



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 1:1-6:1
- 1 Samuel 12:24
- Job 28:28
- Psalm 33:1-8
- Daniel 3:8-18
- Daniel 6:7-12
- Acts 17:1-8
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Matthew 10:28
- Matthew 28:19-20

FEAR GOD OR FEAR MAN?

- God's Promises
- A Fearful Nation
- Oppressing God's People
- Fear God Instead of...
- Pray to God, Not a Phony!
- False Words
- Turned Upside Down
- Wisdom is Fear of the Lord
- Shout for Joy
- Everlasting God
- Go Make Disciples

We are living in a time in which governments are behaving more and more as if they are God. In truth, if we pay close attention, we can see that they continually devise ways, like in the days of old, when kings and magistrates DEMANDED worship. By force, either by written or oral decree, kings would require

allegiance to themselves, instead of the God in whom the people believed, the God in whom they preferred to serve and worship.

While we are yet to see such ultimatums, “Worship the king or die!” the time may not be too far off. Many indicators point to a day quickly approaching when believers will be forced to privatize their worship in order to exercise any worship at all. May it always be said of us, those who identify as the children of the one and only Most High God, that we would fear God instead of man!

We have already witnessed business owners being persecuted and sued, and some businesses caused to shut down, for not providing services they deem to violate their closely held religious convictions. Legal battles have ensued over religious liberties between establishments and the government. Secular authorities’ attempt to impose cooperation with same sex unions and late term abortions. And this year, under the guise of pandemic restrictions, they have even forced the closure of Churches throughout the nation. The list of issues against the believer is long and growing every day.

*It’s time to take the gloves off! **Who do you Fear; do you Fear God or do you fear man?** Ultimately, government bureaucrats are pushing to create a godless society at the behest of a sin-riddled world. We are living in a postmodern, pluralistic society in which people are being indoctrinated to believe there is no ultimate*

source of truth. As such, there is no ultimate source of morality, and at the very core, they'd like you to believe that we owe allegiance for who we are and to what we can aspire, to their very rulership. I don't know about you, but I can't vote for that!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives ***feared God*** and ***did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them***, but let the male children live. Exodus 1:15-17
NKJV

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have ***made a decree***, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. And ***whoever does not fall down and worship*** shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ***These men, O king,***

pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that ***you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image*** that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. ***But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.*** And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that ***we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.***"

Daniel 3:8-18 ESV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING GOD WILL IMPRESS UPON YOU

Only ***fear the LORD*** and serve him faithfully with all your heart.
For consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24

And he said to man, 'Behold, the ***fear of the Lord***, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is understanding.'" Job 28:28

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth ***fear the LORD***; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! Psalms 33:1-8

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The Hebrew title for the book of Exodus comes from the opening phrase of the book: "Now these are the names (shemot) of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob" (Exodus

1:1). The English name Exodus comes from the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. The Greek title is Exodus Aigyptou, “Departure from Egypt.” Exodus means “departure.” The book of Exodus tells the story of the children of Israel enslaved in Egypt and their miraculous redemption through the hand of Moses, the story of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, the construction of the golden calf and the construction of the Tabernacle. As we study the first week's reading from the book of Exodus, we find the children of Israel in slavery. It seems at first that the God of their forefathers has forgotten them. But God has not forgotten His promises.

2. You can see the notes for last year's teaching on this portion of scripted here: [Playwright and Players](#)
3. The Israelites who came to Egypt are named, and with their household there is total of 70 people.
4. Joseph's entire generation passes on but Israel continues to multiply dramatically.
5. A new king (Pharaoh) is in power who cares nothing about the memory of Joseph and his descendants, but instead is afraid of Israel's growing strength in numbers.
6. Instead of risking an uprising or Israel siding with his enemies, he places the Israelites under forced hard labor—they go from guests to prisoners (slaves).

7. The oppression does not stop their fruitful multiplication. So, Pharaoh instructs the Hebrew midwives to kill any males at birth. They, instead, honor Yahweh and refuse to do so!
8. Pharaoh instructs his people to kill all the male babies by throwing them in the Nile. [See Matthew 2 for a similar decree by Herod to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under.]
9. Moses is born and is hidden for three months. To preserve his life he is placed in a basket on the banks of the Nile. His sister Miriam watches over him until he is plucked from the river by Pharaoh's daughter. [Note: instead of Moses dying in the Nile waters, he is saved in a basket above the waters, like Noah and the Ark!]
10. Pharaoh's daughter knows it is a Hebrew boy but it seems that Miriam then offers to get a wet nurse to feed the baby. Miriam brings Moses' mother to nurse her own child and she gets paid to do so!
11. After he has grown past nursing he is brought back to Pharaoh's daughter who then adopts him as her own and names him Moses (because he was drawn from the water.)
12. As an adult, Moses sees a Hebrew being abused by an Egyptian and he kills him and hides the body in the sand.

13. The next day he rebukes two Hebrew men for fighting with one another and they ask if he plans on killing them like he did the Egyptian.
14. Now that his crime is found out, Pharaoh wants to kill Moses so he escapes to Midian.
15. Moses rescues the seven daughters of a Midianite priest (Jethro) from raiders and then he helps them draw water.
16. He's invited back to their home and is given one daughter, Zipporah, as his wife. She gives birth to a son, Gershom (immigrant).
17. Pharaoh dies and the Israelites are still groaning because of their hard labor.
18. Next is the burning bush incident: Moses sees a bush on fire which is not being consumed and he goes to check it out.
19. Yahweh's messenger appears in the bush and calls to Moses.
20. As he approaches, Moses is told he is standing on holy ground and Yahweh calls out to him.
21. Mose hides his face as he cannot look upon Yahweh.
22. Yahweh promises to rescue his people from Egypt and bring them to a promised land and that He is sending Moses to do it.
23. Moses doubts his ability to do so and **Yahweh** reveals His name to Moses ("This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.") and tells him what to say (Tell them

Yahweh sent you) and gives him signs he can use to convince the people that he was sent by Yahweh. It is also the name that will be declared to Pharaoh!

24. Instructions: First tell the Hebrew people what you are there to do (they will believe you) and then go with their elders and tell Pharaoh that you need to go three-day's journey into the dessert to worship Me (he will not relent without force). Use these signs to convince him (Rod into a snake, leprous hand, water into blood).
25. He will not want to let them leave, "So I'll use my strength and hit Egypt with dramatic displays of my power. After that, he'll let you go."
26. In the end, they will not only let you leave but you will not go away empty-handed. You will take their silver and their gold jewelry as well as their clothing.
27. Moses fears his lack of public speaking ability, so Yahweh assigns his brother Aaron to help. **Yahweh promises to teach them both what to say.**
28. Moses is told to go back to Egypt with his family and to make sure he appears before Pharaoh with the signs.
29. Yahweh warns Moses that He intends to make Pharaoh stubborn so that he won't let the people go.

30. **The Ultimate Warning [PROPHETIC MOMENT]:** Moses, tell Pharaoh this: 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son. I said to you, "Let my son go so he could worship me." But you refused to let him go. As a result, now I'm going to kill your firstborn son.'" *[Things to keep in mind throughout the entire book of exodus: (a) The firstborn is the one at risk (b) the firstborn is the one who either dies without or is delivered by the blood of the lamb (c) we are the church of the firstborn, Hebrews 12:22-24 (d) non-firstborns are not at risk and have a choice to stay in Egypt or leave with Israel.]*
31. On the way to Egypt Zipporah saves Moses' life by circumcising her son and she holds the knife to Moses genitals and calls him a "bridegroom because of bloodshed."
32. Yahweh tells Aaron to meet Moses on His mountain and Moses tells him of the mission and about all the signs.
33. They arrive in Egypt and Aaron relays the message to the people while Moses performs the signs and the people believed and worshiped Yahweh.
34. In Moses' first meeting with Pharaoh his response is, "**Who is Yahweh** whom I'm supposed to obey by letting Israel go? **I don't know this Yahweh**, and I certainly won't let Israel go."

35. As an angry response, Pharaoh removes the straw from the Hebrew slaves and demands they fetch their own straw, yet still they must produce the same quota of bricks.
36. The Hebrew slaves are driven even harder by the Egyptian slave masters and as a result they rebuke Moses. "Let Yahweh see and judge what you've done! You've made us stink in the opinion of Pharaoh and his servants. You've given them a reason to kill us."
37. Moses questions Yahweh about the negative results thus far and Yahweh reassures him of His plan. "Now you will see what I'll do to Pharaoh. In fact, he'll be so eager to let them go that he'll drive them out of his land by force."

INTRODUCTION

1. Closing the Book on Joseph

A. What brought us here?

- (1) In our last portion, we ran out of real estate on the Book of Genesis. The Book of Genesis ends with the death of Joseph, and Joseph tells his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"

- (2) Joseph made the Israelites take an oath: “When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here.”
- (3) Joseph died at the age of 110.
- (4) This week’s portion begins in the first chapter of the Book of Exodus.
- (5) The Book of Exodus has been termed “the central book of the Old Testament”. Its pages contain some of Scripture’s greatest treasures, including: the Ten Commandments; the primary accounts of the ten plagues; Israel’s exodus from Egypt into freedom; God’s establishment of a covenant with His people at Mount Sinai; and the construction of the Tabernacle along with its sacred furnishings.
- (6) In the first few verses of Exodus 1, Moses writes about the relocation of Israel’s (Jacob’s) family, and the fruitfulness of the Israelites while living in the land of Goshen where Joseph had placed them.
- (7) However, immediately after this account, Moses writes, “A new King, who had not known Joseph came to power in Egypt.” Exodus 1:8
- (8) Why is this important?
 - a) Not knowing Joseph was akin to not having an agent for the people of God in a pagan society. This ultimately

translates into: the favor of God, His covering, and their freedom being taken away.

- b) It was under Joseph's rulership that God preserved a remnant for His people in Egypt.
- (9) This new king who did not know Joseph, took issue with the prosperity of the Israelites and feared that they would turn on them, the Egyptians, and would overthrow them from their own land. He then decides to "oppress them with forced labor." Exodus 1:11
- (10) Something amazing happens though. "But the more they oppress them, the more they multiplied and spread so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites." Exodus 1:12
- (11) Realizing that the Israelites are still multiplying, the King of Egypt decides to order the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male born Hebrew children. It is surrounding the reply of the midwives to the King that the theme of this study is derived! Fear God or Fear Man?

ACTIONS

2. Fear God or Fear Man as displayed in our actions...

A. A choice to make

- (1) Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When

you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live. “But *the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them*, but let the male children live. Exodus 1:15-17

- (2) In the midst of an order from the highest ranking person in the Land, the Hebrew midwives did not obey his request. Instead, they decided to obey God and to preserve the lives of the innocent Hebrew children.
- (3) It does not appear that the midwives had any doubt as to who they were supposed to obey. The Bible does not present to us any information insinuating that they were vexed about how they should handle the situation. Seemingly, they knew exactly what to do, to *Fear God instead of man!*
- (4) Then, the king finds out that the midwives have not obeyed his command and wants to know why. “Why have you done this and let the male children live?” Exodus 1:18
- (5) The midwives said to Pharaoh, “The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before a midwife can get to them.”
- (6) Did the midwives just lie to Pharaoh as to why they did not kill the children? They most certainly did.

- (7) So, God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families. Exodus 1:20-21 ESV
- (8) Why would God deal well with someone who lies? Furthermore, under what pretense could He possibly bless their behavior?
- (9) What the midwives did is not meant as an example of behavior of which God approves. Nevertheless, their act was intended to avert a far greater wrong, the murder of innocent children.
- (10) Because of Pharaoh's wicked intentions he did not deserve to hear the truth from these women. This behavior is also known as "**righteous deception**".
- (11) In a world marred by sin, it is not always possible to choose between pure good and pure evil, and one is sometimes compelled to choose the least sinful alternative. In the case of the Hebrew midwives, lying to preserve human lives was the correct choice, even if their lives were at risk.

WORSHIP

3. Fear God or Fear Man as displayed in our worship...

A. To whom will you bow?

- (1) In the main scriptures that inspired the message Daniel 3:8-18 we read about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego dealing with Nebuchadnezzar.
- (2) Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and **worship the golden image**. And whoever does not fall down and **worship** shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; **they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.**" Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?** Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe,

lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if ***you do not worship***, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ***But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.***" Daniel 3:8-18 ESV

- (3) There are probably no golden images, to speak of today, that we are being asked to worship, or are there?
- (4) There doesn't need to be a specific someone or something that we are forced to look upon to give worship to it. However, there are a myriad of objects and subjects that can easily take the place of the "so called" golden image that, without a decree, basically demands worship from the believer. The question is, are you willingly bowing down to this idol, instead of immediately resisting to worship it?

- (5) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego resisted. They didn't even have to ponder how to respond. They didn't need to delay in saying anything. They immediately turned to Nebuchadnezzar and said, "We don't need to give you an answer to this question."
- (6) How admirable is that? Their faith in Yahweh was so well placed and so strong that they said, "If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire."
- (7) Will you be able to stand on your faith if confronted the same way?
- (8) How would you respond if this situation were to present itself to you in a similar way? No, a fiery furnace need not be a part of it.

FAITH

4. Fear God or Fear Man will be noticeable in whether we'd rather privatize our faith or not...

A. Open Faith

- (1) All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man

for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Daniel 6:7

- (2) All of the counselors of the King Nebuchadnezzar decided to put a document in place that would prohibit anyone from making petition (prayers) to any god or other man other than the King himself for thirty days.
- (3) Do you know how Daniel handled this decree?
- (4) When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Daniel 6:10
- (5) Was Daniel just being defiant?
- (6) Was he just doing what he had always been doing and decided that the King's decree was not going to cause him to privatize his belief?
- (7) The society we live in will continue to push for privatization of our belief. Don't doubt that in time, it will be an offense to just say grace in a restaurant, or to ask a stranger if we can offer up prayer.

PROCLAMATION

5. **Fear God or Fear Man will help us to proclaim Y'shua as King or keep us from doing so...**

A. **Turn the world upside down**

(1) Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "***This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.***" And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "***These men who have turned the world upside down*** have come here also, and Jason has received them, and ***they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.***" Acts 17:1-7 ESV

- (2) We are not faced with such opposition, yet! But for how long?
- (3) The decrees of those days from Caesar where people were forced to proclaim Caesar as the ultimate king. Christians were not killed or persecuted for their belief in Christ as much as they were killed for not making Caesar their highest authority, for not bowing down to Caesar above Jesus Christ. He (Caesar) demanded this authority, if you as a citizen of Rome bowed down to Caesar, you would get to save your skin. Otherwise, you were likely to be flayed or to have your limbs pulled off.
- (4) This proclamation by the early Church was made based on all of the Messianic prophecies fulfilled in Y'shua.
- (5) They knew that no other being had, or would ever again fulfill those promises made by Yahweh.
- (6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and ***the government shall be upon his shoulder***, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of ***the increase of his government*** and of peace there will be no end, Isaiah 9:6-7
- (7) Y'shua became an instant threat to the rulers of the known world of that time and continues to be one today!

(8) Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, ***a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind***, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the ***LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols***. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." Isaiah 42:1-9

(9) Listen to the words of Y'shua; ***And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul***. Rather ***fear Him***

who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew
10:28 ESV

CLOSING

6. Make disciples of all nations

A. Go therefore!

- (1) It is no secret that Christians have been persecuted for centuries. It is also no secret that there are blaring parallels between the pluralism with which Rome ruled and the pluralism of today.
- (2) "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20
- (3) Christians have a God given obligation to surrender worship only to Y'shua, a commission to go and make disciples but more overtly, a commission to teach them to observe. To observe who? And to observe what? The answer to those questions are only relevant insofar as our *Allegiance is to God* and not the State or rulers of the day.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Current Events

- A. Do you see the trend the message lays out in our current events?

2. Preparedness

- A. If so, what are you prepared to do about a similar circumstance?

3. Evasive Action

- A. Do you fully understand what the midwives did in order to preserve life?

4. Agree or Disagree

- A. What about the actions of the midwives do you agree or disagree with?

5. Evidence

- A. Could it be said of you that your allegiance to God is plainly evident?