

In our last podcast, Eliphaz continued to speak deceptive, cruel, and judgmental words to Job. He has no empathy and with what he speaks, he comes across as a narcissist. He said God won't help Job, the angels won't help Job and basically, he is up the creek without a paddle. He was also very prideful believing that he had a relationship with God that would engender help if he was in that situation. We then dove into the role of the if/then religion that dominates Eliphaz's world view believing that our position in this world economically, relationally, medically, etc., is an indicator of our relationship with God. If we are healthy, wealthy, and wise, we are in God's favor, but if not, we are objects of His wrath. Yet, God tells us there is no shame in suffering, and we should be glad to be partners as we share in the sufferings of Christ. It is a privilege! Let's pick back up in searching out the mysteries of suffering and the judgment of God.

EP18 Yahweh According to Job, Job 5:1-16 P2

The Judgment of God

Judgment begins with the household of God because He want those who call on His name to be found in His name.¹ And suffering is the tool which God uses to give us the opportunity to see the areas of our life that are broken and not founded on faith. As the Spirit says, *"But by means of their suffering, he rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity."*² **Yahweh** affirms this truth, *"In their affliction, they will earnestly seek me."*³ Once we see and understand His "reason" for affliction and align our purpose accordingly, then we are enabled by the Spirit to choose to lay aside our *flesh* and consider the members of our earthly body as dead to all that is not of God.⁴

As we learn to bet our lives on the name of **Yahweh**, we are choosing to live from our *New Creation*, which is created in God, righteous, holy, and true.⁵ But often it takes a lot of calamities and a lot of evil (our own and that of others) before we can see the areas of wrong belief or unbelief which God wants to undue. Often, they are buried beneath layers and layers of armor (self-protection) which is covering and protecting our trauma and deep wounding.

What does this mean?

When we see a believer suffer, we should know that God is at work and is attempting to draw that person closer to Him. God is not pushing that person away in punishment; He is giving them the opportunity to draw into deeper intimacy with Him. As He promises: *"You are commanded to draw near to God and He will in the future draw near to you."*⁶

This should be encouraging, for as terrible as circumstances may be, we can be confident that the opportunity for true change is coming in the life of our friend or loved one. Sadly, many do not take advantage of the opportunity, but it is there none-the-less.

What this means for us is that there is no room for harsh judgment and condemnation of our brothers and sisters based on what God causes them to suffer, even if they have sinned and not done things right. God is giving them the opportunity to know **WHY** they should choose to trust in Him and not in their own

¹ **1 Peter 4:17-19**

² **Job 36:15**

³ **Hosea 5:15**

⁴ **Romans 6:11**

⁵ **Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:5-10**

⁶ James 4:8

self-protection and **HOW** to choose to trust in Him. It is a beautiful and glorious opportunity.

Can you imagine if we began to see one another from God's vantage point considering His goal for our lives? Even if the trial of others is associated with great trespass and violation of things that are precious to us, we would experience life in an entirely new way. Seeing as He sees, we would choose to abandon our own judgement and condemnation, and instead focus our energy on encouragement, comfort, and support. We would become sources of pure unbridled **hope**, a hope that is based on what is possible if we are *willing* to let God have His way with us.⁷

However, the sad fact that we tend to judge, condemn, separate, and divide from those who hurt us, speaks to the reality of the if/then religion being alive and well deep within our own soul. Shouldn't we always be thankful, considering what God wants to teach every one of us in each circumstance, even if it means we must suffer harm at the hands of those who are close to us?

Don't get me wrong, we are not expected to like being treated wrongly, nor should we place ourselves in situations where the wrong continues when wisdom says that we should not stick around for the abuse. But how we process that wrong and internalize it within our own being will be radically different if we were to ask God to show us, from His perspective, what He wants to accomplish in us through this experience, what He wants us to learn, and why it is necessary for us, i.e., what is His "*reason*."

I have found that sometimes He answers and gives me the wisdom, sometimes He doesn't and just wants me to choose to let Him love the other person though me regardless of what I feel. But when I see things through His perspective and consider that He is on the move in my life and the life of the transgressor, I find that I am not bound by my pain (which provokes my justice issues), and that I am far more emotionally healthy and available to come along side, encourage, and comfort those who have "sinned," "fallen," "hurt," or "transgressed against me."

The Judgment of God in Practice

Before we move on, it is once again confession time. I have wrestled with this truth about the if/then religion for quite some time. I have fought it tooth and nail, but this if/then religion is so ingrained in my internal system that it drives me nuts how often it jumps out of the hidden places of my soul to trap me into its way of thinking.

For example, I have found it to be very difficult to live without shame, especially when I am thrown into some major test or trial, and I have not done things right. Shame is part of the curse of the law, and it is the foundation of the religious system that is controlled by the woman who rides the beast.⁸ At this point in time, I won't go into a full explanation of her religious system, but if you desire to know more you can go threshermediagroup.com or the YouTube channel, When You're Ready to Listen, and study the teachings on **Revelation 17-18**. But to cut to the quick, this is the system of darkness that pretends to be light, the world of religion which is built around the religion of Christianity.

Let me explain how this works in my soul and maybe you can relate. When I go through suffering, like in my Lesson or my Storm, I can honestly say that my suffering has not come upon me because I am so righteous and holy. That is Job's story, that is not mine; my reality is far from that of Job. My life has been riddled with sin and compromise as my wrong belief and unbelief, buried deep in my soul, have held to

⁷ ***Galatians 6:1-5***

⁸ ***Revelation 17-18***

their position like an enemy warrior who refuses to give up the territory they have acquired.

When I am suffering, when I am rejected, when I am treated terribly, when I am back stabbed, betrayed, when I am misunderstood, when I am accused of all manner of wrong such that I “deserve” all that I am experiencing, and even when I am wrongly accused, shame and guilt stand before me like mighty pillars holding up my temple. Without a doubt, I know I have given God and others many reasons to treat me in these ways; therefore, I become overwhelmed with the shame of it all, and in those areas where I have done wrong, the guilt swells up and overwhelms me.

My immediate response is to think I am being “punished” by God for my sin and my bad choices. After all, He just sits around waiting to thump me whenever I displease Him. GUILT begins to dominate my thoughts and my feelings. I am the “cause.” I knew it all along, I am the “cause.” After all, as I have been preached to by others, “All choices have consequences, and you just have to face your consequences.”

I know this is all a lie and I fight hard against this lie as I try to apply the truth that I know, but escaping the shame of it all has been vexing. Yet this I do know, this way of thinking is evil and offensive to the cross. Still, I want to indulge, I need to indulge, and so I indulge. The enemy then joins in my parade of self-judgment and condemnation, and he tries to keep the celebration going as long as possible tempting me to conclude that I should have done things better, I can do better if I just try harder, and next time I will do better. I will be good for God and for others.

In terms of my suffering, am I being judged by God? Yes, of course I am being judged by God!

Is it punishment? No, of course not! Jesus was punished for me.

Is God mad at me? No, of course not! He poured out all His wrath upon Jesus.

The cross is the proof that I don’t have to live in guilt or shame, for God does not deal with me based on my sinful behavior.⁹ My sinful choices are just evidence of the wrong belief and unbelief that still hides deep in my soul. My sinful behavior is simply the fruit that is naturally produced therefrom. It acts as a spotlight to reveal to me the areas that God has not yet conquered but is targeting for elimination.

In that regard, you would think that I would want the underlying reality of my wrong belief and unbelief to be revealed, that I would want it all to come to the surface, shame notwithstanding, and that I would want to let God judge it and surgically remove it from my life. So, what is my problem?

Truth be told, in my shame, I am still trying to play God. I am still more worried about trying to control how others think of me and how they will treat me. I want to give others an abundance of reasons to want me and to love me, and not reasons to think less of me and to reject me. The fear that rules me is rooted in the wrong belief that my future will be like my past. This entire cycle is self-indulgent and is not in alignment with truth.

I also tend to forget that in prayer and in song, during times of worship, I with an earnest heart, I asked God over-and-over to cleanse me, make me white as snow, and remove from me anything that separates me from Him, to fill me, to give me life, to live through me. Song after song, prayer after prayer, I have lifted these deep heart-felt desires to Him.

He loves these kinds of earnest requests. I know He heard my prayers and received my songs, like a beautiful smelling incense before Him, and so He faithfully jumps into action and brings situations into my

⁹ *Psalm 103:10; Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 2:2*

life, with the help of the angels (good and bad), to enable me to see what I have refused to believe about His name, to understand where my thoughts about Him have been twisted and warped (like the if/then lie), and to uncover the fear that shame and guilt are guarding.

When God moves in judgment in my life, He is faithfully fulfilling the very thing for which I asked, which is the opportunity to experience more of Him. So why do I allow myself to be covered in shame? Why do I let GUILT scream at me and occupy space within my soul? Why do I submit to fear as my master? Why do I care so much about what others think of me and how they will judge me and treat me for all that I have done right and all that I have done wrong? After all, it is totally delusion to think I can control others in that way. It has never worked; I have only hoped that it would work.

The answer to these questions is again a revelation of self-indulgence. I do not like to be treated poorly, I do not like to be unfairly judged, especially for things that we all struggle with, I do not like to be misunderstood, I do not like to be discarded by others, I do not like rejection, and I do not like suffering. Even writing down these realities, I am sickened by the self-indulgence that oozes from my wounds as I try to protect myself and attempt to control the outcomes of my life.

Isaiah 51:7, 12-13

Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, a people in whose heart is My law; do not fear the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.

I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies And of the son of man who is made like grass, that you have forgotten **Yahweh** your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, as he makes ready to destroy? But where is the fury of the oppressor?

The judgment of God is not about our sin per se, after all we were born into sin and have been doing what comes quite naturally, just like a dog that barks and a cat that meows. It is futile to be judging and condemning a cat for meowing expecting the cat to bark. It is just not going to happen. God knows we will act according to our nature until we let Him dominate us, through a new nature where He gets to live in-and-through our lives. The judgment of God is about the opportunity He gives us to share in His divine nature, and it is about our willingness to have more of God expressed in-and-through our lives, and His willingness to give us what we desire.¹⁰

This next part I hate, but it is reality. My sinful behavior is the tool that God uses to get me in the right place mentally, emotionally, and relationally where He can cause me to see what He wants to show me. My sin functions as a heavenly spotlight to pinpoint the areas of wrong belief and unbelief to which I am completely unaware or of which I have draped over with religious or some other delusion. In that regard, my sinful behavior is necessary for my transformation.

I might have lost some of you with this, but please stick with me.

The Spirit's aim in judgment is to show me **WHY** I should trust **Yahweh** and bet my life on His name, forsaking my own name and the name of so many other posers who I listen to and follow, and **HOW** to

¹⁰ See *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Proverbs 22:15; Romans 3:9-12, 23, 5:12-19; 2 Peter 1:2-4*

trust myself to His name alone. Through my sin, He shows me the absolute worthlessness of depending upon myself. It is just a necessary tool.

God sees deep within my heart and only He knows where my wrong belief and unbelief are hiding.¹¹ Only **Yahweh** sees my open wounds, those huge cracks in my soul, which have given a place for fear to fester and for the enemies of wrong belief and unbelief to hide. And only **Yahweh**, the one who sees the beginning from the end, has the wisdom to orchestrate circumstances such that I will finally be able to see the very same places in my soul that He sees.

In truth, my sin, my failure, the sin and failure of others, is all a necessary part of leading me to freedom. What a glorious shame-free, guilt-free reality! After all, I want **Yahweh** to remove those enemies and heal me; and He wants to remove those enemies and have me be healed. But He will not force healing on me; He will heal me as I am thirsty (as I become parched drinking from my own dirty wells and begin instead to yearn for His healing waters).

I must first see the real problem, not just the fruit of the problem displayed in sinful choices and behavior. I must come to understand what it is within me that has taken the place of **Yahweh** being my **I AM** in the specific areas He chooses to reveal to me. Then I can choose whether I will be *willing* to let Him cause me to believe in His name and thereby let Him cut out of me of all my wrong belief and unbelief in those areas. My responsibility is the *willingness*, and He does the rest. Yes, **Yahweh** does the rest.

Furthermore, He does this piece-by-piece, all throughout my life, and not all at once. When **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**, **Yahweh** who sets me apart for Himself, secures an area of my soul exclusively for Himself and He establishes me in faith, then in His timing He will move on to the next territory He wants to possess, and the process starts all over again. This explains the various epochs He takes us through, like my Storm, the Earthquake, and my Lesson.

If we were to truly understand and embrace the judgment of God, there would be no room for shame and there would be no room for guilt, just excitement over the fact that God is moving for my good and answering my prayers. After all, no matter how hard I try, I cannot transform myself, that is the job of **Yahweh Mekoddishkem** who sets me apart for Himself. It is up to Him, subject to His timing, and my *willingness*, as to when He chooses to change an area of my life and establish me in faith.

Within the religion of Christianity, the focus is predominately on the fruit of our wrong belief and unbelief—our sinful choices and our sinful behavior, and not on the underlying issues of wrong belief and unbelief and the fears and open wounds which give rise to our wrong belief and unbelief. Ironically, the more we are focused on the fruit, the more we strive to stop sinning, the more we fail and our bound by our chains of sin.

Within the religion of Christianity, the burden of removing the things which have dominated our lives has errantly shifted from **Yahweh Mekoddishkem** to us, largely because, according to **Revelation 18**, the enemy has taken captive our religious institutions (our ships) and so many of our spiritual leaders (the Captains and Sailors of those ships). Even our Bible translations are aimed at empowering the system of religion and keeping us under the control the woman who rides the Beast, mystery Babylon.¹² Her religious system **NEVER EVER** leads to freedom and rest.

¹¹ **Jeremiah 17:9-10; 1 Kings 8:39; Psalm 44:21; Acts 1:24**

¹² **See Revelation 17**

For example, the standard translation of **1 Peter 1:14-15** is as follows:

1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all behavior because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

"... *be holy yourselves also in all behavior;*" "you shall be holy," what an impossible burden to bear, but still this is the type of drivel that is taught to people the world over and is printed in practically every Bible version. And so in their attempt to honor God, to obey the Word of God, people strive so very hard to be good for God, strive so very hard to stop sinning and to be good Christians. The result, however, is that they end up in a hardened cage of legalism, secured by bars of shame, guilt, and condemnation.

As we learned in the book of **Revelation**, this is the prison that is run by the demonic and lorded over by the Woman who Rides the Beast.¹³ From this prison, few escape. People love the system, for it includes all the things that seem so righteous and godly, including penance for our sin, shame, and lack of commitment, and the promise that if we become disciplined and accountable, we can overcome and have victory, in Jesus.

Yet when we incorporate the Greek tense, voice, and mood, to construct how this verse was originally penned by the Spirit of God through the Apostle Peter, this passage has an entirely different resolution that is aimed toward our choice, our *willingness*, and God's actions to transform us into His image. It should be translated as follows:

As obedient children, do not **now** choose to be conforming to the former lusts in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who has been calling you, you are commanded to let Him cause you to be holy yourselves also in all behavior because it has been caused to be written, "in the **future** you will choose to be holy, for I am holy."

The key verb "be holy" is rendered in the *passive* voice. This means that we **CANNOT** accomplish this phenomenal feat; rather, it must be accomplished for us by an external force. God must do it through the Spirit's work in our lives. This same dynamic can be found in that famous verse that addresses our being conformed into His image. The traditional translation is as follows:

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that

¹³ **Revelation 18:2**

which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Yet when we incorporate the original Greek tense, voice, and mood, which the Spirit of God utilized as He wrote through the Apostle Paul, it reads as follows:

Therefore, I **now** urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a **now** living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, your spiritual service of worship. And you are commanded to not be conforming to this world, but you are commanded to **now** be caused to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may **now** prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect

If we are willing, if we present ourselves to Him, He will cause us to be transformed. Once again, the truth is that we cannot change ourselves; we cannot transform anything but surface level details. We were born in sin, and sin remains in our bodies until Jesus Himself routes it out, piece-by-piece, layer-by-layer. He is the one that causes us to be made holy, and He causes us to be transformed such that we share His divine nature. And no matter how hard we try to fulfill these outcomes on our own, we will never be holy in all our behavior and never be transformed until He does it for us.

By the way, "*renewing of your mind*" is not a verb (it is not an action, it is not something that is done), it is a noun. It speaks of a state of existence. That place where our thoughts about who God is and who we are to God are in alignment with the truth and not with the religious fictions we have been taught, or those which we have told ourselves.

In this regard, if I have been more *sinful* than you, or you more than me, does it even matter? No! We all have layers-and-layers of wrong belief and unbelief in our soul that plays out in terrible fruit, some of which is especially rotten and disgusting and hurts a lot of people and some which hurts only ourselves. The question is whether we want "**it**" out of our lives.

Make no mistake, many of us want the rotten fruit out of our lives, for that is what shames us in front of others and makes our life miserable, but the "**it**" I am referring to is the fear upon which our wrong belief and unbelief is built, that which has been fed by our trauma. The fear lies underneath the pain, underneath the layers-and-layers of self-protection. It is in those areas of wounding that are ruled by fear that we have secured and protected our "god" (our "I Am"), and that is who **Yahweh** wants to supplant and conquer. He wants us to know Him by His name (the **Haya**, the **I AM**) and He wants us to let Him be our **I AM**, our source for all things all the time, if only we are *willing*. We must never forget, Jesus is on a divine conquest, He absolutely wants to rule and reign as our King, but He lets us choose which king we prefer.

Sadly, I have found that few people really want "**it**" out of their lives and there are few who really want **Yahweh** to reign supreme. Technically, I should reverse the order of that statement, as the order is critical. I have found that few people really want **Yahweh** to reign supreme; as such, there are few who really want "**it**" out of their lives.

Matthew 7:14

For the gate is narrow and the way is caused to be trouble (or affliction) that is **now** leading to life, and there **now** are few who are **now** finding it.

Luke 13:24

You are commanded to **now** choose to be striving (or agonizing) to enter through the narrow door; for many, I **now** tell you, will in the **future** seek to enter and will not in the **future** be able.

What a shocking statement: few are now finding the pathway to life, and though many seek to enter they will not be able because they are looking for the wrong thing; their motivation is all wrong. That is a sad, sad, reality. They may want eternal life, they may want freedom from sin, they may want the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they may want peace and rest, and they may love the idea of Jesus, and so on. But the question is do they want the **Haya**? Do they want a jealous despotic king ruling over their lives, a King who will wound us to heal us, a God who will take away whatever is necessary that we might come to depend only on Him?¹⁴

Our desire for **Yahweh** is the only motivation that will carry us through this process, for the cost is too high as **Yahweh** regards nothing in our lives as sacred (as we have seen in what He took from Job). **Yahweh Qanna (Yahweh who is jealous)** will do what it takes and sacrifice whatever is necessary to get the job done, if we are *willing*. And that is one big “if.” Most are not willing!

With that said, our *willingness* tends to grow as He judges us in small areas of our life, giving us a foothold of faith and hope. And then He builds on this process. As we begin to value Him above all else, even in small bits, He moves on those deep desires to fulfill even further our desires for more of Him. Our *willingness* is a progressive experience, at least it should be. He gives us the opportunity, over-and-over again, through judgment, and it all comes down to whether we have come to know Him for who He is (our **Haya**) and desire Him for who He is and not who we want Him to be.

Many people give the Spirit of God some room to operate, usually to alleviate pain; but few are willing to let Him dig in all those deep dark recesses of our soul, where our wounds are open and oozing with fear and pain, from which our wrong belief and unbelief derive, and even fewer let Him go to war against all these enemies in our soul that do not want Him to be our **I AM**. As a result, far too many people stop mid-stream in their journey with God and choose to camp out in the wilderness of good religion, and still others choose to turn-back and run all the way back to “Egypt,” so-to-speak.

The true cost of a transformed life is too high for most because, when it is all said and done, **Yahweh Qanna** wants everything. He wants to rule in every area of our life, and He want to become for us the source for all things all the time. He wants to supplant all that we are for all that He is. I call this the “**Substitution Principle**,” and it is the “reason” He brings suffering and trauma into our lives. This is the way of love.

If we come to that place where we want **Yahweh** and desire for Him to take “**it**” out of our lives, He will bring judgment into our lives, and yes, we will sin as a necessary part of this glorious process. But all

¹⁴ *Deuteronomy 32:39; Job 5:18; Hosea 30:26; Lamentations 3:32-33; 2 Samuel 2:6*

of it is not to shame us but to give us the opportunity to find life in Him and to truly live free from those enemies which hide out in our soul. After all, that is what **Yahweh Yasha (Yahweh who saves)** is all about, our freedom. But the path will be through sin, failure, embarrassment, suffering, and persecution.

Many of us have heard the transformation process described via the metallurgical process by which silver or gold is purified. The metal is heated up to crazy temperatures until the impurities start rising to the surface. Different impurities come out of the metal at different temperatures, some requiring the most intense heat. Thus, it is an iterative process, and not something that is accomplished all at once. But as the impurities come to the surface and are exposed, it gives the metallurgist the opportunity to scrape away the impurities so that the metal becomes purer than it was before the fire.

In that same way, as God exposes us to the fires of His judgment, the impurities in our soul rise to the surface for everyone to see. This process can be emotionally traumatic, especially when those we thought loved or cared for us judge us. The process tempts us to retreat into our self-indulgent shame. But this is the only way God removes the impurities from our soul and makes us purer than we were before. This is the only way.

Lessons of the Heavenly Realms 24

We must learn to see the circumstances in our life, and the lives of others, through the lens of God working and proving Himself out in our lives, and no longer be obsessed with sin, failure, guilt and shame. The *Substitution Principle* defines that narrow pathway to our experiencing faith, hope, and ultimately expressing God's *agape* love to others. This is the way of divine love.

I hate the if/then religious system. I hate the way it is always trying to wrap me in shame and separate me from others. And I know a big piece of my Lesson is about my learning to live in joy and freedom, apart from the shame and control of this religious system. It is a battle; but I know God will take me step-by-step, judgment-by-judgment, and get me there. After all, He is just acting upon my deepest desires to know Him and to be like Him.

The reality is, when I am in the thick of it, I am blessed; and the social, economic, or functional position I hold in this world, at any given point in time, is no indication of my place and position with God. It is just what it needs to be, whether good or bad, for God to accomplish His purposes in my life.

Psalm 57:1-3

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by. I cry out to God Most High, to God **who will fulfill his purpose for me**. He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. My God will send forth his unending love and faithfulness.

1 Peter 4:1-2

Therefore, since Christ has been suffering in the flesh, you are commanded to choose to arm

yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has been suffering in the flesh has chosen to cease from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

James 1:12-13

Blessed is a man who **now** perseveres under trial; for once he has chosen to being approved, he will in the **future** choose to receive the crown of life which the Lord chose to promise those who are **now** loving Him.

Let's stop here and pick back up next week with the "best lies."

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