

In our last podcast we began to explore how the heavenly realms work in terms of the Satan being the accuser and how he brings accusation against those in the household of God. It is an interesting process that is best to be understood through the reasons the Father allows this to occur. Yes, the Satan wants to wreck people, but God wants to give people the opportunity to understand **WHY** they should choose Him and **HOW** to choose Him.

For the person who is the target of these heavenly realm exchanges, it all seems terrible, feels like punishment for doing wrong, or just flat out unjust and undeserving. And the devil sure makes such accusations against us and against God. But the Father is working and all He does is purposeful. So, let's continue with the process that occurs in the heavenly court room and how it plays out in our lives on earth.

In connected with this idea of "punishment for wrong," one of the most critical truths we must remember is that fear involves punishment; and the one who fears is not perfected in *agape* love, or said another way, is not found to now be "*in Christ*".¹ Thus, when we live in fearful guilt and shame, afraid of punishment, we deny the atonement, we deny the blood of Jesus. Oh, we may confess the cross with our lips, but our heart simply does not believe. And we once again crucify to ourselves Jesus, and put Him to open shame, because what He did on the cross the first time obviously did not get the job done.²

When we are ruled by shame, guilt, and the fear of punishment, we have not bet our lives on the fact that **Only God is Good**; accordingly, the truth is that we could not have and should not have done it better. For those who are "*in Christ*," our failings function simply as a spotlight to show us the areas in our life where we have not surrendered to **Yahweh Yasha** and agreed to let Him save us from ourselves.

The truth is that all that happens to us is an expression of **Yahweh's** great love for us as He works to convince us to be willing to let Him circumcise us from this world and from our flesh and from all our unbelief in His name. Armed with this truth, knowing the motivations of His heart, we can face whatever comes our way knowing it has nothing to do with our being "bad" or our "failing" God, but everything to do with God's love (yes, His love!) and His desire to see the *Design Point* come to full fruition in our lives where we no longer fear punishment, but are free in Christ.

Let's review. **Yahweh** sits as judge in the great Assembly. The Satan comes before him with all manner of accusation some true and some false. Jesus, **Yahweh Yasha**, has freed and continually frees us from each-and-every accusation as He intercedes for us with the Father who impartially judges. The effect is that the Father has no material for which to bring judgment against us in the form of condemnation or punishment.

With that said, He may hear the accusations and the recommendations of the Satan, and **Yahweh** quite often approves the Satan's plans to come against us in judgment. Why? Because **Yahweh** sees an area in our lives that He wants to possess, that He wants to become Lord over, an area where He wants us to be willing to let Him be our **I AM**. Therefore, He uses the Satan and his minions to accomplish those purposes in our life. Accordingly, He instructs and even empowers the Satan and his demonic hoards with the authority to come against us.

The Satan rushes out of the Assembly intending to crush us under his lies and terror, but the Spirit of God uses these circumstances to give us the opportunity to agree to let another aspect of our *flesh* be crucified with Christ. Now, in theory, most of us agree with this goal, but in practice we tend to forget

¹ 1 John 4:18

² See Hebrews 6:4-8

about it when it feels as if some terrible punishment is being levied against us for our wrongs.

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The Father uses Satan and his demonic hoards to implement the *Design Point* in our lives by giving us opportunities to volitionally choose to let Him (Yahweh Yasha) put our *flesh* to death.

From the Father's perspective, it is all for the good. He sends forth His angels, both good and bad, to minister to us. After all, they are all His ministering spirits now being caused to be sent out to care for those who are now inheriting salvation.³ Some of them afflict us, and in so doing God shows us another area of our lives where we do not actively believe in His name. Some of them comfort us and thereby give us hope to continue in faith one more day. But make no mistake, both are in our service, it is just all a matter of perspective.

During the intensity of suffering, and with Satan constantly reminding us of our sin, it is hard to remember that **Yahweh** acts as a Great Teacher and uses all this drama to give us the opportunity to choose to grow and to learn **WHY** we can choose to trust Him and **HOW** to choose to trust Him. It is a perspective, however, that when adopted allows us to compose and quiet our soul in rest as we wait in confident expectation or hope.⁴ But, again, it is all a matter of perspective.

All of this begs the question, is Satan stupid? Does he not understand what God is doing? Can't he see what his attacks produce in men like Job, Peter, and Paul? The answer would be, no! He is not stupid, and he understands; but to date the odds have been in his favor. There are few men like Job, Peter, and Paul or even King Nebuchadnezzar for that matter, who come out of their time of judgment with unstoppable faith and an understanding of God that is beyond compare.

We must consider the multitudes of others who were brought before the Assembly, accused, and then completely crushed by their time of testing. The Spirit speaks of a great apostasy of faith that is flush with those who never choose to let **Yahweh** put to death their *flesh*, who never choose to walk forward with **Yahweh** by faith, who will die on the cross of their own goodness, and who dig ever deeper into their religion and service of God, hoping that if they do it right, then their lives will return to a state of normalcy.⁵

This is imaged for us in the parable of the soils.⁶ Do you remember there was the seed that fell on the rocky soil? This is the man who received the word with joy but never rooted himself by actively believing in the name, **Yahweh**. Thus, when persecution and affliction arose, because of the word of God, he fell away and was not strong enough to withstand the attack.

In a similar vein, there was the seed that fell among the thorns. This is the man who hears the word of God, but the worries of the world and his desire for wealth choke the word from bearing the fruit of love. In other words, the fear of not having what he wants or not making it in this world causes this man to be so focused on the "Me" he never truly learns how to trust **Yahweh** for his very life. As a result, these people

³ **Hebrews 1:7, 14**

⁴ **See Psalm 31:2**

⁵ **2 Thessalonians 2:3**

⁶ **Matthew 13:1-23**

cling more and more to their religion, but not to their faith; and we know that without faith it is impossible to please God.⁷

The history of the Jews is another example which shows us the odds have been in the favor of Satan and his lies. Of the approximately 2.5 million people who left Egypt, only two (just 2) were willing to bet their lives on the name of God. All others were consumed by fear, overcome by the enemy, and therefore were not allowed to enter the Promised Land. And this is after their having witnessed miracle after miracle by the hand of God, having crossed through the Red Sea on dry land while the Egyptians who tried to cross drowned, having stood at the Mountain of God hearing His words rumble through their own assembly, and having witnessed God lead them in victory over mighty kings and armies.

Just in case you are curious, 2 out of approximately 2.5 million amounts to 0.0000307692307692308% of the population. As I said, history proves the odds are in favor of Satan and his lies.

Even the history of those who entered the Promised Land is riddled with absolute demonic domination. King after King refused to live by faith resulting in their leading the nation into idolatry. It seems only a few men and women make it into the hall of faith of life. Even **Hebrews 11** (the famed hall of faith) lists only 17 people by name, yes, just 17 spread out over four-thousand plus years. It is likely this sad reality which caused Jesus to lament, "*When the Son of Man is coming, will He in the future find faith on the earth?*"⁸

Satan is described as a lion for a purpose; he stalks, he attacks, and he devours.⁹ Again, the odds have proven to be on his side, so he continues to accuse seeking the right to come against the brethren even though he suffers occasional losses by those who agree with the goal, desire the *Design Point*, and are willing to learn how to bet their lives on the name **Yahweh**.

Well, that was a very lengthy description of what happens at the Assembly. Equipped with this truth, I hope you become willing to battle the lie of the enemy and no longer succumb to fear, shame, and guilt, which are the building blocks for the Kingdom of this World. Each person must decide, however, if they really agree with and want God's goal for their life. If so, God will ensure that in "judgment" He will do whatever is necessary to teach us **WHY** we can choose to believe in His name and **HOW** to choose to believe in His name. After all, that is the specialty of **Yahweh Qanna** and **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**.

The Second Challenge

Let's return to the Assembly in **Job 2** where **Yahweh** and Satan are once again discussing Job.

Job 2:1-3

Again, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before **Yahweh**, and the Satan also came among them to present himself before **Yahweh**. **Yahweh** said to the Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then the Satan answered **Yahweh** and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity,

⁷ **Hebrews 11:6**

⁸ **Luke 18:8**

⁹ **See 1 Peter 5:8**

although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause."

We find the Satan was again walking about the earth, which is short for he was prowling like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.¹⁰ The implication is that the Satan was watching, gathering intelligence, and preparing for the next Assembly meeting where he could bring accusation against the brethren.

But God beat him to the punch and **Yahweh** said to the Satan, "*Have you considered My servant Job?*"

Once again **Yahweh** asks Satan if he has yet set his heart and his intentions on Job. Just the thought of it is chilling. We would think that the word "*considered*" is a *verb*, something the Satan has done, but oddly it is rendered as a *noun*. This gives weight and import to this idea that the Satan's ruminating on Job is a thing of substance and import, a thing of consequence, and not just a fleeting thought or observation.

Yahweh continued, "*For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.*" In this instance, it's as if God is purposely stoking the fire and provoking the Satan; and that is exactly what He is doing because He has a plan for Job (**Plan-A**)—a plan that involves the Satan once again coming after and hurting Job.

Grace

Previously we discussed Job's understanding of the grace of God, what God does for Him as he (Job) is willing to place his faith in **Yahweh**. We see this again in the statement: "*And he still holds fast his integrity...*" "*Holds fast*" is rendered in the Hebrew *hiphil*, which is grammatically causative (much like the Greek *passive* voice). This means that the Spirit of God is the one who is causing Job to hold fast his integrity, which simultaneously means that Job has been *willing* to stand in faith on what He knows to be true about **Yahweh** and not apostatize from his belief. If we are *willing*, **Yahweh** will provide everything we need for life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who has called us by His glory and excellence.¹¹

The Buck Stops Here

Did you notice that even though God ascribes to the Satan the provocation or the accusation, God took full responsibility for what happened to Job? God came against Job to ruin him without cause. We should also take note that the verb translated "ruin" is in the Hebrew "*piel*" which can resemble causation but is resultative in that it creates or enforces a state (without question, God ruined Job without cause and the result is "ruin"). It was also traditionally held that the "*piel*" form also was an indication of intensification, but that understanding has become more of a secondary nuance. Given the context of the overwhelming personal tragedies that hit in a fraction of time, this use of the "*piel*" might communicate both result and intensification.

To get a sense of this, we would speak loudly and with full emotion, or in print, the word should be underlined, italicized, bolded, capitalized, and highlighted. ***GOD DID IT, GOD RUINED JOB!***

It is an interesting discourse God has with the Satan. God had His plan, which is why He asked the Satan in the first place if he had considered, or set his intentions, toward His servant Job. And **Yahweh** knew the

¹⁰ **1 Peter 5:8**

¹¹ **See 2 Peter 1:3**

Satan would act according to His nature, which is to accuse and destroy.

Now to really confuse you, even though the Satan responded to this line of questioning, which was initiated by God, the Satan is still held responsible for His choice in bringing the accusation. Hence, God said "...*you incited—or persuaded—Me.*" This is rendered in the Hebrew *hiphil*, or the causative form.

Between God, the Satan and Job, God takes full responsibility. As they say, the buck stops with **Yahweh**. But between God and the Satan, God ascribes a level of responsibility to the Satan. Whether man or angel, the issue of personal sovereignty is always at play in our dynamic with **Yahweh**.

This is fascinating and it begs the question; can God be persuaded?

According to the scriptures, we have many instances where it seems that God is persuaded by the choices of mankind.

Can God be Persuaded

Let's take a look.

1. The Golden Calf: Exodus 32:9–14

The Context: After the Israelites worship the golden calf, God tells Moses He will destroy them and make a new nation from Moses.

Exodus 32:10

Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.

But Moses intercedes:

Exodus 32:11–13

Then Moses entreated **Yahweh** his God, and said, " **Yahweh**, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? "Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil [intent] He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about harm to Your people. "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit forever.'"

Exodus 32:14

So, **Yahweh** changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Moses appeals to God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and seems to have persuaded **Yahweh's** actions.

2. After the Spy Report: Numbers 14:11–20

The Context: The people rebel after the spies' report that there are giants in the Promised Land. God threatens to strike them with pestilence.

Numbers 14:12

I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.

Moses responds by interceding again:

Numbers 14:13, 19

Then the Egyptians will hear of it... Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now ..."

Numbers 14:20

So, **Yahweh** said, 'I have pardoned, according to your word.'

Responding to Moses' intercession, once again **Yahweh** spares the people from destruction.

3. Request for God's Presence: Exodus 33:12–17

The Context: After the golden calf incident, God says He will send an angel instead of going Himself with Israel.

Exodus 33:15

Then he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not lead us up from here."

Exodus 33:17

And **Yahweh** said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name."

Because of the intimacy in their relationship, Moses' prayers are effective in persuading God to maintain His presence with the people on the journey to the Promised Land.

4. Korah's Rebellion: Numbers 16:20–24

The Context: During the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram to Moses and Aaron's leadership, God wants to destroy the entire congregation.

Numbers 16:21

Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly."

Moses and Aaron intercede:

Numbers 16:22

But they fell on their faces and said, "O God, God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will You be angry with the entire congregation?"

Once again God relents from destroying the whole group and instead targets those who were part of the rebellion.

So, what can we conclude? Can God be persuaded? It sure seems so. If He can be persuaded, manipulated, or coerced, how can there be a **Plan-A** for our lives and not a myriad of plans (Plan-B, Plan-C, Plan-D, and so on) all depending upon how we choose to react, how we choose to pray, or in the case of the Satan, how he chooses to accuse and challenge?

In Time and Outside of Time

This anomaly can only be understood when we realize that **Yahweh** exists both within time and outside of the constructs of time. Our notion of "time" comes from that which has been created for time is an aspect of creation.

Genesis 1:3-5, 14-18

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and *let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years*; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; [He made] the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the

night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

God created the seasons, days, and years, but He was also in existence before anything was created.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being, by choice, through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being, by choice, that has come into being.

Jesus is the Creator.¹² However, He exists outside of time. He is the one who knows the beginning from the end; yet, He chooses to interact with His creation within time.

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'

Being outside of time, He knows everything. He knows how we will react, within time, to all the stimulus He brings our way. Before He said it, He knew what Moses was going to say, and then what He was going to decide. There were no surprises or modifications for **Yahweh**, for He is God and there is no other. He is always implementing **Plan-A**, His purpose, His good pleasure.

Yet, He loves to deal with His creation through our reality, through time, and interact with us in our space, and our choices, to accomplish His purposes in our lives, working with our free will.

For example, in this interplay with Moses, He was giving Moses the opportunity to be redeemed of His pride and his anger, training Moses in godly leadership that is rooted in a love that is willing to care for and protect those who do not deserve to be cared for and protected. He was using these interactions to develop His nature within Moses' heart. It was His way of giving Moses an opportunity to choose Him, even though He knew how Moses would react.

When Moses was a young man, a ruler in Egypt, he observed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, and in anger and rage, he struck down the Egyptian, he killed him, and then he buried him in the sand hoping no one would find out.¹³ He thought that the Hebrews would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, by Moses' hand. The next day he saw two Hebrew men struggling together, they were fighting. Moses tried to intervene, and they chided him saying, are you going to kill us like you killed the Egyptian.

Moses struggled with self-aggrandizement, he thought he was going to be their savior and their judge, and he had a serious anger and rage problem. In fact, it was Moses' anger and rage that ultimately kept

¹² **1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2, 10**

¹³ See **Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:23-25**

him from entering the Promised Land, for in His anger and rage He misrepresented God.

Traveling through the desert wilderness, the people were incredibly thirsty, and incessantly complaining about their thirst, so God told Moses to go to a rock and **speak** to it and the rock will bring forth water for everyone and their animals. But instead of speaking to the rock as instructed, Moses struck the rock with the rod in his hand, and not just once, but twice. He was furious at the people, sick of their complaining and murmuring, and he blatantly disobeyed God's instruction.

In so doing, Moses not only misrepresented the character and nature of God, but he violated the prophetic typology associated with the rock. And all this because Moses never let God completely conquer his self-aggrandizement along with his anger and rage.¹⁴

Prior to this event, Moses faced a similar situation. The people were wandering in the desert and there was no water to drink. The people had become very upset with Moses and God, wondering why God brought them out of Egypt only to kill them and their animals with thirst. Moses cried out to **Yahweh** on behalf of the people and God instructed Moses to take the rod which he used to strike the water of the Red Sea and strike a rock upon which He, **Yahweh**, would be standing, and the rock will gush forth water enough for all the people and their animals. Moses followed these instructions and the result was glorious, water in abundance.¹⁵

But in this second scenario, Moses was instructed to simply hold the rod in his hand and then **speak** to the rock, and God would provide an abundance of water. The rock had been struck once and now Moses only needed to speak to the rock.

This rock, however, was no ordinary rock. Beyond a means of provision, it was a picture, and illustration, and this rock embodied a deep prophetic truth. The Spirit explains in **1 Corinthians 1:10** that this rock was a spiritual rock, and it followed them through the wilderness, and the Rock was Christ. The rock upon which **Yahweh** Himself stood was a spiritual embodiment of Christ and the water was a picture of the Spirit of God being abundantly provided to satisfy thirst. The New Testament equivalent is found in the gospel of John.

John 7:37-39

Now on the last day, the great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, **now** saying, "If anyone may **now** be thirsty, he is commanded to **now** choose to come to Me and is commanded to **now** drink.

He who is **now** believing in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will in the **future** flow rivers of **now** living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who were believing in Him were to **now** receive; for the Spirit was not yet [given,] because Jesus was not yet caused to be glorified.

In the story of Moses, the Spirit was communicating that Christ, our Rock, our provision, would only be struck once for all (when He was nailed to the cross) providing access, resource (the Holy Spirit), and healing for all who would drink. He was not to be struck a second, or a third time. To gain access to this now living water, to the Spirit of God, we can simply speak to Him, and He will provide abundantly.

¹⁴ **Numbers 20:10-13**

¹⁵ **Exodus 17:1-6**

The Typology Violation

In striking the Rock, that spiritual Rock that was Christ, Moses violated and transgressed on the entire typology that was being imaged through this Rock. Christ would only be struck with the rod once and for all, never again needing to be struck.¹⁶ Remember, Moses struggled not just with anger and rage, but self-aggrandizement. Before he thought he could be the savior of men. In this story, he thought he could sit in the judgment seat of God and be angry at their constant sin and rebellion.

This is not unlike what we see occur all the time within the religion of Christianity. We mentioned previously those “Christians” who are ruled by guilt and shame and are maniacally focused on sin, sin, sin. They go through all manner of penance to “get right with God” when they have sinned, and they judge, condemn, divide, and separate from those who are bigger sinners than they are.

It is the story of the Pharisees all over again. The sad truth is that they have never truly embraced the effectiveness of the cross, or said another way, the effectiveness of the Rock being struck once with the rod. The Spirit says that, like Moses, they misrepresent God and violate the very covenant of mercy and grace, and they choose to disgrace the typology of the rod (the cross) and the Rock (Christ).

Hebrews 6:4-8

For in the case of those who have once been caused to being enlightened and have chosen to be tasking of the heavenly gift and have been caused to being made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have chosen to be tasting the good word of God and the powers of the age **now** coming, and have been falling away, it is impossible to **now** renew them again to repentance, **since they are now crucifying to themselves the Son of God and are now putting Him to open shame.**

For ground has been drinking the rain which often chooses to **now** be falling on it **now** bringing forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also caused to **now** be tilled **now** receives a blessing from God; but if it **now** yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

Given what Jesus accomplished on the cross, no one ever again needs to bear the weight of their sin and transgressions. It has been paid for. There remains no accusation of guilt for which a true believer needs to stress, and therefore no reason to live in shame.¹⁷

This explains why this transgression, this violation of the typology, resulted in Moses not being permitted to enter the Promised Land. There is so much more to explain about this issue of Moses not entering the land, and it is all connected to typology: the law versus grace. Simply said, the law, which incites anger, rage, and judgment, is not permitted in the land of grace. But that topic can be saved for another time.

Let's stop here and we will pick back up with the question, “can God be manipulated?”

I am glad you tuned in and have been ready to listen.

¹⁶ See **Romans 6:10; Hebrews 7:27, 9:12, 28; 1 Peter 3:18**

¹⁷ See **Colossians 2:1-17; Psalm 103:2-14**