

Exod 03-06-22a

Scripture reading and Bible study to go to the Lord in prayer gives us a chance to make sure that the status of our souls is such that God the Holy Spirit can minister the truth of God's Word to us. Otherwise we are an impermeable surface. It doesn't sink in.

It doesn't do us any good. God will bless us with insight and with understanding, with remembrance and with the ability to see how to apply His Word. But we have to be paying attention both at the beginning of the process, which is learning it, and at the end, which is applying it.

So let's take just a moment to go to the Lord in prayer. Father, thank You for the many blessings that You bestow on us each day. We thank You for the fact that we have Your Word and Your Spirit to sustain us, to provide us with everything we need to fulfill Your purpose, and apart from which it is impossible for us to follow Your plan and live in the way that You would have us live.

We thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ who died on our behalf to deliver us from a hopeless situation and we know that the ongoing outworking of our salvation is also deliverance from situations that seem intransigent and seem an impossible solution. We thank You for the country in which we live. We thank You for our government and our leadership.

We pray that You will continue to be with them and guide them as they make important decisions both for domestic and foreign policy. We pray for those in the military service. We pray for those members of our congregation, both present and absent, who are seeking to live in a way that is pleasing in Your sight.

We pray that You will encourage all of us, bring to our minds what we have learned, and impress upon our hearts the nearness of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the importance of being ready for the coming kingdom, and for an eternal future in Your presence. We pray that You'll be with us as we study. Help us to rightly divide the word of truth.

We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen. First scripture reading this morning, turn with me to Psalm 115.

Psalm 115. This is a psalm that addresses itself to the difference between God and what people think is God. In the Old Testament days, people didn't have Amazon.com. They didn't have Barnes & Noble.

They didn't have all sorts of media outlets for people saying, this is the big magic trick to make things work, to make life count, to be happy and successful. What did they have? They had superstitions. They had snake oil salesmen of that day who said, let me whisper in your ear and tell you the secret way.

Let me tell you the wonderful inside track on how to really be happy and how to really get ahead and prosper. We have this in a lot of different forms today. They had it in a few forms in the ancient world, but it's all the same thing.

We choose, you and I choose every day, what we are going to trust in, what we put our faith in, what we think is going to make life work and make it an enjoyable experience, don't we? We say, well, I'm going to just follow my own judgment. I'm going to at any given moment make a decision. I'm captain of my ship.

I'm master of my fate. I stand at the helm and as the winds blow and as the seas change and as I see the coastline appear and disappear, I'll just turn the wheel and I'll make my own choices. I'll just guide my own way.

I don't need those navigation buoys. I don't need those lighthouses. I don't need any guidance.

I'll just trust my own instincts. I'll do what feels good to me at any given time. We all do this, don't we? All of us at different times say, you know, I really just have an urge.

I have a feeling. I have the idea. That's what I'm going to do.

Other people place their faith in some external form of guidance and there are lots of options. They print the horoscope in the paper and now on the web every single day. And if you're a Sagittarius or a Capricorn or an Aquarius or a Pisces or a Taurus, is that one? Taurus? I know it's a car.

I guess all of these different astrological signs, you go in and you look yourself up. Capricorn. The stars indicate that this is a good day to hedge your bets and have a plan B. And so people will look this up.

And some random word generator up in Chicago someplace is just spewing forth these things based on nothing and printing it in the paper and people live their life by that. We laugh and we say, boy, is that ever foolish. How could some third rate \$7.50 an hour clerk in Chicago possibly know that today is the day I should hedge my bets and have a plan B? I have no idea what it actually says.

I'm just making that up. But I've looked at them in the past. Well, there are other people who live for the stock market.

They've got investments and they have a portfolio and the driving factor in their day is the stock market. And they are close personal friends with their broker and have his cell phone number and they call night and day. They're watching the little, do you ever wonder that fast running thing they have on CNN at the bottom and there's a blue stripe and a red stripe and they've got the Dow Jones Industrials and the New York Stock Exchange and all this other stuff and it's just this meaningless jumble.

There are people, that is their Bible. That is their be all and end all and they will make a phone call. They will buy.

They will sell. They will trade. They will do whatever based on this little running ticker at the bottom of the screen.

There are other people who live for entertainment and organize their life based on when their favorite show is going to come on and I won't miss whatever, The Bachelor, Survivor, Star Trek, whatever it might be, Alias or The Practice or whatever show, they'll just work their life around so that they can be in front of the tube at a certain time and heaven help you if you need them, I mean they will set aside everything to be sure they get that. Or if their favorite musical artist is coming to town and there's a concert or there's an interview with them on web chat or something, well they'll clear the decks and move heaven and earth to be there. So we understand this principle, right? People have things that they put their faith in and say this is what will make me happy.

This is what's going to make my life worthwhile. Hopefully for us as believers, the things of God are amongst that number. We don't ever hope that that's going to be the only thing.

We are going to continue to guide our life by what we see in the news and all, remember Y2K? Joseph and I do. The long extra hours, weeks and weeks of extra hours we had to put in because everybody was afraid the world would end on December 31st, my birthday of 1999. The clock would tick over to midnight.

I bet Dan remembers it also. That the computers would quit. The world would be plunged into darkness, chaos, nuclear winter.

There were others of us who kind of thought that wouldn't be the case. They thought the fire trucks would no longer operate. All the chips that control the elevating of the ladder will cease and no one will be able to fight a fire, etc.

etc. Water purification plants would shut down. People guide their life by these, don't they? Here's the point.

Long introduction to make a short point. When you see in the Bible, in the Word of God, this four-letter word IDOL or any of its derivatives. This is what it's talking about.

Don't shove it off in a corner and say, well, it's those pagans in Africa who set up a little totem somewhere. It's the people who made gold and silver and wooden statues and worshipped them. That's not what it's talking about.

It's talking about what you and I are tempted to do, what much of the world actively does every single day. And that's putting your faith in a system or in the news. Everybody's on the Internet now.

I'm on the Internet. Everybody's on the World Wide Web. Why? It's like that old Patrick McGowan TV show, The Prisoner, in formation.

We need information. We think if I just know enough, my life will be better. So I get my news on the web.

I get my stock quotes on the web. I get my horoscope on the web. I get the weather forecast on the web.

I get the crop reports on the web. Every single thing I need to know, that missing item that I want to get off of eBay, I can find it on the web. We do this, don't we? Well, just keep in mind, if this begins to be the basis of our happiness, if this begins to be the organizing principle of our day, what's the four-letter word? I-D-O-L.

It is idolatry. It is the worship. It is placing faith in.

What does it mean to worship something? You put your faith in it. You trust in it. You rely on it.

You let it be your guiding thing. We can idolize our own happiness. We can make an idol out of ourselves.

Might as well just cast a little gold statue of yourself, set it on the shelf in front of you, set it right next to your computer monitor, and just say, I love me. I worship me. I pray to me.

I want to please me. That's my first and foremost goal. That's idolatry.

This is what Psalm 115 is all about. So don't, when we read this, don't be going through and saying, well, that's the pagans. That's the Africans.

That's the ancient Hittites. That's the old Greeks or whoever. This is us.

What does it say in Psalm 115? The subtitle in the New King James is the futility of idols and the trustworthiness of God. This is the daily choice you and I make. What does it say? Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to your name give glory because of your mercy and because of your truth.

Why should the Gentiles say, where now is their God? Our God is in heaven. He does whatever he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold.

The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak. Eyes they have, but they do not see.

They have ears, but they do not hear. Noses they have, but they do not smell. They have hands, but they do not handle.

Feet have they, but they do not walk. Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them.

So is everyone who trusts in them. O Israel, trust in the Lord. He is their help and their shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord. He is their help and their shield. You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord.

He is their help and their shield. The Lord has been mindful of us. He will bless us.

He will bless the house of Israel. He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great.

May the Lord give you increase, more and more, you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's.

But the earth he has given to the children of men. The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence. But we will bless the Lord, from this time forth and forevermore.

Praise the Lord. Well, there's a lot to chew on in this psalm, isn't there? Notice the first argument in this psalm. This is a prayer to God at the outset.

And then, as so often happens, the psalmist begins to address those in the audience. Not unto us, O Lord, but to your name give glory, because of your mercy and because of your truth. Chesed and Emeth.

C-H-E-S-E-D and E-M-E-T-H. These words occur over and over again in connection with God in the Old Testament. Grace, or mercy, and truth.

That's the name of our church. It is the theme of the Old Testament. It is also the theme of the New.

If you want to know why our church is called Grace and Truth Bible Church, that's why. This is one of the Old Testament passages. You can go to John chapter 1 to see two uses of that same combination.

But here, he concludes in verse 2 by saying, Why should the Gentiles say, Where now is their God? This is an argument to God to continue to be merciful and continue to give His truth. Because, why should people look at us and say, What have they got that I haven't got? They're not any better off than I am. They don't get ahead.

They're not blessed. They're not happier. They're not more productive.

Their God is just one of many options. No better, no worse. And he says, Why should people say that? You know what this says to you and to me? There ought to be a difference.

There ought to be a difference in your life and in my life because we serve the living God, because we are related to Him, and because He sustains us, He guides us, and He blesses us. There ought to be a difference. We can ask ourselves that question.

We look over the past week. We look ahead to the coming week and we say, Am I different? Do I have anything as a result of my relationship with God? It ought to show. Our God is in heaven.

He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the works of men's hands. Notice, they look like they speak.

They look like they do all of these sensory things, but they don't. And he concludes by saying, Those who make them are like them. People tend to revere someone who spews forth all kinds of seemingly wise words.

You have your Dr. Phil's. You have your L. Ron Hubbard. You have your Dr. Dyer.

You have all these other people who have got the key to success. Right? The Bible says, Those who put this stuff out are just like these idols. They appear to hear and see and have a mouth, but they don't.

They're a facsimile. Suppose I owed you \$1,000 and you could really use \$1,000 right about now. And I say, You know, I just remembered I owe you \$1,000.

I'll send it to you right away. And so, I get out my scanner and I put a \$1,000 bill or ten \$100 bills on my scanner. I scan those.

Then I email you the scan. Or I use my modem and I fax it over to you. And you get the page with a picture of those bills.

How happy are you going to be with my payment of this debt? Well, not much unless I've got a really, really good scanner and you've got a really, really good printer and some special paper. You're not going to be happy because it's not the real thing. It looks like the real thing in minute detail, but it's not.

It's not legal tender and it doesn't spend. There are people who are fooled. You think counterfeiting used to be a fine art in the old days? Think about counterfeiting now with our high technology, our super color printers.

People can make some really good copies of money. And they might even, for a short period of time, get away with passing off a 20 here or a 100 there. But it doesn't last very long because anybody who holds that bill up to the light says, you know what? This is not the real deal.

And they will track you down because it's not real. What does this Psalm say? There are some great facsimiles of God in the world that look like they talk and speak and hear and see and can do things with their hands, but they can't. And the people who put them out are just like them.

And the people who trust in them are just like them. You will become powerless. You will become as useless.

You want to be a human being or do you want to be a mannequin? Facsimile of a human being.

That's the choice we make. Those who make them are like them.

So is everyone who trusts in them. What is the encouragement? Look at verse 9. Trust in the Lord. Now it says, He is their help and their shield.

Why does it change? It says, O Israel, trust in the Lord. This is a command. This is an encouragement.

Then it says, He is their help and their shield. Remember, these are hymn lyrics. These are song lyrics.

And in some cases, there is sort of a statement and response. And the lead singer would sing something and then you have the choral response. And so we have vestiges of this.

We have remnants of the way these hymns were sung. And this has an individual speaker. And then you get the idea that there was a chorus behind them.

So the soloist sings some Levite with a good strong voice. And he sings, O Israel, trust in the Lord. And then from the background, the sons of Kohath or whoever the singers are, they antiphonally respond.

And they say, He is their help and their shield. And it's kind of a background chorus. And then the man says, O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord.

He turns over and looks at the priest. And he says, You think you're hot stuff because you're Levites and you're up here in front of the people? You need to trust in the Lord just the same as the whole house of Israel does. And then the choir chimes in and says, He is their help and their shield.

Then he looks out on the entire mixed multitude. It's not just the Levites. It's not just the native Israelites.

It's everybody. He says, All you who fear the Lord. And that, it's like that Levitical soloist is looking across the ages right into your face and right into my face.

And he says, If you're someone who fears the Lord, if you're someone who knows who God is, then trust in the Lord. And across the ages and across the eons of time, that Levitical choir says, Listen, anyone who fears the Lord, He's their help and their shield. Do you want to be in that number or not? I talked Friday night about that song When the Saints Go Marching In.

And it says, O Lord, I want to be in that number. My brother Dan used to live down there in New Orleans. And that's their big theme song down there, When the Saints Go Marching In.

You have all the little jazz bands playing down there. When the Saints Go Marching In. Well, what number do we want to be in? We want to be in this group who has the Lord as their help and their shield.

Now this sounds like pie in the sky because we're going to get up from here. We're going to pack up our Bibles. We're going to get in our cars.

We're going to go our way and go back and do our daily life. And we have to ask ourselves, Does this really make a difference? Or is this just fine sounding words for a Sunday morning? Well, look around. Look at the way the world is heading.

Look at the results of people getting into self-worship. We used to have the Pepsi generation, the me generation. We've had people going all the way back to the 60's who got into the self-indulgent life and said, let's have free love.

Let's ignore the rules that are our heritage from the Bible, from the days of religious dominance in people's thinking. Let's do away with morality. That's old stuff.

If it feels good, do it. That was the big chant in the 60's and early 70's. If it feels good, do it.

Even old Debbie Boone. I can't get that song out of my head. You light up my life.

That was so popular. She's a Christian. Her dad's a Christian.

You light up my life. All the Christians went out and bought Debbie Boone's record back. It's been a long time ago now.

But if you listen to the words of that song, it sounds like, oh, it's such a sweet, sticky, sweet love song. But you get to a certain point and she says, it can't be wrong if it feels so right. Now, if that is not as anti-Bible as you can get, if it feels good, do it.

That's what she's saying. It can't be wrong if it feels so right. Barbara Streisand, around the same time, had her song.

I love the way he makes me feel. He's good for me because he makes me feel good. It doesn't matter if he can't keep a promise and if he's a lousy provider and if he's faithless and a betrayer.

He makes me feel good. I love the way he makes me feel. Well, we have a lot of things that make us feel good for the moment, but they have no substance.

They're like these idols. I've got some statues in the office. I say I have.

There are statues in the office where I work. I looked up one. It's a Capodimonte porcelain made by a real famous guy named Bruno Murley back in the late 50s or early 60s.

He's one of the most famous porcelain sculptors in the world, and he's done this wonderful thing of the Last Supper. He's got all the 12 disciples, including Judas. It's funny because when he did Judas, his hair comes up into little points all over his head, and he's got this kind of wicked Vincent Price sort of beard and mustache.

I mean, you could pick Judas out without even reading the labeling on the front. But it's got a table, and they're all on one side, and Jesus is in the middle with a piece of bread in his hand, and there's cups and dishes, and it's a very famous painting was the inspiration for this sculpture. Well, I looked it up on the Web.

It's got some information, and there's a man selling one just like it for \$7,500. This porcelain thing, \$7,500 is evidently what it's worth. Well, it's a statue.

The little figure of Jesus there has eyes and has hands and has a nose and mouth just like this says. But would I go over there and expect that Jesus to get up and do something for me? Well, absolutely not. It is a beautiful and treasured thing that does nothing.

I could pick that thing up and drop it, and it would shatter in a thousand pieces, and boy, would I be in trouble. Trust in the Lord. One of the fundamental things to do in your life, all of us, young or old, is to distinguish between what is real and what is fake.

You don't want to take counterfeit money. You don't want to put your trust in a car that is unreliable. You don't want to put your faith in something that's not real.

You don't want to put your faith in a person who's not real, who doesn't keep their promise, who goes back on their word, who is faithless, who will say what sounds good at the moment and then do what they please. We can't do that. Trust in the Lord.

He is their help and their shield. The Lord has been mindful of us. Look what it says in verse 12.

Idols cannot bless you. The Lord can. He will bless us.

He will bless the house of Israel. He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the Lord.

This is a promise from God. What does it mean to fear the Lord? Does it mean to be afraid? Or does it mean to worship, respect, acknowledge, recognize the place of? If we had any concept of the actual person of God, we would be just like the Old Testament prophets. We would be down on our face seeing the huge gulf fixed between the mightiness and the greatness and the righteousness of God and our humble, hopeless, helpless, and useless existence apart from Him.

He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great. That's why you have the contrast between the house of Israel and the house of Aaron. May the Lord give you increase more and more.

This is what people were looking for when they trusted all these other things, wasn't it? Well, if I sacrifice something to Molech, if I sacrifice something to Ashtoreth, if I light a candle, if I make a contribution, if I hand a dollar bill out the window to the guy with the cardboard sign, that helps my karma. I've sort of balanced the scales a little bit, and good things will happen to me

because I've done good things. Aren't there a lot of people who think this way? Well, you know, I may not be a saint, but I've done some good things, and I think the scales have kind of evened out.

This is how people think, isn't it? I'm in the great vast majority. There's a lot of people just like me. So, you know, I'll be in some crowd somewhere.

It won't be too bad. That's not what the Bible says. The Bible says the Lord can give you increase more and more, you and your children.

May you be blessed by the Lord who made heaven and earth. Contrast that with the hands of the idol. It can't even move, much less make anything.

God created everything we see. The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord. That's the heaven that's here that we can see, and the heavens that are beyond.

It kind of reminds us of the three heavens. Paul says he was caught up to the third heaven. What's one plus two? What happens if you add heaven plus heavens? How many is that? It's three.

That's like in the book of Revelation, and in Daniel, especially in Revelation, where it says that such a thing is going to happen for a time, times, and half a time. And we see that's three and a half years. A time, times, and half a time.

Three and a half is what it adds up to. Here you have a heaven and heavens. So how many heavens are there? There's three.

God exists in the third heaven. That's his throne room. You and I are not going to the third heaven.

Don't think when you die, I'm going to the third heaven, I'm going to be up there floating. That's where God lives. There are two other heavens.

There's the heaven here, there's the intermediate heaven, and there's the third heaven. The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's. You can't find any place where he does not dominate, where his authority does not apply.

So what about us? Everybody, I'm going to give you a little mental exercise here. Everybody stop and think about a problem or a challenge that you have, something that's coming up that you dread, something you're uncertain about, something that has you perplexed, something you don't know how it's going to turn out. Everybody just think of one thing.

You've probably got a catalog you can choose from. Just pick one. Pick one that's coming up pretty soon.

What am I going to do about this particular problem? Everybody got it? You got it in your head?

Jared was doing card tricks. You know, you have to look at the card and then remember it. You say, now, have you got your card? You know what it is? You remember it? You have this mental image in your head of this particular problem that you've got.

Now, let me ask you, the context of that problem, the situation that you're thinking of, is it inside or outside the realm where God has control? Is it in any one of the three heavens? Is it on this earth? Does it involve people? Does it involve the physical universe in some way? Does it involve issues and circumstances that are under God's control or not? Well, like the guy doing the magic trick, I know the answer to that question before I ask it. Your problem is under the umbrella of God's control. Every factor in your problem is under the umbrella of God's control.

Every single one. He created everything that makes up your problem. The people, the circumstance, the issue.

And He was not surprised by it. He knew it was going to come up before it ever did. So what does this say? The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's.

The earth He has given to the children of men. He gave us the situation that contains this issue and this problem. He gave it to us.

He assigned it to us. There's not any who go down into silence who praise the Lord. The dead do not praise the Lord.

This is kind of a reminder of the way we understand death in terms of sort of exiting time, stage left, and reappearing at the appropriate resurrection. Because the dead are not in some suspended animation. They are not in a disembodied state.

They're not in a, what shall we say, interim body someplace. Because then they could praise the Lord. It says the dead don't praise the Lord.

Because at this particular moment, they have left time and they've gone forward. If you say, where is Grandma? Where is my dear friend? Where is the person that died? Well, it's a silly question to ask. You know what they say about all the fans of Elvis Presley.

He gives his concert. He throws his sweat towels into the audience. And then all the people are chanting, saying, Oh, come back Elvis, sing us another song.

And the guy comes out and says, Elvis has left the building. So when you say, where in the building is Elvis? Well, he's left the building. You can't ask the question, where in the building is he? Because he's not in that building.

Time is like the building. The dead have left the building. To ask where they are is kind of a goofy question to ask.

You need to go to the future. That's where they are. They've gone to the future.

That's why the Bible consistently says that the dead do not praise the Lord. None of those who go down into silence can praise. When is our opportunity? Why does it even tell us this? So that we know about the dead and the future and resurrection.

It says, your time now is what counts. We're writing a record that's going to determine our fate in the millennial kingdom and beyond. Now is the time to praise the Lord.

Now is the time to trust the Lord. Now is the time to take that problem that you thought up in your mind and say, I need to commit this to the Lord. I need to find God's way of handling this issue.

Whatever it entails. It may go completely against human wisdom. It may go against human practice and what people typically do.

But we are not trapped in the human world of idols who have eyes and cannot see. And hands and cannot do anything. We serve the living God who is in his heaven.

Who has complete control over everything. And that is our set of facts. And we should function accordingly in this life.

Because once we die, we don't get to come back and do this over. Now is the appointed time. Now is the day of deliverance, the Bible says.

That's why this psalm ends on this note of encouragement, on this note of orientation. Look, it's your life now. It's not some far off day where you're going to suddenly get spiritual and please God.

It's now. When you die, the test is over. The opportunity has passed by.

The door of the ark has slammed shut. In terms of being able to make decisions that are pleasing in God's sight. So, what does it say in verse 18? We will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

Let's start now recognizing the difference between what the world offers. And what conventional human wisdom offers. And what God offers us.

If you really want to get over. If you really want to have the inside track and the hot scoop. And the advanced knowledge of how to succeed.

And how to make life work to advantage. Don't settle for a facsimile. Go to the genuine thing.

And the Lord God in his heaven is the real deal. That's a modern vernacular way of saying what Psalm 115 says. What does that have to do with our study in Exodus? Well, I just have one point to make here before we stop and take our break.

Turn with me now back to Exodus chapter 12. Look at verse 12. God is describing the Passover.

This great event about which we will have more to say after the break. But look at verse 12. God says, this is God speaking.

I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night. I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt both man and beast. Then what does it say? Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment.

I am the Lord. When Pharaoh's firstborn son dies on this night. When the firstborn of the nobleman.

When the firstborn of the upper middle class. And the firstborn of the middle class and the lower middle class. And even the servants.

And the lowliest maid who grinds the grain in a mill. When every single Egyptian family loses their firstborn. And even the animals, the firstborn dies.

You know what this says? Everything that the Egyptians ever trusted in. Osiris, Ra, the Nile, Hecate. All of these other gods and goddesses.

Everything they have ever been brought up with. All of their conventional wisdom. The way that they have gotten through and gotten by and gotten over.

All through their life. In a single night is proven to be blind, deaf, lame, dumb, inadequate. Because there is no god in Egypt that can preserve the lives of these most precious children.

Of the best of the cattle, the best of the goats, the best of the flocks. The firstborn in every single household. Every god in Egypt is put to shame.

Because what's the point of having a god if he can't keep you alive? If he can't keep alive your son. Can't keep alive your animals. In one act, in one night, God demonstrates that every single god that Egypt trusts in is totally lame.

Totally insufficient. And that is the main thing that God does in that night. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt.

We are going to find that God will execute judgment against all of the gods that we set up. That we put our trust in. Their insufficiency, their facsimile nature will be brought to light.

If not now, then much more forcefully and much more detrimentally to us at the judgment seat of Christ. We might think that we have constructed for ourselves a really comfortable, reasonably happy life here. By relying on these gods.

But there is going to come a single day, a single night if you will of judgment. In which all of those gods will be put to shame. And we will go forward into the kingdom and into the eternal future.

Shorn of everything that we had hoped for. Everything that we thought was going to be great. Because it was not from God.

It was a facsimile. It was an illusion. It was a falsehood.

So, rather than do that. Think about the preferred alternative. Why not heed Psalm 115? Why not look at each circumstance, each situation and say, I really think that the God who lives in the third heaven.

The God who controls all of these is the one I ought to try to please. The one who I ought to allow to bless me. To let His Chesed and His Emmet be the forces in my life.

And I will find that is the blood on my door post. That is the means of deliverance from slavery into the land that flows with milk and honey. And that can never be taken away.

Why cling to what you cannot keep anyway? Why not look at that thing which we can never lose. The permanent eternal blessings and rewards from God for those who place their trust in Him. It's worth it.

Nothing else will satisfy. Nothing else is real. Well, we need to pause here and take our break.

When we come back, we are going to move rather rapidly forward now in Exodus chapter 12 and into chapter 13. To see the fulfillment of all of the prophecy and all of the preparation that we have studied over the last few weeks. But let's pause here and take our break.