



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 13:17-17:16
- I John 5:14-17
- Matthew 12:22-30
- Deuteronomy 28, 29:10-20
- Joshua 24:14-27

## THE SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH

- Back Against the Wall
- Defining Enemies
- The Point of No Return
- A Decisive Victory

*We are called to love and pray for our enemies—a high calling indeed. But, are we called to do the same for Yahweh’s enemies? I think the answer is certain; we are not to pray FOR them but ABOUT them! But, what about them?*

*There is no doubt that the line a man crosses to the place of no return is difficult to understand, but let there be NO DOUBT that such a line exists. In the Old Testament the line was demarcated with a public voluntary commitment to worship Yahweh and crossed when returning to worship other gods, yet insisting that it was okay to do so, and having total peace about it. Joshua called it a “witness against yourself.” I don’t believe this included ignorance or accidents or self-deception. It seems to be a*

*moment of knowing and yet still purposely doing so. In the New Testament it is simply referred to as blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, or grieving the Holy Spirit, or the sin that leads to death for which no amount of prayer can remedy.*

*God calls these line-crossers wicked; they hate Him and have become His enemies. As such, let us agree that all sorts of curses and destruction are coming upon these enemies of His. And we need not identify those who today hold this dreadful title because they are perfectly capable of identifying themselves. They arrogantly raise their hands and openly declare, "Pick me, pick me, pick me!" They place their hand upon God's Holy Writ and make promises while they aspire to evil and boldly stand for beliefs and practices which Yahweh calls abominations. They openly declare by their proclamations and actions that "There is no God!" Yes, they arrogantly live lives filled with sin that leads to death.*

*Yes, we must pray, not for THEM, but instead ABOUT them. It's a simple prayer. Father, please show the world Your vengeance against those who hate You!*

## **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

**Reminder:** "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! **For in the day you**

**see my face you shall die!”** So Moses said, **“You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”**” Exodus 10:27-29 NKJV

“And **Moses stretched out his hand** over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So **the LORD overthrew the Egyptians** in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. **Not so much as one of them remained.** But **the children of Israel had walked on dry land** in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Exodus 14:27-29 NKJV

#### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that **we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.** If anyone **sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life** for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.” I John 5:14-17 NKJV

“Because the carnal mind is **enmity against God**; for it is not subject to the law of God, **nor indeed can be**. So then, those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**.” Romans 8:7-8 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This reading tells the adventures of the Israelites as they leave Egypt, cross the Red Sea, receive miraculous provision in the wilderness and face their first battle. You can see last year's teaching notes on this portion here: [Hard-Pressed on Every Side](#)
2. Right from the start we see Yahweh's strategy. He sends the people out Egypt in a direction away from the Philistines even though that not the shorter path. He does so for two reasons:
  - (a) First, so they don't immediately panic by facing opposition
  - (b) Second, so He can later hem them in against the sea.
  - (c) Why? So He can show them His mighty power as He wrecks their enemies right in front of them.
3. In a prophetic moment, “Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he [Joseph] had placed the children of Israel under **solemn oath [in Genesis 50:25]**, saying, 'God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.'”  
Exodus 13:19

4. Yahweh went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could travel day and night.
5. Yahweh tells them to camp at the shore of the Red Sea as He plans to inspire Pharaoh to chase them, so He can “gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* Yahweh.”
6. So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea.
7. [COMPLAINT #1: FEAR] The people lose heart and are afraid and complain. “Did you just take us out here to die; we would have been happier just staying in Egypt!”
8. Moses then proclaims this classic line of Scripture “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. Yahweh will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”
9. The children of Israel are told to go forward. Moses will touch the waters and they will divide so the people can pass over on dry ground.
10. To give the people time, Yahweh puts a pillar between Israel and Egyptians, and notice this prophetic picture. It was a **cloud**

**and darkness** to the one, and it **gave light by night to the other.**

It held back the Egyptians all night.

11. The children of Israel crossed on the dry ground.
12. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.
13. As they pursued, Yahweh troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."
14. Then Yahweh has Moses stretch out his hand and the sea closes over the Egyptians and not one of them survived.
15. Israel saw Yahweh's great work, feared Him and believed His servant Moses.
16. Then we have The Song of Moses which extols Yahweh's virtues as it recounts the testimony of deliverance. It includes this amazingly prophetic verse. (Ex. 15:17) "You will bring them in and plant them **in the mountain of Your inheritance**, in the place, O Yahweh, which You have made for **Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O Yahweh**, which Your hands have established."
17. Then we have The Song of Miriam "Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"

18. Then, THREE DAY'S JOURNEY into the wilderness they come up against a water shortage as the water available is not pure. [Please remember that Moses demanded that Pharaoh let the people go a three days' journey into the wilderness to worship Yahweh and have a feast. And now we are at that exact moment. And what does Yahweh have planned?
19. [COMPLAINT #2: THIRST] And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" So Moses interceded, and Yahweh showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made pure.
20. HERE IS THE PIVOT POINT OF THE THREE DAYS' JOURNEY: There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, and said, *"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."*
21. [COMPLAINT #3: HUNGER] 45 days into their journey the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

22. Yahweh then rains bread from heaven and the people gather their daily need (daily bread). Why one day at a time? To test whether the people will walk in His laws or not. On the sixth day gather double so they have no need to gather on the Sabbath.
23. Moses says, "Listen, you are really complaining against Yahweh and He hears you. He will give you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full."
24. So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning when the layer of dew lifted, there was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground (manna). Let every man gather it according to each one's need.
25. If anyone gathered more than needed and left it until morning, it bred worms and stank.
26. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much bread because on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there was none. The Sabbath rest is holy to Yahweh. Prepare what you need today and the remains may be kept until morning and it will not rot.
27. Some people did not trust, so went out on the Sabbath to gather manna anyway and they found none. The Sabbath is like a famine that you need to provide for in advance (like Joseph).
28. This is where they are told to collect some manna and store it in a pot to be kept for their generations, that they may see the



bread with which Yahweh used to feed them in the wilderness when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

29. Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.
30. [COMPLAINT #4 THIRST AGAIN] They arrive next in Rephidim; but there was no water and they thirsted and complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"
31. Moses cries out to Yahweh for help and he is instructed to strike a rock in Horeb with the Rod in which he struck the Nile, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. [Forty years later this will happen again and Moses is told to speak to the Rock instead of striking it. He does not obey and instead strikes the rock twice. Water does pour forth but the consequences to Moses for his disobedience are severe. SEE Numbers 20:7-13]
32. The final piece of this week's portion is Israel's first battle in the wilderness against the Amalekites.
33. Joshua is called to lead the men against Amalek. As the battle rages, as long as Moses raises his hands Israel prevailed.

34. As Moses' hands become heavy, Aaron and Hur support him on each side. His hands remained steady until the going down of the sun and Joshua defeated Amalek.
35. Yahweh tells Moses to memorialize Amalek's defeat in the book and recount *it* in the hearing of Joshua, and that He will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

## BACK AGAINST THE WALL

### 1. Patterns of pressure and deliverance

#### A. What will you do when God's enemy have you backed against the wall with no way to escape?

- (1) Backed up, hard pressed, hemmed in! A journey to the edge of the sea!
- (a) **God told them which way to go as He knew what was about to happen!** "Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;** for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt. So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt." Exodus 13:17-18 NKJV

- (b) **They were being led:** “And **the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud** to lead the way, and by night in a **pillar of fire** to give them light, so as to go by day and night.” Exodus 13:21 NKJV
- (c) **Backed up against the sea:** “For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are **bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.**’” Exodus 14:3 NKJV
- (d) **God sent them in a direction that would hem them in because He had a plan:** “Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, **so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.” Exodus 14:4 NKJV
- (e) **God even causes Pharaoh’s servants to provoke him to go after Israel:** “Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh **and his servants was turned against the people; and they said**, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”” Exodus 14:5 NKJV
- (f) **God makes sure Pharaoh takes ALL his chariots so when He defeats them it is decisive!** “So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and **all the chariots of**

**Egypt with captains over every one of them.” Exodus 14:6-7 NKJV**

- (g) **Hot Pursuit with all he had:** “And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and **he pursued the children of Israel**; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. So the Egyptians pursued them, **all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army**, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.”Exodus 14:8-9 NKJV
- (h) **Israel’s faithless reaction; this will become an ongoing pattern!** And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. **So they were very afraid**, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?’ For **it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”**” Exodus 14:10-12 NKJV

- (i) **Be Still and Watch the mighty hand of God!** “And Moses said to the people, **“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD,** which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”**” Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV
- (j) **Now, stop crying and take some action!** “And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? **Tell the children of Israel to \*go forward.** But **lift up your rod,** and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.” Exodus 14:15-16 NKJV
- (k) **The miracle protection is that in which we see the prophetic delineation between light and darkness. Notice it is the pillars of cloud and fire that was leading them that now moves behind them! When leading them, the cloud showed in the day and the fire at night; now it seems to be creating day and night (separating light and darkness). “And the Angel of God,** who went **before the camp of Israel,** moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the

camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus **it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other**, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.” Exodus 14:19-20 NKJV

- (a) **Remember, when leading them, the cloud showed in the day and the fire at night:** “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.” Exodus 13:21 NKJV  
**Now the both the cloud and fire come together to separate light and darkness.**

(2) Picture Israel’s situation as they were trapped against the sea and then read Paul’s words.

- (a) “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, **we do not lose heart**. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing [Pharaoh, Egypt], whose minds the god of this age has blinded [the seared conscience]**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of

Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness [cloud and darkness on one side, and light by night to the other—Exodus 14:20],** who has shone in our hearts **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**" II Corinthians 4:1-6 NKJV

(3) Hard Pressed on Every Side

- (a) "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels **[potential miracles for mere humans]**, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us **[the parting of an ocean]**. **We are hard-pressed on every side [backed up against the sea],** yet **[it will all be okay!]** not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. **For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh [we will live and walk through the**

**parted waters!]**. So then death is working in us, but life in you." II Corinthians 4:7-12 NKJV

(4) The same spirit of faith...(if we had the same faith of David, when we have our own Red Sea moments,) we would believe and therefore speak!

(a) **"And since we have the same spirit of faith,** according to what is written, **\*"I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,** knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus **[we will be delivered from death just like Israel was delivered]**, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. II Corinthians 4:13-15 NKJV

1. **\*"For You have delivered my soul from death,** My eyes from tears, And my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD In the land of the living. **I believed, therefore I spoke,** "I am greatly afflicted."" Psalms 116:8-10 NKJV

2. **Read all of Psalm 116 and you will sense that David was feeling closed in and surrounded just like Israel felt:** "I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined



His ear to me, **Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.** The pains of **death surrounded me,** And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!" Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me. Return to your rest, O my soul, For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. **For You have delivered my soul from death,** My eyes from tears, And my feet from falling. **I will walk before the LORD In the land of the living. I believed, therefore I spoke,** "I am greatly afflicted." I said in my haste, "All men are liars." **What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me?** I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all His people. **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.**" Psalms 116:1-15 NKJV

- (5) Get your eyes off the seen (temporary) and place your eyes on the spiritual (permanent)!
- (a) "**Therefore we do not lose heart.** Even though our outward man is perishing **[when you see the Egyptian**

**chariots approaching]**, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, **while we do not look at the things which are seen [the most powerful military in the world bearing down on us], but at the things which are not seen [the fire that will come down and separate light from darkness]**. For the things which are seen are temporary **[Egypt is about to be destroyed]**, but the things which are not seen are eternal **[\*we are about to be delivered]**." II Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJV

1. "And Moses said to the people, **"Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD,** which He will accomplish for you today. **For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."**" Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV
2. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen...** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:1, 6 NKJV

3. “(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed —**God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;**”

Romans 4:17 NKJV

**B. Where does my help come from?**

(1) The help of man is useless...

- (a) “Give us help from trouble, **For the help of man is useless.** Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.” Psalms 60:11-12 NKJV

(2) The help of princes is useless...

- (a) “**Do not put your trust in princes,** Nor in a son of man, in whom **there is no help.** His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish. **Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,** Whose hope is in the LORD his God,” Psalms 146:3-5 NKJV
- (b) “Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.” Psalms 146:7 NKJV

**C. My help comes from the LORD**

(1) Yahweh is not asleep on the job!

- (a) “I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? **My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.** He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.” Psalms 121:1-3 NKJV
- (2) Trust in man—Cursed; Trust in God—Blessed
- (a) “Thus says the LORD: “**Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. “**Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,** And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” Jeremiah 17:5-8 NKJV

### **Summary:** Back Against the Wall

1. When Israel departed Egypt, God directed them to go in the shorter direction as He planned to back them up against the sea so Pharaoh would chase after them.

2. When they reached the sea they were trapped on all sides, so when God provoked Pharaoh to send his arm after them, Israel had no way to escape.
3. The people panicked but Moses told them to relax; he was certain Yahweh would deliver them.
4. As the raging chariots approached, God moved the clouds and fire that previously led Israel out of Egypt to behind them, so the approaching army was blocked. The clouds caused darkness on the Egyptian side and the fire caused light on Israel's side.
5. This entire narrative is alluded to by Paul in 2 Corinthians 4 when he teaches believers that when you feel hard-pressed on all sides, don't lose heart. Die to your flesh and see with new spiritual eyes through Christ. In other words, don't look at the seen but the unseen.
6. Remember, man will never be your ultimate help; you will only be truly happy when you put all your trust in God.

## DEFINING ENEMIES

### 2. **Man against Man vs. Man against God**

#### A. Man is called to "Love his enemies"

(1) Your job is to love those who hate you!

(a) ""You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love**

**your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."** Matthew 5:43-44 NKJV

(b) **"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;"** Proverbs 24:17 NKJV

(c) **Cont. "Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him. Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out."** Proverbs 24:18-20 NKJV

(2) Love them as Yahweh intends to give them a chance, so there is no excuse (See Romans 1).

(a) **"That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."** Matthew 5:45-48 NKJV

(3) **Note:** At some point we must move away from praying **for** them and begin to pray **about** them. In the Section 3 we will study how man progresses to THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

- (a) This we know—all sins are forgivable with repentance, yet there is one sin from which man CANNOT repent—See Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit in Section 3.
- (b) What we must evaluate is whether or not the man who might be our enemy has become an enemy of God. If the enemy is man against man, then we are required to forgive, as we are called to love our enemies.
- (c) However, if it is man hating God, as we will see, we are not asked to pray about that—other than saying “go get them God!”
- (d) When we look out into the world today, we see many types of sins, violations against Yahweh and His commands. We have violations against the covenant of marriage, gender, and the wholesale destruction of life with abortion. And although, on their own, each or all are forgivable, here is where the violators overstep—they do these things, which are a direct assault on God’s identity, and they do so while claiming that HE IS THIER GOD. Swearing on the Bible, and quoting from it

and singing about Him! Ah, now the perpetrators have crossed over! Now they have come to a place where they can no longer repent! Again refer to Section 3 for details.

**B. Those who are wicked (enemies of God) leave no doubt**

(1) Who are the wicked? God is in none of their thoughts!

(a) For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy **and renounces the LORD**. The wicked in his proud countenance **does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.**" Psalms 10:3-4 NKJV

(2) The wicked renounce God because they are convinced they will NOT be held accountable!

(a) "Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. **Why do the wicked renounce God?** He has said in his heart, **"You will not require an account."** But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless. **Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none.** The LORD is King forever and ever; The nations have perished out of His land." Psalms 10:12-16 NKJV



(3) They are wicked from birth and they will be destroyed by Yahweh!

(a) “Do you indeed speak righteousness, you silent ones? Do you judge uprightly, you sons of men? No, in heart you work wickedness; You weigh out the violence of your hands in the earth. **The wicked are estranged from the womb;** They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear, Which will not heed the voice of charmers, Charming ever so skillfully. **Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!** Break out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD! Let them flow away as waters which run continually; When he bends his bow, Let his arrows be as if cut in pieces. Let them be like a snail which melts away as it goes, Like a stillborn child of a woman, that they may not see the sun. Before your pots can feel the burning thorns, He shall take them away as with a whirlwind, As in His living and burning wrath. **The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked,** So that men will say, “Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth.”” Psalms 58:1-11 NKJV

(4) I prayed for them as they were my enemy—but it then becomes clear they are Yahweh's enemy also!

(a) “Do not keep silent, O God of my praise! **For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful Have opened against me;** They have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, And fought against me without a cause. **In return for my love they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer.** Thus they have rewarded me evil for good, And hatred for my love. Set a wicked man over him, And let an accuser stand at his right hand. **When he is judged, let him be found guilty,** And let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few, And let another take his office. Let his children be fatherless, And his wife a widow. Let his children continually be vagabonds, and beg; Let them seek their bread also from their desolate places. Let the creditor seize all that he has, And let strangers plunder his labor. Let there be none to extend mercy to him, Nor let there be any to favor his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off, And in the generation following **let their name be blotted out.** Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the

LORD, And let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.”

Psalms 109:1-14 NKJV

- (5) Before you can evaluate the status of the wicked, first make sure your hands are clean!
- (a) “O LORD my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me, Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. O LORD my God, **if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands, If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause,** Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. Selah” Psalms 7:1-5 NKJV
- (6) Then you can say, “Go get them God!”
- (a) “Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; **Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded!** So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high. **The LORD shall judge the peoples;** Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me. **Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end,**

But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds. **My defense is of God**, Who saves the upright in heart. God is a just judge, **And God is angry with the wicked every day**. If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. **He also prepares for Himself instruments of death**; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts. **Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood**. He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. **His trouble shall return upon his own head**, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High." Psalms 7:6-17 NKJV

(7) Attributes of the Wicked!

- (a) **They love evil and lying**: "Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually. Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. **You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness**. Selah" Psalms 52:1-3 NKJV

- (b) **A deceitful tongue:** “You love all **devouring words**, You **deceitful tongue**. **God shall likewise destroy you forever**; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah” Psalms 52:4-5 NKJV
- (c) **Does not make God his strength:** “The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, “**Here is the man who did not make God his strength**, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, **And strengthened himself in his wickedness.**” But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. I will praise You forever, Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.” Psalms 52:6-9 NKJV

**Summary:** Defining Enemies

1. We are called to love our enemies, but we are not called to love Yahweh’s enemies.
2. His enemies are always our enemies, but it may not be true that all our enemies are His enemies.

3. There are many attributes and character traits of God's enemies, but we can sum them up in one description: They are wicked and they hate God.

## THE POINT OF NO RETURN

### 3. The Oft Taboo Topic: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

#### A. Let the Journey Begin—from “many chances” to “too late”

##### (1) Becoming an Enemy of God

- (a) If you study all the plagues of Egypt you will notice that there are certain nuances.

1. **From Israel's perspective:** Some have built in protections, some would never affect them, some in which they could be protected, yet they needed to do something.

2. **From Pharaoh and Egypt's perspective:** Some he ignored, some he repented and asked for prayer, and in one was given no option to repent—darkness, which led to Pharaoh's prophetic declaration against himself—death!

##### (2) The darkness was symbolic of a seared conscience!

- (a) For a complete teaching on this subject: See [Darkness You Can Feel](#)

## **B. The step-by-step path to the “Sin that leads to death!”**

### **Pharaoh’s journey into darkness—a path you don’t want to take!**

- (1) It starts off like this with Moses’ first encounter with Pharaoh...I don’t know your God!
  - (a) “And Pharaoh said, “**Who is the LORD**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? **I do not know the LORD**, nor will I let Israel go.”” Exodus 5:2 NKJV
  - (b) As you will see, it is not possible to commit the “sin the leads to death” if you don’t first “know Yahweh.” Of course it is bad to “not know Yahweh,” yet it is not irredeemable.
- (2) By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!
  - (a) “**Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Entreat the LORD** that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD.” And Moses said to Pharaoh, “Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only.” So he said,

“Tomorrow.” And he said, “**Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.**” Exodus 8:8-10 NKJV

(3) Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice

(a) “Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “**This is the finger of God.**” But Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.” Exodus 8:19 NKJV

(4) He is the Lord, but He’s your Lord...the fourth Plague—Flies

(a) “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “**Go, sacrifice to your God** in the land.”... So Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may **sacrifice to the LORD your God** in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me.”” Exodus 8:25, 28 NKJV

(5) The home stretch to the point of no return—after the seventh plague of Fiery Hail: “I’m a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me.”

(a) “And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “**I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the**



**LORD**, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.”” Exodus 9:27-28 NKJV

(6) Pharaoh is right on the edge by the eight plague—Locusts: look closely at his final decent into total darkness.

(a) **How long will you refuse to humble yourself?** “So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, **“Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.”** Exodus 10:3 NKJV

(b) **Pharaoh even received a final warning from within his own camp: Don’t you see?** “Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? **Let the men go**, that they may serve the LORD their God. **Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?”**” Exodus 10:7 NKJV

(c) **Pharaoh’s FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick?** “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, **“I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only.”**” Exodus 10:16-17 NKJV

1. It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from *"Who is the LORD...I do not know the LORD"* in Exodus 5:2 to *"I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death."*
  2. As we will see later in this Section of Notes, "THE POINT OF NO RETURN", for the unpardonable sin, the sin that leads to death, to be committed, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away!**
- (7) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh). He can no longer repent as a response to God's chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.
- (a) "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be **darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.**"... Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! **For in the day you see my face you shall die!**"" Exodus 10:21, 28 NKJV
  - (b) "So Moses said, "**You have spoken well.** I will never see your face again.'" Exodus 10:29 NKJV
- (8) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh will not, CANNOT, turn back!

- (a) “But the LORD said to Moses, “**Pharaoh will not heed you**, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”” Exodus 11:9 NKJV

(9) Death has come

- (a) “And it came to pass at midnight that **the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne** to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.” Exodus 12:29-30 NKJV

(10) So go!

- (a) “Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. **And go, serve the LORD as you have said.**” Exodus 12:31 NKJV

(11) Even after all this, because Pharaoh no longer has any capacity (possibility) to repent, he displays total and complete obstinance toward the one TRUE GOD

- (a) “Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and **I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, that the Egyptians may know that I am

the LORD.” And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, **and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people**; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”” Exodus 14:4-5 NKJV

(12) The set-up for the final defeat of God’s enemies

- (a) “And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. **So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, his chariots, and his horsemen. **Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”” Exodus 14:17-18 NKJV

(13) The end is total destruction of God’s enemies and deliverance of His people

- (a) “Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. **Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea**, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Exodus 14:28-29 NKJV

(14) **FINAL OUTCOME: Witness, Reverence, Faith!**

- (a) “Thus **Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done** in Egypt; so **the people feared the LORD**, and **believed the LORD** and His servant Moses.” Exodus 14:31 NKJV

**C. The decent into Total Darkness in a nutshell!**

- (1) Who better than Paul could describe such?

- (a) “For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God,** nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and **their foolish hearts were darkened**.

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts**, to dishonor

their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

Amen. **For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind,** to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, **haters of God**, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death,** not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:18-32 NKJV

1. No excuses: punishment is coming—you have met all the legal requirements to commit “the sin that leads to death.”
2. They knew God
3. They entertained futile thoughts
4. Their foolish hearts become **dark**
5. They are given over to lusts and vile passions
6. Why? Because **they knew God but don’t retain God** in their knowledge (like we just saw with Pharaoh)
7. God then gives them over to a debased mind
8. They become dreadful as they practice all sorts of sin —They HATE GOD!
9. And in the END, the righteous judgment of God is that those who practice such things are put to death.

**D. From the point of no return of Pharaoh to Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament**

(1) Grieving the Holy Spirit

- (a) “And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30 NKJV

(2) Blasphemy against the Spirit

- (a) “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit will**

**not be forgiven men.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."**

Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV

1. **Context:** Attributing Yahweh's qualities to another "god". This is important to recognize when we study the same pattern in Deuteronomy and Joshua below.
2. "Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, **"This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."** But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out**



**demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.** Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad."

Matthew 12:22-30 NKJV [See Mark 3:20-30]

(3) Luke's perspective:

- (a) "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. **But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.** "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.** "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." Luke 12:8-12 NKJV

#### **E. The Sin that Leads to Death!**

- (1) **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that (v. 16)**

- (a) “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life** for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.” I John 5:14-17 NKJV

- (2) The opposite of the sin that leads to death—Truly Knowing Him

- (a) “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and **the wicked one does not touch him.** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, **that we may know Him** who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God** and eternal life.” I John 5:18-20 NKJV

F. What leads to the unforgivable sin according to Moses?  
Notice the same pattern!

(1) The choice—the offer of relationship

- (a) “All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water— **that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God**, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today, that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Deuteronomy 29:10-13 NKJV

(2) Take note: this offer is not only for them...

- (a) “I make this covenant and this oath, **not with you alone**, but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today” Deuteronomy 29:14-15 NKJV

- (b) Y’shua and Paul both understand our connection to “back then” and into the “future”:

1. “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware **that all our fathers** were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into

Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. **Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.”** 1

Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

2. **“I do not pray for these alone**, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;” John 17:20  
NKJV

(3) And you clearly KNOW what it means to worship false gods!

- (a) “(for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and **you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them**—wood and stone and silver and gold); so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a

root bearing bitterness or wormwood;" Deuteronomy 29:16-18 NKJV

- (4) Here's the turn—You, ON PURPOSE, choose to STILL go after false gods, after knowing the TRUE God, and believe it is OK and that Yahweh will STILL BLESS YOU...
- (a) "And so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, '**I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart**'— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV
- (5) If you do so, Yahweh will **never be willing to forgive you!**
- (a) "The LORD **would not spare him**; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, **and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him** [see Section 5 below on Decisive Victory, Deuteronomy 28], and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NKJV
- (b) NIV says it more clearly—"The Lord will **never be willing to forgive them**; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. **All the curses written in this book will fall on them** [see Section 5 below on Decisive Victory, Deuteronomy 28], and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV

## **G. What leads to the unforgivable sin according to Joshua?**

(1) The Choice—there is clear moment of choice

- (a) “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and **put away the gods which your fathers served** on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served** that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**” Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV

(2) Okay—so you are completely aware of your choice—and you have chosen to serve Yahweh and forsake foreign gods

- (a) “So the people answered and said: **“Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;** for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the

Amorites who dwelt in the land. **We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.**" Joshua 24:16-18 NKJV

(3) If you go back to foreign gods He WILL NOT forgive you!

(a) "But Joshua said to the people, **"You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good."** Joshua 24:19-20 NKJV

(4) You've chosen Yahweh, now you are a witness against yourself! (In modern terms, *"Don't call yourself a Christian and then follow the dictates of another god!"*)

(a) "And the people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD!' So Joshua said to the people, **"You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him."** And they said, "We are witnesses!" Joshua 24:21-22 NKJV

(5) Signed, Sealed and Delivered—You cannot turn back without unforgivable consequences!

(a) "Now therefore, he said, **'put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel.**" And the people said to Joshua, **"The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we**

**will obey!"** So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said to all the people, "**Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us**, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God.""  
Joshua 24:23-27 NKJV

(b) Now these words in Hebrews make so much sense!

1. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries**. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**"



says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

(c) Vengeance is His! This idea comes from the song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32. Can you recognize the same pattern of those who become Yahweh’s adversaries?

1. **“They have corrupted themselves;** They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation...**They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods;** With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear...’ Is this not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up among My treasures?  
**Vengeance is Mine, and recompense;** Their foot shall slip in due time; **For the day of their calamity is at hand,** And the things to come hasten upon them.”

Deuteronomy 32:5, 16-17, 34-35 NKJV

#### H. What do think is in store for people like this and his associates?

(1) Quick reminder of what you just read...

- (a) And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD!” So Joshua said to the people, **“You are**

**witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves**, to serve Him.” And they said, “We are witnesses!” Joshua 24:21-22 NKJV

- (b) You’ve voluntarily chosen the God of the Bible—Yahweh and His Son—by swearing an oath to Him with your hand on that Bible— so, now you are a witness against yourself!
  - (c) In modern terms, *“You identify yourself as a Christian, a follower of Christ and His Father.” What will happen if you then choose to follow the dictates of your own heart and to go after other gods?*
- (2) Has a world leader done this in front of our very eyes?
- (a) Excerpts from the transcript of the recent inauguration speech given by Joe Biden after he swore oaths on the Judeo-Christian Holy Bible!
    - 1. *“Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a saint of **my church**, wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.”*
    - 2. *“I promise you this: **as the Bible says** weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.”*
    - 3. *“**Before God** and all of you **I give you my word.**”*
    - 4. *“And, this is certain. **We will be judged**, you and I, for how we resolve the cascading crises of our era”.*

1. Reminiscent of Joshua's words: *"You are witnesses against yourselves,"* and Pharaoh's words threatening Moses, words which were a curse to himself... *"For in the day you see my face you shall die!"* The next time Pharaoh saw Moses was after the death he threatened Moses with had enveloped all of Egypt, including his own household.
- (3) What evidence do we have that he has turned his back on Yahweh and Y'shua, and the very Bible he placed his hand upon?
  - (a) **The Bible Says:** There is a man, a woman; marriage is the sacred union between a man and a woman; and that the fruit of this union is children. This human family is the express image of Yahweh (the Trinity).
  - (b) **Joe Biden's Beliefs:** There is no distinctive truth that there is a man or a woman, nor that marriage is between a man and a woman, nor is there any sanctity of life of the unborn! In other words *"Yahweh is not the only true God, I have another version, even while I swear to Him!"*
  - (c) Can you see that he has forsaken the One True God who he claims to serve and has, instead, gone after another god?

(d) A decisive punishment is coming upon him! So, what is the penalty for this sin! I will NEVER FORGIVE YOU! He has committed the sin that leads to death! Don't pray for him!

1. "And so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, **'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'**— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV
2. **"The Lord will never be willing to forgive them;** his wrath and zeal will burn against them. **All the curses written in this book will fall on them** [see Section 5 below on Decisive Victory, Deuteronomy 28], and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV
3. "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." I John 5:16-17 NKJV

I. Do think this kind of decisive punishment did not happen in the New Testament? (See: [Fire, Worms & Warring Angels](#))

(4) Sudden, Total, and decisive Judgment of God's enemies!

(a) "Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country. So on a set day **Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them.** And the people kept shouting, **"The voice of a god and not of a man!"** Then immediately **an angel of the Lord** struck him, **because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.** But the word of God grew and multiplied." Acts 12:20-24 NKJV

(5) Ananias and Sapphira: You Lied to the Holy Spirit—  
Blasphemy!

(a) "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the

land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” **Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last.** So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **And Peter answered her,** “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She said, “Yes, for so much.” **Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?”** Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” **Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.** And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.” Acts 5:1-11 NKJV

## **Summary:** The Point of No Return

1. There is one sin that leads to death 100% of the time, as it is the sin from which the perpetrator cannot repent: Y'shua called it Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
2. To understand what that really means, we must venture back into the Old Testament.
3. If I were to sum it up in a formula it would look like this: A conscious acknowledgement of who is the one true God + the conscious and willing decision to follow Him and forsake all foreign gods + the purposeful and conscious decision to return to the worship of false gods + the belief that it is perfectly fine to do so and that Yahweh will do nothing about it.
4. We can see the pattern in the life of Pharaoh as he progressed through the stages: first not knowing anything about Yahweh, to belief that Yahweh is real, to the point that he acknowledges his sin, repents and asks for prayer. And then he goes back to the deepest place of darkness.
5. We see this same warning later from both Moses and Joshua, both ending with people willfully going back to foreign gods with the arrogant belief that Yahweh will simply overlook it and even bless them anyway.
6. Paul does an excellent job summing up the decent into this depravity in Romans Chapter One.

7. In the New Testament, John calls it “The Sin that Leads to Death” and teaches us that there is no need to pray for those who have crossed that line!
8. We also see the consequences of such playing out in the New Testament. There is no better demonstration of this than in the deaths of Ananias and his wife Sapphira in Acts Chapter Five.
9. And now we should look at some of our new world leaders and ask ourselves, *“Have they crossed this line when they placed their hands on the Bible and swore to God, while at the same time upholding the beliefs in their false religion of gender re-identification, homosexuality, the destruction of the nuclear family, and the murder of the unborn?”*

## A DECISIVE VICTORY

4. **It’s not your fight to destroy the wicked, it’s Yahweh’s battle. You just keep moving forward!**

### A. Stand Still and Watch, then move forward

- (1) Do not be afraid

- (a) “And Moses said to the people, ‘**Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD**, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **The**



**LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”** Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV

(2) Now, stop your whining and move forward!

(a) “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to **go forward.**” Exodus 14:15 NKJV

(3) Dry Ground

(a) “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the **dry ground**, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Exodus 14:21-22 NKJV

1. **Dry Ground:** “But the children of Israel had **walked on dry land** in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Exodus 14:29 NKJV

2. **The Jordan 40 years later:** “Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; **and all Israel crossed over on dry ground**, until all the people had

crossed completely over the Jordan.” Joshua 3:17  
NKJV

3. **The Jordan just like the Red Sea:** “then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘**Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land**’; for the **LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea**, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”” Joshua 4:22-24 NKJV

**B. The Distinction between Egypt and Israel—a decisive victory**

- (1) Israel had passed on dry ground, but Egypt...
  - (a) “Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. **Not so much as one of them remained.**” Exodus 14:28 NKJV
- (2) The Lord fights and we are saved
  - (a) “So **the LORD saved Israel** that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.” Exodus 14:30 NKJV
- (3) The Witness

- (a) “Thus **Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done** in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.” Exodus 14:31 NKJV

**C. The end of the road for the wicked!**

- (1) The wicked shall fall by calamity

- (a) “Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But **the wicked shall fall by calamity.**” Proverbs 24:15-16 NKJV

- (2) The wicked’s names will be blotted out!

- (a) “You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; **You have blotted out their name forever** and ever.” Psalms 9:5 NKJV

- (3) The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands

- (a) “The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; **The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.**

Meditation: Selah The wicked shall be turned into hell,  
And all the nations that forget God.” Psalms 9:16-17  
NKJV

- (4) Evil shall slay the wicked.

- (a) **“Evil shall slay the wicked,** And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.” Psalms 34:21-22 NKJV
- (5) Evildoers shall be cut off
- (a) **“For evildoers shall be cut off;** But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and **the wicked shall be no more;** Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. **The Lord laughs at him,** For He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct. **Their sword shall enter their own heart,** And their bows shall be broken.” Psalms 37:9-15 NKJV
- (6) The wicked will be no more!
- (a) “I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. **Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more;** Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.” Psalms 37:35-36 NKJV

#### **D. The righteous will rule!**

##### (1) Righteous Authority

- (a) “When the **righteous are in authority**, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.” Proverbs 29:2 NKJV
- (b) “But **judgment will return to righteousness**, And all the upright in heart will follow it.” Psalms 94:15 NKJV

##### (2) The upright man is an abomination to the wicked

- (a) “An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, And he who is upright in the way is an **abomination to the wicked.**” Proverbs 29:27 NKJV

#### **E. BONUS: Do we pray FOR God’s enemies, or ABOUT them?**

(1) We are called to love and pray for our enemies—a high calling indeed. But, are we called to do the same for Yahweh’s enemies? I think the answer is certain; we are not to pray FOR them but ABOUT them! But, what about them? Consider Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

- (a) ““But it shall come to pass, if **you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God**, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:**

1. "Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.
2. "Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
3. "Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.
4. "Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.
5. "The LORD will send on you cursing, **confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do**, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, **because of the wickedness of your doings** in which you have forsaken Me.
6. The LORD will make the **plague cling to you** until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.
7. The LORD will strike you with **consumption**, with **fever**, with **inflammation**, with **severe burning fever**, with the **sword**, with **scorching**, and with **mildew**; they shall pursue you until you perish.

8. And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.
9. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.
10. "The LORD will cause you to be **defeated before your enemies**; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.
11. Your **carcasses** shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away.
12. The LORD will strike you with the **boils** of Egypt, with **tumors**, with the **scab**, and with the **itch**, from which **you cannot be healed**.
13. The LORD will strike you with **madness** and **blindness** and **confusion** of heart.
14. And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness;
15. You shall **not prosper in your ways**; you shall be only **oppressed and plundered** continually, and no one shall save you.

16. "You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.
17. Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; **your sheep shall be given to your enemies**, and you shall have no one to rescue them.
18. Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand.
19. **A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land** and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.
20. So you **shall be driven mad** because of the sight which your eyes see.
21. The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with **severe boils which cannot be healed**, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.
22. "The LORD will **bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation** which neither you nor your



fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone.

23. And **you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.**
24. You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.
25. You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.
26. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.
27. You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.
28. Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.
29. The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.
30. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

31. Moreover **all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD** your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. **And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.**
32. Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and **He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.**
33. **The LORD will bring a nation against you** from afar, from the end of the earth, **as swift as the eagle flies**, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, **which does not respect the elderly** nor show favor to the young.
34. And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or

the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.

35. **They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls**, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

36. You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.

37. The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

38. The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse the husband of her bosom, and to her son

and her daughter, her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

39. If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE Lord YOUR GOD, then **the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.**
40. Moreover He will bring back on you **all the diseases of Egypt**, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.
41. Also **every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you** until you are destroyed.
42. **You shall be left few in number**, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.
43. And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so **the LORD**

**will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.**

44. Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.
45. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.
46. **Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.**
47. In the morning you shall say, “Oh, that it were evening! And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’” because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.
48. “And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’”

49. And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.

(2) These are NOT my words, this is what Yahweh says is coming for those hate Him. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 NKJV

(a) So, dear Heavenly Father, FOR my enemies I will pray, but ABOUT Your enemies Yahweh, I say this; **“All these curses will come upon them and overtake them!”**

### **Summary:** A Decisive Victory

1. We learn that it is not our battle to destroy the wicked; we must be still, then move forward and watch the hand of God enact His own vengeance against them.
2. We recognize that God’s victory over His enemies is complete and decisive.
3. This is perfectly demonstrated as He leads the entire army of Pharaoh into the sea and then swallows them up, with ZERO survivors.
4. We see in multiple places in the Psalms and Proverbs that we can pray for just that, for God to completely destroy His wicked enemies.

5. And in the end we did a complete review of the horrific and almost indescribable curses that will come upon those who hate and disobey God in Deuteronomy 28.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **Shortly after Israel left Egypt the people found themselves trapped with their backs against the sea and Egyptian chariots racing toward them:**
  - A. How did the people respond?
  - B. What did Yahweh do? (Name as many miracles as you can.)
  - C. What was Moses told to do?
2. **Jesus' words are clear, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."**
  - A. What defines an enemy of yours?
  - B. What defines an enemy of Yahweh?
  - C. Must all your enemies also be God's enemies?
  - D. Are you commanded to love, bless, do good, and pray for Yahweh's enemies? Why or why not?
3. **In the last Torah Portion we saw the plague of darkness and learned how this equated in many ways to a seared**

**conscience. At this point of darkness there is no way back to repentance.**

- A. How might this indicate Pharaoh had become an enemy of God?
- B. How might this relate to the unforgivable sin we see written about in the Old Testament?
- C. How might this relate to blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
- D. How might you evaluate today when someone has crossed the point of no return?

**4. Time and again we see how faithless God's people were no matter how many miracles they witnessed.**

- A. What faithless response did they have when they saw Pharaoh's army approaching while they camped at the sea?
- B. What was Moses' faithful response in the moment and how might you utilize this approach in your own life?

**5. You would think that Pharaoh had enough with the devastation of the ten plagues culminating with unimaginable death, even in his own household, but God had one more victory over Pharaoh that was needed:**

- A. When Yahweh raises His mighty arm against His enemies the victory is certain. Describe this final victory over Pharaoh and how you can be sure it was decisive!