

Psalms 14:1 - Questions Fools Will Ask #15 - #18

I. Review

As you know, we have been coming through Psalms, and we've been camping out at Psalms 14. There are so many avenues out of Psalms 14 that I want you to learn because it says the fool has said in his heart that there is no God.

In America, we're always threatened with shortages. When the east coast ports shut down, when Covid came out, when something scares people about food prices going up...there are shortages. **In life, there are many shortages; however, as a Christian and us being laborers together, where we're never going to have a shortage is with fools.** What I want is for my people to be so in tune with everything that whoever you meet in life or wherever God wants to put you, you are prepared.

➤ The 82nd Airbourne

I've always looked at Christianity from my own military background and military standpoint. The 82nd Airbourne is tasked and trained with the ability of being dropped into any situation, anywhere in the world, in 24 hours and dealing with it. That's their specialty. **Our government can drop them wherever they see the need and have the confidence they'll be able to get the job done.** I've always been impressed by that, but at the same time, that's exactly what we ought to be as Christians. **God ought to be able to drop us into any situation in life and count on us to get the job done.**

Look at Philip with the Ethiopian Eunuch. God just took him out of Samaria and dropped him in a situation which was, no doubt, a total surprise to him; however, notice he never questioned what God did. He understood that it is the way God operates. **My goal for you is not just to get you to understand that but to get you trained and prepared to be able to do that.** It doesn't do any good for God to drop you in a situation if you don't know what you're doing.

➤ There are Hidden Truths within these Questions from Fools

I want to take you through what I've learned in my time in dealing with fools. Fools are going to come up with questions that seemingly, to us who know the Bible, are ridiculous questions. To them, however, it's the real thing. **I also want you to see that out of every foolish question, there are hidden truths that will really teach you about the Bible and open some great things for you.** This is what I have been focusing on. I want you to be able to stand up and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks a reason of the hope within you. I want you to be able to show them in an undeniable way and then be able to take that situation, turn it around, and use it as a presentation of the gospel. It doesn't mean they will accept the truth, that's not the point. It's your ability to give them the truth based on the goofy questions that they ask.

➤ The Bible's Account of Creation Verses the Theory of Evolution

Last week we looked at another question that the fools of life will throw at you, and that is the question of evolution. The whole world is questioning how we all got here. The Bible tells us in Genesis Chapters 1-2 that God created it all, but they reject that. Jesus says in Mark 13:19, *For [in] those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.* Clearly the Bible takes the position that God is a Creationist.

Fools will throw all kinds of big \$25 words and theories at you, pumping as much smoke into this issue as they possibly can. Our job is not to be intimidated or confused by it. Know what they're going to do before they do it, then slice right through it getting to the simplest answer that puts them on the spot so they've got to either accept or reject the truth of the word of God.

When you get the smokescreen about evolution out of the way, you're left with just four possible ways that everything got here:

1. **It had to come into existence from nothing.** The answer to that is the *first law of thermodynamics* which states that matter can neither be created nor destroyed. So it's impossible according to the laws of science that it came from nothing.
2. **It has always been here.** That will go against the *second law of thermodynamics* which every scientist on the planet adheres to but doesn't want to apply. Entropy in a closed state couldn't always be here. Things aren't running up; they are running down.
3. **God did it supernaturally**—Genesis 1-2.
4. **It isn't really here**—you just think it is.

Romans 1:22 says, *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.* This is where we're at in Psalms 14:1.

I also showed you eight key areas to get down to use with foolish people dealing with evolution:

1. **Evolution was not some new idea.** I talked about Charles Darwin who in 1859 wrote his book *On the Origin of Species* which rocked the world on the "new" idea of evolution; however, I showed you in Ecclesiastes 1:9 that *there is no new thing under the sun.* Many of the ancient religions believed in a form of evolution. The devil always repackages things based on the fact that people don't know the history.
2. **It is part of the devil's system to stop the Holy Spirit of God in the 20/21st century.** I showed you how in America God brought seven great awakenings and how the devil countered those. Evolution is just one of those counters.
3. **The difference between man and animals.** This is the so-called missing link that no evolutionist on this planet can explain. **The difference between man and animals, which can never be reconciled, is that man has a soul and an animal does not.**
4. **The two great absolute laws of science**—These are the first and second laws of thermodynamics.

5. **The foolishness of their teaching and how dishonest they are.** They tell you that the sun is 4.6 billion years old, and yet I showed you how the sun scientifically is losing energy at a rate of 900 million tons a second. If that were true about the sun losing that much energy every second, backing that up to four to five billion years, you've got a sun that is so big it's ridiculous.
6. **The recording of history itself with man will always align itself with the Bible,** and I gave you some examples of that (5,000 years ago man began to keep records and write things down).
7. **Statistical mathematical probability** and the chance of 48 prophecies in the Old Testament given about Christ 600-1000 years before He was born coming to pass are 10^{157} power, but the chances of evolution happening are $10^{40,000}$ power. How ridiculous is it to even try to put that into a reasonable thought?
8. **Evolution is simply the devil reversing the plan of God** which he does all the time. The Bible teaches that man started out perfect and then fell. In Isaiah 66:22-24, we saw that the end result of an unsaved man or woman was a worm or a carcass. Isaiah 66:24 says, *And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: **for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.*** **The devil will always take the plan of God (because man doesn't know God, how He operates, or any history of God), and he reverses, repackages, and puts it out and everybody thinks it's something new.**

➤ Misdirection and Misinformation

These are two key words you'll find at work in the world today. You're going to find that when governments want to control you, or churches want to control you, or anything wants to control you, the two main avenues they will use are misdirection and misinformation. They are key for you to understand, see how they work, and see them in play.

An example of **misdirection** is when the government wants to hide what they're doing from you, and they will say to look over here, making a case for what is going on over there while hiding what is really going on in the other place. **Misinformation** is the information that they give you that will lead you down the wrong path. **That's the devil's main sphere of operation. He misdirects then he misinforms. You can take that down through the history of the Bible and see it in every case where the devil got into the details.**

➤ Theistic Evolution

You'll also find Christians who have what I call a "Christian" form of evolution. This is called Theistic Evolution. You need to know what this is because you're going to find this among people who call themselves Christians. It's mostly the liberals, some neo-evangelicals, and some protestant and charismatic churches, and the Catholic church as well.

This will be a half and half compromise on the issue of evolution. It's also known as Evolutionary Creationism. Its belief is that God created it all in the beginning, but then

God let evolution take over and begin to evolve to where we're at now. This started in Kansas a number of years ago with educators up against the Bible creationists and the evolutionists, so they struck a compromise putting the two together. They teach that God acts and creates through the laws of nature, but it's not God as the creator of those laws; He's under the laws that are already there and must work within those laws. **It's like you find in Bible colleges where God's word can't stand on its own but must be relegated to some educated guy who is going to teach and show you everything he thinks you need to know that God has showed him but you're too stupid to find out for yourself.**

II. Another Question asked by Fools

Now today, we're going to look at four more questions all based on Psalms 14:1. As I said earlier, I want you to understand these and the history of them. Too many times something is thrown at you, and you don't really understand the whole context, missing a great opportunity to be able to witness to somebody and use the very question they are asking to turn it around, put it in a Biblical context, and then present the truth to them.

Question 15: The Holy Grail is not Biblical. Yes, Christ Jesus drank from a cup, but it wasn't given any spiritual significance.

Here's a case where they have the right answer, but they don't have any depth to it. There were several movies made about this. In 1975, there was Monty Python and the Holy Grail which involved King Arthur. Then in 1989, there was Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade which involved searching for the holy grail. In 2006, there was the DaVinci Code which was also about the holy grail.

You may be thinking, what's this got to do with anything? **If you're going to speak to a fool on his level when he asks something like this, even though he may have it right, you'll want to be able to turn it around and use it to show him the gospel of Christ and salvation, and you might not get the opportunity any other way.**

The holy grail is a cup. It's the cup that Jesus drank from at the last supper. *Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*

We use it when we take communion, and it's based on the same concept. You need to understand how this develops because you're going to get this thrown at you, especially with young college age kids and young singles that catch all this stuff, which is all misinformation and misdirection.

➤ Stories and Legends about the Holy Grail

Here's what you need to understand about what's being said about it. This is the cup which Jesus drank from at the last supper. The cup was (supposedly) picked up, at some point in time, by Joseph of Arimathaea. He's the man, in Matthew 27:57-60, who begged the body of Christ, and the Bible says he buried Him in his own sepulture. **Now here's where the story gets really good. He picks up this cup, Christ is being crucified on the cross, and Joseph of Arimathaea runs over and catches Christ's blood in his cup. The moment Christ's blood**

gets in this cup sets it apart from any other cup. In time, he takes this cup and goes to Scotland. He builds a Roman Catholic church which is still there today called the Church of the Holy Grail.

There will be people who believe this story. The first point I would make is that the Church of the Holy Grail is a Roman Catholic church. Joseph of Arimathaea takes this cup with him and builds this Catholic church hiding the grail inside. Here's the problem. The Roman Catholic Church didn't come into being until 400 years later. So...how do you build a Catholic Church called the Church of the Holy Grail in Joseph of Arimathaea's time (33-34 AD; the time of Christ)? Do you see the problems you get into when you don't know history? Slowly but surely, you can build your own case.

This is the beginning of the legend which will go down through 2,000 years of history, but you need to understand that there's more to this than this goofy little story. The story of King Arthur, Sir Lancelot, and the Knights of the Round Table is fictionalized around the Holy Grail. **The legend is that whoever has this cup and drinks from this cup will have eternal life. For 2,000 years men have searched for it along with other artifacts from the Bible with the hope of getting the power of God in a unique way.**

I've always found it interesting that the Roman Catholic Church wanted it more than anybody else. During the Dark Ages, the Roman Catholic Church thought that some Bible believing groups may have had it and used that to kill hundreds of thousands of Bible-believing Christians. Now, stop and think about this. **Why was it important for the Roman Catholic Church to have this cup that contained Christ's blood?** It's because every mass the priest takes the cup and turns the fermented hooch into the actual blood of Jesus Christ; then you too drink the blood to get eternal life according to the Catholic Church. Do you see how it all ties together? You need to see the value of understanding the history of this if you're going to deal with somebody or work with somebody.

III. More Artifacts and Two More Questions Asked by Fools About Them

Question 16: What significance is there regarding The Ark of the Covenant from the Old Testament?

We're going to cover these two questions together detailing their history, stories and legends about them, and what the Bible has to say about them.

Question 17: What significance is there regarding the spear that was thrust into the side of Jesus?

➤ More Stories and Legends

The spear is known as the Spear of Longinus. Now what in the world is a Longinus? Longinus was the name of the Roman soldier who lifted the spear and threw it into the side of Jesus. Someplace down the line, this spear came up for auction. The Roman Catholic Church bought it, and several months ago I saw an article where the pope was holding up that very lance as a religious object—the very spear that belonged to Longinus that was thrust into the side of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now this is what you'll find and where you'll need to be smarter than the problem to be able to deal with it. This may seem totally irrelevant to some of you because you've never won anyone to Christ or wouldn't know how to witness to someone who believed any of this anyhow.

It's not only the archeologists down through history that looked for this, but Adolph Hitler spent thousands of Reichsmarks putting archeology teams together to go to the middle east and go to the places to find these artifacts. The first Indiana Jones movie was called Raiders of the Lost Ark which was about the Nazis wanting to find the ark because of its tremendous power. At the end of the movie, the ark ends up being in a warehouse in Washington. The movie is fiction but based on the truth that the Third Reich looked for and wanted the ark because they knew it had tremendous power. **He thought that if he had it, just like the cup or the spear, that it would give whoever had it some great spiritual power because it goes back to be associated with Christ.** That was the mindset.

➤ What was the Ark of the Covenant and what really Happened to it?

Little did they know, and you need to know, that the ark of the covenant would have never worked for any Gentile nations on this planet. **The ark of the covenant was the central theme of Israel in the Old Testament as their nation.** You know what the tabernacle was like. Within the tabernacle was the holy of holies which is where Christ and God dwelt in the Old Testament. God dwelt on the ark of the covenant. If you would see the ark of the covenant, as Clarence Larkin lays it out, it looks like the throne of God. There are cherubims on each side, and in Ezekiel 1 and 10, you'll find the job of the cherubim is to cover the throne of God. **It represented where God was with the nation of Israel.** There are a lot of spiritual applications to it too which I don't have time to get into today, **but that ark was absolutely the central part of Israel's relationship with God.**

The central part of your relationship with God is *Christ in you, the hope of glory.* When you got saved, the Lord Jesus Christ took up residency inside of your body, and that's where He is today. That's the kingdom of God—it's a spiritual kingdom. That didn't happen back in the Old Testament where we're dealing with the kingdom of heaven—that's a literal kingdom. Christ didn't dwell in anybody, so He built a tabernacle, which is a picture of our body clothed with skin, and in that He put a holy of holies (picture of your soul). **In the Old Testament, that literal ark rested in the holy of holies because God couldn't indwell men, but he indwelled a nation through the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies in the tabernacle.** That's simply how it worked. If you can grasp that and get it down, it will open up so much for you.

➤ The Law of First Mention and The Law of Last Mention

One of the keys to learning the Bible is the Law of First Mention. The first time you find something in the Bible, you'll always want to look at it. It will usually set the context that you're going to find throughout the rest of the Bible. There's also a Law of Last Mention. **You'll not only want to see the first time God says something, but you'll want to also look at the last time He says something about something.**

The ark of the covenant was given to Moses as they made it back in Exodus and the early part of Leviticus. It stayed with Israel all the way up through their going into the promised land, the judges, the kings, the chronicles, and **then you find in 2 Chronicles 35:3 the last mention of the ark in the Old Testament. Now that's significant because in Chapter 36, the nation of Israel goes into captivity, and God is done with Israel.** The idea that God would allow the ark of the covenant, which is a representation of God and Christ in Israel, to exist on this planet and let the Gentiles get ahold of it and sport it, is inconceivable. God is not going to do that. So, the last time you find it is in 2 Chronicles 35:3 then you don't find it anywhere else in the Old Testament; it's gone. It's gone because Israel is now gone, they're going into the captivity, and they cease to exist as any nation with God anymore. God now has turned his back on the nation of Israel until the times we are living in now.

The next time you find the ark of the covenant is in Revelation 11:19. Where is it at? It's up in heaven. So what God has done with the ark, and you need to know this, is taken it to heaven. It's not in a warehouse in Washington and it's not hidden someplace. I've heard stories that the ark was buried in a cave which happened to be right under the spot where Christ was going to be crucified; therefore, when they crucified Christ, the blood ran down, got into the ground, dripped through the top of the cave, and fell on the mercy seat. There is no truth in it, but this is what man does. It's what you've got to stand up against if you're going to be an effective witness.

I want you to be so informed that, like the 82nd Airbourne, God can drop you into any situation (work, school, with friends), and you're ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is you; however, you have to train yourself. You need to know what you need to do in any given situation. I want you to be trained. For those of you who want to be effective, this is what you need to do.

➤ Eight Different Titles for the Ark of the Covenant in the Bible

Now we know it's back in heaven. Let me give you this, too. When you come through the Bible, just so you don't get confused on this, you'll have eight different titles for this ark. You need to know what these titles are because they're all different. I've had young Christians think there are eight different arks! No; **There are eight different names for the same ark, and each one of these names will take you to a particular study about the ark and its relationship.**

1. Exodus 25:22—The ark of the testimony (which is really where it all starts)
2. Numbers 10:33—The ark of the covenant of the LORD
3. Joshua 3:13—The ark of the LORD (where they're going into the land)

4. I Samuel 3:3—The ark of God
5. I Kings 2:26—The ark of the Lord GOD
6. 2 Chronicles 35:3—The holy ark (the last time you find it in the history of man)
7. Psalms 132:8—The ark of thy strength
8. Revelation 11:19—The ark of his testament

Eight different names for the same ark, but each one of them gives you eight ways to study it. This is what the Bible does. This is why there is no fast-track to the Bible, but you're on the right track. At some point in your life, you're going to have to decide how serious you're going to take the word of God. There are so many things and people competing for your attention over your attention to God and the word of God. That's a real issue today.

The ark was the most important possession that the Jews had within the tabernacle of the holy of holies. No man or nation other than Israel could ever possess it simply because of what it represents. Now maybe you can see the importance of understanding all of this because when you get into this, people aren't going to understand that. Pagan religions will misuse all of this, and it all goes back to Rome.

➤ **What was Inside the Ark of the Covenant?**

The ark was the key to God and Israel; it was God's dwelling place with Israel in the Old Testament. Christ was in the ark, and yet when you look at the ark, you can't miss this. **There were three things in the ark that you never got in the movies. Those three things show you the completeness of God:**

1. A Pot of Manna—Exodus 16:33
2. Aaron's Rod that Budded—Numbers 17:10
3. The 10 Commandments given to Moses—Exodus 25:16, I Kings 8:9

These three things are there for a reason for you and me to get and understand.

- **First, the manna was a type of the word of God.** That manna is still in that ark up in heaven. It was eternal; it was preserved; it was pure; and the Book that you've got in your hands is the manna that God has given you.
- **The second thing was Aaron's rod.** There are two rods in the Old Testament dealing with the nation of Israel. One deals with Moses' rod which was the rod of judgment. The second rod was Aaron's rod. Aaron was the priest; Moses was the deliverer. Moses' rod smote the waters to blood and brought all the plagues in. **Aaron's rod was the priestly rod that budded which represents the New Testament priest class.**
- **The third item inside the ark was the 10 commandments.** So what you have now, within the ark which is a type of Christ, is the word of God (manna), the 10 commandments (Israel), and Aaron's rod (the priest class of the church). It's the completeness of God's plan—the Book, the 10 commandments for Israel, and Aaron's rod for the church: the total plan of God.

➤ The Value of Learning This Material

Now the holy grail (which means a wide mouth or a shallow vessel like a cup), the ark of the covenant, the spear, and the other so-called religious artifacts are all real items for the most part; however, all the stories around them are made up by Roman Catholic or pagan tradition and are completely untrue. You need to know the real history of the stories because they are made up and fabricated to exalt the Roman Catholic Church or whatever pagan idea they want to put forth. You need to be smarter than the problem, and the problems are going to be the fools that you work with. It's learning this material by seeing the historical footprint of it, what the world does with it, your ability to be able to know both sides of it, and using it as a gateway to tell somebody about their need for salvation if you know how to use the material.

I gave you a great principle Thursday night at Bible study (10/10/2024) where in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, there are four men who write about the same event, yet they all write differently. **God used four different men, allowed them to write under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God about the same event, but God allowed them to keep their own personalities within their teaching.** This is what I want; I don't want to make you a robot. God made you who you are. Everybody is different just like each of your fingerprints are different. When you give that to the Lord, allowing the Lord to take the word of God and you put yourself into it to learn what needs to be done, that's where you'll have the ability to take who you are, mesh it with the word of God and the Holy Spirit, and present the truth to somebody through your own personality.

IV. Fools can't get the Context and Ask Yet Another Foolish Question

Question 18: Moses didn't demand freedom for the Israelites. He did say to Pharaoh, let my people go, but then he added so they may hold a festival to the Lord in the wilderness. It was less of a plea for freedom, and more like when I used to ask my parents for permission to go to a party. I don't see the impact of this story the way I've heard it preached.

This will come up with the children of Israel under the bondage of Egypt, and here again, no discernment when it comes to the word of God. Here lies a great principle for dealing with people. **Let's start with understanding historically what we have because if you want to answer this question, you're going to have to understand it from the Biblical standpoint and then put it together from where they're coming from and finally work a way to show them the truth.**

➤ The Nation of Israel Historically

In the book of Genesis historically in its simplest form is the formulation of the nation of Israel. In Genesis 1:10, you've got everything that's happening, but it winds up in Genesis 10-11 with the Tower of Babel, and everything changes. Then in Chapter 11, up pops Abraham. In Chapters 12-24, you have Abraham's life. He gets the promise from God about the nation of

Israel that is being formulated. In Chapter 25 you have the life of Isaac, in Chapters 26-27 you have the life of Jacob from whom come the 12 tribes, you have the story of Joseph, and then in Genesis Chapter 50 they're all down in Egypt. Genesis is about God's hand and God's plan with the formulation of the nation of Israel.

Now they're down in Egypt for 430 years under hard bondage because God wants to make them strong as a nation so when they do come out they can stand the rigors of where they've got to go and what they've got to do; however, here is where God starts His plan for the nation of Israel based on the promise that He gave in the covenant he made with Abraham in Genesis chapter 15. Now he calls Moses to be their leader and their deliverer and to lead them to the promised land.

While in Genesis we had the formulation of Israel, and now that the nation is formed, in the book of Exodus (specifically chapter 12), we have the calling out of Israel. Our question today is in Exodus Chapters 1-11. We see the calling of Moses and his confrontation with Pharaoh. Hence the issue pops up now that has been very popular, *let my people go*.

*Exodus 8:20-28. And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, **Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.***

²¹ Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms [of flies] upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms [of flies], and also the ground whereon they [are].

*²² And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms [of flies] shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I [am] the LORD in the midst of the earth. **Now I don't have time to cover it today, but that is one of the greatest tribulation passages right there that shows you how God is going to work in the tribulation***

²³ And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.

²⁴ And the Lord did so; and there came a grievous swarm [of flies] into the house of Pharaoh, and [into] his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm [of flies].

*²⁵ And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God **in the land.***

*²⁶ And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; **for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God:** lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?*

*²⁷ **We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us.***

*²⁸ And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; **only ye shall not go very far away:** intreat for me.*

The whole issue here of the Jews leaving Egypt, based on the question, is God's plan for the nation of Israel. What you're seeing in Exodus Chapters 1-11 is the beginning of the fulfillment of what God told Abraham in Genesis Chapter 15. The fool is right: Moses never did demand Israel's freedom. I'll give you that. It was God who demanded Israel's freedom; Moses is just a mouthpiece of God. **You see in Exodus 3:1-22 that it's God telling Moses to tell them what He is saying; however, the fool cannot get the context.**

Up through Exodus 12, you have the judgment of God on Egypt because Pharaoh won't let the people go. Moses is speaking for God, and he's not asking permission for anything. He is declaring that God will wipe out Egypt if they stand in the way of God's plan for God's people; therefore, **when he says let my people go, it's not a reference to Moses saying let my people go, it's God saying to Pharaoh let MY people go. They're God's people not Moses's, but he can't get that.**

➤ Three Days' Journey

Furthermore, it isn't some festival. It isn't Israel and Egypt's version of Raytown Roundup Days or Oktoberfest. You must see this. This is where it starts to really impact us. **He is getting ready to lay out an incredible inspirational application that the sacrifice to the Lord must take place out of Egypt.** Egypt is a type of the world.

Now why a three days' journey? It's because this sacrifice is the beginning of Israel as a new nation just like the day you got saved was the beginning of you being a new creature in Christ Jesus, and that salvation is based on the three days that He is in the tomb. Do you see how the context will put it all in proper order of understanding?

The fool will never get this. He sees the question like I asked it. He doesn't see the importance of why they want to go. He thinks it's a festival. He thinks it's like asking your parents if you can go here or there. **In this story of God's people coming out of Egypt, this is a picture inspirationally of you and me coming out of the world the day we got saved.** What I want you to see through this historical story that actually took place is how the devil will always try to get us to compromise the truth of God in our lives. You will see this all the time in the people you deal with. It's standard operating procedure for the devil with God's people.

➤ Four Ways the Devil Tries to get them to Compromise

Here you see in this story four ways the devil will try to get the child of God to compromise and not do exactly what God says and how he will work in the lives of saved and unsaved people. You see, the devil's plan is simple. Plan #1 is to get everybody's soul in hell. He'll work 24/7 to get you to die and go to hell. Most/all of you here beat that, and you got saved. Now the devil sees that you got saved, and he knows he'll never get your soul in hell, but the next plan is to get you to compromise with what you have in your salvation. If he gets you to compromise, he may not get your soul in hell, but all the other people out there that God would have used you in their lives to win them to Christ will probably die and go to hell. He'll get us to compromise and not go all the way.

1. **Compromise #1. Make your sacrifice for the Lord within Egypt rather than going a three days' journey: Exodus 8:27-28.** *We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us. And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.*

The first thing I want you to see is that the reason they wanted to get out of the world (Egypt), is because you can't make the sacrifice for God in your life while you're still living in Egypt (the world). 2 Corinthians 6:17 says, *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you.*

I showed you in Psalms 137:1-4 where Israel is in the captivity of Babylon (the world's system). They're down by the rivers of Babylon, and they're heartbroken. Their captors come and ask them to sing them one of those songs of Zion, and they say, *how shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?* **Today, God's people actually think that they can get saved and serve the Lord while they've still got one foot in the world.** That principle shows you that they had to get three days' journey out of Egypt because if they're going to sacrifice to the Lord, they can't be in Egypt when they do it.

2. **Compromise #2. You can make the sacrifice, just don't make the right sacrifice.** **Exodus 8:25-26.** *And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land. And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?*

Do you know what the abomination of the Egyptians is? It's sheep. The Egyptians worshipped cattle. **Egypt is a type of the world, and as a type of the world, it hates the idea of the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.** It hates the idea that you must make the right sacrifice and stay with it. You can go to church, you can have the right Bible, but all your life you just simply make the wrong sacrifices. You'll sacrifice this and that, but you'll never understand that once he loses you to hell through your salvation, he's going to try to keep you from growing. He's going to throw disinformation and goofy stuff at you that sounds really spiritual but has nothing to do with the Bible. **He's going to get God's people, which I have seen all my life, to spend their entire Christian lives making the wrong sacrifices by investing in the wrong things.** They'll never understand what a real sacrifice is which is defined for you in 2 Samuel 24:24.

Even better than that, go over to Luke 17:9 and Luke 19 and you will get your eyes opened. What we think we're doing (going to church, reading the Bible, witnessing to people, the ministry) is not a sacrifice. Those are the things you're supposed to do because you're a Christian. When you get into the word of God, you'll find out what a real sacrifice is and then you'll also find out that most of God's people have wasted their whole lives just like Pharaoh wanted him to do—making the wrong sacrifice, staying in Egypt.

3. **Compromise #3. You can go to sacrifice, just don't go very far away. Exodus 8:28.** *And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.*

When you get saved, there is a question that you must answer, and that question is: How far will you go for the Lord? It's the question every one of us must answer because the moment after you get saved, you're faced now with a calling of God in your life; you're a new creature in Christ Jesus. You've come out of Egypt and now you've got to look at the whole thing around you and answer the question of how far you are really going to go for the Lord.

Revelation 3:11 warns us, *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.* You'll be told that it's great that you got saved, but not to become a fanatic about it. You'll be told you shouldn't jeopardize your job or your family. Now, I'm not a halfway guy. I'm either all in or I'm all out. It's the way God wired me. When I got saved and saw what the Bible had for me, there was nothing else that mattered in my life. Believe me, I had the Pharaohs of life try to stop me.

When somebody asks you how far you should go, I guess you answer that question with a question. **How far did He go for you?** If Jesus Christ would have thrown up the excuses that we throw up with not doing for Him, we'd all be lost in hell.

4. **Compromise #4. You can go, but leave your kids with me. Exodus 10:8-11.** *And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: [but] who [are] they that shall go? And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we [must hold] a feast unto the LORD. And he said unto them, Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look [to it]; for evil [is] before you. Not so: go now ye [that are] men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.*

Pharaoh says it's a rough and dangerous trip. You go ahead and go serve your God, but leave your kids down in Egypt with me. Boy, does that happen all the time in Christianity. When I first came to Kansas City in 1977, I was the youth pastor. I was over pastors', deacons', and Sunday school teachers' kids. I came in January, and we had our first camp in June. There were about 200 kids there, and needless to say, we had a great revival with probably 40 or 50 kids getting saved. **I began to realize that a lot of these church leaders may have moved on, but they had left their kids in Egypt with Pharaoh.** We had a great baptismal service and baptized 20, 30, 40 people. I cannot tell you how that put me in disdain with the upper echelon because it was an embarrassment that their kids could be lost with them being a deacon, pastor, Sunday school teacher, or some other higher spiritual leader in the church.

I always looked at that and thought, here's the problem: You moved up the spiritual ladder, but you let Pharaoh take care of your kids. Then I come in, by the grace of God and through preaching, and go after those kids leading to many of them getting saved. Would you rather that I just didn't do anything and let them die and go to hell? **I learned a great thing about God's people at that point in time, and that is that God's people have no problem moving up the**

spiritual ladder but leaving their kids with Pharaoh and then wondering why they lose them. This is why I put the emphasis on our kids here the way that I do.

V. Summary

Maybe now you can see how you take a story in the Bible, lay it out, and then the Holy Spirit of God opens it up; you get all of that out of one simple story that a fool could never get, whether saved or lost, because they have no discernment. You get one of the key applications and then you develop it, you add to it, you work through it, and you come out with a plausible workable answer to Egypt (the world). When you know how to use the material, you build it into an understandable format to be able to witness and lay out truth on their level, and now you'll be ready to be dropped into any scenario in life. You'll get to the point where God can drop you wherever He wants you. He can trust you just like he did Philip with the Ethiopian eunuch. He could pull him out of Samaria, drop him right in the middle of the desert, and know he has got it. Read that story and watch how he went to work. It's incredible.

All of you are better than the world system. You're saved and you're on your way to heaven. There is no reason for you not to have everything that God wants for you. The only question you've got to ask yourself is how far you're willing to go, and I know there are plenty of excuses to keep you from getting there. They may work right now, but they won't work at the Judgment Seat of Christ. How far you go for Him ought to be based on how far He went for you.