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said.” Exodus 8:15, emphasis mine.
- “But this time also **Pharaoh hardened his heart** and would not let the people go.” Exodus 8:32, emphasis mine.
- “When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: **He and his officials hardened their hearts**. So Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said through Moses.” Exodus 9:34, 35, emphasis mine.

And we also read:

- “**Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard** and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.” Exodus 7:13, emphasis mine.
- “Then the Lord said to Moses, “**Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding**; he refuses to let the people go.” Exodus 7:14, emphasis mine.
- “But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and **Pharaoh’s heart became hard**; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said.” Exodus 7:22, emphasis mine.
- “The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But **Pharaoh’s heart was hard** and he would not listen, just as the Lord had said.” Exodus 8:19, emphasis mine.

So which of these verses are the Holy Spirit inspired truth? All of them—how can all of them be true? How can God be the one to harden Pharaoh’s heart, but at the same time Pharaoh be the one to harden his own heart?

It is the very same dynamic we see in Moses conversation with God:

- Moses returned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, **why have you brought trouble upon this people?** Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, **he has brought trouble upon this people**, and you have not rescued your people at all.” Exodus 5:22-23 NIV84.

God takes an action in governance of Himself that elicits or requires a response from Pharaoh. And in this case, God, who is the source of truth, presented truth to Pharaoh repeatedly, that the gods of Egypt are false and that He is the Creator God of heaven and Earth.

What does truth cause every person to do when confronted with it? Make a decision—believe it and apply it or reject it and resist it.

What happens to hearts when they believe, accept, surrender, and apply the truth? Their heart is transformed, renewed, softened.

What happens to hearts when they deny, resist, and reject the truth? Their hearts harden.

This historical event describes reality; it is an accurate record of how God’s kingdom operates, which is upon the design laws of truth, love, and liberty. God who is the source of truth presented the truth to Pharaoh and then left Pharaoh free to accept or reject it. In rejecting the truth Pharaoh’s heart hardened. Thus Pharaoh hardened his own heart by his freewill choice to reject truth.

However, it is also true that had the truth not been presented to Pharaoh as it was, he would not have been required to make those choices and his heart would not have hardened to the degree it did. Thus, it is also true that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart by presenting the truth to him and bringing Pharaoh to these decision points.

God did not force Pharaoh’s will. Pharaoh freely chose to reject the truth and when Pharaoh hardened his heart, God used Pharaoh as a powerful demonstration of the futility of worshipping false gods. The lessons of Egypt were publicized throughout the ancient world and awareness of the true God spread.

One might inquire however, if God has foreknowledge (which He does), and foreknew Pharaoh would harden his heart in response to the truth, then why did God do this? Didn’t God love Pharaoh? Did God want Pharaoh to harden his heart?

Again, think about reality, the situation of Pharaoh’s actual condition. Is Pharaoh a sinless being or a human being born in sin and conceived iniquity like every other human born since Adam’s fall? He is a sinner born with this terminal sin condition.

Is there any hope for Pharaoh or any human being of eternal salvation without the truth, without surrendering to God? So, Pharaoh is in a terminal condition, and if God does nothing then Pharaoh will die eternally. So Pharaoh’s only hope is the truth about God that Moses and Aaron brought him. So, while God in His foreknowledge knows Pharaoh’s choices before he makes them, God would never deny Pharaoh the opportunity to make those choices. Pharaoh’s eternal loss is 100% Pharaoh’s

responsibility and it is revealed by history, fact, evidence, that God did everything possible to reach Pharaoh for salvation, but Pharaoh rejected every entreaty and hardened his own heart.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson focuses on how the people were disheartened and discouraged and losing hope because of Pharaoh's response, and then the lesson states,

- And yet, who hasn't been in a similar place? Who hasn't at some point felt depressed, disappointed, dissatisfied—even abandoned by God?

Remember the story of Job? What about Asaph, a psalmist who struggled with his questions regarding the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the righteous? Yet, regardless of his struggles, Asaph has one of the most beautiful confessions of faith: "Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Ps. 73:23–26, NIV). *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 26.

I really appreciate the lesson citing this psalm because the psalmist knows God is with him, but the psalmist also realizes God's deliverance is not temporal, there is nothing on earth that the psalmist desires, and he is aware that though his flesh and heart may fail, God is his strength portion forever.

This is critical for the remnant of God as the final events unfold on this planet. We must have our hearts cut away from everything in this world that we cherish more than God and establish our hearts number one desire, love, affection, and trust in God—the pearl of great price! And we must come to the point that we value Him, His kingdom, His method and principles of truth, love, and freedom more than we love our own lives—that we would rather lose everything, including our own lives than to lose our connection with God—meaning we would rather lose everything than choose to betray God by seeking to protect and advance ourselves by the use of ungodly methods. Nothing wrong with using godly methods to protect self from abuse—i.e., God's people fled Jerusalem in AD 70 in order to avoid the destruction. Nothing, wrong with taking oneself out of the reach of the abusers and exploiters, but that is quite different that seeking to use the methods of the world to form one's own armies to destroy the armies of the enemy.

Revelation describes such a people in these words,

- Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him 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. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to

the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” Revelation 12:10-12 NIV84.

What do you hear? What does this mean?

The healing power of God has come to these people, the truth of God as Creator and the power of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Christ restored into humanity is come to all who trust God. We are recreated in heart and mind by receiving the life of Christ, symbolized by the blood, this life, this new Spirit, gives us the desires, motives, animating energy of Christ, of love and trust, and we are empowered to live in harmony with God and His design law methods.

We overcome by the indwelling Holy Spirit bringing us the life of Christ, the blood, so that it is no longer our old fear-ridden selves living, but Christ living in us. And with our hearts renewed to love God and His truth as revealed by Jesus we overcome by giving the testimony of Jesus, the same testimony that Jesus gave when He was on Earth, that if we have seen Jesus we have seen the Father—They are one. And knowing God is just like Jesus, having been reborn with hearts that love God and others more than self, we are no longer **controlled** by the spirit of fear, the survival of the fittest instinct we inherited from Adam, and therefore do not love our own lives so much as to shrink from death. We won’t betray Jesus and His kingdom of love even to save our own lives. We won’t, when threatened with a virus become afraid and use the power of the state to coerce the consciences of others, use lies, propaganda, and restrict religious and civil liberties to make ourselves feel safe. No, we would rather die than become like Satan in character.

Satan is no longer able to make accusations against us in heaven, because no beings in heaven believe his lies that God’s law is imposed and sin is a legal problem recorded in books. They all now know that sin is a breakdown of love and trust of God in the hearts of people that manifests with symptoms called sins, but the sins are not the problem, they are the symptoms, fruit, of the infection of fear and selfishness. Thus, they are not concerned with legal accounting, they are concerned that people have new hearts and right spirits to love and trust God and be willing to sacrifice self in love for others.

But the rest of the world, those who have not been reborn to love and trust, beware, because Satan is coming for you with every diabolic trick and assault he has and you will experience more terror, dread, fear and become ever more desperate to save yourselves resulting in becoming beastly and using the power of the state to do what you believe is right, but in reality is only intended to make you feel safe while you abuse others through law and law enforcement.

THURSDAY

Moses complains again that he is not a good speaker, so God responds with:

- Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. Exodus 7:1 NIV84.

The lesson points out in the fifth paragraph,

- This account provides an excellent definition for the role of a prophet. A prophet is a spokesperson for God; he or she is His mouthpiece to transmit and to interpret God's word to the people. As Moses spoke to Aaron, and then Aaron announced it to Pharaoh, so God communicates with a prophet, who then proclaims God's teaching to the people. This can happen verbally, in person; or, as was most commonly done, the prophet received the message from God and then wrote it down. *Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 27.

This is a great point—most of the time Bible prophets are not giving visions of the future, they are not prognosticating future events—most of the time they are people called by God to deliver a timely message for the people.

Does God tell us anywhere that at this time in history He will have prophets, people who He calls to be His spokespersons to give His final message to the people of our day?

Where do we find evidence for this and who are these people?

We just read about people who overcome at the end of time by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony—in other words they are witnesses, they give testimony to the truth. But there is more evidence.

- After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Revelation 7:1-3.
 - And all throughout Scripture the servants of God are called His prophets.
 - The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through **my servants the prophets.**” 2 Kings 17:13 NIV84, emphasis mine.
- “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” Joel 2:28 NIV84.
- “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” Malachi 4:5-6.
 - And what did Elijah confront? Baal worship—and what was Baal worship? The worship of an imitator of the true God. Baal was the son of El, the god of creation, weather, rain, thunder, lightning, called the almighty. Baal fought against the great serpent leviathan and fought against Mot the god of death. And in his battle with Mot, the god of death Baal dies and rises again to bring life to the land. What made Baal

worship false? Baal as a dictator god who required payment be made to merit blessings and avoid punishments. Baal became Zeus to the Greeks, Jupiter to the Romans, Thor to the Norse, and Jesus to Christians who worship a dictator god that require he be paid by the blood of a human sacrifice to merit blessings and not punish.

- Thus, God has a people at the end of time who have a message of the 3 angels with the eternal good news about God, that God is not like Satan alleges, that He is the Creator of heaven and earth and His laws are design laws. A message to stop worshiping a dictator god with laws that function like a creature, to come out of fallen Babylon and return to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water for the time in human history has come for people to make a right judgment about God. The hour of His judgment has come.

Do you want to be one of God's end time spokespersons? We can only be His spokesperson if we are speaking the truth about Him!