

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG234 – The Lesson of Pharaoh

Welcome to this podcast. I am glad you joined us today. I want to talk about some of what is transpiring around us, because I always have a great concern that people need to not misinterpret God in His thinking and His will as things begin to transpire. In the last two podcasts that I have done, I talked a lot about this idea of the Kingdom of God coming, and the fact that when the Kingdom of God comes, it stirs up the nations. The nations come up against God, and the focus of that is Israel and the Jewish people; but the real rejection is of the Kingdom of God and the ways of God. Israel and the Jewish people represent the ways of God and the coming forth of the Kingdom, as the Kingdom on earth will be manifest in Israel. All of these things are very clear biblically, but I am not going to go off into that right now; I want to focus on the fact that there is a lot of turmoil.

Christ prophesied about wars, rumors of wars. In the book of Revelation, we see many things taking place, and it seems like a lot of blood and gore that goes on. You can really misunderstand these things in not grasping where they are coming from and what is taking place, especially in the heart of God surrounding it. I do not think God is looking for war, I do not think He is wanting war. What God wants is to set up His Kingdom. And not only does God want to set up His Kingdom, but God's will is to set up His Kingdom, and God is going to set up His Kingdom. The end-time and the struggles of the end-time are all surrounding that reality, that the Kingdom of God will be set up.

We want to look at some of the Scriptures as this is taking place, because it does get very much into the area of judgment. But again, I want us to recognize that in the heart of God, He wants mercy to triumph over judgment. Yes, people need to submit to His Kingdom; and we know that one way or another, people will submit to His Kingdom. Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Christ is the Lord, and that God is the Creator, and He is going to rule and reign on earth. So we see that the process of this playing out is not necessarily a pretty sight, because of the refusal on the leaders – the kings, the rulers, the governments, the nations of the world not wanting this Kingdom of God to take over their kingdoms. You find very few rulers that want to be displaced, and you find very few dictators, especially, that want to be displaced. They want to stay in power. They love being in power. They love ruling over the peoples. But God is going to rule over the hearts of people, not the nations as they are known today.

I am going to read out of Isaiah 34, verses 1-3. This is about some of these judgments that take place in the transition of the world into the Kingdom of God.

Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it. For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, and His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. So their slain will be thrown out, and their corpses will give off their stench, and the mountains will be drenched with their blood.

The reason I am doing this is because of the accusation that comes out about God, that God is a murderer; that He is horrible, He is looking to destroy people, He is a God of judgment, and all of that. I want to turn that around, because He is not that. He is a God of love. He is a God of compassion. He is

a God of righteousness, justice, salvation; and He is determined that the world is going to be filled with peace. And there is no way for it to be filled with peace until it is filled with His leadership, until it is under His hand in His Kingdom. So, what happens is that God does move in judgment, but what He is judging is that which is refusing Him – that which is refusing peace, that which is refusing justice, that which is refusing righteousness.

We see this playing out before our very eyes today, and we have especially seen it since October the seventh, when Israel was invaded out of Gaza by Hamas. We saw the slaughter, the rape, the inhumane treatment. As this is being recorded, we still have over a hundred hostages being held. We have people being abused. We see the government, which is Hamas, withholding the goods which are being provided, the food and the help, the medical supplies, from the peoples of Gaza, who are supposed to be the people they are ruling over. This is what we are talking about. This is not a new story, this goes back millennia, where governments of nations, where rulers, where leaders, have abused the people, have abused their authority, have used their power as a power of destruction. We see this has happened in Syria under the hand of Assad rulership and family for so many years; and just recently, mass graves have been uncovered of over one hundred thousand bodies that were destroyed by their own leaders. This is what the world has been made of, and this is what goes on in this age. When we say, “I am sure it does not go on in places like America. Where we live, we have law and justice,” that has been perverted and is not really the truth. We see a lot of drug trafficking, we see sex trafficking, we see children being abused. We see so many things that are taking place; and it may not be as much in the public eye, but there, again, why not? So, we are not going to have a righteous world until we have a righteous King, until we have a righteous Judge over all of the earth. And this is what is beginning to transpire.

The Kingdom of God is coming, and we should continue to pray for the Kingdom of God to come. That is what Yeshua taught us to pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on this earth as it is in heaven.” That is our directive. That is what is going on. We are praying in the Kingdom of God, and we need the Kingdom of God because there is no solution. I do not care what the problem is, there is no solution other than the righteous King of all the earth coming to rule and reign over all of the earth. We see that this fight against the Kingdom is in full swing, and it is not going to stop. These ones that are dedicated to the destruction of Israel, they are not going to stop. And that is where we have to recognize what God does, coming and destroying the armies, coming in indignation. He is not a God of indignation, He is a God of peace. But when it comes to the destruction of His creation, He is willing to engage in the indignation necessary. He will come with a force that is an equal and opposite force, because I tell you, when you get down to the mentality of satan, satan will never quit; he will never quit. Do not think that there is another solution to these problems. Do not think that there is another solution to this world, other than the Kingdom of God coming. It must come, and it must be complete. And it must come at the elimination of every other kingdom, of every other ruler, of every other nation that has pre-existed that Kingdom.

Those kingdoms that are driven by satan to refuse the Kingdom of God we see in the Gospels through Christ, over and over in the parables. We read about the ruler that came, and those who were supposed to be taking care of the vineyard tried to kill Him. We understand through the Scriptures that satan’s end game is that there be no flesh saved alive, and you are not going to talk him out of that end game. You are not going to talk him out of that plan. You are not going to talk the existing nations out of their plan. If you think you are going to talk Erdogan out of his plan to reestablish the caliphate over all of the Middle East, which includes Israel; if you think you are going to talk Putin out of re-establishing what he

sees as the glory of Russia; or if you think you are going to talk Xi out of his mental concept of being the divine ruler over a kingdom, you are crazy. You are never going to talk these people out of their rulership over the nations – which includes the injustice that is necessary to accomplish that, which includes the misuse of the people, which includes the destruction of faith and religion. It is not going to stop. Hamas is not going to stop. Hezbollah is not going to stop. It is in their very charters that they are out for the destruction of Israel, “from the river to the sea.” What does that mean? That means the genocide of every Jew on the planet. That is what it means. Don’t kid yourself, that is exactly what it means. And I think our college kids today literally are honestly too stupid to even understand what they are saying, but that is what they are saying, and that is what it means.

Jihadists are not going to stop until they see that ultimate destruction, until they have taken over all of Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple Mount. It is in their very charters. Go look it up, it is online. Read the charter of Hamas – it calls for the destruction of the Jewish people and the Jewish state. These are what the world is up against. So, when all of a sudden you see God moving in indignation and coming in wrath, destroying the armies of the nations that are coming against His Kingdom, destroying them until the slain are thrown out on the streets and the corpses stink and the mountains are drenched in blood, that is not God’s doing. There is no other solution for it, because they will never stop. And don’t kid yourself, if you think they are going to stop, you are just going to be among the next dead.

You look at what is happening right now in Germany. You see protest in the streets. Who is protesting in the streets of Germany? The Muslim jihadists, that is who is protesting. What are they protesting? They are protesting the fact that the German government will not give over to them Sharia law. It is insanity. But do not think it is going to stop, and do not think we are not facing that in the United States; because you just have no idea how many jihadists have been allowed into this country under this existing administration that we have right now. And I am talking about the Biden administration, in case it is not clear, and in case by the time this comes out we have had a change of administration. Hopefully, a new administration will set up something different, and have enough wisdom and understanding to see the mentality of what they are facing, to realize that these people are not going to stop. You are not going to find some deal with them where they are going to change. People are rejoicing over what has happened in Syria. Oh, really? But listen to the new leaders of Syria. What are they saying? They are saying the same thing as Iran has been saying, the same thing as Hamas has been saying. They are out for the destruction of Israel, they are out for the destruction of the Jewish people globally, and it is happening more and more. So, yes, we see these verses, and it does; it sounds bloodthirsty, and it sounds like it is the purpose of God. It is not the purpose of God. It is the response of God to that which refuses to stop.

I am going to read out of Joel the third chapter, verses 9-17. It says,

Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “I am a mighty man.” Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down, O Lord, Your mighty ones. Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

In other words, there comes a time when God is done. You say, “Well, it does not seem like very long.” Oh, really? I think it has been millennia that this has been going on, that those rulers and judges of the nations have been refusing and fighting the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness. The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem [we know He is in control of those areas], and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the Lord is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will pass through it no more.

This is the outcome. Why the violence? Why the judgments? It is not something that God is looking forward to. Again, He always looks for mercy to triumph over judgment. He always is holding out the hand of grace. At any moment you can receive His salvation, His grace, His Lordship, His Kingdom into your heart, into your life, and into your nation; it is there. But you have to learn the lesson of Pharaoh. That is what Israel has learned, and that is what everybody should learn. You say it seems unfair, and unrighteous, that God is slaying the armies of the nations. Well, let's look at the lesson of Pharaoh. We will start at Exodus the tenth chapter, verses 1-3.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them, and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the Lord." Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.'"

This is what we see playing out today. We see the refusal of those who will not and never plan to submit. And of course, people get hung up in this thing that says, "I have hardened his heart"; verse 1, "For I have hardened his heart." What does that mean and how does that work? I want us to get a clear understanding, because this is where people go back and blame God for injustice, blame God for the judgements, blame God for the blood that is spilled, and refuse to understand that it is flipping the coin: on the other side it is their refusal. And that is what Aaron and Moses say, "How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me." See, they refuse God.

What are you dealing with here? You are dealing with a law. It is like a law of gravity. You say, "God hardened Pharaoh's heart." "These people's hearts are hardened against Israel, against the Jewish people, but God has hardened their hearts." No, that is a result; that is not the nexus of what transpires. In Romans 1, verses 18-20, it says,

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

People, whether they claim to be religious people or not religious people, the fact is that they are living in the creation that God made, and seeing His invisible attributes and His eternal power. But see, they refuse it. They want to call it something else: "Oh no, it's coming from another source, other than God. It's not God." See, they refuse to believe, refuse to believe. It does not matter how much God proves Himself, to the point of bringing His own Son into the earth, and showing signs and wonders. And that is what He did with Moses. That is why this lesson comes back so early in the history of mankind, that Moses came and spoke, that he showed the signs, showed the wonders. But what happened with

Pharaoh? It says his heart was hardened; okay, it says God hardened his heart. Did God directly harden his heart? No, he refused. Remember what Moses said? "How long will you refuse to humble yourself?" People in this day and age are seeing all of these things, but what do they do? They refuse, refuse, refuse, refuse. You say, "Well then, God hardens their heart." Well, it is like gravity. Listen, no one is ever surprised when you drive a car off a cliff that you fall down the cliff. You do not say, "Oh, God killed the person because they fell down the cliff when they drove off." No, that is not what is happening. You drive the car off the cliff – just don't drive the car off the cliff! You put yourself under the laws of gravity. There are laws that God created. If you refuse Him and refuse Him and refuse Him, refuse to humble yourself before Him, and His Word, and what He has said, and what He is ordering mankind to do, then you come under those laws.

We pray for it, "Thy will be done." He has a will. He has a Word that He has given to us of how we, as humans, are to live, how we are to treat one another, how we are to worship Him. All these things are laid out very clearly. And when we do not do that, our heart does become hardened, our mind is hardened against God. But it does not start there. It starts because all of these things since the creation of the world – His invisible attributes, His eternal power, His divine nature – have been clearly seen and are understood through that which has been made, so that humanity is without excuse. Verse 21, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Yes, people are moving with a hard heart. Their minds are filled with futility. They are darkened in their understanding. But that is a result of their actions, not a result of God's actions. And it is important for us to see that as we walk through these days, because God is going to move. But God is a God of justice, and He is not going to move or bring judgment in an unjust way. That is why we as believers keep saying, "Oh, when is the Kingdom going to come? Thy Kingdom come, we want Your Kingdom to come." But God's long suffering keeps delaying, delaying, delaying, until it just cannot be delayed anymore; and I think we are getting closer and closer to that moment. See, Pharaoh refused to recognize God as God, so what did God do? He came and destroyed the gods of Egypt that they were worshiping. And God is going to do that again in this age. He is going to come in this age, and what is He going to be destroying? What is going to be destroyed? Every god that people are worshiping that is not Him, that will be what is being destroyed.

Verses 21-24,

But they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

So, did God move? Did He let them be turned over to the lusts of their heart and over to impurities, and their heart be hardened, and their mind futile? Yes. Why? Because they kept refusing, refusing, refusing, before He did that. And He does not do it directly; it is like the law of gravity, it just exists. It just exists as part of the laws of creation, that if you refuse the true God of creation, your mind will be darkened. And we see that in this generation. People are proclaiming things that are so stupid. You say, "How can they believe that? How do you believe that a man gives birth to children, and stand before Congress and swear to it? How do you proclaim some of these things that are coming out of the woke mentality?" It is beyond ridiculous; and at first, I had a hard time, thinking, "These people don't really believe this, it's just too against science." When it comes to the issues about global warming, everybody is saying,

“Oh, you have to believe the science! You have to believe the science! You have to believe the science!” But when it comes to sexuality, “Oh, you can’t believe the science! You can be anything.” You see, people’s hearts are darkened. They are being turned over to futility because of their refusal of God time and time again.

Verses 25-28,

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind....

Pharaoh had a depraved mind, but God gave him over to the depraved mind because that was his choice to continue to refuse to humble himself before God. And that is what is happening in the day that we are living in. God is giving people over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper.

Verses 29-32,

...being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil [we have seen a lot of invention of evil; look at the Holocaust – they had to invent a way to kill so many people simultaneously], disobedient to parents [part of today’s reality is, you cannot tell the parents what the child is doing], without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

So, what is the lesson of Pharaoh? The lesson of Pharaoh is, number one, satan will never quit. He will never quit. Just like Pharaoh never quit – he was bent on the destruction of Israel. And today, the nations are bent on the destruction of Israel. Those wicked nations that are refusing the Kingdom of God are taking it out on Israel. That is number one. Number two is, they will not stop pursuing until they have brought complete destruction, because their minds are filled with deception, their hearts are hardened, and they cannot understand the truth any longer. This is what is transpiring.

What we learn from the lesson of Pharaoh is that you cannot negotiate with someone who desires nothing but your destruction. And that is who satan is; you can never negotiate with him. He is not going to be saved. He is on one course and one course only, that is your destruction.

We have to reach in to the Lord in His salvation, His truth, His righteousness, His justice, because God is getting ready to move. And when He does, do not blame what happens on God, or on those who are serving God. Blame it on those who, like Pharaoh, refused time and time again to humble their hearts and open their hearts to receive the things of God in His truth.

Amen.