

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG244 – The Difficulties of Deliverance

Hi, I am glad you could join me for this podcast today. This podcast is being released the same week that we begin the Feast of Passover, Pesach, in 2025. For the biblical feasts, I really try to seek the Lord to say, “What are You speaking, not just within the feast generally, but what are You saying for us in this particular year or time frame that we are celebrating a specific feast?” And so, as we have been approaching this time of Pesach, I have been looking to the Lord with this question in my heart, to see where He would like us to focus and to go relative to this time of Passover; and I want to talk about the difficulties of deliverance. One of the great things about this time of Passover, as well as several of the different biblical feasts, is that they are so filled with different aspects of our relationship to the Lord that can be focused on, that really teach us and impart to us lessons and give us direction for the year or the time frame that we are living in, and living through, and walking in with Him. I feel that way with this Passover. I feel that we are in a very special year and a time when the Lord wants to meet our hearts and help us to move in the direction that He is wanting us to go. Because of that, I want to focus on this fact, that when God is bringing us into the time of Passover and we are going to be living through the Passover, we see that it was, of course, a time of deliverance; and much of the time when we speak of Passover, we are talking about this deliverance that happens.

We know that the children of Israel were really crying out to the Lord. They were praying. When He comes in Exodus the third chapter, it says that He has heard the cries of the people and He has come down to deliver them. And so, we know that Passover is about deliverance, it is a time of deliverance; but it is easy sometimes to miss the fact that deliverance is not always the easiest thing for us as believers to experience, to go through in our relationship with the Lord. There is one thing that is happening during the story of Passover relative to Pharaoh, as well as to Egypt itself, the gods of Egypt that God was dealing with and delivering Israel out from under; but at the same time, we find that it was really a difficult time for Israel in their experience and their understanding of a relationship with the Lord. Now, remember that Israel had been in this bondage for some four hundred years, so they were very conditioned to being slaves, very conditioned to living in Egypt and living under the taskmasters’ directions and whips and the difficulties. It was a very difficult life. And yet, as we know, we as humans in our nature can seem to adjust to situations, even when they are very difficult; and they can even become in a sense our comfort zone, our normal. And so, as God came down to speak to Moses and to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt, there was a huge reality to the fact that He was disrupting the children of Israel in what had become for them in many ways a comfort zone; and what they began to experience in the deliverance was not that easy, it was very difficult.

We see that in Exodus the fourth chapter. I will start at verse 29 and continue through chapter 5 verse 2. It says,

Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; and Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed; and when they had heard that the Lord was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed low and worshiped.

And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and besides, I will not let Israel go."

So we see the battle is on, and Pharaoh is not going to let the children of Israel go. When they first heard about this, the children of Israel were very excited. I know that is the way it is with us many times as we walk before the Lord. We read the promises, we see what God is going to do in our lives – we are going to be new creatures, we are going to be freed from our sin, we are going to be freed from our old nature, and we are going to have a walk with Him – all of these things that are given in promise. That is what Israel had at the beginning of this, and they bowed low and they worshiped God. They were so thankful that God had heard them and was really coming down to do something for them.

We see then that as Moses goes in to begin the process of this deliverance and he speaks to Pharaoh, Pharaoh is not nearly as excited about this idea of deliverance as were the children of Israel, and he is not going to let the people go. So, he directs that they have to make bricks without straw, and the taskmasters begin to beat them, and they are not very excited about this. If we go to verses 19-20, it says, "The foremen of the sons of Israel saw that they were in trouble because they were told, 'You must not reduce your daily amount of bricks.' When they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them." The foremen of Israel had gone in to talk to Pharaoh and say, "Why are you treating us this way? What is going on?" He said, "You guys are being lazy. You do not want to work anymore, so I am going to make your work harder, and I am going to make the taskmasters over you make sure that you do not reduce your daily amount of bricks." So the bondage becomes more strict, more severe.

All of a sudden, this process of deliverance that they had seen from one perspective – "Yay, let's worship God! Thank You, Lord, You are here to deliver us! We are going to be out from under the bondage of Egypt, and we are going to be free to worship You" – does not turn out to be quite as delightful and easy as they may have thought in the beginning. Things get worse. And this is an important point for us to recognize, because when we talk about deliverance, we find that many times things get worse before they get better. I think that is why the Lord is emphasizing this to us in this year, in this time that we are in, because we know we are in end times; and one of the things that we see about the end-time is that things do tend to get worse before they get better. It is very necessary that we keep our focus on what it is that the Lord has said, on what it is that He has promised for us to have as we move in and through these times. Therefore, our focus cannot be on the difficulty, on the hardship. Just like Israel was beginning to be rudely awoken to the fact that things were getting worse and it was not just a dream, this was really happening, for us also, as we move through times of the end, it is not going to be just some fantasy. There may be many things that become very difficult, and it may be that this deliverance at times really shakes you out of a comfort zone.

Like the children of Israel, we could find for ourselves that there are many things about this age that we have come to like, come to be bonded to, come to be very comfortable with. Yes, we know there are difficulties, there are things that we do not like that are going on around us, many times terrible things. And yet, at the same time, we kind of lose sight of that as we enmesh ourselves into the reality of our situation – especially as it goes on for a long period of time. And let's face it, we in our generation, in this year 2025, we have had years and years of growing comfortable with the way the age is going. I would say that for the last seventy or more years, we have seen things moving in a negative direction as far as

things about society and about morality, about Judeo-Christian values no longer being a focal point. There is a lot that has gone on, and yet it has happened slowly over a long period of time; and as it has happened, we have gotten more and more used to it, maybe even more and more comfortable with it. And this is really what Israel experienced.

This idea of Israel coming into slavery – it did not start that way. They came into Egypt under Joseph as a deliverance from the famine that was taking place, and coming to Egypt literally saved their lives. When they first came into Egypt, we know that Joseph was really next to Pharaoh on the throne. He was literally in charge of Egypt, and making the laws and the rules. Pharaoh gave him free reign; he basically gave him his signet ring to do whatever he saw was necessary in order to save Egypt and their lives from the famine that was taking place in the land, and this was a protection and a covering literally to all of Israel. So, Israel did not start out as slaves; they started out being really highly looked at, because it was Joseph who was saving everyone's life. This idea of slavery came on maybe slowly. Things changed after Joseph passed away, and we do not know how long of a period it was before the Pharaoh said, "Hey, we better watch it. This people is growing in number as strong as we are, and we need to oppress them so that they will not take over our place as rulers of Egypt." So, when you look back on it from that perspective, it is not exactly like when we are dropped into this story after four hundred years of slavery; it did not begin that way.

I think that when we look at where we are in these times, after the coming of Christ and the ascension of Christ, after 2,000 years of Christianity and the Church age and the things that have transpired, a lot of our experience of negativity and oppression has come on slowly because we have lived under the god of this age, satan's rule. It says that he is the ruler of this world. And so, I think that we have experienced this in a very similar way to how Israel came under the bondage. I think that when we look around at ourselves today, and when we look at society today, we look at it generationally; we seem to do that quite a bit now. We track each generation, give it a certain name, and look at the influences surrounding them as they have grown up – what it is like and what the results of their surroundings have been in creating them as they come into adulthood. And we have seen tremendous, tremendous changes in the generations that have existed, say, prior to World War 2, and during and after World War 2. Generationally, people have changed significantly, and much about society has gone away from the things of God and faith in the Lord. Hopefully, we are seeing that turned around. But it is important to see and recognize that our whole psyche has changed in the world today and in humanity, in the generations; it is very different, until we could come into an age of woke mentality which is just so far afield from any kind of reality or scientific basis that it is crazy to think people would believe some of the things they believe in today. So, I think that there is a real connection to look at Passover as this deliverance began to manifest for the children Israel, and to realize that if we are in the end times, the last days, then we are in a time of deliverance; because we are transitioning out of being in a bondage to this age, and moving on into the next age that God has for us.

We see this idea playing out, because Moses and Aaron are waiting for the elders of Israel to come out from their audience with Pharaoh. In verse 21, "They said to them, 'May the Lord look upon you and judge you, for you have made us odious in Pharaoh's sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.'" So Moses returns to the Lord and says, "Hey, Lord, what's up? You brought harm to this people. Why did You send me here?" So, it is very confusing; and I think this is important, because some of the events that we may find ourselves in during this age and this time can become very confusing to many people: "I thought God was bringing forth His Kingdom. I thought God was delivering us." Well, God is delivering us; and yet, at the same time, there are a few difficulties with

deliverance; and those difficulties really are found within our own hearts and what has happened to us by the influence of what we have lived under for our lifetimes. Remember, these Israelites that are in this story have lived their lives in slavery, and their parents and their grandparents have lived lives in slavery. So, this is deeply, deeply rooted; the influences, the conditionings, all that it meant to be a slave in Egypt has very much become part of their heart and soul, and their life and their thinking, and their way of life.

We see this play out even after Israel is delivered on the night of Passover. God takes them out and they begin to walk in the wilderness, and all of a sudden Pharaoh goes, "Wait, wait, what did I do? Why did I let them go? We cannot let these guys go!" Pharaoh summoned his armies and marched after them to destroy or bring the children of Israel back. And so, here they are, finally they are out of Egypt. They are marching out proudly. Everything seems like, "Wow, God really delivered us! Look at how He destroyed, through judgment, the gods of Egypt, and Egypt itself with the killing of the firstborn." They are marching, free finally. Then, as they approach the Red Sea, something happens, and they begin to see that the Egyptians now are following them into the wilderness.

In Exodus 14 at verses 11-12, they come to Moses; and "then they said to Moses, 'Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, "Leave us alone..."?' " See, they are going back talking about when they came out from their audience with Pharaoh and he was making life horrible for them, and they cursed Moses and Aaron and said, "Leave us alone." That is what they are referring to here in verse 12: "'Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, "Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.'"

We see this interesting dynamic, that literally in the minds of these Israelites, it was better that they stay in Egypt and die under the slavery of Egypt than to be destroyed out in the wilderness by the Egyptian armies. And we see this literally time and time again in their process of going into the wilderness, so much so that it is repeated in Psalm 106. I want to just read that really quickly, and then we will move on. In verses 6-12, it says,

We have sinned like our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly. Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember Your abundant kindnesses, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, that He might make His power known. Thus He rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up, and He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness. So He saved them from the hand of the one who hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. Then they believed His words; they sang His praise."

We see that all of this transpired by the children of Israel when they were led through the Red Sea. But it says that they forgot, they could not remember the wonders of what God had done in delivering them from Egypt. This is the attitude that we sometimes find ourselves fighting; it can be very uncomfortable to really face what is necessary in being delivered by God. And that is what we want to watch for ourselves, as we are so conditioned to the age and the atmosphere that we were raised in and that we are living in now. We must be careful not to almost reject deliverances, or begin to murmur and complain about what we go through. It will be very uncomfortable at times. It will not be in alignment with your comfort zone and all of the things that maybe you are looking for.

I want to read one more Scripture out of Deuteronomy the sixth chapter, and I will start at verse 21. It says, "Then you shall say to your son," talking about the celebration of the Pesach. Well, let me back up to verse 20, it will make more sense.

Verses 20-24,

"When your son asks you in time to come [about the Passover Seder and the celebration at Pesach], saying, 'What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the Lord our God commanded you?' [in other words, "I do not understand what the Seder is all about"], then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand. Moreover, the Lord showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.' So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes."

In other words, He gave them the Seder, that generation after generation they might rehearse what happened in this deliverance and realize the purpose. What I love about this verse is that finally we come to the place where there is a deep, deep understanding of really what the purpose of deliverance was. And that is, in verse 23, "He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers." We must understand this, that in the days we are living in, it is not about the great tribulation, it is not about the difficulties of things that will go on. There will be these things, because we will be like Israel in a time when God is judging that which is oppressing His people and blocking us from being able to enter in to His Kingdom. There is one aspect of that judgment and deliverance that is shown through the story of Pharaoh and the Egyptian people. But there is another aspect of the story that we do not necessarily focus on as often, of how it impacted Israel and the children of Israel, and what they needed themselves in their own hearts of a deliverance. Because for them, God was not just taking them out of Egypt; He was bringing them in to the land of promise. He was fulfilling His Word to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was fulfilling the revelation that He had given. And in order for Him to both bring them out of the bondage as well as bring them in to the promise, He had to deal with the things in their own hearts that had been conditioned to and affected by being slaves. And I think that this is what we are going to see in this age. Yes, there may be tribulation; there may be difficult times. It may be hard to go through what we will experience going through. But we must be delivered out of Egypt in order to be brought in to the land of promise that He has given us.

I just want to focus on these points as we end this. God is bringing the end of this age to bring us into the age of His Kingdom, where Messiah reigns as King. He is bringing us out of this age to bring us into His Kingdom. That is the real focus. We may not find this process, or even His Kingdom, in alignment with our comfort zone, so hold on, it could be a bumpy ride. But just know that God, in His love, His grace, and His kindness, is bringing you out of all the conditionings to an age which is dying away; and He is reconditioning you to be able to live in the days of His Kingdom under the Messiah as King. And we open our hearts to this experience of Passover.

Lord, we do want deliverance, and there are difficulties of deliverance. Those difficulties come because of our conditioning to our bondage. Lord, in Your lovingkindness, deliver us from our conditionings and bring us into Your loving Kingdom. You are truly bringing us out in order that You might bring us in.

Amen.