



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 10:1-13:16
- Isaiah 6:8
- Romans 8:29
- Proverbs 17:3
- Matthew 5:13

## TEA BAGS OR TRASH BAGS?

- Purpose
- Activation
- Function
- Optimization
- Output

*In everyday life we have items we use for both pleasure and out of necessity. One such item I find pleasure in is tea. I wasn't always a tea drinker and neither do I consider myself a tea connoisseur, if there is such a thing. Various teas have differing and interesting spices; they taste and smell great and can be consumed hot or cold for many reasons beyond taste and aroma, many of which are holistic and medicinal. A common way to prepare tea is to use Tea Bags submerged in hot water. Have you heard it said that Christians are like tea bags?*

*Something we all use out of necessity are Trash bags. We need not explain much regarding trash bags. Their purpose is pretty*

*obvious and cannot be overlooked. Try running your household without using them and let me know how that works for you.*

*I'd like to say that Christians can either be like "Tea Bags" or "Trash bags". I'm almost sure saying this in an introduction will not be popular, but it has its purpose. It should help spark something inside of you to pay close attention. Which do you think Yahweh would rather use? Which would you choose to be if you had a choice? Oh, and by the way—you have a choice!*

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

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, ***and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.***" Exodus 10:1-2 ESV

"Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, ***I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.***" Exodus 4:10 ESV

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and ***who will go for us?***" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8 ESV

"Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my

mother's womb, and naked shall I return. ***The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*** ***In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.***” Job 1:20-22 ESV

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

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander ***be put away from you***, along with all malice.” Ephesians 4:31 ESV

“See to it that no one ***fails to obtain the grace of God***; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, ***and by it many become defiled.***” Hebrews 12:15 ESV

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

1. The portion begins by concluding the narrative of the ten plagues, the tenth of which is the slaying of the firstborn. To avoid the plague, the Israelites are given the instructions for the Passover sacrifice and the laws of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Pharaoh finally consents to let Israel go, and they leave, taking with them the riches of Egypt. [See the chart of facts about all 10 Plagues on page 23 in [The Purpose of Power](#).

### **Exodus 10**

2. **(Plague 8) Locusts**—Moses to Pharaoh; ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? **Let My people go, that**

**they may serve Me.** Locusts shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains after the fiery hail and they will fill all Egyptian homes.

3. Pharaoh's servants beg him to relent before Egypt is completely destroyed? Moses informs Pharaoh that he will take with him his young and old, sons and daughters, and flocks and herds.
4. Pharaoh again says, "go" but then warns Moses. "The Lord had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you." It seems that Pharaoh then tells Moses to go only with his men. Pharaoh believes Moses has evil intent and has no plans to "return to Egypt", so he is hedging.
5. Yahweh then sends the locusts and they eat every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.
6. Pharaoh admits he has sinned against Yahweh and against Moses. He asks for both the forgiveness of Moses and Yahweh. "Please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the Lord your God, that He may take away from me this death only."
7. Pharaoh still does not let the children of Israel go. This speaks to Pharaoh's seared conscience. **He is not capable of authentic repentance.**

8. **(Plague 9) Darkness**—This plague begins with no further warning to Pharaoh. Thick darkness covered the land of Egypt for three days. The people could not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. The blackness was so black that the people could literally feel it! But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.
9. Again Pharaoh says “go” and this time you can take your little ones. Moses insists that the livestock go as well so they may sacrifice to Yahweh. And we are taking them all, as we have no idea what Yahweh will require. Obviously Moses has zero intention to return to Egypt and Pharaoh is finding reasons for them to return each time he says, “go.” In the end, the utter darkness will not inspire Pharaoh to let them go. This darkness is the sign of Pharaoh’s (Egypt’s) unredeemable condition.
10. Pharaoh, then, seals his death sentence—“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 11**

11. **Death of the Firstborn Announced:** one more plague is coming and afterward Pharaoh will let them go. And when he lets them

go, he will surely drive them out altogether. But, before they leave, they will pillage the Egyptians.

12. By this time, Moses was considered a very great man in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

13. Here is what will happen:

(a) About midnight Yahweh will go out into the midst of Egypt

(b) All the firstborns in the land of Egypt shall die (Pharaoh's, Servant's, Animal's, etc.)

(c) There will be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt like never before or will ever be again

14. **Moses warns Pharaoh one final time:** You will know that Yahweh differentiates between the Egyptians and Israel. And your servants will bow down to me, and say 'Get out!' But, Pharaoh did not let the children of Israel go.

## **Exodus 11**

### **15. The Passover Instituted**

(a) The month shall be the first month of the year to you

(b) On the tenth of this month every father shall take for himself a lamb

(c) If the household is too small for a whole lamb, let him and his neighbor do it together

- (d) Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year  
*[Note: just like Y'shua who was without blemish, and when you study the details of His public ministry, it really only spans one year, from Passover to Passover. This is not the place to exhaust this topic, however as a priest (according to the order of Melchizedek—Hebrews 5:6) He would enter ministry in His 30th year of life, so after He turns 29, and He would be sacrificed as a spotless one-year old lamb.]*
- (e) Keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month
- (f) Kill it at twilight.
- (g) Take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. [Note: yes Yahweh is separating His people, but they must also participate in the process. They must do something!]
- (h) Eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs
- (i) Let none of it remain until morning, burn what you cannot eat.
- (j) Eat it with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is Yahweh's Passover.

16. Yahweh will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborns in the land of Egypt, both man and

beast; **and against all the gods of Egypt He will execute judgment.**

17. The blood shall be a sign on the houses. When Yahweh sees the blood, He will **pass over** that house; and the plague shall not destroy them as He strikes the land of Egypt.
18. Passover shall be a memorial; a feast to the Yahweh throughout all generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.
  - (a) Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses.
  - (b) On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them (treat it like a Sabbath).
  - (c) You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.
  - (d) Remind your children every year that this is the day Yahweh passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and freed His people.
19. **(Plague 10) Death of the Firstborn**—Yahweh 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; there was a great cry



in Egypt, **for there was not a house where there was not one dead.**

**20. The Exodus**— The Egyptians urge Israel to go quickly fearing they will all die. This is why the Passover was eaten with belts and sandals on, and staff in hand. And it is also why they departed in haste before the dough was leavened.

21. Yahweh gave them favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they gave them all they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

22. A **mixed multitude** left with them (non-Israelites, presumably a mix of Egyptians and other slave nations formally in captivity in Egypt. Might we presume these people were convinced by the awesome display of power, the plagues, that Egypt is a losing proposition?). **This is an important point to remember when considering Biblical Law.** Yahweh says in Exodus 12:49 that there is **one law** for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you. So, even those not of the blood line of Israel are expected to obey the Laws of Yahweh as if they are also Israelites.

23. We then see that it is the exact day, 430 years after “something” that Israel leaves Egypt, a solemn day to remember forever.

**Look carefully at the words!**

24. **“Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.** And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—**on that very same day**—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:40-41)

25. Yes, the entire Journey for these people WHO NOW LIVED IN EGYPT was 430 years. But it is NOT SAYING they were in Egypt for 430 years (which is a mathematical impossibility). What does span an exact 430 years can be measured from the promise to Abraham and his call to **go out** of Haran (the first Hebrew) to the day of the Exodus, the promise to Israel and the call to **go out** of Egypt. See this [time chart](#) for clarity. It is only during the first 80 years of Moses life that you see Israel as slaves in Egypt (up until then we can presume they are invited guests starting from the time of Joseph).

(a) *And it is quite apparent that the Apostle Paul understood this well, as he too measures the 430 years from Abraham to the Exodus: “Now to **Abraham and his Seed were the promises made.** He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. **And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later,** cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.”*

Galatians 3:16-17 NKJV (The Law was given on Mt. Sinai in the 3rd Month of the Year, only 50 days after the Passover and the Exodus, which was exactly to the day, 430 years after the promise to Abraham.)

## 26. Passover Regulations:

- (a) No foreigner shall eat it.
- (b) Servant's bought for money, who are circumcised may eat it.
- (c) A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it
- (d) No flesh of the lamb may be carried outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones (Consider how none of Y'shua's bones were broken, see John 19:31-37, Num. 9:12, Ps. 34:20).
- (e) "Therefore, because it was the **Preparation Day**, that the bodies should not remain on the cross **on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day)**, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. **But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.** But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For

these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “**Not one of His bones shall be broken.**” And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”” John 19:31-37 NKJV

- (f) **Note:** the phrase “**for that Sabbath was a high day**” refers to a Sabbath associated with a commanded feast, NOT the weekly Sabbath.
- (g) When a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover, all males must be circumcised
- (h) No uncircumcised person shall eat it

27. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you—Exodus 12:49

### **Exodus 13**

28. The firstborn of man and beast must be set-part for Yahweh.

### **29. The Feast of Unleavened Bread:**

- (a) No leavened bread shall be eaten
- (b) Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread
- (c) On the seventh day there shall be a feast to Yahweh
- (d) Tell your children ‘This is done because of what Yahweh did for us when we came up from Egypt.’
- (e) It shall be as a sign and a memorial that Yahweh’s law may be in your mouth forever.
- (f) Therefore keep this ordinance forever.

### 30. The Law of the Firstborn:

- (a) Set apart every male firstborn that comes from an animal
- (b) Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb
- (c) If you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck
- (d) All the firstborns of man you shall redeem
- (e) When your children ask you why, tell them about Pharaoh's stubbornness and how Yahweh killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt
- (f) It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.

### 31. Past Teachings on this Portion: [And Then the End...](#) & [Darkness You Can Feel](#)

#### PURPOSE

#### 1. A Tea Bag is only useful when it is submerged in liquid...

##### A. Dive in and get wet, or keep dry?

(1) Here is your assignment!

- (a) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, ***and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians***

*and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.*" Exodus 10:1-2 ESV

(2) Moses had no intentions of being involved in Yahweh's plan of delivering the Sons of Israel...

(a) Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, *I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.*"

Exodus 4:10 ESV

1. He offered every excuse possible to not be used by Yahweh, not the least of which was his excuse of being "slow of speech."
2. When Moses finally decides to engage in Yahweh's plan of delivering the Sons of Israel, it was then that he became "submerged" into the situation.
3. Otherwise, he would have remained as *useless as a Tea Bag* that was left alone in the box.

## ACTIVATION

2. **The contents in the Tea Bag are only activated in a specific environment...**

A. **The environment is not always pleasant!**

(1) You have to make a choice...

- (a) And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and ***who will go for us?***” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8 ESV
- (b) Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. ***The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.***” ***In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*** Job 1:20-22 ESV
1. The faith of Isaiah and Job was best displayed while in their trials.
  2. Isaiah recognized that the people had gone astray from the Lord and there would be retribution from Yahweh. He also knew that his message would be poorly received, but this was not a detriment to him.
  3. Job, on the other hand, was introduced as a blameless man in the first chapter of the Book named for him.
    - a) There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was ***blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.*** Job 1:1 ESV

- (c) By Yahweh allowing Job to suffer through those painful circumstances, He activated what was already inside of Job, and it became outwardly displayed for the surrounding world to witness.

## FUNCTION

### 3. A Tea Bag is a “Pass-Through Vessel” while a Trash Bag is a “Containment Vessel”.

#### A. Conduit vs. Receptacle

- (1) The life of the Christian is ultimately to be used by Yahweh as a ***conduit and not a receptacle...***
  - (a) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander ***be put away from you***, along with all malice.  
Ephesians 4:31 ESV
  - (b) See to it that no one ***fails to obtain the grace of God***; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, ***and by it many become defiled***. Hebrews 12:15  
ESV
- (2) Conformed to His image...
  - (a) For those whom ***he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son***, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29  
ESV



1. In the process of being used as a conduit, the Christian will ultimately reap the most amazing benefit anything in creation could hope for. That is to be conformed to the image of Christ!

## **B. Why choose conduit over receptacle?**

### (1) Preferring others...

- (a) Do nothing ***from selfish ambition or conceit***, but in humility count ***others more significant than yourselves***.  
Philippians 2:3 ESV
- (b) Let each of you look not ***only to his own interests***, but also to the ***interests of others***. Philippians 2:4 ESV

1. Choosing conduit, motivated by the benefit of being conformed to the image of Christ, is not the proper motive. Pleasing Yahweh is! And He knows your heart!

### (2) Wrong Motives

- (a) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit ***was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."*** But Peter said to him, ***"May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot***

*in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.*

Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that ***you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.***" Acts 8:18-23

ESV

## OPTIMIZATION

**4. A Tea Bag is best utilized when the liquid is hot (the hotter the circumstances the better!).**

**A. Out of the frying pan and into the fire...**

(1) We live in the world...

(a) And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and Jehovah brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all the night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. And the locusts ***went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in all the coasts of Egypt***, very numerous. Before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. Exodus 10:13-14 NKJV

1. It should seem obvious that the Sons of Israel lived through the ***same plagues that the Egyptians did***, and while they were not afflicted by all, the eighth and

the tenth were Universal in nature. They too had to endure the Locust devouring everything in sight, and also their firstborn being threatened, if they did not have the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts.

2. Each plague had a different degree of severity and impact, but none of them were enjoyable to say the least.
3. Just as in present circumstances, the Believer is not immune **to the trials that befall mankind** because of an unwillingness to surrender to Yahweh's will.

## **B. Refinement**

(1) The refining pot...

- (a) Consider the words of Y'shua, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation.** But take heart; **I have overcome the world.**" John 16:33 ESV
- (b) Do **not fear what you are about to suffer.** Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.** Revelation 2:10 ESV
- (c) The refining pot is for silver, **and the furnace for gold,** but Jehovah tries the hearts. Proverbs 17:3 NKJV

(d) “Blessed are those ***who are persecuted for righteousness'*** sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when ***others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*** Matthew 5:10-11 ESV

1. For the Believer, each and every time we find ourselves being persecuted for Kingdom Business, according to Y’Shua, we should consider ourselves Blessed!

## OUTPUT

**5. Tea Bags release enjoyable spices and flavors; Trash Bags...not so much!**

### **A. Christian Flavor!**

- (1) Used for what it is good for or thrown in the trash?
  - (a) “You are the salt of the earth, ***but if salt has lost its taste,*** how shall its saltiness be restored? ***It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.*** Matthew 5:13 ESV
  - (b) Salt is good, ***but if the salt has lost its saltiness,*** how will you make it salty again? ***Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.***” Matthew 9:50 ESV

1. I don't know about you, but I would much rather sniff a nice cup of Chai than a trash bag.
2. And While the Bible does not make direct mention of Tea Bags or Trash Bags, it does however make mention of other flavorful spices we can look at to make a valid point.
3. Y'Shua likens the believer to salt—because it was useful when used on purpose!

(2) Seasoned with salt!

- (a) Let your speech ***always be gracious***, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:6 ESV

**B. You cannot be both at Tea Bag AND a Trash Bag...**

(1) You cannot have it both ways...

- (a) Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both ***fresh and saltwater***? James 3:11 ESV

1. Do you understand what James is saying here? It seems rather obvious and elementary.
2. You cannot raise your hands up at Church, worship God, say all kinds of beautiful things and then run your mouth like a sailor at the first person that gets under your skin.

3. Do you disagree? Are you going to blame your genetics, your past, your environment?
4. Take ownership and repent!

## SUMMARY

### **6. It's up to you to choose Tea Bag or Trash Bag**

#### **A. Do you want to be used for Kingdom Business?**

- (1) It is imperative that as Believers we hold fast to the trials that Yahweh allows into our lives.
  - (a) Everyone of us deals with different levels and length of how long a trial will last.
  - (b) Ultimately, when one season begins another is ending.
- (2) The Sons of Israel had to endure a long period of preparation under the tyranny of Egypt.
  - (a) After the death of Joseph, Yahweh had placed them in the land of Goshen for a very specific (dual) purpose.
  - (b) On one side of the equation he placed them there so that they could reap the benefits of the work He (Yahweh) did through Joseph. Allowing them to have plentiful provision long enough to multiply to over 2 million strong.
  - (c) On the other end, they grew so strong and mighty that Pharaoh saw them as a threat which would ultimately

place them under slavery by the Pharaoh who did not know Joseph, and thereby the fulfillment of a promise in the need to “exodus” to the promised land.

- (3) Much of the trials we endure have this same makeup.
  - (a) On one end they force a short term specific and personal trait or character development in us.
  - (b) On the other hand, they bring about a much larger end goal to fruition, one we are not able to see from our short sighted vantage point.
- (4) In the likeness of a Tea Bag...
  - (a) If we kick back at Yahweh each and every time He desires to pull us out of our box (figuratively speaking), we’ll eventually dry up and become tasteless and useless for all purposes intended.
  - (b) If we were to agree to be placed in hot water, but then recant and complain as to how hot it is (also figuratively speaking), we then jump out leaving the water (our environment) only partially changed, or hardly changed at all, not having completed the task at hand.
- (5) It is much easier to be a trash bag, walking around as a receptacle vessel, being filled with envy, anger, jealousy, cantankerousness, backbiting, bitterness, evil speaking,

clamor, etc. (Are you getting the picture? I could add more if you'd like!).

- (a) Here is my suggestion, CUT IT OFF! If you choose to be the Trash bag instead, you will be useless for Kingdom Business.
- (b) I can only hope and pray that is not where you want to spend the rest of your days.
- (c) Let go of everything that separates you from what Yahweh wants to accomplish.
- (d) He will do His Kingdom Business through you, or if you'd rather, someone else.

## **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

### **1. How do you find yourself responding to Yahweh when searching Scriptures or in your prayer time?**

- A. Does He "speak" to you?
- B. Are there a bunch of distractions keeping you from getting engaged and thereby not being submerged?

### **2. Compare and contrast a Tea Bag and a Trash Bag.**

- A. Make sure you include in your answer what happens when a tea bag either gets wet or stays dry.



B. Discuss the temperature of the water in which a tea bag steeps relative to the trials you face when being used by God.

**3. Describe how your life is represented by the following:**

A. A Tea Bag

B. A Trash Bag

C. If you are not the bag you want to be, what will you do to change?

**4. It's one thing to praise, pray and preach when all things are going great...**

A. How do you react when things are difficult?

B. What motivates you more: Being blessed by Yahweh or being pleasing to Yahweh? Please explain.

**5. What does it mean to be persecuted for Kingdom Business?**

A. Do you desire to be used for kingdom Business? Please explain.

**6. What does it mean to be "salty" for God?**

A. What lesson did Y'shua teach us about salt?

B. What lesson did Paul teach us about salt?

C. What lesson did James teach us about salt?