

## 2025 3 Q Exodus Lesson 6 Through the Red Sea

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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The events of the Exodus are not only historical realities, they also serve as object lessons in the plan of salvation. Referencing Exodus and going through the Red Sea, Paul wrote,

- Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 1 Corinthians 10:6 NIV84.

One of the lessons we can learn from the Exodus as recorded in Scripture, is God's plan to free us from sin, personally, individually, and globally—the human species at the second coming of Christ.

Most people recognize the global object lesson application of the Exodus:

- the slaves in Egypt are a type for all humanity being enslaved by sin
- Pharaoh who denies God and will not submit to Him represents Satan the sin-slave master
- the bondage, degradation, and abuse the people received as slaves represents the bondage, degradation, and abuse sin causes in our lives
- Moses represents Christ who entered the enemy's seat of power and confronted and overcame him in order to lead the people to freedom
- Pharaoh didn't die in the 10<sup>th</sup> plague—meaning Pharaoh was not first born; Jesus is Firstborn over all creation—which is a position of authority not birth order.
  - “He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”  
Colossians 1:15

But Satan wanted the position that Jesus held in heaven and not inherently being God, not actually able to, by reality, occupy the position of Jesus who is the Creator, the eternal, divine, second member of the Godhead, Satan therefore, sought to use claims, proclamations, assertions and artificial divisions—i.e., made up laws to seek to rise up and rule over. Failing in heaven, Satan enslaves the people of God through his falsehoods.

Pharaoh, represents Satan, who is the enslaver of the people and who denies all evidence that he is merely a creature and not equal to our infinite God, and Pharaoh dies in the waters of the Red Sea, which represent, as we will see in a moment, the fires of God's infinite glorious love and truth.

These lessons are powerful, meaningful, encouraging, and give us hope and confidence in the soon return of Jesus who will free us permanently from sin and take us to our heavenly promised land!

What may be less obvious are the lessons for individual freedom over fear, selfishness, and sin and how we can experience this victory today.

The Hebrews of the Exodus generation were born into slavery. They did nothing to indenture themselves into slavery, it was their station and condition from birth. Likewise, the Bible teaches that we are all born in sin and conceived in iniquity (Psalm 51:5), this is our condition at birth. None of us ever chose to become sinners—we were born enslaved to fear and selfishness, constituted with a carnal nature inherited from Adam. The Hebrew slaves in Egypt were incapable of freeing themselves and we are incapable of freeing ourselves from sin.

God sent a deliverer, Moses, to confront Pharaoh in order to free the people. And,

- “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” John 3:16-18 NIV84.

We are already enslaved to sin by birth. We are not condemned because we sin, we sin because we were born infected with a fearful, self-centered, sinful spirit or nature. Our freedom comes from Christ—if we refuse Christ our station, position, heart/mind, does not change, we remain enslaved to sin, thus we remain condemned by this terminal sin condition because we have refused the healing, the transformation, the new life, the freedom that comes only through Christ—by receiving His life via the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Imagine and HIV infected man and woman give birth to an HIV infected baby—what did the baby do wrong? Nothing, but despite the baby doing nothing wrong it is still born infected (metaphor for us being born in sin); it still has a terminal condition that without remedy will result in symptoms (metaphor for sins) and death (first death/sleep represents the wages of sin second death/eternal destruction), unless remedy is provided. But if the child is offered free antiviral meds that will put the infection into remission (metaphor for the blood of Jesus which is a symbol of His sinless life/spirit that we receive through faith which replaces the terminal life/spirit we inherit from Adam) and they refuse (upon age of accountability) to take them, they remain condemned, not for being born with the condition, not for the symptoms they have, but for refusing the remedy. But if they take the free remedy, despite being born infected, they are no longer condemned to die from that condition. That is what Jesus is saying above.

So, Jesus came, confronted Satan, overcame all his evil forces, purged the spirit of fear and selfishness replacing it with the Spirit of love and trust and opened a new a living way for each of us to leave the slavery of sin and live a new life of freedom—a life of love and trust, by becoming our substitutionary Savior.

- “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV84.

Jesus took up humanity, broken and damaged by Adam’s sin, and purged the infection, spirit of fear and selfishness, and replaced that terminal life with His sinless, perfect, eternal life and thereby became the second Adam. For more on how Jesus procured the Remedy, cures this condition, see our blogs [Salvation and the Cleansing of our Spirit Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). Or get our FREE booklet, [Salvation and You: What It Really Means to Be Saved](#).

But in our journey from the slavery of sin to a life of victory and freedom, there are often many battles to fight. The events of the Exodus serve as a powerful object lesson to encourage us in our sojourn to freedom.

The Hebrew slaves prepared to leave Egypt by celebrating the Passover, which, as we discussed last week, was instituted at that time as both a memorial of their deliverance from Egyptian slavery, but also an object lesson pointing forward to Jesus’ becoming our Passover Lamb to deliver us from the slavery of sin (1 Corinthians 5:7).

We will never succeed in escaping the bondage of sin without first partaking of Jesus. In other words, freedom from sin starts with taking Jesus into our heart!

As we discussed last week, the Hebrew slaves were instructed to sacrifice a lamb or goat, symbolic of Jesus’ sacrifice for us (John 1:29), and to eat its flesh with bitter herbs and put the blood on the doorpost of their homes.

This symbolizes the starting point in our individual deliverance from sin. Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:1-14). To ingest the “flesh” of Jesus means to internalizing the Word, the truth of Jesus, of who God is. The truth about God will destroy the lies about Him and set us free from doubt (John 8:32) and bring us to the point where we choose to trust Him and open our heart to Him. When we open the heart in trust we receive a new life, the life of Christ (Galatians 2:20), via the indwelling Holy Spirit, which is symbolized by the blood (the life is in the blood Leviticus 17:11). This is what it means to be born again, to be born of the Spirit, is to surrender one’s attachment to the motivational, animating, spirit of fear and to receive, identify with, cling to and act upon the Spirit of love and trust. Jesus described this in symbol when He said,

- “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. John 6:53-56 NIV84.

All of this was prefigured in the Passover celebration prior to their departure from Egypt. Just as the Jews ingested the meal prior to leaving Egypt, we must ingest the flesh (truth) and blood (life) of Jesus prior to our departure from the slavery of sin. In fact, it is the truth and life of Jesus that sets us free!

The bitter herbs symbolize the hardships and bitterness of this world of sin that enslaves us. Despite the nurturing and revitalizing strength and power received from the “flesh” of the Lamb, we are still living in the bitterness of a sinful world and struggling with the impact of what the enslavement to sin has done.

The Passover symbolizes conversion, the beginning point on our freedom. We cannot start our journey to the heavenly promised land until we are converted to Jesus Christ. The Passover represents, for the individual, how God has passed over our sinful lives, not allowing the full natural results of sin (eternal separation from Him and subsequent death to be realized), but instead has intervened (interceded) with grace to free us from this sin condition through Jesus who provides us the truth (Word/flesh) and a new animating spirit/life (blood).

Once we have surrendered to Jesus in trust and been reborn, then the journey to freedom begins and the experiences of the Hebrews during the Exodus provide additional powerful lessons that are applicable to our individual experience.

Once they left the land of Goshen, God led the people with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. The pillar of fire gave them light to see and kept back the cold, the cloud sheltered them from the brutal and oppressive heat of the day. When we follow Jesus, He provides light to enlighten our minds and guide us through the darkness of this world and He also shields us from the burning heat and assaults of the enemy.

As they followed God’s leading (pillar/cloud), notice where He led them—to the Red Sea which was bordered by mountains. This resulted in a situation in which it appeared they were trapped with Pharaoh’s army bearing down upon them with no human way to escape.

Why did the people end up in this situation in which it appeared they were trapped? Did God make a mistake, take a wrong turn, miscalculate? Of course not, God brought them to this very point intentionally, purposefully, why? Because it was necessary for the Hebrews to be truly free, not just bodily free, but free mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

How was bringing the Hebrews to border of the Red Sea, in which they appeared trapped, a therapeutic action by God to help free them? Free them from what? What was truly enslaving them and what is enslaving us? Fear and selfishness—our sinful condition, which causes distrust in God and obstructs His ability to heal us.

So God brought them to this place to free from their fear, guilt, shame, selfishness, distrust of Him, and reliance on Egyptians pagan beliefs, so that they could choose to trust in Him and then move forward in that trust.

God brought them to this point, so they would face their own fears, doubts, and human limitations and choose to trust Him and thereby experience His goodness, love, and faithfulness and through this experience overcome their fears in love and trust to Him.

As we trust God and follow His leading, we are often led to places in our lives where it appears we are trapped and destructive forces, emotions, circumstances, finances, relationships, divorce, child custody issues, job problems, come bearing down on us and from a human perspective it appears there is no escape. It is then that God longs for us to stop focusing on the threats and to turn to Him in trust, to remember He is our gracious, loving, powerful, and healing Savior who has led us to this very place—why? So we can choose to trust Him and be freed from our own fears, doubts, and insecurities.

But notice what the Hebrews did when they saw Pharaoh's army, are we in danger of doing the same when we face the threats in our life?

- As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” Exodus 14:10–12 NIV84.

Notice the spiritual warfare being described by these events and the object lesson application. We are born in fear and selfishness, Jesus came to free us from this terminal sin-condition and give us new hearts that love and trust. After we have received Jesus, been reborn with new hearts that love and trust, Satan, the enemy of all that is good, marshals his forces to attack ***in order to inflame our fear and cause us to distrust God and turn against Him***. The goal of the enemy's attacks is to make us afraid and activate old habits, old maladaptive coping, old unhealthy comfort measures, to get us to run back to the old “gods,” rather than turning to our Creator and Savior for deliverance. In other words, Satan tempts us to run back to the things that enslaved us in order to “feel safe.”

But notice Moses' response,

- Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm [other versions “stand still,” in other words, stop being frantic and panicking] and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:13–14 NIV84.

And this is the reason God leads us to these very places, so that we have the opportunity to choose—to choose to trust Him rather than choose to try and save ourselves through our old destructive fear-based coping patterns. It is only by our choice to trust God that we heal, mature, grow, and are set free from the slavery of fear and selfishness. Thus God in mercy and love always leads us to the various decision points that we need to face in our lives in order to free us from what has been enslaving us so that we will never have to deal with those old enemies again.

But we can't be freed of the old enemies, if we keep choosing to run back to them as a way to try and make ourselves feel safe in the moment of our distress. We need to do as God advised, stop running back to the old ways and simply “be still,” trust God, and watch Him fight for us!

The people listened to Moses—which is an object lesson for us when we are in distress, fearful, being tempted to turn back to our old enslaving choices or relationships, to listen to Jesus, turn to Him, and follow His directions, and then be still and watch Him fight the battle and open the way for our deliverance.

- Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, **coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel**. Throughout the night the **cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side**; so neither went near the other all night long. Exodus 14:19–20 NIV84, emphasis mine.

This cloud is a symbol of Jesus, who comes between us and our enemy. He provides a protective hedge, holding back the principalities and power of darkness sufficient for us to move forward in faith, walking through the sea of problems on dry ground.

But notice the cloud brought darkness to one side while it brought light to the other side. This enacts a powerful truth, God is the source of light and truth, but if we reject the light and truth, if we refuse to walk in the light of truth, then we are left only with darkness. It is only by advancing, moving forward, in the light of truth that we stay in the light, that we stay on the path of truth. Even if we once had God's light/truth, if we refuse to move forward as more truth/light is revealed then we leave the light and end up in darkness. Jesus described this process with these words,

- If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! Matthew 6:23 NIV84.

Prior to Jesus birth, sinless life, and sacrificial death, the Jews had the truth that the Messiah was coming through Judah and would be born in Bethlehem (Genesis 49:10; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6). Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies, the truth manifested in human history. Yet many Jews rejected this unfolding truth. And having rejected Jesus as the Messiah, when today Jews cling to the old "truths," and look for the Messiah yet to be born from their descendants in Bethlehem, they are no longer in the light, they are in darkness.

Likewise, Pharaoh, having rejected all the light that had been revealed to him prior to the Red Sea had hardened his heart and destroyed within himself the faculties that recognize truth, so that even when in the presence of the divine source of truth, he sees only darkness. This is how it is for all those who refuse to advance in the truth, for those with hardened hearts even when in the presence of the source of truth, they see only darkness.

We must develop hearts that love truth, that keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and eagerly seek to advance and move forward in the light of truth as we comprehend it. When we do this after our conversion, when we do this when faced with the threats and attacks of the enemy, when we do this when our fears are rising and the temptations to run back to our old enslavements are pressing in, then we will see the light, we will see the way God opens through what seemed impossible and impassable to us. Our freedom comes as we trust and as we move forward by choice to apply what we know is true.

The lesson from Exodus continues,

- But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Exodus 14:29–30.

They were saved by the power of God, but only because they chose to trust and to obey, to actually move their own selves forward into the seabed walking through the walls of water on each side. And this symbolizes baptism, dying to the old life, being cleansed by the Holy Spirit, and coming out of the watery grave to live new lives in a new land.

This is how God transforms us. He provides truth, love, and situations for us to choose—will we choose truth, love, and trust or fear, selfishness, and our old dysfunctional patterns? As we choose to move forward in truth, love, and trust then we receive divine power to succeed and step by step, choice by choice we are transformed, cleansed, baptized, as the old habits, false beliefs, and unhealthy desires are washed away and we come out of this journey with Jesus with a new life.

- For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:1–4 NIV84.

And the **very same waters** that symbolically cleansed and purified the people drowned the armies of Egypt. Peter also teaches this lesson when he describes Noah and his family delivered through the waters that drowned the unbelievers as an object lesson of baptism,

- In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. 2 Peter 3:20-22 NIV84.

What a powerful object lesson—the waters symbolize the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit that for all who trust God die to fear, selfishness, sin, the old carnal life and are reborn, washed clean, and given a new heart and right spirit. The saved go through the watering grave through faith in Jesus and surrender their old lives of fear and live only because they receive a new life of love and trust, the life of Christ, through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

But the wicked, refuse to give up their life of fear, sin, selfishness and thus the very same waters that cleanse the righteous destroy the wicked. This is symbolic of the final end of sin and sinners when the fires of God's life-giving glory flow through, transform, invigorate, and revitalize the righteous, as we live forever in God's glorious presence. But the wicked, who cling to sin, find the fires of God's presence, the fires of infinite love and truth terrible to be in because truth and love is hateful to the liar

and the selfish. In infinite truth and love they experience the truth of who they have chosen to become and the truth of what they have done to others. Their unconverted hearts can no longer deny, distort, and blame. In the unveiled presence of God's life-giving glory the unsaved experience full awareness of reality—and they hate it and prefer death over life in God's presence. Peter makes this connection between the waters and the final end in the fires,

- First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:3-7 NIV 84. (If you would like a full detailed biblical exploration about the final end of sin and sinners and God's eternal fiery glorious presence, see our blog [The Truth About Hell](#)).

The events of the Exodus are powerful lessons for us. God longs to set us free from everything that enslaves us. The enemy will do everything in his power to inflame our fear, doubt, discouragement, tempting us to turn back to our old ways, to enslave ourselves all over again. **It is at those moments, when we see no human way out that we stand at the door of our greatest opportunity for deliverance and victory.** God is longing for us, encouraging us, pleading with us to stop our frantic fighting to survive, we must refuse to run back to our old “gods,” our old dysfunctional comfort measures, and simply turn to Him in trust. When we do this, when we stop running and stand still in trust, get ready, for God will open the way through whatever obstacle is interfering with His calling, will, and purpose for our lives and we will walk through to a new victorious life beyond our imagining! He is only waiting for us to choose to trust Him and act upon that trust by choosing to follow where He is leading. He wants us free—what will you choose?

## SUNDAY

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The lesson is focused upon Exodus 12:31-36,

- During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.” The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!” So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. Exodus 12:31-36 NIV84.



Read the second and third paragraphs,

- How interesting that Pharaoh, in telling the Hebrews to go and worship, adds this request: “And bless me also.” *And bless me also?*

Why would he, the king of Egypt, a “god” on earth among his people, ask that? It sounds as if he’s finally catching on to the power of the Hebrew God and would like to benefit from it. However, how can God bless him while he is steeped in rebellion, stubbornness, sin, and pride? Sure, he finally gave his consent, but it wasn’t out of submission to the will of Yahweh. It was, instead, out of defeat. He wasn’t repentant—as his later actions will reveal. He simply wanted to stop the devastation that was destroying his kingdom. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 47.

Are there object lessons in this?

Pharaoh represents Satan and all the unrepentant peoples. As reality unfolds, as God’s gracious interventions are slowly removed, as Satan and his forces reap more fully their choices they eventually, some now, but all at the end of the 1000 years, acknowledge what Pharaoh acknowledges here—that their artificial, made up fantasy way of functioning doesn’t change reality. On the way, many will ask God, in their distress, when they hit their rock bottom, when the results of their rebellion against reality, against love, against God’s design laws for life, for His blessing.

But for those who are like Pharaoh only want deliverance from the pain, suffering, and consequences of their sin, not from the sinfulness in themselves, and therefore God cannot help them—because God is the God of reality, they continue to choose rebellion but want to live in fantasy where destructive choices are not destructive. God can do nothing for them, not because God doesn’t want to, not because God in heart is against them, but because they refuse to let God do what God must do in order to save them—and that is free their individuality, personhood, self from the spirit of fear, selfishness, pride, and they refuse to allow it.

This is reality. It is not penal legal, it is the actual operations of our being. The blessing Pharaoh wants is not an actual blessing. He wants more wealth, more power, more adoration for self—which if given to him would only further solidify his character into rebellion and sin. The actual blessings God has already been providing, but he has refused—and that is the blessing of truth and love with the freedom to choose to trust God. If Pharaoh would have received the truth and chosen to trust God He would have been blessed as Nebuchadnezzar was.

When the Hebrews left they took with them everything, so many things are not mentioned or described, so what do you think of this interesting detail in the text:

- So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. Exodus 12:34 NIV84.

The SDA Bible Commentary has this to say about this verse:

- This reflects the urgency of the Egyptians. The Israelites were probably about to bake bread for their journey. Though warned by Moses several days earlier, the people seem not to have expected so hurried a departure, and their preparations were not as yet complete. Though they had been told that for seven days after partaking of the paschal lamb they should eat unleavened bread (v. 15), many had either not taken this injunction to heart or had planned to bake leavened bread for the days that would follow the seven days of unleavened bread. However, the pressure of necessity obliged them to be content with unleavened bread, or as it is called in Deut. 16:3, “the bread of affliction.” Nichol, F. D., ed. (1978). The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary (Vol. 1, p. 555). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

I have no disagreement with these observations, it is likely they didn’t all hasten to prepare as instructed given; all the other failures to trust and apply God’s instructions they demonstrate support this conclusion.

But is there, in addition to just the fact it happened, some object lesson in this—and perhaps is the reason this detail was included by Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?

Yeast in the context of the Passover, being left out, represents sin. And the unleavened bread represents Jesus. But the dough unleavened, is also unbaked, not ready for ingestion—what might this represent? Could it represent the Word of God, the Bible, which we are to carry with us, as they carried the dough upon our shoulders and protected in our hearts, depicted under our clothing? And as the dough is living so too is God’s Word:

- For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV84.

And as the dough is not ready for ingestion but must be kneaded and baked before it is ingested, God’s Word, has many truths that require study, wrestling with, and development at the proper time before it is ready for ingestion, just like the prophecies of Daniel for example.

And as this dough will continue to produce bread for generations to come, so too God’s living Word continues to produce new truth for each subsequent generation.

## **MONDAY**

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Read the second and third paragraphs,

- God mercifully guarded the Israelite families who were under the blood because, by faith, they had marked their doorframes. These new directions came from the Lord through Moses: “

‘Consecrate to me every firstborn male’ ” (Exod. 13:2, NIV). This legislation was valid for humans as well as for animals.

One principle behind this injunction is that everything belongs to Him because He is our Creator and the Owner of everything: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Ps. 24:1, NIV). “The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts” (Hag. 2:8, ESV). The Israelites’ firstborn sons were the firstfruits of God’s blessings, which He had bestowed upon them; they were also a sign of their total consecration to Him and of their understanding that all they possessed came only from Him. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 48.

What do you understand is happening here?

Are we to believe that animal blood can protect from death and sin? Or is this theater, a living enactment of symbols that are designed to teach reality? So, what is the reality which this teaches?

- What does the blood represent? The righteous, holy, sinless life of Jesus (Lev 17:11).
- What does the doorpost represent? The heart, the entry into the inner sanctuary or home. Jesus stands at the door of the heart and anyone who opens the door He comes in and dines with them.
- And what do the firstborn represent? Adam the firstborn of humanity, the individual in whom God breathed the breath of life and from whom every other human life is derived. Adam was the human individual who inherited God’s authority as governor vicegerent of Earth, ruling under the authority of Christ. Adam corrupted himself, his spirit, his life, with fear and selfishness and distrust of God, which without divine intervention causes separation from the source of life and death. Thus all humanity is born in sin, terminal, and the firstborn represent this terminal condition that all humanity inherits through Adam.
- The blood represents Jesus, the Firstborn over all Creation, the true Son of God and authority of the Godhead who became a real human being and purged the infection of fear and selfishness in humanity and replaced it with His holy, righteous, pure spirit/life of love and trust through exercising human abilities. We can now receive this new sinless life into our hearts through faith and when we do, despite being born of Adam the firstborn human, we are reborn into Jesus the Firstborn over all creation, and therefore God saves us from death by giving us a new life.

The reality that God is the owner of everything by creation, by sustaining all things, by redemption protects us from the worldly ways of trying to protect ourselves from the spirit of fear. Fear causes insecurity, fear of the future, rejection, helplessness, punishment, exploitation, etc., and for those who are not converted to Jesus and live by a new spirit of love and trust, they try to suppress their constant fear through many means—greed, gaining wealth, and through all history in all societies a few greedy people accumulate wealth to make themselves feel safe while exploiting others, the rich young ruler found his security in his wealth.

Others in history who are driven by the spirit of fear and selfishness but who were not able to accumulate personal wealth, seek power to take wealth and rule over others, this is the motivation behind socialism, Marxism, Communism, which deceives by exploiting the fear and jealousy in the masses to promote the false system that the state should be the owner who then can equitably distribute the wealth to everyone, but instead, because this is fear driven and not love driven, always causes more exploitation and abuse as people themselves are viewed as commodities or property of the state.

The lesson points our attention to Exodus 13:9 and 16

- “On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand... And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.” Exodus 13:8,9, 16 NIV84.

This is from the SDA Bible commentary on this passage:

- Some scholars think that this instruction was not carried out literally until the time of the kings, or possibly even the Maccabees. Clear non-Biblical evidence that the Jews wore portions of the law fastened to their left arms and foreheads comes from about the time of Christ. The Jews called them tephillin, which has been explained to mean “prayers,” whereas the Greek designation was phylakterion (Matt. 23:5), from which the English word phylactery is derived. These consisted of little pouches made from the skin of ceremonially clean animals, sewed to leather bands by which they were strapped to the forehead between and immediately above the eyes and to the left arms of males who had reached the age of 13. The four compartments of the head phylactery each contained a strip of parchment bearing one of the four following passages faultlessly written: Ex. 13:2–10; 13:11–16; Deut. 6:4–9; 11:13–21—30 verses altogether. The arm phylactery had but one pocket, yet contained the same four passages written on one skin. It was tied to the inside of the left arm a little above the elbow, so that the Scripture passages might be near the heart. This was done, presumably in compliance with the command, “These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart” (Deut. 6:6). Phylacteries were customarily worn by pious Jews during the daily morning prayer, but by some reputedly devout men all day long. With a pretense of piety they often made their phylacteries more conspicuous by broadening the bands, a practice severely criticized by Christ in Matt. 23:5. Even now conservative Jews wear phylacteries.

It is known that Egyptians often wore amulets on their bodies in the form of miniature papyrus scrolls, on which magic words were written. The Israelites in later centuries may have adopted this superstitious practice from the Egyptians. But God did not intend that the Jews should make a literal application of the command here given by binding certain portions of the law to their arms and foreheads (DA 612). He spoke exclusively of the acceptance of right principles in the mind and heart, the intellect and emotions, and of the application of these principles to

the life. Nichol, F. D., ed. (1978). The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary (Vol. 1, pp. 559–560). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

What do you think of taking literal something that God use symbolically? God said the Passover and all that it taught was to be like a sign upon their forehead and your hand a symbol of God's law in their hearts and minds and thus directing the conduct of their lives.

But they took it literal and began wearing pieces of parchment with Bible words written upon them upon their bodies. Did such a practice help them experience the reality of what God wanted or obstruct the reality of what God wanted?

Why would the practice obstruct it? Because it would give them something to do, that appeared to be in harmony with God's instructions, but in fact was not, but this false application would allow them to believe they are in compliance with the instructions of God and thus rest satisfied that they are in good standing with God, when in reality they are still terminal, dying in sin.

Does Christianity do anything similar?

Yes, functionally the same, when Christianity accepts Rome's lie about God's law, believing God's law is imposed rules then they teach that salvation is getting the blood of Christ applied to record books in heaven, which are outside the person, to make legal adjustment and to declare people to be righteous when in reality they are still unrighteous. But the New Covenant is writing the law in our hearts and minds, which is what this instruction in Exodus was referring to. Yet, just like wearing Scripture on your body to declare you are righteous when one is not, the penal legal atonement model creates an external system of application of God's provisions that leads people to rest satisfied that they have met God's requirements when they are still dying in sin.

If you think I am making up a straw man, a false argument to attack, consider these quotations:

- “Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, and when you put your trust in him, he takes his righteousness and **credits it to your account**. You gain access to righteousness not because of anything you have done but because Christ **applied it to your account**. This **imputed** righteousness puts you in right standing before the Father **as if** you had done the right thing all along” (<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-imputed-righteousness.html>, emphasis mine).
- [Imputed righteousness] is “**charging to an account**, used in the Bible with **legal reference** to sin and salvation being recorded by God. ... When Scripture speaks of the imputation of good or evil, **it does not suggest that any change of moral character is involved**. Scripture does affirm that, from God's perspective, righteousness or sin is **charged to an individual's account**. Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). In Tyndale Bible dictionary, pp. 630–631. Tyndale House Publishers, emphasis mine.

Many of those who oppose what we teach do so because they find comfort, security for their spirit of fear and selfishness in the external application of Christ's accomplishments to record books because

they fear what God will do to them if they don't and sadly, this gives them the false sense of security rather than the reality of being reborn and having God's living law restored within the believer.

We covered TUESDAY and WEDNESDAYs lesson already in our review of the events of crossing the Red Sea.

## THURSDAY

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Read third paragraph,

- Moses' song is all about God, about who He is and what He is doing. The Lord is exalted, praised, and admired for His outstanding work for His people. Gratitude and worship are natural outcomes of God's goodness toward us. Appreciation for His love is the pre-requisite of a vibrant spiritual life. God's steadfast love is especially emphasized and glorified because He will lead the people whom He has redeemed, and He will guide them to the holy abiding place. Moses predicts that God will establish the sanctuary on the mountain of His inheritance (Exod. 15:17), all pointing ahead to Zion and to the temple in Jerusalem. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 51.

What is to be our song today? What is the message we are to be taking to the world? Is it not the truth about God's as our Creator, the truth of His character of love all built upon the design laws that originate and emanate from our Creator who sustains the operations of all reality?

Is the message you hear from Christianity praise to God for His grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, and sacrifice to deliver us from Satan's lies, Satan's power of death, from our own fallen fear based selfish spirit and restore us to life, health, holiness, righteousness, unity, at-one-ment with Him? Or do you hear far too many Christians praising God for sending Jesus to protect us from Him, from the death they claim He will inflict upon them if they don't claim Jesus' blood to pay for their sins?

And what was the temple pointing forward toward? Jerusalem or the New Jerusalem the city of God, the ultimate promised land where the meek inherit the Earth and God and Jesus will be the temple?

Read the last paragraph, which is referencing Revelation 15:2-4, the song of Moses and the Lamb:

- Notice the last line of the song. " 'For all nations shall come and worship before You. For Your judgments have been manifested' " (NKJV). That is, when all of God's judgments—especially His judgments upon the evil and oppression that have for millennia gone unpunished—have all been made manifest, the redeemed of the nations will praise Him for those judgments. *Adult SS Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2025, Exodus*, p. 51.

What is the lesson suggesting here? Do you hear the lesson promoting the penal legal view and they are using a translation of the Bible which supports that explanation. But this is not the only translation or way to understand it. Consider the NIV translation of the same verses:

- “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for **your righteous acts** have been revealed.” Revelation 15:3-4 NIV84, emphasis mine.

When you hear “judgments” what comes to mind? The lesson is suggesting that all worship God because He rules like Caesar and eventually uses power to inflict just punishments upon unrepentant sinners. This is Satan’s lie still being promoted, the lie that God’s law functions like human law and therefore God is the source of death, the wielder of death, the power of death—when the Bible teaches that sin causes death and Satan holds the power of death.

So the NIV is correct in its translation, that the nations worship God because His righteousness, His righteous acts have been revealed. God wins because the truth of His righteous character, methods, principles, and design laws are revealed by God’s actions, including the beauty of the Sabbath, which was created and set apart when God rested, when God refused to use power as the lesson suggests to inflict punishment upon Lucifer and his angels for their rebellion. Instead, God left His creatures free, including freedom not only to rebel, but to kill Him at the cross.

Oh, how diabolical is Satan that he has so succeeded in getting people to prefer his method of law and law enforcement over the truth of our righteous, holy, glorious, Creator God of love whose laws are the design laws of reality. When we realize this truth and all the righteous acts of God we will worship Him in truth. This is what the Bible is teaching.

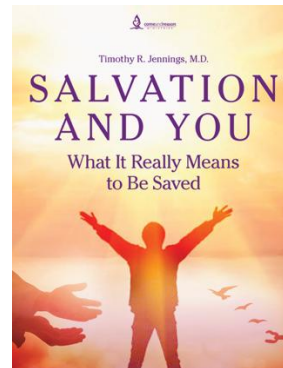
## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**NEW RELEASE: *Salvation and You: What It Really Means To Be Saved***, where we explore reality, what sin did to humanity and how God through Jesus fixes that problem bringing genuine healing and transformation to people—here and now.

**Healing a Broken Heart: Seven Steps to Grief Recovery** is now available on our website and print copies can be ordered to US postal addresses.

<https://comeandreason.com/healing-a-broken-heart/>



### **Dr. Jennings Speaking:**

**September 24-27, 2025, Nashville TN:** Dr. Jennings will speak at the conference American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. On September 24 he will present a talk on Drug-free Treatments for Depression and on September 26 he will present a talk on dementia prevention. For more information visit the AACC event website at <https://worldconference.net/>

**October 10-11, 2025 Bydgoszcz, Poland:** Dr. Jennings will be the keynote speaker for the Impact Congress presented by the West Polish Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For more information contact:

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**October 16-18, 2025, Newbold College England:** Dr. Jennings will be they keynote speaker for the college's week of spiritual emphasis. For more information contact:

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Campus Ministries Coordinator  
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