

# **Bible Comparison for the Book of Exodus**

## 【Exo 1 / Jer 4】

### Exo 1 / Jer 4

**Main theme: Disasters will come, therefore remove all the inner dirt and be bold to do good.**

#### **- Suffer persecution / Remove the inner dirt**

Golden verses: Exo 1:12, Jer 4:3

God's will was to lead His people from Egypt to depart from the idols of Egypt and the manipulation of sins to the desert to serve and worship the only true God. He also wanted to lead them to the promised land of Canaan to inherit the possession. Egypt represents the worldly sins. The Pharaoh represents Satan and also the stubborn old self of man. Moses represents Christ who will save God's people from their sins. (Mt 1:21) Thanks be to God who made Christ to become our salvation, so we will no longer be slaves to sin and release us from the curses of the law to serve freely in the Spirit. (Ro 6:17-17, 7:6) The main theme of the two chapters concerned suffering persecution and removing the inner dirt. On one side was the persecution suffered by the Israelites in Egypt while the one side was the disasters of Babylon would fall on the people. Both came out of God's will to force them to consecrate themselves in trouble, to remove their inner dirt to return to God and be saved.

#### **A. Judgment would come and persecution would aggravate so remove all sins and filth**

Persecute (Exo 1:1-14) - Consecrate (Jer 4:1-18)

1. **【Consecrate and prosper】** 1-7 During the time of famine, the whole family of Jacob consecrated and removed their evil. They obeyed God's will and went down to Egypt as aliens to preserve their lives and were blessed. They passed through the famine years in peace and even became fruitful and multiplied greatly and were exceedingly numerous. Though the generation of Joseph all died, God was still with them. There were seventy of them to Egypt and now became a great nation which revealed God's promise was trustworthy! How He promised and how it was fulfilled.
- ※ **【Consecrate and return to God】** 1-4 Before the judgment of God came, the prophet called the people to consecrate and return to God, remove all detestable idols and circumcise their hearts. Then they would not go astray and all nations would also be blessed because of them. How did God make the house of Jacob be blessed during famine and multiplied and became exceedingly numerous to fulfill His promise to Abraham, same would be fulfilled to give the land of Canaan to the descendants of Abraham as their possession. Only if the people would break up their unplowed ground and pursue the truthful and righteous way and completely consecrate to return to God. Otherwise the wrath of God would burn like fire and no one to quench it.
2. **【Greater oppression】** 8-14 When a new king came to power to rule Egypt and saw that the Israelites had become much too numerous for them, he was full of jealousy and increased their oppression. So they put slave drivers over them to oppress them with forced labor and to build store cities. God's chosen people lived as alien in Egypt and were much troubled. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread. God's will was irresistible and no one could prevent.

## 【Exo 1 / Jer 4】

- ※ 【The sword soon comes】 5-18 Prophet Jeremiah was ordered to proclaim that disaster and terrible destruction would come from the north. The great army of Babylon would come like a scorching wind and sweep through the whole of Judah. Therefore the prophet cried out, 'Sound the trumpet throughout the land, raise the signal to go to Zion, warn the people to run for their lives and enter God's fortified city'. The oppression of Pharaoh and the besiege of Babylon both came from God to force His children to rely on Him as their refuge. (Ps 46:1) The Lord works out the wicked so that His children will return to Him wholeheartedly. The survivors of your wrath are restrained. (Ps 76:10, Pro 16:4)
- 3. 【Plead after enough of suffering】 8-14 The hard-hearted Pharaoh pressed the Israelites severely with hard labor in brick and mortar. They had to labor day and night so that they felt bitter and began to awake. They had long lived in Egypt and pursued on the satisfaction of their present life leading an ignoble existence without calling out to God, so that they had forgotten the covenant God made with their forefathers and the promise of the good land. Thus great oppression came upon them to enable them not to be reluctant to leave in Egypt, to cry out to God and return to Him. (Exo 2:23-25)
- ※ 【Wash away the inner dirt】 5-18 The alarm was blown. The enemy was by the door and the severe judgment was inevitable to eradicate the deep-rooted sin of the people. This was to force them to put on sackcloth when disasters came and to cry out sorrowfully and to wash away the evil in their heart. Under the restrain of Pharaoh, the people felt bitter, then they cried out to God and returned to Him. The false prophet deceived the people of God and said, 'You will have peace' when the sword was at their throats. The authority of Egypt and Babylon was in God's hand. Do not trust in false 'peace' and consecrate yourselves and return to God completely. You will then have peace otherwise nothing can be remedied.

### **B. Honor God and overcome the enemy verses abandon God and curry favor with the enemy**

Overcome the enemy (Exo 1:15-22) - curry favor with the enemy (Jer 4:19-31)

- 1. 【Overcome the enemy by wisdom】 15-19 Pharaoh saw the restrain of the mid-wives could not prevent the growth of the Israelites so he further persecute them. He ordered the Hebrew mid-wives to watch on the delivery and kill all the boys. The tribe of Israel was swamped with disasters. Satan attempted to destroy God's salvation plan for his chosen people. The mid-wives, however, feared God and were not afraid of the authority. They resisted the king's order and replied shrewdly. They overcame the enemy's plan wisely and preserved the lives of the boys.
- ※ 【Curry favor with the enemy in stupidity】 19-31 It was a pity that when the people of God was faced with a crisis of country ruins of course, they were still foolish and ignorant and turned their backs to God. They had the cleverness to do evil but did not have the knowledge to do good. Great disaster was just over their head and they were still like the heavy make-up of a prostitute, wishfully thinking they might induce the enemy to reconcile. They tried to escape from the adversity which was like beating a

## 【Exo 1 / Jer 4】

dead horse and vain to run around. The two mid-wives feared God, had wisdom and faith and boldness to overcome the evil plot of Pharaoh. (Job 28:28, Pro 9:10) On one side was the mid-wives' denial of themselves and a witness of the glory of overcoming the enemy. While the other side was the shameful act of the Jews' currying favor with the enemy.

2. **【God favors】** 20-21 "But the man who loves God is known by God." (1 Cor 8:3)  
The two mid-wives feared God and were willing to sacrifice to save the chosen people. So they were favored by to God who gave them families of their own. How blessed!
- ※ **【God punishes】** 30-31 "Alas! I am fainting; my life is given over to murderers."  
This was the tragic result of God's stubborn people! They fled from God's punishment, were unfaithful to Him, not trusting on Him, toadied on whom they loved but were killed by them. In their desperation, they were like one bearing her first child, crying for help in suffering and helplessness! The two mid-wives feared God and loved God and were favored with good result but the wicked was taking their road of destruction. (Jer 17:10)
3. **【Greatly prospered】** 20-22 Pharaoh was very unwilling when he saw that the Israelites had become even more numerous. He used another plan attempting to extinct the Israelites. So he ordered to throw all the Israeli boys in the river and to retain the girls. But it was all in vain.
- ※ **【All abandoned】** 23-29 The prophet saw the desolate situation of the land and the people being sorrowfully destroyed and wailed in bereavement. All creations were cursed because of the sins of the chosen people. It was God's will that the Israelites lived as aliens in Egypt. The persecution of Pharaoh reversely made them more numerous. Judah was wayward, did evil and defied God's will. They would be destroyed by Babylon which God had purposed without changing. (Isa 14:24)  
Pharaoh represented the power of Satan and had to fail while the will of God would triumph. Both Egypt and Babylon were the will of the Most High God!

**Ps 51 / Rev 13:4 Main theme: Be contrite and consecrate to overcome the power of the enemy and lead man to return to what is right**

**- seek to be clean / overcome the beast**

- (1) **【Seek for mercy and be cleansed】** 1-6 Who can overcome the power of the beast?  
Only be contrite and pray, be honest to confess and God will have mercy on him and forgive his iniquities.
- (2) **【Pray by faith】** 7-12 Believe that the precious blood of the Lord can wash me whiter than the snow. The Lord can create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- (3) **【I will repay the kindness】** 13-17 I am broken and contrite. If the Lord will restore to me the joy of His salvation, I will lead the sinners to return to Him to repay His goodness.
- (4) **【May the Holy City be established】** 18-19 May God be good to us because of His plan for He wants His children to join together and become the Holy City ready to be caught up.

## 【Exo 2 / Jer 5】

**Central point of the wheels: Consecrate, be contrite and bold to do good to overcome the dragon and the beast.**

Father God, may you let me be cleansed and return to you to serve you. Guard me in my troubles to overcome the power of the dragon and bear good fruit fully.

### Exo 2 / Jer 5

**Main theme: Hardship will refine us to be righteous and humble fit for God's use.**

**- Refine / fit for use (trust in God / abandon God)**

Golden verses: Exo 2:10 Jer 5:14

A discussion on refinement and fit for us - on one side it concerned the parents of Moses who due to faith, trusted in God and risked to hide the newly-born Moses. Thereafter God had miraculously saved, prepared and edified Moses. On the other side it concerned the Jews blindly did evil and abandoned God. They were unwilling to repent and trust in God that led to His righteous judgment and punishment. Through hardship God refined Moses to pursue righteousness and humility and became the spokesman of God just like Jeremiah was fit for His use.

**A. Believe and trust in God will see God's miracle; abandon God will lead to destruction**

Out of danger (Exo 2:1-10) - befall (Jer 5:1-13)

1. **【The whole family believed and trusted】** 1-4 Under the darkened power of the Pharaoh who killed the Israelite boys, God chose from among the Levites a faithful couple to accomplish God's will. When Moses was born, his parents saw he was a fine child. So they hid him by faith for three months unafraid of the king's edict. (Heb 11:23) Afterwards they placed him in a papyrus basket coated with tar and pitch by faith to avoid the penetration of dirty water. This papyrus basket represented God's salvation and became the ark of Moses being placed among the reeds along the bank of the Nile to shelter from the terrifying waves of the Pharaoh. God also prepared his sister to guard watchfully. Every event saw the protection of God and the faith of the whole family! (Heb 11:6)
- ※ **【The whole nation was wayward】** 1-4 The whole nation of Judah was full of evil, not one dealt honestly and sought the truth. There was no righteous man in the Holy city that God would forgive. They swore falsely and acted deceitfully. God struck them but they felt no pain. He crushed them but they refused correction. God found a couple from the Levites who trusted in Him, obeyed Him and dared to defied the king's edict to hide Moses. They put Moses by the river bank that was in the hands of God. God's salvation was like a papyrus basket protecting him on all sides. Jerusalem was stubborn and wayward, not trusting in God, ignorant and did not know God's work and law!
2. **【Escape in difficulty】** 5-10 God's deliverance is miraculous so everything works for the good of it! Pharaoh was determined to kill the chosen people but God saved and protected little Moses through his daughter. So when Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, she found the papyrus basket of Moses. When she saw the boy

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crying, she felt sorry for him. So she decided to adopt him as her own son. God was wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom! God's deed was a response to the faith of the parents of Moses.

- ※ 【Tragically got killed】 5-6 The people of Judah were wayward and did evil. They did not trust in God and insisted to break away from the master's protection like the cows breaking off the bonds. Thus the enemy was like a ferocious beast and torn them to pieces and ravaged them. This was their result of rebelling against God. Moses' parents firmly believed and trusted in God and placed their child under His protection. Though the Pharaoh was also fierce like a beast, he could not harm the boy. Instead, through his daughter Moses had escaped death.
- 3. 【Faith brought miracle】 7-10 God makes all things work for the good of those who love. The boy's sister immediately recommended a nanny to nurse him. So Moses' mother became the nanny of the boy. Later on Moses became the leader of the nation, filled with faith who loved God and his people and faithful to what God entrusted. These were closely related to what his godly mother had brought him up and edified him when he was young. The boy gradually grew up and by faith his mother brought him to the palace and became the son of the Pharaoh's daughter named Moses (drew out of the water).
- ※ 【Abandoned God and brought destruction】 7-13 The house of Judah was God's people. All nations surrendered and everything worked for the good of them. But now they abandoned God and were demoralized. The tide of obscenity was rampant. How could God forgive? The prophet was like a mother nursing and teaching them. However they treated the words of the prophet as wind without significance. They were also self-deceiving, scornful and thought that disasters would never fall on them. As Moses' mother trusted in God and saw by herself His deed. So now she could rightfully nursed Moses without hiding. Faith brought miracle while abandoning God brought destruction! God would destroy the wall of their vineyard and remove any branches that did not belong to God, (Jn 15:2) All nations on earth whether ruled by God, or work for the good of it, or being punished, come from the will of God.

### **B. Impetuosity brings failure. Refined to be fit for use and doing evil will be punished**

Impetuosity (Exo 2:11-25) - God's will (Jer 5:14-31)

- 1. 【Impetuous will lead to failure】 11-12 Moses grew up in the palace of Pharaoh and learned all the knowledge of Egypt. He had a different spirit. By faith he refused to be known as the son of the Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up. So he left the palace and went to see his kindred brothers. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. (Heb 11:24-25) He thought himself was a well-deserved national leader and could save his compatriots. He did not wait for God's order and acted impetuously. He saw an Egyptian oppressing his fellow citizen, so he rashly murdered the Egyptian and hid the carcass in the sand. Acting impetuously is a total failure!
- ※ 【There is power by God's will】 14-18 Jeremiah was a prophet since his youth. He

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grew up under suffering and the dark environment and became the spokesman of God's will. His people looked down on his words as wind. But God would make His words in his mouth a fire and consume them. Jeremiah conveyed God's word not by knowledge and not by impetuosity but by the Spirit of God, full of power. When everyone thought it was peaceful, he boldly prophesied God would raise a strong enemy from the north to attack and destroy Judah. Moses acted by flesh and would naturally bring an opposite result which was the work of the sand.

2. **【Understand the will of God first】** 13-15 The next day he saw two Hebrews fighting and tried to dissuade them. But he was rejected by them. Moses was afraid and quickly ran for his life. He was forced to run to the desert of Midian as Pharaoh wanted to kill him. This was due to God's good intention to let him be guarded in the desert and be edified by God personally so he might first understand the will of God and then carry out His work.
  - ※ **【Convey God's intention】** 18 The prophet Jeremiah was a worker who has deep consideration for God's intention. Not only did he accurately pronounced God's raging judgment; he also conveyed God's mercy not to destroy his people completely. (Jer 5:18) Under the pursuit of Pharaoh, Moses escaped to the desert so that he might be completely attracted to God to understand His will first. Then like Jeremiah, be considerate to God's intention and be His spokesman of His desire.
3. **【The edification in the desert】** 16-19 Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to the desert of Midian being edified solely by God. Loneliness in the desert and the hard life made him advance deeper into God, so he might understand his own physiognomy deeply and had fellowship with God in His light to experience the change of resurrection from death with abundance in life.
  - ※ **【Suffering will refine】** 19 The people of Judah had forsaken the Lord in the good land to serve other gods. Thus God captivated them to Babylon and there they would be forced to serve the foreign gods. The desert of Midian was the place of edification for Moses to become the national leader. Similarly, Babylon would be the furnace of refinement for God's people to be refined and return and become the kingdom of priesthood.
4. **【Refined and be abundant】** 16-22 God had great mission on Moses. At the cost of forty years God refined him in his flesh and impetuosity, so his life be broken and died completely to the old self to reach the abundant condition. Moses shepherded the flock of his father-in-law and lived as an alien. He suffered in refinement and learnt to be humble, obedient, patient, forgiving and ultimately became the good shepherd of the Israelites.
  - ※ **【Rebellious and wither】** 20-25 The prophet called to the foolish and senseless people to tremble and be obedient. Through long period of refinement, Moses trembled and obeyed. He no longer acted by flesh or impetuosity. God made a boundary for the sea and even the water obeyed and would not cross it. But these people had turned aside from God, without acknowledging the power of the Most High, nor did they fear Him. Therefore they would no longer enjoy the autumn and

## 【Exo 3 / Jer 6】

spring rains in season and became withered and desolate. Moses was humble and took discipline in his refinement. So he was blessed. Though in the vast desert, he enjoyed the abundance of God and His pouring of the spiritual rain.

5. **【God will deliver】** 23-25 God's chosen people had suffered all the hardship in Egypt. Their groan and cry for help went up to God. God always remembers His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and God will look after and save them. After many years, the Egyptian king who wanted to kill Moses died. The time of God has come. He sent for Moses to become the national leader to save his people.

※ **【Unable to rescue】** 26-31 Among the people were wicked men who lied in wait to harm them. They only tried to fatten themselves. The prophets and priests joined together and sinned. They ruled by their own authority, made false prophecy, perverted the poor and greatly sinned against God. The people also knowingly sinned without a contrite heart. This had reached a condition which could not be rescued and God's judgment came. God wanted to deliver the Israelites free from the control of Egypt and used forty years of work to edify Moses to become an instrument fit for use. The leaders of Judah sinned wantonly and were unable to rescue the fate of the country. As a result God could not find anyone to breach the gap so God would not destroy this country. (Eze 22:30) Moses was thoroughly tempered by God and sent to be a faithful watchman to breach the gap for all his people.

**Ps 52 / Rev 13:5 Main theme: There is a time for the enemy to run wild. So always trust in God to obey the Way and repay His goodness.**

**- Obey the Way / Be wicked**

(1) **【Darkness is in power】** 1-7 The enemies' mouth love to speak destructive words. God will uproot them. How could they grow strong by destroying others! Know that there is a period that the enemies will run wild. Therefore have faith and endure till the end.

(2) **【We ought to rely on God's mercy forever】** 8-9 Be an olive tree before God and forever grasp God's words to pray for oneself and others. Put hope in the Lord and obey His Way to do good. Then you will see God punishes the evil and reward the good. Be a righteous man to do new and great things so all distress will become great revival among the land.

**Central point of the wheels: We will be favored if we believe and trust. We will be fit for use after refinement and prosper.**

O Lord, please let me unite with you, be abundant in life, not by the eye but believe and trust in You and refined by you fit for use.

## **Exo 3 / Jer 6**

**Main theme: Refined to obey the Way and be sent to attack sin and save all people.**

**- Be commissioned / Give warning (dislike the word / obey the word)**

Golden verses: Exo 3:7-8 Jer 6:16

A discussion on being commissioned and to give a warning - on one side it concerned God sent Moses to Pharaoh to reveal His name and to exhibit God's plan and purpose of



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saving the chosen people. On the other side it concerned God sent Jeremiah to give warning to the chosen people who did evil so as to lead them from their sins. But they disliked the ancient path. As a result disasters came suddenly. We ought to imitate the two servants of God who lead people to know God's name, to ask for the ancient paths and be away from wicked to serve God!

### **A. The prophet was ordered to give warning, to know the Lord's name and to ask for the ancient paths**

Be commissioned (Exo 3:1-15) - Give warning (Jer 6:1-8, 16-21)

1. **【Was sent to save the people】** 1-10 God had actually saw the suffering of His people in Egypt. God also heard their cry because of the oppression of the slave drivers. God sent Moses to relieve them. Forty years of experience in the desert was better than what Moses learned in the palace of Egypt. In the fields, Moses always had fellowship with God and reached the spiritual mountain. When the time came, the angel of God was revealed to Moses in the burning bush. What overwhelmed him was the bush was burning but was not burnt up. God who is the consuming fire was with His people. Though they were tortured, God would redeem them.  
※ **【Was ordered to warn】** 1-8 Jerusalem was originally a beautiful and delicate city, a center to observe the feast and serve the Lord. But it had now become a must be punished city. It was full of violence, sinfulness, demoralized and spiritually depraved. God saw the suffering of the Israelites in Egypt and God also saw the sickness and wounds of the holy city. Their sins were monstrous and the enemy was imminent. The prophet was ordered to send an urgent warning to the rebellious people. Disasters would come. They ought to flee from the holy city. Before Moses was sent for the mission, he saw the great vision. When Jeremiah was young and called, he often saw visions. They both proclaimed the prophecy of God and led the people away from evil to return to God.
2. **【Be holy to see God】** 4-6 When Moses went over to see the great vision, God called to him from within the bush and ordered him to take off his sandals, for the place where he was standing was holy ground. Moses had to accept a great mission, so he had to remove his sins, set apart for the Lord and not to act by flesh. He had to obey God's will completely because without holiness no one would see the Lord. (Heb 12:14) God revealed Himself to Moses that He was his father's God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. When God was revealed to Moses, he saw his own uncleanness. He was frightened and veiled himself. (2 Cor 3:18)  
※ **【Turn away from God】** 1-8 The Lord Almighty proclaimed that the army of Babylon would come to encamp to destroy Judah. The enemy was near and violated their border. Great destruction would soon come. God still hoped that the people would take discipline and repent at the last minute so He would not turn away from them, lest they made their land desolate and no one could live in it. Moses obeyed in the holy place of God. He was revealed and renewed with sins removed. But the people would not remove their sins and be disciplined to repent. They separated from God and defiled the good land.

## 【Exo 3 / Jer 6】

3. **【To know the name of the Lord】** 11-15 Moses heard God's calling to deliver His people out of Egypt, how trembling! After forty years of refinement, he humbled himself and deeply knew himself had nothing. How could he go to see Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt? But God said, "I will be with you." This was the only trustworthy sign - it would be unbeatable when God is with us. Moses requested God to tell His name to the people. This was the first time that God revealed His name - I AM WHO I AM. He is the Lord God who was, and is and is to come (Heb 13:8). He is the Almighty God, the God who never changes and there is nothing too hard for the Lord. (Gen 18:14)
- ※ **【Reject the ancient paths】** 16-21 Prophet Jeremiah called the people to turn back to ask for the ancient paths which was the good way that their forefathers had followed. This was the fiery law passed to them on the Mount of Sinai; the way which they should walk in it. (Deu 33:2) But they would not listen. Instead they rejected God's law. They did not know God's exalted name and overlooked the warnings of the prophets. No matter how expensive gifts they presented to God, they were not accepted and God had destined them to be destroyed by the army of Babylon. This was the tragic result of not seeking to know the Lord God and not asking for His ancient paths. Jeremiah deeply knew God's name and His word. So he boldly proclaim the prophecy of the national calamity and captivity of Judah. Like Moses, God revealed His name to him and was with him.

### **B. Obey and enter the good land but rebel and be rid of the good land.**

Obey (Exo 3"16-22) - Rebel (Jer 6:9-25, 22-30)

1. **【God stretches out His hand to save】** 16-22 God wanted Moses to assemble the elders of Israel and tell them how the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob revealed to him. He promised to bring the Israelites away from the bitterness of Egypt to a place of flowing milk and honey (Exo 3:8) which the Canaan tribes were possessing. But the king of Pharaoh would not let the people go. Then God would stretch out His hand to perform wonders to attack the land and then he would let them go. God's hands are mighty and would let the people be favored before the Egyptians so they might go away in abundance.
- ※ **【God stretches out His hand to attack】** 9-13, 22-26 Jeremiah proclaimed God's judgment - God would stretch His hand to attack personally and all their houses, fields and wives would be turned over to others. God promised to do wonders on Egypt and bring the people away to enter Canaan. Similarly God's hand was full of power to summon the enemy of the north to violate their border like the unstoppable roaring waves. The prophet was filled with God's anger and could not resist to cry out to the people to put on sackcloth and roll in ashes and to mourn for the sudden destroyer which would come upon them. On one side was God's promise to destroy the various tribes of Canaan to give their land to the people. While the other was God rose up the enemy to drive out the people from the good land and lost possession.
2. **【Proclaim God's will】** 18-22 God commanded Moses and the elders of Israel to go to the king of Egypt to proclaim the will of God that the Israelites were to leave Egypt

## 【Exo 4 / Jer 7】

and make a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord. God also stated that Pharaoh would be stubborn and not let them go unless God stretched out His hand to perform all the wonders. After that, he would let them go. Faced with the stubbornness of Pharaoh, Moses still proclaimed God's will without any deduction, any compromise or give in, he was faithful till the end. (Heb 3:5)

- ※ **【Pass on falsehood】** 13-15 From the prophets to the priests of the house of Judah, they all practiced deceit and had loathsome conduct but did not know how to blush. God's people were faced with the danger of national ruin and the wound of the breach. But the false prophets blindly claimed 'peace, peace!' That was giving vain comfort. There was actually no peace. Moses and Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed the will of God without trying to please people or care about the result. The false prophets tried to cater to the peoples' heart and spread false prophecy. God would make them accountable for they had brought the people fall. So God would let them fall among the fallen.
3. **【Leave with fruitful result】** 21-22 In the end God promised the people they would be favorably disposed so they would leave Egypt with the abundant property of the Egyptians. God is righteous. The Israelites were rewarded for all the bitter work when they were slaves.
- ※ **【In vain at the end】** 27-30 God made the prophet as a ore refiner to test the people. They were ever so rebellious. The refining went on in vain and would be like rejected silver being purged from the good land. The Israelites cried out to God in their bitterness and made them leave with fruitful result. The house of Judah forsook God in the good land and was forsaken by God like rejected silver losing witness to the Gentiles.

**Ps 53 / Rev 13:6 Main theme: The enemy greatly blasphemed. So seek the Lord and obey His way and restore the captives.**

**- Blaspheme / restore**

- (1) **【The fool ascends in his evil】** 1-4 There is no God in his heart. Nor does he seek God. Everyone has turned away, becomes corrupt and devours God's people.
- (2) **【Seek to do good and save the captives】** 5-6 The result of the evildoers will be scattered by God in shame. The righteous seek to do good and God is with them.

**Central point of the wheels: Know the name of the Lord, ask for the ancient paths and lead others away from sin.**

O Lord, may you make me firmly keep your good way all my life. So I may overcome the power of the beast and exalt your name to lead people out of Egypt to come in your name.

**Exo 4 /Jer 7**

**Main theme: Do not be timid and do not be self-deceiving; obey the Lord's word for He is Almighty.**

**- Do not be self-deceiving / obey genuinely**

Golden verses: Exo 4:15 Jer 7:11

## 【Exo 4 / Jer 7】

A discussion on not to be self-deceiving and obey genuinely - on one hand it concerned God wanted to save the Israelites through Moses. So he had to obey and be submissive to the orders of God. On the other hand it concerned the prophet Jeremiah bitterly rebuked the hypocrisy and deceitfulness of the house of Judah. He wanted them to obey and reform their ways and actions. This teaches us we ought to pay attention to the worship in the heart over the external worship of the temple. Obey genuinely is better than false sacrifice.

### **A. Do not be timid and do not be self-deceptive, trust in God and obey genuinely**

Trust (Exo 4:1-9) - Reform (Jer 7:1-11)

1. **【Timid and doubtful】** 1-9 Moses was still timid and of little faith on the mission which God gave him. He did not see the God who said 'I AM WHO I AM' through his environment. He only looked at people and himself, the difficulties and the mission which was not affordable. However, God would remove his little faith and doubt so he might experience God's power. God ordered him to perform three signs so he might understand God's almighty and power which would overcome the power of Satan. From then Moses had established the faith. So when the people saw the signs, they would believe God had revealed to him.
- ※ **【Be bold without fear】** 1-11 When the king of Judah Josiah destroyed the idols and made some major reform (2 Ch), Jeremiah was still a young prophet. (Jer 1:1-2) God's word came to him and ordered him to stand at the gate of the Holy temple to rebuke the detestable and hypocritical worship. He trembled to receive this great mission. He was sent to go to the people of Judah who rushed to worship in the holy temple and boldly proclaimed the message of God. Moses was faced with a great mission but was of little faith and dared not respond to God's calling. Moses and Jeremiah were but a staff and not counted as anything. But if they were submissive to God's hand, they could perform miracles and accomplish God's will. Power belongs to God and having God with us is the guarantee of faith. (Ps 62:11)
2. **【God has the power to forgive】** 1-9 Then God told Moses to put his hand into his cloak. When he took it out, it was leprous. He ordered him to put his hand back into his cloak again. When he took it out, it was restored. Leprosy made him understand God's power of forgiveness (Mt 9:6), the curse and the infectious disease brought by unbelief and rebellion, so the people would believe the Lord, the God of their forefathers had truly revealed to Moses. If they still did not believe these two signs, He ordered Moses to take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water would then become blood showing that God had the power to afflict, so the people would believe in God. The stubborn and unbelieving Egyptians would then be cursed.
- ※ **【Ought to be contrite and depart from evil】** 1-11 Jeremiah was at the gate of the recently restored temple and cried out to the worshipers not to trust in deceptive words and said, "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord,....". On one hand they worshiped God while on the other they continued to steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods they had not

## 【Exo 4 / Jer 7】

known. They were filled with evil, just like having leprosy. How self-deceiving! They thought that going to the temple to worship they would be safe, complete and be protected. How could God's temple be like a robber's den! God has the power to forgive. The prophet cried to them to reform their ways and their actions, be contrite to depart from evil and then be cleansed. There they might live in the good land given by God and worship Him with the heart.

### **B. Be commissioned to obey, rebuke the wicked and take warning**

Save the people (Exo 4:10-23) - Rebuke evil (Jer 7:12-20)

1. **【Assume the mission】** 10-23 Moses continued to shirk that he was slow of speech and tongue. God still endured him and waited for him and let him know that God was the Creator. God would help him speak and teach him what to say. Finally as he shirked again, God was angry and arranged Aaron to be his co-worker and he would be his mouth. Thereafter Moses went back to bid farewell to his father-in-law. He took his staff and brought his wife and sons back to Egypt and assumed the great mission to save the Israelites.
- ※ **【Give serious warning】** 12-15 Jeremiah took the yoke when he was young. Faced with the rebellious people he was not timid. He did not shirk from God, not because he had the gift of the tongue but God was with him and declared to him what he had to say. By faith and power he boldly proclaimed to the people and warned them of the happening of Shiloh. Due to the wickedness of the house of Eli, Shiloh was taken captive. God still tolerated the people and sent the prophet to warn them. So if they trust in the false temple, the doom of Shiloh would fall on them.
2. **【The result of being hard-hearted】** 21-23 God ordered Moses to go to see Pharaoh but He also told him that Pharaoh would not let the people go. God allowed Pharaoh to be hard-hearted so as to exhibit God's power. God ordered Moses to warn Pharaoh, "Israel was the son of God, His firstborn. Allow them to serve their God or He would kill his firstborn son."
- ※ **【The result of rebellion】** 16-20 The people were rebellious and hard-hearted like Pharaoh. They were unwilling to repent and did not take warning. They brought the worship of cult to fill the folks and the whole family, no matter old or young burnt incense to the Queen of Heaven (the goddess of Babylon - Astaroth). This greatly provoked God to anger like burning fire pouring on their ground. Israel was God's firstborn who was supposed to set apart for the Lord and worship Him. However they blasphemed the temple of God and the honor of the prince of God. This also broke the heart of the prophet. The punishment of Judah could not be evaded and God would not want the prophet to intercede.

### **C. Obey and keep the covenant versus rebel and do wicked**

Obeys (Exo 4:24-31) - Stubborn (Jer 7:21-34)

1. **【Obey and circumcise】** 24-26 Moses obeyed and accepted the mission. On his way back to Egypt, God chased after him and was about to kill him because he overlooked the covenant of circumcision between God and Abraham. (Gen 17:9-11) As a national leader, he did not keep the covenant and forgot to circumcise his son. So how could he

## 【Exo 4 / Jer 7】

lead the people to obey and keep the covenant? He ought to bring his whole family to remove from the inner filth and circumcise the heart. Therefore God did not let him go and his wife Zipporah quickly responded and circumcised his son. (Col 2:10-11) This served as a reminder for Moses to bring the people to set apart for the Lord and be the descendants of the everlasting covenant to obey and keep the covenant to be blessed.

- ※ 【To obey is more important than to offer sacrifice】 21-28 The prophet spoke clearly to the people to obey and keep the covenant but not offering sacrifice to God! (1 Sam 15:22) The day that God brought their forefathers out of Egypt, He only told them one thing - they would be blessed if they obeyed and walked His way. Similarly when Moses returned to Egypt for this great mission, he was dealt seriously by God. That was to remind him to obey and keep the covenant, then he could teach the people to obey and keep the covenant. Helplessly the people of Judah followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They would not listen to the commands of the servants and prophets whom God sent to them since the time of their forefathers. They were stiff-necked and would not listen or to circumcise their hearts.
- 2. 【God concerned】 27-31 Moses had the mercy from God to gather at the mountain of God with Aaron and he also assembled the elders of Israel. Aaron told them everything what God said to Moses and performed the signs before them to testify God's power. The people bowed down and praised God for He was concerned about them.
- ※ 【God rejected】 29-34 The prophet continued to announce the terrifying judgment. They defiled the house with detestable idols and altars and burned their children in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to the false gods. Therefore the day would come. The place where they sacrificed their children to false gods would be named the Valley of Slaughter, a place of burial for the dead. The detestable altars would become the shameful place of burial of their carcasses. The Lord had rejected the generation who provoked him to anger and no longer was concerned about them. The Israelites gave thanks and worshiped God for His concern while the people of Judah was ungrateful and abandoned God's covenant without repenting.

**Ps 54 / Rev 13:7 Main theme: The enemy seemed to have triumphed completely. Let us call on and trust in the Lord to destroy the enemy and repay His kindness.**

### **- The Lord's Name / The beast's power**

- (1) 【Call on the Lord's name】 1-3 The power of the beast has subdued the earth. Call on the Lord's name and trust in His might to overcome the fight. (Rev 12:11, 17:14)
- (2) 【God will help and deliver】 4-5 God will recoil and destroy the enemy.
- (3) 【I will extol and exalt the Lord's name】 6-7 Lead man to return to the Lord and enjoy salvation together.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be self-deceiving but obey and pray to overcome the enemy.**

Dear Lord, please save me from falsehood and self-deception! Let me be humble and obedient all my life, far from evil and worship you in faith.

## 【Exo 5 / Jer 8】

### Exo 5 / Jer 8

**Main theme: Be courageous to obey the will and glory will be seen at the end. Be stubborn and wayward in His word will increase suffering.**

**- Stubborn / Wayward (serve the Lord/abandon the Lord)**

Golden verses: Exo 5:3 Jer 8:7

A discussion on stubbornness and waywardness - on one hand it concerned the stubbornness of Pharaoh who opposed God's will and would not allow the people to leave Egypt to worship God. On the other hand it concerned the wayward people abandoned God and not willing to serve Him. Thus they suffered the wrath and severe punishment of God. The two servants of God, Moses and Jeremiah were filled with the heart of God. They begged sorrowfully before God and were steadfast to obey His will and proclaim His word in the name of the Lord.

**A. Do not be hard-hearted and do not be wayward, depart from sin to serve the Lord to avoid disasters.**

Hard-hearted (Exo 5:1-14) - Wayward (Jer 8:1-12)

1. **【The stubbornness of Pharaoh】** 1-5 God's will was to let the Israelites come out from Egypt (evil) and set apart for the Lord to serve Him in the desert. The first time Moses and Aaron were ordered to see Pharaoh and proclaim God's will, they were rejected by Pharaoh. He scornfully said, "Who is the Lord..... I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go." Moses and Aaron then told Pharaoh how they met with God and the result of not observing the feast of God. But Pharaoh still would not comply and treated the offering as an absenteeism. The stubborn Pharaoh openly violated the will of God and would not in any way let the people lay down their burden.
- ※ **【The waywardness of Judah】** 1-3 God's will was to let the people become a kingdom of priests to worship and serve God wholeheartedly. (Exo 19:5-6) But the house of Judah, from kings to rulers to the people, was as stubborn as Pharaoh and deliberately did not know God and fear Him. They imitated the Gentiles and did detestable things (2 Ch 33:1-5) and worshiped the starry host. Therefore God announced that the bones of the buried kings and officials, priests, prophets and the people would be exposed by the invading enemy onto where they worshiped the starry host, not to be buried. Those lucky scattered remnants who did not repent would also face even worse results than death. (2 Ki 25:5-7) Pharaoh was arrogant and stubborn. He would not allow God's people to leave Egypt to serve Him and would suffer severe judgment from God.
2. **【Intensified】** 6-9 Pharaoh would not allow the people to go to serve God but inflicted them all the more. That day he ordered that the people should gather their own straw to make the same number of bricks as before without reducing the quota. He ordered the slave drivers and foremen to add more heavy work to the people and not to pay attention to lies. He believed the people were lazy; that was why they requested to sacrifice to their God. Satan strongly undermined the will of God to let them serve Him and forced them to be overwhelmed in hard labor, trouble and busy work.

## 【Exo 5 / Jer 8】

- ※ **【Always turn away】** 4-9 Jerusalem always turned away. They clung to deceit just like Pharaoh intensified to resist God's will. Alas, the foolish and ignorant people were no better than the birds of the air who knew to observe the time of their migration. But they did not know the requirements of the Lord! (Jer 9:23-24) Pharaoh was stubborn and ignorant and treated the promise of God's redemption of the chosen people (Exo 3:7-10) as lies. The people of Judah boasted of the book of law (2 Ki 22:8) but they rejected the word of life (Dt 30:19-20) that God conferred on them. The lying scribes finally could not escape from the dismayed and trapped result. Pharaoh increased affliction on the people of God and was adding evil to himself and could not run away from the severe judgment of God.
3. **【The dominion of the slave drivers】** 10-14 Not only did the stubborn Pharaoh not allow the people to leave Egypt and serve God, he even ordered the slave drivers to afflict them severely. No straw was given to them but the work was not reduced. The people were forced to scatter throughout the land to gather stubble. They were under the dominion and hard press of the slave drivers without peace. They lived under suffering, bitterness, weariness and were beaten.
- ※ **【The lies of the false shepherd】** 10-11 Before the house of Judah was taken captive, the wayward prophets, priests and false shepherds alike all spread the message that was openly against what the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed by the will of God. They were full of good words and dressed the wound of the people as though it were not serious and said, "Peace, peace!" In fact it was a fraud. From the top to the bottom, they all did evil, how could there be peace? They were just like the ferocious slave drivers and used lies and false way to rule over God's people. They did abhorrent things without shame. They would be punished and they would fall among the deceived and fallen. (Col 2:8)

### **B. Cry before God and return to Him in disaster.**

Cry out (Exo 5:15-23) - Lament (Jer 8:13-22)

1. **【Painful if you put hope in man】** 15-19 The Israelite foremen were beaten. But they did not cry before God and instead pleaded with Pharaoh. As a result Pharaoh scolded them and rebuked them for their laziness; that was why they wanted to go and worship God. He still would not give them straw and they had to produce the full quota of bricks without delay. They cried in vain and realized that trouble had come.
- ※ **【Ought to return to God】** 13-17 The people of Judah greatly sinned against God. Disaster came like poisoned water and the enemy's army brought destruction like venomous snakes devouring everything. The foremen of the Israelites were beaten but they did not cry to God. Instead they pleaded with Pharaoh and added more pain to the people. Similarly the people of Judah did not return to God in their distress. They hoped for peace but instead were terrified. Despite this the prophet still called out to them to gather to the fortified cities to return to God and let God be their protection.
2. **【Implore before God】** 20-23 Moses and Aaron obeyed God's order to see Pharaoh. Not only was there no effect, affliction was even harder and could not see God's deliverance. As the Israelite foremen were abused by Pharaoh, they put the blame on



## 【Exo 6 / Jer 9】

Moses and Aaron. The pressure of suffering pressed Moses to go back to God and implore and talk to Him.

- ※ **【Lament before God】** 18-22 Jeremiah had faced a hopeless situation and heard the people lamented 'Is the Lord not in Zion?' He could not control his anguish. The people worshiped images and worthless foreign gods and God's glory had left His dwelling place. The prophet used the parable of the ending of the harvest season to tell that the people had missed the chance to repent and the hope of being saved is gone. He lamented that was there no balm in Gilead and why then was there no healing for the wound of the people just like the stubborn wayward Pharaoh rejecting God's command. (Exo 15:26) Moses also lamented before God why were not the people saved? Throughout his life Jeremiah spread God's word faithfully. Though the effect had not been seen, the prophecy of Judah's revival was all fulfilled. Again and again Moses obeyed to see Pharaoh. Though there was no effect temporarily, God's might would be revealed in the end.

**Ps 55 / Rev 13:8 Main theme: Pray watchfully under the power of the beast. Obey His word and escape to the Lord to destroy the enemy**

**- Destroy the enemy / worship the beast**

- (1) **【Plea to escape to the Lord】** 1-8 Be far from the tempest and storm.
- (2) **【See and attack thoroughly in the spirit】** 9-16 Use the power of the throne to attack all internal and external enemies. Call on to God and He will save me.
- (3) **【Do not be afraid of the many adversaries but pray watchfully day and night】** 17-23 Release your burdens to God. The Lord will hear me and by God I will see the enemy be defeated.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be wayward, do not worship the beast. Obey the will firmly and escape to the Lord.**

O Lord Jesus, May you make me abandon all false worship, humble to listen, willing to serve and escape to you and have rest.

### **Exo 6 / Jer 9**

**Main theme: Plea day and night, proclaim the word boldly for God is Almighty**

**- Proclaim the word / intercede (know God / nothing to boast)**

Golden verses: Exo 6:29 Jer 9:23-24

A discussion on proclaiming the word and interceding - on one hand it concerned Moses was summoned to tell the people of God's will and to proclaim His name. On the other hand it concerned the prophet Jeremiah interceded in tears for the people of Judah. The two servants of God obeyed His will and paid the price. We ought to pursue to know God's name, be circumcised inwardly and depart from sin to become a warrior.

**A. Know the Lord's name, intercede in tears and proclaim the will boldly**

Proclaim the will (Exo 6:1-30) - intercede (Jer 9:1-22)

1. **【Know the name of God】** 1-8 The will of God to deliver the people out of Egypt could not be changed. (Deu 7:7-8) God promised to Moses he would redeem the Israelites to fulfill the covenants He made with their forefathers. God repeatedly

## 【Exo 6 / Jer 9】

revealed to him "I am the Lord" which showed He is a mighty deliverer and would redeem the people from their burdens. He would be their God and according to the promise to their forefathers, they would be brought to the good land of Canaan and take possession. He would surely fulfill the covenant promised to their forefathers. There is nothing too hard for the Lord! (Gen 18:14)

- ※ **【Do not know God】** 3-9 Jeremiah deeply knew the Lord and His name. He was filled with God's heart and hated wickedness. On one hand he cried for the people's sinfulness and on the other hand he hated them and wished he might be far away from them. God revealed to Moses again that "I am the Lord". The purpose was to let the people know the Lord is their Redeemer and had the power to save them. But the sinful people of Judah did not know God and were not willing to turn away from evil to God. Thus God's arm could not be stretched to them.
- 2. **【Proclaim the will of God】** 1-8 God ordered Moses to proclaim the will of God to the Israelites and the revelation of His name "I am the Lord". His name is a strong tower. (Pro 18:10) Only if they would trust in Him, He would stretch out His arm to punish the Egyptian heavily and deliver them away from the hard work of Egypt to serve Him in the desert.
- ※ **【Announce the judgment】** 7-9 The prophet was ordered to announce God would avenge this deceitful tribe. Similarly, Moses obeyed to proclaim God's will to the people. Though the people of Judah had left Egypt, they still lived in sin. Their tongue was a deadly arrow, deceitful and wicked. Therefore the Lord Almighty had determined to refine and test them. Then they would know His Name and because of His Name they would tremble to depart from sin and be saved by God.
- 3. **【Was troubled and would not listen】** 9 Moses obeyed to tell the will of God and the revelation of His Name to the Israelites. But they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and cruel bondage. They did not know God's redemption plan on them and His great love. We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard and combine it with faith so that we do not drift away. (Heb 2:1)
- ※ **【Obstinate and would not listen】** 10-16 The people were rebellious and sinned so God made Judah desolate and pitiful. Jerusalem had become a scorched land. They were scattered among the nations and had to taste bitter and poison. They deserted God's laws. They were rebellious and turned to follow the Baals thus were punished for their deeds. (Deu 28:64) The Israelites were troubled due to the hard labor in Egypt and were not willing to listen to God. However, God has compassion and waited when they had thoroughly tasted the bitterness in Egypt and foreign nations and returned to listen to God. The incorrigibly obstinate would ultimately be destroyed which revealed God's tolerance, patience, righteousness and jealousy.
- 4. **【Plaintive】** 10-13 Thereafter God ordered Moses to go and see Pharaoh again to reiterate His will and reveal His Name. Moses complained before God and said, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips." God still summoned him and Aaron to go to the Israelites and king Pharaoh to proclaim His will. Faced with the obstinacy of Pharaoh with insufficient

## 【Exo 6 / Jer 9】

faith, Moses forgot that the Lord created man's mouth and God's words were the will of the Most High and no one could reject.

- ※ **【Implore】** 1 Jeremiah was considerate for God's heart. Facing a sorrowful result of national destruction he could not stop to continue to cry for the sinful people day and night and implore from God. "The Lord is the God of Sovereignty" He wants us to think of His will. He has the full power to accomplish so why did Moses complain and reject? What Moses needed was not the gift of tongue but the price to pray. Even when God's people were on the verge of destruction, God's love still does not change. So he ordered those women who were well-versed in lamenting to wail together for the nation and to teach their children and neighbor to lament and take discipline to repent.

### **B. Know God and be circumcised, be a warrior and nothing to boast.**

A warrior (Exo 6:14-27) - Circumcision (Jer 9:23-26)

1. **【Was chosen by God】** 14-25 The last paragraph of this chapter recorded the heads of the Israelite family. It focused on the genealogy of Levi and revealed the will of God's choice and His favor. The tribe of Levi was taken out to be for the Lord to replace all the firstborn of the Israelites and to serve God. (Num 8:14-18) It also highlighted the genealogy of Moses and Aaron. God chose Amram who gave birth to Aaron and Moses so they might be specially selected by God to be the chief priest and leader of the people.
- ※ **【Boast in the Lord】** 23-24 Those who please God are those chosen by Him and acknowledge that He is the Lord (Hos 6:3); pursue His love, justice and righteousness and boast in the Lord. (1 Cor 1:30-31) By God's will, he chose the Levites from among the twelve tribes to set apart for the Lord. He also chose Moses and Aaron not because of their wisdom, strength or wealth. There is nothing to boast of.
2. **【Be warriors】** 26-67 How perfect is God's salvation! Once the Israelites exited Egypt, they became the army of the Lord. They started to march in the desert and overcame their surrounding enemies. God also wanted to lead them to Canaan to take possession of the land. The church is also chosen by God to be the warriors of Christ (2 Ti 2:3) to fight for the truth.
- ※ **【Be circumcised】** 25-26 Under the righteous judgment of God, people will be punished if their hearts are not circumcised, whether the Gentiles or the chosen people of God. This shows that the circumcision which the Jews boasted of was not the external circumcision, the true circumcision. True circumcision is the removal of the filth in the heart. It concerns the spirit and not of the written code. (Deu 30:6, Ro 2:28-29) The Israelites went out of Egypt and all the able men had to be circumcised. (Jos 5:2-9) But as their hearts were not circumcised and they did not listen to God's words, they all died in the desert. We must experience the circumcision of Jesus' cross and overcome by the cross!

**Ps 56 / Rev 13:9 Main theme: Listen and believe in the Lord's word, cry out and praise to get rid of the enemy and repay the kindness.**

**- Listen and believe / Praise**

## 【Exo 7 / Jer 10】

- (1) **【Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid】** 1-6 All day long the slanderers press their attack and pursue me. They conspire and lurk to take my life. But I trust in the Lord and will not be afraid because of His words.
- (2) **【Cry to God and the enemies will turn back】** 7-11 Due to the Lord's promise, I know He will help me. I cry out and trust in God and the enemies turn back.
- (3) **【I will give thanks and repay the kindness】** 12-13 I was favored and would not forget to give thanks because the Lord has delivered me from death and stumbling. So I will exalt and proclaim extensively the Lord's favor and give back my vow.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen and trust in the Lord's words, acknowledge His Name and proclaim His word boldly.**

O Lord Jesus, may you make my heart be circumcised and overcome Satan so I may proclaim your word boldly, intercede with love and glory in your praise!

### Exo 7 / Jer 10

**Main theme: Do not be afraid of anything but fear the true God and walk according to His way**

**- True God / idol (have respect for God / Obey His command)**

Golden verses: Exo 7:1 Jer 10:10

A discussion on true God and idols - on one hand it concerned Pharaoh who was stubborn at heart. He did not know the true God and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt and so disasters came. On the other hand it concerned the people of Judah imitated other nations to worship idols. They became ignorant and obstinate so they were tempted and taken captive. This teaches us we ought to break away from the secular crimes, abandon the false idols and worship God by listening to His command and serve Him.

**A. Do not be stubborn and do not be terrified. Obey the command to proclaim and be discerned in the spirit.**

Power (Exo 7:1-7) - Be discerned thoroughly (Jer 10:1-5)

1. **【Reveal God's power】** 1-7 God's will on the Israelites never changes. He chose Moses to reveal His deeds through him. Therefore whatever God ordered he had to proclaim. God also arranged Aaron as his co-worker. They did according to what God ordered them. As Pharaoh's heart was stubborn, thus more miraculous signs appeared to reveal God's power.
- ※ **【Become worthless】** 1-5 God's will was to let the Israelites serve and worship God on the good land. But they followed the actions of the foreign nations to worship the starry host and made idols for themselves. The prophet was ordered to attack them. The idols were all worthless. They could do no harm nor could they do any good. According to God's order, Moses and Aaron declared to Pharaoh of His will with power. Only God formed the light and created darkness. He brought prosperity and created disaster. (Isa 45:6-7) Everything who made the idols became worthless. (1 Jn 5:21)
2. **【Represented God before Pharaoh】** 1-7 Though Moses shirked before God repeatedly, God bore his weakness and selected his brother Aaron to declare the words

## 【Exo 7 / Jer 10】

on Moses' behalf. But God still proclaimed His will direct to Moses and made him represented God. Moses was entrusted to see Pharaoh at the age of 80. For forty years he was edified and refined so he might deeply understand himself as lowly and nothing. Then God sent him to accomplish His will. (1 Cor 1:26-29)

- ※ **【Perceive everything before God】** 1-5 Though Jeremiah was a young prophet, he trusted in God and was powerful; like Moses who spoke for God before Pharaoh filled with authority. He boldly proclaimed God's will and was well discerned in the spirit just like Moses who spoke to God face to face. He sharply pointed out the self-deceitfulness of making the idols and the worthless nature of the idols. Moses was edified for forty years in the desert and Jeremiah was edified during the darkest period of the house of Judah and suffered as a prophet. They both obeyed God's will completely and were powerful. Not only did they bring men out from evil, they also set them apart of the worthless idols to worship the only true God.
- 3. **【God's work】** 1-7 Moses and Aaron could not anything by themselves but to proclaim God's will and work according to His will. Though Pharaoh would not listen, God would punish Egypt heavily. By that time God would stretch out His mighty hand and almighty arm and lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
- ※ **【Men's work】** 1-5 The prophet scoffed at the craftsmen who made idols. They chiseled the wood to shape and adorned them with silver and gold and nailed them with hammer. They were no more than idols which could not speak and could not walk. They struggled in vain. Moses and Aaron worked according to God's will. How restful! God would demolish all men's work who wished to establish themselves in the church. Those who work by the word of God and the Holy Spirit will disgrace all who trust in men's work.
- 4. **【Bold without fear】** 1-7 Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh according to God's will boldly without fear and God was with them. Though Pharaoh was stubborn in heart, God's hand would attack Egypt and lead the people out of Egypt. By then the Egyptians finally surrendered and acknowledged the Lord was God.
- ※ **【Panicked and was terrified】** 1-5 The Israelites abandoned God and imitated the Gentiles to worship the starry host (2 Ki 21:5), and did detestable things. So God was not with them. Thus when strange signs appeared in the sky, they would panic and be terrified. But Moses and Aaron walked in the will of God, so even when they had to face the ferocious tyrant, they were bold without fear and spoke courageously.

### **B. Do not be stubborn and do not be ignorant. Fear God to avoid the disaster.**

Stubborn (Exo 7:8-25) - Ignorant (Jer 10:6-25)

- 1. **【God's staff】** 8-13 Moses and Aaron went to see Pharaoh full of spiritual power. But Pharaoh was stubborn and would not listen. So Aaron threw the staff before Pharaoh to make the staff turn to a snake. Pharaoh was not convinced so he summoned wise men and sorcerers to use magic to turn their staffs to snakes. But Aaron's staff swallowed up all their staffs showing the Lord God was great and awesome. His power was highly incomparable and excelled all the power of Satan. (Heb 1:8-9)
- ※ **【God's name】** 6-10 The prophet praised great was the Lord and His name was

## 【Exo 7 / Jer 10】

beyond comparison just like Aaron's staff was beyond comparison. God's name represented God Himself, Most Holy and glorious! Aaron's staff represented God's power triumphing over all evil power. We ought never be like the stubborn Pharaoh but be humble to be submissive to God's power and praise His name.

2. **【True God】** 8-13 Moses and Aaron performed miracles before Pharaoh. Aaron's staff swallowed the staffs of the sorcerers and brought judgment on all the gods of Egypt. (Exo 12:12) Egypt took snakes as their god and the sorcerers of Pharaoh worked in accordance with the work of Satan displaying in all kinds of counterfeit miracles. (2 Th 2:9-10) They could not contend with the true God. The Lord is the God of all gods. Who dare not to fear Him?
  - ※ **【Idols】** 6-16 The prophet compared the God of Israel with the idols of the other nations. On one hand we see God is the true God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Who should not revere Him? When He is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath. Pharaoh could not stand before Him. On the other hand we see the idols were no more than a piece of wood. Though they were made by the craftsman, there was no breath in them. Their precept was worthless. Those who made images were without knowledge just like the sorcerers of Pharaoh were also worthless, foolish, without knowledge and senseless.
3. **【Unyielding and water turned to blood】** 14-19 Pharaoh's heart was unyielding and he refused to let the people leave Egypt and go to serve God. So God commanded Moses to take the staff which was once turned to a snake and meet Pharaoh. He would declare again the will of God to allow the people depart from Egypt and serve God in the desert. Pharaoh still would not listen. So Aaron took the staff in his hand and strike the water of the Nile and it turned to blood. This was God's strike on the water god of Egypt so their pride and wealth turned to a curse immediately. The fish in the Nile died and the river stank. Thus the Egyptians could not drink the water and throughout Egypt there was blood.
  - ※ **【Rebellious and was taken captive】** 17-20 The prophet lamented that the people would soon be taken captive and disasters had come to the door of Jerusalem. He hurried the people to gather up their belongings, ready to be taken captive. Pharaoh was obstinate and would not let the people leave to serve God so the land in Egypt was afflicted. The people were stubborn and worshiped idols. They were not willing to serve the Lord and would soon be hurled out. When disasters came, the people were like Pharaoh, unrepentant. Thus the prophet and the people had to endure injury and suffering.
4. **【Confront God negatively】** 22-25 The heart of Pharaoh was still hard and the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts to confront the Almighty God. (2 Ti 3:8) Pharaoh turned and went into his palace and did not take even this to heart. The Egyptians were hard in heart even when faced with disasters and would not call to God. They relied on themselves and struggled to dig along the Nile to get water but would not repent.
  - ※ **【Still will not call on God】** 20-25 The shepherds, that were the kings and leaders

## 【Exo 8 / Jer 11】

were senseless. (Ps 32:9, Ju 1:10) When disasters came, they still would not inquire of God and were just as hard-hearted as Pharaoh and the Egyptians and not willing to humble to call on God. Their dereliction of duty brought the nation to ruin and people were taken captive. Though prophet Jeremiah was sad and broken in heart, at the last minute he still interceded fervently for the people and begged for God's toleration so God's wrath might be poured on the nations that did not acknowledge Him. Similarly, Moses and Aaron still had to pay the price to confront with the stubborn Pharaoh till the people left Egypt.

**Ps 57 / Rev 13:10 Main theme: Believe firmly and endure persistently, plea watchfully and obey the way to proclaim widely and repay His kindness**

**- Plea watchfully / endure persistently**

- (1) **【Take refuge and cry out to God for He will save me】** 1-6 In extremely sinister condition, God will send from heaven and save me but my enemy will fall into the pit they dig for me.
- (2) **【Believe firmly and plea watchfully will see God's glory】** 7-11 This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. For great is God's love, reaching to the heavens, His faithfulness reaches to the skies. Darkness will turn to light and we will praise the Lord among the nations!

**Central point of the wheels: Fear the true God, obey firmly and repay His kindness for the obstinate will be punished.**

O Father Lord, may you give me faith to endure, to overcome hardship, to sing praise and glorify your name!

### **Exo 8 / Jer 11**

**Main theme: Be tender and obey, carry the cross and declare His word; rebellious and be afflicted with plague.**

**- Rebel / Obey (bold / tender)**

Golden verses: Exo 8:23 Jer 11:19

A discussion on rebellion and obedience - on one hand it concerned Pharaoh who was still obstinate and rebellious and would not let God's children leave Egypt to serve Him. Thus disasters continued to come. On the other hand it concerned God's people in the good land who violated His commands and broke the covenant. They worshiped foreign gods and provoked God to anger thus harmed themselves for their evil deeds.

**A. Obey the commands, keep the covenant and turn from sin to serve God; obstinate and be afflicted with plague**

Turn from sin (Exo 8:1-15) - keep the covenant (Jer 11:1-8)

1. **【Stubborn and was afflicted with the plague of frogs】** 1-7 God ordered Moses to go and see Pharaoh. The stubborn Pharaoh still would not let the people to serve God. Thus God plagued the whole country with frogs. The palace, bedrooms, ovens, the people and even the kneading troughs were sights of the frogs jumping everywhere. The plague of frogs irritated the stubborn Pharaoh and the Egyptians. There was no peace in their eating, sleeping and sitting. The frogs represented the evil spirit. (Rev

## 【Exo 8 / Jer 11】

16:13) But the Egyptians honored them as the goddess. The purpose of God to send this plague was to corrupt their goddess, so whoever they worshiped became their disaster and suffering.

- ※ 【Broke the covenant and was cursed】 1-8 The people of Judah broke the covenant of God (Exo 24:1-8) and would be cursed. The prophet was summoned to declare in the holy city and the cities of Judah that since their exit from Egypt till today, they did not listen to God's warning through the prophet. The hearts of the people were just as hard as Pharaoh following the evil heart to act. They were not willing to obey and serve God so God made all the curses of the covenant came upon them. They would be troubled without peace just like the plague of frogs and they might be attacked by evil spirits in great suffering! (Deu 28:64-68)
- 2. 【Duplicity】 8-15 Pharaoh was troubled by the frogs and became restless in his sleep and rest. So he summoned Moses and Aaron. But he only begged for mercy orally and promised the people might go away and his heart was still obstinate. Moses called to God and He agreed to his request so the frogs in the land died. Great heaps of the frog dead bodies were piled up. The whole land was stench just like the evil spirit had controlled the world, demoralized, lascivious and utterly filthy. Until now God is still waiting for man to repent and turn away from sin completely!
- ※ 【Listen and act and be blessed】 1-8 The day that God brought their forefathers from Egypt away from the fiery furnace, He ordered them to listen and obey His word. Then they would be God's people and He would be their God. However when the descendants entered the good land, they abandoned God's covenant, like Pharaoh whose word did not tally with the heart. They did not truly repent before God. Despite this the prophet still re-instated God's sworn promise. If they would listen and walk according to God's command, God's oath to their forefathers would be steadfast so they might enjoy the abundance of the flowing milk and honey in the good land. Our stubborn old self is also obstinate and rebellious. We only pay lip service to God but our hearts are away. How can we be blessed if we will not leave Egypt completely or listen and walk in His way?

### **B. Suffer hardship to obey the will, set apart for the Lord to avoid disaster for doing evil will harm oneself**

Obey the will (Exo 8:16-32) - Suffer hardship (Jer 9:9-23)

1. 【Still stubborn】 16-19 When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not let the people exit to serve God. God ordered Aaron to stretch out his staff to strike the dust and throughout the land the dust became gnats. They came upon men and animals. The magicians could not produce gnats by their secret arts like before. God showed His might and punished them and the gnats also came upon them. They could not deny that this was the finger of God and forced them to lower their heads and be disgraced. The Egyptians treated the dust as their god of land and worshiped it. But God made the dust turned to gnats so Pharaoh was agonized and bothered by what he worshiped. Still his heart was stubborn and would not let the people go to serve God.



## 【Exo 8 / Jer 11】

- ※ **【Still worship evil】** 9-13 The first commandment which God had set up with the people on Mount Sinai was 'you shall have no other gods before me' and the second commandment was 'you shall not make for yourself an idol or bow down to worship any idol'. However the house of Judah conspired together and turned away without listening to God's word. They also set up altars to burn incense to the shameful Baal. Their idols were as many as the streets of Jerusalem. Their sins were as many as gnats irritating the whole body without rest and unbearable! God made them like the Egyptians to be punished for the idols they worshiped and thus became their disasters.
2. **【The flies became a plague】** 20-24 God ordered Moses to stand before Pharaoh in the morning and continue to declare God's will to announce the fourth plague which is the plague of flies. Pharaoh was till indifferent. So God sent swarms of flies on Pharaoh, his officials and his people that devoured them (Ps 78:45) without escape. Flies are the sign of the god of sun whom the Egyptians worshiped. God sent the plagues so as to ruin all the false gods which the Egyptians worship, thus they might know the Lord was the only true God. Throughout Egypt the land was ruined and defiled by the flies. The Egyptians were in great agony.
- ※ **【Did evil and harmed oneself】** 14-17 When the sinful people were in distress, God not only gave a deaf ear to their cry, He also told the prophet not to pray for them. They were originally loved by God. But since they have committed adultery and abandoned God like the swarms of flies. They took evil for joy. They burnt incense to Baal and provoked God to anger. Thus disasters came upon them like the Egyptians who worshiped flies and became their plague. They had only themselves to blame.
3. **【Be freed from disasters in the Lord】** 20-24 God separated His people with the Egyptians. The Israelites lived in the land of Goshen separated from the world. They lived in the Lord and would not be disturbed by the world. How peaceful! Throughout the land of Egypt there were flies. But in Goshen there was not a single fly so Pharaoh might know that the Lord was holy throughout the land. How awesome!
- ※ **【Abandon God and be broken】** 14-17 God once named His loved ones as a thriving olive tree with fruit beautiful in form forever living in His temple, trusting in His unfailing love. (Ps 52:8) But they were not willing to separate themselves from the secular. The Israelites lived in Goshen and were protected from the plague of flies. Similarly, only by staying in God's temple may the olive tree thrive in holiness and beauty and flourish. Alas, the people had already depraved and abandoned God. They also worshiped idols. Thus the curse and punishment would fall on them like the branches being broken and thrown for burning. We ought be like the thriving olive tree forever grown in God's temple like living in the land of Goshen under the shade of the Almighty God so no disaster will come upon us. (Ps 91:1-10)
4. **【Would certainly not compromise】** 25-32 Due to the plague of the flies, Pharaoh was perplexed. So he summoned Moses and Aaron and promised that the people might sacrifice to their God in Egypt. The deceitful Pharaoh still would not allow the people to go to serve God. Instead he wanted to change the mode of their service which was the evil scheme of Satan to destroy God's will. What do righteousness and wickedness

## 【Exo 8 / Jer 11】

have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? God's people must come out from them completely. (2 Cor 6:14-17) Moses firmly proclaimed God's will without compromise to lead the people definitely run a narrow path that set apart for the Lord. Pharaoh then suggested another condition - they could not go too far away. This was to make them give way to the world which was to worship God on one hand and worship money on the other hand; to serve God on one side and to walk a wicked life on the other and unite with the secular. The will of God was to lead them out of Egypt and to bring them to the good land of Canaan.

- ※ **【Would never give way】** 18-21 The town mates of Jeremiah, the Anathothites were crafty like Pharaoh and wanted to plot against him. They wanted to cut him off from the land of the living. On one hand the prophet endured silently, willing to suffer like a gentle lamb. On the other hand he firmly proclaimed God's will and was faithful to his commission irrespective of the pressure of the environment and without compromise. Just like Moses' condition with Pharaoh who made things difficult in every possible way but would not compromise and give way. The prophet did not argue with the people of Anathoth but committed his cause before the righteous God. The two servants of God always firmly obeyed the will of God without fear of any obstacles and affliction and left a good witness!
- 5. **【Continue to send disasters】** 25-32 Pharaoh continued to resist stubbornly. He would not repent but requested Moses to pray so the disasters might turn from him. God heard Moses' intercession and made the swarms of flies leave Pharaoh and his people; not a fly remained. But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go. God would continue to send disasters on the stubborn Pharaoh.
- ※ **【God will account for】** 22-23 Anathoth was one of the cities of the Levites in Benjamin (Jos 21:18) but they did not serve God in one heart with the prophet. Rather they sought his life and prohibited him to prophesy in the name of the Lord. Therefore the Lord declared that He would punish them severely so their young men would die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine. In the year of punishment He would bring disaster on them. On one side was the people of Anathoth opposed the prophet while the other side was crafty Pharaoh opposed God. They all would have their deserved punishment. (Pro 29:1)

**Ps 58 / Rev 13:11 Main theme: The enemy was like a lamb and a dragon. The Lord's word will measure and discern and pierce through him.**

### **- The Lord's word / the enemy's form**

- (1) **【See through the enemy】** 1-5 Do not be tempted by the outward tender look of a lamb and do not see that he is silent externally but see through his inner viciousness. He sits on high but is far from God and gives a deaf ear to Him. This beast is the false prophet just like Balaam who was greedy for the fee for divination. Those who are greedy for fame and fortune or afraid to die will become the instrument of the anti-Christ who acts in collusion with the enemy and plot evil against God's children.
- (2) **【Pray and attack thoroughly】** 6-11 Pray that God will crush the teeth of the enemy and destroy all their plots and deeds and be swept away by the whirlwind so the

## 【Exo 9 / Jer 12】

righteous may rejoice and the wicked by recompensed.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen to the command and keep the covenant, see and pray thoroughly, endure to suffer to proclaim the word.**

Dear Heavenly Father, may you let me obey your will without compromise, ruin the enemy's plan and set apart for the Lord to serve you.

### Exo 9 / Jer 12

**Main theme: Arrogant and be destroyed; humble to learn the word and be established.**

**- Arrogant / deceitful (endure persistently / bold)**

Golden verses: Exo 9:26 Jer 12:15

A discussion on arrogance and deceitfulness - on one hand it concerned that Pharaoh was arrogant and insisted to retain God's people thus more disasters came. On the other hand it concerned the people of Judah who were deceitful and were punished. They were put in the hands of the enemy. This teaches us not to be stubborn and arrogant, nor to be deceitful and wicked. We ought to imitate Jeremiah to suffer for righteousness and be remembered by God forever. (1 Pe 3:17)

**A. Do not be stubborn, do not be deceitful, be brave to face challenge**

Stubborn (Exo 9:1-7) - Deceitful (Jer 12:1-6)

1. **【Another warning】** 1-5 God ordered Moses to give another serious warning to Pharaoh. If he still insisted to hold back the people of God and would not let them go, the hand of the Lord would bring a terrible plague on the livestock of Egypt. God did not punish him immediately but gave him the chance to repent.
  - ※ **【A greater challenge】** 1-6 Prophet Jeremiah was afflicted by his own tribe and he complained why the way of the wicked prosper. He argued with God and poured out his suffering so He might test his heart and punish the wicked. God encouraged the prophet to be ready to face greater challenges just like Moses would face more severe resistance from Pharaoh. "Men on foot" represented the Anathothites who persecuted the prophet (Jer 11:18-23), "horses" represented the attack from the officials of Judah, "the Jordan" represented greater hardship. Therefore God prompted Jeremiah that even his brothers and his own family would deceive him, not to mention the wicked that were difficult to cope with. Moses and Jeremiah, the two servants of God had to be courageous to face even greater challenges and be unbeatable. They had to consider God's heart and give warnings again to wait for the evil to repent.
2. **【Was afflicted with calamities due to stubbornness】** 6-7 The hard-hearted Pharaoh was still indifferent when faced with God's warning and tolerance. The next day God's hand was on the livestock of Egypt and nearly all died of plague. But not one of Israel's livestock was dead. The Egyptians treated livestock as god. When the plague came, where was their god? The Lord alone is to be feared. (Ps 76:7) The heart of Pharaoh was still stubborn and would not let the people go out to serve God.
  - ※ **【Deceitful and became withered】** 1-4 The prophet fretted as the wicked got the upper hand. They were faithless but lived at ease just like Pharaoh was stubborn and

## 【Exo 9 / Jer 12】

self-deceiving. They thought God would not see what would happen to them. How would the righteous God not search? (Ps 7:9-11) How would God place His hand heavily with plague on the livestock of Egypt, same would be added to the wicked so the land would lie parched, even the animals and bird would perish. We ought to trust in the Holy Spirit to remove the stubbornness and deception in our heart to serve God with clean hands and a pure heart.. (Ps 24:3-4)

### **B. Value the Lord's word, repent and learn His Way to avoid disaster and be established.**

Obey (Exo 9:8-35) - Despise (Jer 12:7-17)

1. **【Turn a deaf ear and bear boils】** 8-12 The heart of Pharaoh was still stubborn and would not let the people go out. Following this God sent more severe plague on Pharaoh. God ordered Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of soot from a furnace and toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. The soot became fine dust over the whole land of Egypt and festering boils broke out on men and animals. (Rev 16:2) The magicians could not stand before Moses. They too bore boils and were not spared. However, God made the heart of Pharaoh stubborn and would not listen them just as what God told Moses.
- ※ **【Forsake God and become slaves】** 7 Israel was named as 'loved by God' but they forsook Him and sinned blindly. Thus they were disciplined and given into the hands of their enemies and became slaves. They suffered physically and mentally just like Pharaoh and the Egyptians were plagued by the boils with unbearable suffering. This was the result of their rebellion and forsaking God.
2. **【The warning of the plague of hail】** 13-19 God wanted Pharaoh to understand that He had no intention to destroy Egypt. If God had stretched His hand to attack them with plague, they would have been destroyed long ago. God raised him up for the purpose to show him His power and His name might be proclaimed in all the earth. But Pharaoh set himself against God's people without realizing the truth. He did not listen to Moses and still would not let God's people go out. So God sent lightning and fire and the plague of hail that had never been before to warn Pharaoh. Before God will send disasters, He is still merciful to give man the chance to choose to listen.
- ※ **【No longer tolerate】** 8-9 God's people were against God. They growled like lions. It also referred to the people of Anathoth as the lions in the forest and the speckled bird of prey who attacked and persecute the prophet. Now God would no longer tolerate. They would be attacked and divided for prey by the enemies that symbolized the bird of prey and all the wild beasts. Pharaoh disregarded the tolerance and patience of God and insisted to be stubborn. God would also not tolerate and Egypt would be faced with the plague of hail that had never happened before. God's people were stubborn in the heart and would not turn back. They were just the same as Pharaoh. God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of them! (Ro 2:24)
3. **【Obey and avoid the disaster】** 20-26 God's word is majestic. It will happen just as he tells. When God poured down the hail mixed with fire (Rev 8:7), those who feared God's word and hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside were safe

## 【Exo 9 / Jer 12】

without hurt. But those who ignored the word of God were harmed without escape. The economy and produce of Egypt were severely attacked except the Israelites who lived in Goshen and were well in peace without hail.

- ※ 【Despise and was destroyed】 10-12 It is a pity that God's people were originally the vineyard of God, a pleasant field but due to the shepherd (the dereliction of the officials' duty) who misled the people and became desolate. God raised Babylon to be the sword in the hands of God to punish them live hailstorm, so they would be attacked by His wrath. They were just like the Egyptians who despised God and would not mind His words. As a result they were punished due to God's judgment without peace.
- 4. 【Heavier plague due to their stubborn heart】 27-35 Due to the severe plague of hail, the labor of the Egyptians on the produce of vegetables, barley and flax were struck and came to nothing. In the presence of the heavy plague, Pharaoh, for the first time, admitted his sin and acknowledged God was in the right. He had to invite Moses and Aaron to pray to God and promised the people might go without staying. Who knows when Pharaoh saw that the plague was over, he sinned again. He and his officials hardened their hearts and would not let the Israelites go. Pharaoh did not revere God or was afraid of God. He admitted his sin and then sinned again. He backed on his words. He was afraid of the plague but he was not afraid of God. He did not have the least bit of true repentance. Therefore God would add more severe plague on him and the Egyptians. The people of the final days have encountered increasingly frequent disasters but still will not repent for what their hands have done. They continue to worship Satan and the idols and their evil deeds (Rev 9:20-21). How can we escape from the wrath of the One who sits enthroned and the Lamb? (Rev 6:17)
- ※ 【Took discipline and was established】 13-17 The people of Judah were like Pharaoh who did not confess truly to God and understand His righteousness. So they suffered the attack of God's wrath. They sowed wheat but reaped thorns. They wore themselves out but gained nothing (Mk 4:18-19), and so bore the shame of their harvest. All the bad neighbors who encroached on the possession of God's people would only be an instrument of God to punish His people so they might be refined, truly repent and return to their own inheritance. In time, God will judge the nations and punish them. If they turn back to God to accept His most high authority and humble with the people of God, be diligent to learn His word, repent thoroughly without swearing an oath on Baal, they will be revived and established. But those who will not take warning like Pharaoh and the nations that do not repent will be uprooted and destroyed. Their penalty will be more severe.

**Ps 59 / Rev 13:12 Main theme: The enemies unite together, turn back and call on God to destroy them and save the people**

**- God arises / The enemies unite**

- (1) 【May God deliver me from the strong enemy】 1-9 May the Almighty God arise to examine and help me.
- (2) 【May the might of God consume the enemy】 10-17 Understand the power of God

## 【Exo 10 / Jer 13】

and do not be afraid of the ferocity of the enemy. Though they unite and return to do evil, God will turn them to nothing. God will bestow strength, power and love to His people. But we must not disregard our inward and outward enemy. Though they have retreated, they will return with greater force and unite to attack us. We must have the decision to swear to stand firm in God's word and resist them by God; then we will see God's glory be greatly revealed. Just like the three friends of Daniel, when the furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual, they insisted not to worship the gold image and God's miracle appeared.

**Central point of the wheels: Be humble to obey the commands, pray to overcome the enemies and praise the love of God**

Dear Lord, may you make me no longer deceitful and arrogant, but be humble and contrite in spirit and tremble at Your word!

### Exo 10 / Jer 13

**Main theme: Be completely away from crime and bind yourselves around the Lord for stubbornness will be disaster after disaster**

**- Completely away from crime / bind around the Lord (Obey / Consecrate)**

Golden verses: Exo 10:23 Jer 13:11

A discussion on completely be away from sin and bind around the Lord - God's will is to let the people serve Him forever. Therefore God wanted them not to leave a hoof behind from Egypt; that was to be completely away from the secular sins and false idols. They ought to be like a belt binding close around God to serve Him and listen to His will humbly without obstinacy lest disastrous results would occur.

**A. Humble yourself and be away from sin, bind yourself around the Lord and serve Him only**

Serve the Lord forever (Exo 10:1-11) - Bind close to the Lord (Jer 13:1-11)

1. **【Stubborn and did not humble】** 1-3 God's will on the Israelites was to leave Egypt and be away from the oppression of sin to serve Him forever. Though God had sent seven plagues, the hearts of Pharaoh and his officials were still hardened and would not let the people go. How long would Pharaoh be still unwilling to humble before God? We ought to humble ourselves completely before God and serve Him in spirit and in truth.
- ※ **【Not willing to bind close to the Lord】** 1-11 God's intention for Israel and the whole house of Judah was to listen to God's word and depart from the worship of all idols to set apart for the Lord and bind around Him just like a belt around the waist of man. They ought to be a people for His renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened. God wanted the Israelites to leave Egypt and be freed from the slavery of Pharaoh and His purpose was to let them bind close to Him to serve Him.
2. **【Obey to warn again】** 1-6 How obedient were Moses and Aaron to God's will! No matter if Pharaoh would reject God's warning again and again without humbling, they would warn him again to let the people go for tomorrow God would send a disaster

## 【Exo 10 / Jer 13】

that had never happened before. Locusts would be brought down to cover the face of the ground to devour what was left behind.

- ※ **【Obey to portend】** 1-7 Jeremiah was a man who obeyed completely to God's will. He obeyed to buy a belt and tied around his waist. Then he followed the command to go to River Euphrates and placed the belt in a crevice in the rocks. Days later he obeyed to bring out the hidden belt. Regardless of the repeated pain, the prophet denied himself to obey to give the portent of God. Moses and Aaron were faced with the arrogant and stubborn Pharaoh repeatedly and they obeyed to warn and proclaim God's will. They were like waist belts that clung closely to God irrespective of the situation to be faithful to God's command. On one side was the prophecy of the coming of the locusts while the other was the prophecy of captivity all because of their stubbornness to listen to God's command.
- 3. **【Deceitful and against God】** 7-11 Pharaoh was still obstinate neglecting God's warning and only allowed the men to go and serve God without bring the women and children. The trick of Satan was to hold back the men through the children and their wives and not the whole family might serve God. On one hand Pharaoh threatened Moses and Aaron while the other he drove them out of his presence.
- ※ **【Obstinate and was abandoned】** 1-11 God instructed the prophet Jeremiah that the wicked people would not humble themselves or listen to God's words. Just like Pharaoh, they would follow the stubbornness of their hearts and go after other gods to serve and worship them. God would ruin the great pride of Judah. They would deprave due to the corrosion of paganism; just like the belt was useless when rotten and finally abandoned by God. His will was to let the whole family of Israel young and old and the livestock to go and observe his feast and serve Him. This was to leave the worship of paganism to serve Him wholeheartedly. The people of Judah would not humble themselves just like Pharaoh and the Egyptians and would be sentenced to serious judgment.

**B. Be completely away from sin and take discipline to consecrate and serve the Lord**  
Be away from sin (Exo 10:12-29) - Consecrate (Jer 13:12-27)

- 1. **【Ask for pardon on calamity】** 12-20 Pharaoh's heart was still hardened. So God commanded Moses to raise the staff towards the land of Egypt. He made the east wind blew the locusts on Egypt to swarm over the ground until it was black. The locusts devoured all that was left after the hail - everything growing in the fields and all the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained in all the land of Egypt. In the presence of the great calamity Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron to admit his sin against God and against them and ask for forgiveness. Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord. So God changed the wind to a very strong west wind which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt. But Pharaoh was not truly contrite. He was still hard-hearted and would not let the Israelites go.
- ※ **【Allow no mercy】** 12-14 The people of Judah were full of sins and they were proud in nature same as Pharaoh who did not listen to God's warning. God's wrath would come like the altar filled with wine. He would allow no mercy. This testified that their

## 【Exo 10 / Jer 13】

doom day was not far. Therefore God would make those kings, priests, prophets and the people who would surely die for not willing to confess, drink the cup of God's wrath. The troops of Babylon would come suddenly like the locusts and destroy completely. Pharaoh quickly asked for pardon when facing the great calamity. But he did not truly repent. The house of Judah was also without any sense of repentance when faced with national subjugation and drowned with disasters.

2. **【The plague of darkness】** 21-23 Pharaoh became stubborn again and would not repent. God would not give him any warning but commanded Moses to stretch out his staff towards the sky and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. The plague of darkness brought extreme fear on the whole of Egypt. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. Living in the place of Goshen was living in the light which was away from the power of darkness of Pharaoh. They walked in the light of God (Jn 8:12) and were freed from disaster.
- ※ **【Humble and is freed from disaster】** 15-19 Again Jeremiah sent warning to the people and advised the house of Judah not to be arrogant. They ought to humble themselves and repent to glorify God (Jos 7:19) before He let darkness come and their feet stumble on the darkening hills. Pharaoh was hard-hearted and would not humble and brought the whole of Egypt fell in terrifying darkness. If the house of Judah would not take discipline, their hope for light would also turn to thick darkness and deep gloom. The prophet wept bitterly for them and exhorted the king and queen mother to humble to be freed from disaster lest their crowns would fall from their heads.
3. **【Not a hoof is to be left behind】** 24-29 Pharaoh was unable to endure the suffering of darkness so he reluctantly allowed the Israelites to go. However he still insisted them to leave their flocks and herds behind. That was in fact a block in disguise to let them serve God, because if there was no sacrifice, what could they offer? Moses saw through the evil plot of Pharaoh and would not agree or withdraw. He insisted to bring the flocks and not a hoof was to be left behind. Pharaoh was hard-hearted. He fell out and did not allow the people to leave and threatened Moses not to appear before him again.
- ※ **【Unchanged in nature】** 20-27 The people of Judah were unwilling to leave the secular and evil. So God set their friend Babylon over them. They had to bear the pain like that of a woman in labor without escape. The people of Israel had to go without leaving a hoof behind completely out of Egypt so they might be away from the rule of evil and set apart to serve God. The people of Judah were accustomed to doing evil like the Ethiopians could not change their skin, or like the leopard its spots or like Pharaoh whose stubborn nature could not be changed. God would scatter them like chaff driven by the desert wind encountering a sorrowful result of national subjugation. Pharaoh was rigidly against God. All his brazen acts were seen by God. Similarly God also saw that the Israelites had turned to the idols in detestable adultery. He would uncover their ugliness and punish them. Woe to Pharaoh and woe to Israel! They would not humble and consecrate. So what awaited them was fatal disaster and



## 【Exo 11 / Jer 14】

penalty.

**Ps 60 / Rev 13:13 Main theme: The enemy performed great and miraculous signs. Pray and trust in God to overcome him to take possession of the land.**

**- Rely on God / Overcome deception**

- (1) **【Mend the fractures and pray for revival】** 1-4 The enemy performed great and miraculous signs and deception. We will call on God to mend the fractures, to raise a banner to be unfurled against the bow for those who fear Him, and for the great revival.
- (2) **【God promised we will take possession of the land】** 5-8 Through darkness God tests who are obedient and belong to His saints will take possession of the promise land. Therefore we ought to open our mouth widely to take more possession.
- (3) **【With God we will overcome the enemy and take possession of the land】** 9-12 With God we will gain the victory and trample down our enemies, enter the fortified cities and possess rare property.

**Central point of the wheels: Be completely away from sin, bind close to the Lord, overcome the deception and take possession of all the land.**

O Lord, I am willing to sacrifice completely to be holy to the Lord, like a belt binding close to you, to serve you forever, to overcome any deception and rush to save the souls.

### Exo 11 / Jer 14

**Main theme: Be bold in warning, confess and intercede to wait for the Lord's grace - Stubborn / Wayward (warning / intercede)**

Golden verses: Exo 11:7 Jer 14:22

A discussion on stubbornness and waywardness - on one side it concerned Pharaoh was faced with the last warning but still was not afraid. On the other side it concerned the house of Judah also did not take discipline when faced with the prophet. Therefore God had purposed to send disaster to punish the wicked. The people would only listen to false prophecy and not God's word. Thus the land was dried up without water. This teaches us not to continue to be wayward. We ought to humble and repent to return to God and serve Him.

**A. Be bold in warning and faithful in intercession lest God will make us accountable**

Warning (Exo 11:1-7) - Intercession (Jer 14:1-6)

1. **【Warning of the last plague】** 1-6 The heart of Pharaoh had always been stubborn and rejected the will of God to let the Israelites to leave Egypt to worship Him. He peremptorily drove out Moses before him. Before Moses went out, he warned him of the last plague that if he continued to resist stubbornly, all Egypt would face the plague on the firstborn son. God would go throughout Egypt. Every firstborn son in Egypt would die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne to the firstborn son of the slave girl and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.
- ※ **【The warning of drought】** 1-6 The hearts of the people of Judah were stubborn and were repeatedly wayward like Pharaoh, forsaking the spring of living water of God. (Jer 2:13; 17:13) The prophet was ordered to warn them of drought like Moses who

## 【Exo 11 / Jer 14】

warned Pharaoh of the last plague. The disaster that Israel faced was serious - the ground was cracked and barren with no grass. Even the nobles could not find water to quench their thirst. The whole nation from top to bottom panted in their mourning on the verge of death. The drought which they came across was the portrait of the desolation of their spirit and their stubbornness against God. Pharaoh was rebellious and would not listen while the people of Judah were thirsty because they also would not listen to God's words.

2. **【Proclaim God's will faithfully】** 1-6 On one side Moses obeyed to warn Pharaoh of the last plague while on the other side he proclaimed to the people they would be blessed before the Egyptians and leave Egypt in abundance. Though Moses was rejected by Pharaoh who angrily drove him out, he was not discouraged. He did not compromise or care about his personal gains and losses. He shouldered the important assignment and was steadfast in proclaiming God's will faithfully. He was really a faithful servant of God and he was great in the eyes of Pharaoh, his officials and the people in the end.
  - ※ **【Intercede faithfully】** 7-9 The people of Judah were repeatedly stubborn, wayward and unwilling to repent. Like Moses, Jeremiah was not discouraged. On one hand he firmly proclaimed the message of God's judgment and on the other hand he interceded for the people. He understood the heart of God and he was concerned about his country and his people. When his country was faced with the crisis, he had been crying out to God unceasingly and begged God not to forsake them because of the people's sins. Both Jeremiah and Moses had a heart for God, interceding and proclaiming His will faithfully.
3. **【God recompenses】** 1-6 For generations the Pharaohs of Egypt were brutal and against God. They wantonly destroyed the will of God on the Israelites. Pharaoh had once killed the male Israelites. Now they presumptuously tried to hinder the firstborn son of Israel to worship God. Therefore God would kill the firstborn son of Egypt. (Exo 4:22-23) God is righteous and will recompense! Moses had pre-advised Pharaoh that there would be a great wail among the land which had never happened.
  - ※ **【God punishes】** 10-12 God replied the prophet that the people loved to wander. They ran their own way and did not acknowledge God. Let them fast and cry or offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, God would not listen or accept them. He advised the prophet not to pray for the well-being of the people. He would punish and destroy them with sword, famine and plague. On one side was God recompensed Pharaoh and Egypt while the other was God punished the rebellious people as both deserved it.
4. **【True peace】** 7 Moses proclaimed: when the plague on the firstborn was upon all Egypt with great mourning, there was peace among the Israelites, whether man or animal. So they would know that the Lord made a distinction between Egypt and Israel.
  - ※ **【False peace】** 13-16 The prophets who said false prophecies lied in God's name and deceived the people that they would not see the sword or suffer famine and God would give lasting peace in their place. Actually there was no peace. They used false

## 【Exo 11 / Jer 14】

prophecies and resisted against Jeremiah who proclaimed God's will. Their nature was a lie (Jn 8:44) using false visions, divinations and the delusions of their own minds.

Their result would be the same as Pharaoh and Egypt being recompensed by God.

### **B. Confess and intercede, wait in faith for the will of God will triumph**

Wait (Exo 1:8-10) - Intercede (Jer 14:17-22)

1. **【Proclaim solemnly】** 8 On one hand Moses warned Pharaoh of the last plague and on the other hand he solemnly proclaimed that all the officials of Pharaoh would come, bowing down to him due to the blow of the plague and request him and his people to leave Egypt. They would not insist to retain them. The will of God would overcome in the end and no one could hinder. When Moses had finished proclaiming, he left Pharaoh hot with anger.  
※ **【Proclaim with tears】** 17-18 Prophet Jeremiah overflowed with tears and prayed night and day without ceasing for the people who would soon face the disaster. He proclaimed that the people would suffer a grievous wound, a crushing blow which was without remedy. (La 2:13) Jeremiah sighed that the disaster would be near but both the prophet and the priest had gone to a land they knew not just like the officials of Pharaoh who insistently rejected and would finally see the work of God. We can only humble and be contrite, and then awake and be healed because God heals us. (Exo 15:26)
2. **【Wait in faith】** 9-10 After Moses had obeyed God's instruction to warn Pharaoh, God told him again that Pharaoh would refuse to listen to him and would not allow the people to leave Egypt. Moses and Aaron had performed all the wonders before Pharaoh, a succession of nine plagues but Pharaoh did not have the least bit of repentance. He would not, in anyway, let the Israelites leave Egypt. As a servant of God Moses needed what kind of faith and patience! By faith he waited for God to complete the work of deliverance personally.  
※ **【Confess and intercede】** 19-22 In his deepest sorrow, prophet Jeremiah still continued to confess and intercede for the people. He was deeply thoughtful of God's heart. He called to Him not to forsake the covenant He made with the Israelites, in His wrath remember mercy and for the sake of His name do not despise them. The prophet had such faith and love! Due to the drought the people encountered, he begged to God to bring rain to His possession. (1 Ki 8:35-36) The work of both Jeremiah and Moses was blessed by God with faith and love awaiting His fulfillment.

**Ps 61 / Rev 13:14 Main theme: Do not be led astray or set up any images, pray to gain heritage to fulfill the vows and repay His kindness**

**- gain heritage / set up images**

- (1) **【Pray to take refuge in the Lord and dwell in Him forever】** 1-4 In great deception, the heart grows faint. Therefore we ought to cry to the Lord to be led to a higher rock and take shelter in Him lest we will be the victim of the enemy.
- (2) **【May the Lord bestow His heritage】** 5-8 May the Lord protect those who fear Him, obey the word by God and who are not led astray with love and faithfulness, so they may gain heritage, eternity and eternal blessing and fulfill their vows day after day.

## 【Exo 12 / Jer 15】

**Central point of the wheels: Dwell forever in the Lord, to warn and intercede, overcome the enemy and fulfill the vows.**

O Lord, Your day of coming is near, may you let me hide deeply in you, deny myself to obey the word and intercede with tears for the wayward children.

### Exo 12 / Jer 15

**Main theme: By His blood and eat His flesh to be the Lord's warrior. Sin and be punished**

#### **- Be delivered / be forsaken**

Golden verses: Exo 12:23 Jer 15:16, 19

A discussion on being delivered and being forsaken - on one side it concerned Moses and Aaron led the people away from Egypt and were freed completely from sin to be a warrior by the salvation of the lamb of the Passover. On the other side it concerned the people of Judah who sinned and forsook God and were forsaken by God. God had destined various plagues on them. We ought to be saved by blood, eat up God's word, be sanctified by the truth and be the fighting warrior of Christ to march toward the desert.

**A. Be atoned by the blood, remove the yeast and observe the feast. Forsake God and be punished**

Be atoned (Exo 12:1-20) - Be forsaken (Jer 15:1-9)

1. **【Be freed from disaster by the blood】** 1-7, 13 God ordered the Israelites that the month they left Egypt was to be their first month, the first month of the year and the beginning of their new life. On the tenth day of this month each Israelite family was to take a lamb without defect and wait till the fourteenth day and kill it at twilight. This represents Christ who offered Himself to God blamelessly. His blood can cleanse our hearts and remove our acts that lead to death. (Heb 9:14) We ought to use hyssop to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses. By the blood of Jesus and through our faith, we are justified freely. (Ro 3:24-25) This blood was the sign of deliverance. When God saw the blood, He will pass over and avoid the plague of the firstborn son. (Ro 5:9)
- ※ **【Forsake God and disaster will come】** 1-6 The house of Judah was guilty of monstrous crime. They were presumptuous and did evil. They had forgotten God's grace of salvation. They forsook God and turned their backs. Therefore God had purposed to destroy them. Even with the intercession of the prophets like Moses or Samuel, God would not show any pity on them. All the families of Israel had put blood on the sides and tops of the door frames and were delivered from the disaster. The people of Judah belittled the salvation of God and rejected His great love. Thus God would use sword, famine, captivity and the beasts to punish them. How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? (Heb 2:3)
2. **【Be forgiven forever】** 1-13" Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Cor 5:7) "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Heb 9:22) By the blood of the lamb, the Israelites were not only freed from the plague of the firstborn but were also freed from sin (Egypt) forever. Christ has shed His blood on the cross

## 【Exo 12 / Jer 15】

and accomplished the atonement of sins, a wonderful salvation! (Heb 10:12, 18)

- ※ **【Determined not to be forgiven】** 4 The main reason for the destruction of Judah was due to all the detestable things done by Manasseh in Jerusalem which provoked God to anger. God was determined not to forgive. (2 Ki 23:26, 24:3-4) This teaches us that since we are set free from sins, we should not sin deliberately in His grace but bring our parts to be slaves to righteousness and be sanctified. (Ro 6:15-19)
- 3. **【Run quickly in the spiritual path】** 8-11 That same night the Israelites had to eat the meat of the lamb roasted over the fire along with bitter herbs. We ought to be contrite and conscience-stricken for the sufferings of the Lord, remove our sins and be sanctified by the blood. (Jn 6:53-58, 1 Cor 5:7) We need to eat the flesh of the Lord and drink the blood of the Lord and receive Christ and His word in our heart so we may have life in Him. At the same time we need to bind our waist and wear the shoes, with a staff in our hand. We eat the lamb's meat and unite with the Lord while we run quickly in the spiritual path to follow the footsteps of the lamb.
- ※ **【Being tossed to and fro】** 4 The Israelites were delivered from Egypt to enter the promised good land. However they did not pursue deeply to gain the more abundant life. Instead they depraved in grace and turned their backs. They scorned at God's word and forsook their God who saved them. Thus they were driven out from the good land before God and were tossed to and fro among the nations without peace and without protection! On one hand was to eat the lamb's meat, remember the salvation of God and run quickly in the spiritual path. On the other hand was forsaking God, going backwards in the spiritual and was tossed out. This is a lesson drawn from their mistakes!
- 4. **【Remove the yeast and observe the feast】** 14-20 God ordered the Israelites to observe the Passover forever and remember God's great love of deliverance when they had exited Egypt. At the same time they had to eat the unleavened bread for seven days. By the cross, we may remove all secular things and crime. (Eph 4:17-18) During the Passover, the Israelites ought to hold a sacred assembly on the first and seventh day and stop all their work. The churches shall regularly remember the Lord's supper, remember His love, recollect our own sins, remove the old yeast and be a new batch to restore the first love. Within the seven days there should be no yeast to pursue the inner consecration. "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (1 Cor 11:23-28)
- ※ **【Take discipline and depart from evil】** 7-9 After the Israelites had entered the good land, they had forgotten God's great love of salvation, nor did they observe the feast and remove the yeast. When God judged them with a winnowing fork to destroy them at the city gates, they still did not take discipline and change their evil way. Therefore God sent destruction to attack them. The brutal wars left them with numerous widows and mothers in their deepest sorrow. God's people were not willing to remove their yeast and observe His feast, so He had to send the enemies to cleanse the nation's yeast of malice and wickedness thoroughly. Through long period of painful captivity, they had removed the old yeast and became a new batch. After their return, they used

## 【Exo 12 / Jer 15】

the bread of sincerity and truth to keep the feasts of God. (1 Cor 5:7-8)

### **B. Depart from sin, be a fighting warrior, eat up the Lord's word and be His spokesman**

Depart from sin (Exo 12:21-51) - eat up the Lord's word (Jer 15:10-21)

1. **【Wail apart from the Lord】** 21-33 God summoned all the elders of Israel to select the lambs and put some blood on the top and both sides of the door-frame. Not one of them should go out the door of their house until the plague of killing the firstborn was past. At midnight all the Egyptians from top to bottom, the firstborn son of each family were struck down. Since Pharaoh had killed the Israelite male boys, God made the firstborn son of the Egyptians to be a ransom for the Israel's firstborn. (Pro 21:18) There was loud wailing in Egypt but this plague had passed over the houses of the Israelites. Pharaoh came across this fatal attack so he had to hurry off the Israelites to leave Egypt and allow them to worship the Lord as they had requested and to bless him.
  - ※ **【Strengthened in the Lord】** 10-11 Jeremiah had been confronting with all the evil and stubborn power of the nation and encountered their curses. It was inevitable that he became self-pity and self-love in such bitter environment when there was no one to understand him and being alone without help. God personally comforted him, strengthened him and promised him that when the disaster came, those who persecuted him would plead with him. They would then acknowledge he was the prophet of God, (Jer 37:3, 17:42:1-6) just like Pharaoh who begged Moses to bring the people away when the plague came. There was loud wailing in the whole land of Egypt and only the people of God within the salvation of the lamb had peace. Similarly, in distress God made Jeremiah overcome and strengthened with peace. The blood of the lamb is not only a sign of peace and also a stronghold of our triumph that can overcome Satan who accuses us day and night. (Rev 12:11)
2. **【Full of wealth and property】** 34-36 The people were well favored before God and were favorably disposed by the Egyptians that they gave them everything they needed. So they plundered the Egyptians. God had returned them their wages which they had worked for long in Egypt. So they became rich by the blink of an eye.
  - ※ **【Loss of wealth and treasures】** 12-14 The Israelites did not treat God as their treasure in the good land which He gave them. Instead they boasted of the wealth on earth. Thus God gave away the wealth and treasures which they coveted as plunder to their enemy. The people had long been slaves in Egypt with nothing. God was their everything. So they were delivered and left with full load. The troops that came from the north were strong as bronze and iron which Israel could not resist. God put them to the hands of the enemy troops, so their treasured goods were given to others in an instant and lost everything. This teaches us to abandon all things as rubbish but take God and His words as most treasured. (Ps 119:72)
3. **【Be circumcised to be a fighting warrior】** 37-51 At the end of the four hundred and thirty years the Israelites left Egypt on that very day and departed from the rule of evil. God called them as the Lord's division and started their march in the desert. God

## 【Exo 13 / Jer 16】

reiterated the regulations for the Passover. The rule was no foreigner was to eat of it. Only the slave bought by them and was circumcised may eat the lamb. By the circumcision of Christ on the cross, those who belong to Christ may enjoy the Lord's Supper and a part in the life of the Lord. It ought to be eaten inside one house and none of the meat should be taken outside the house. The church is united and blessed by the salvation of the blood of Christ. 'Do not break any of the bones' means the united witness in the Lord and also means that Christ is strong and unyielding under the power of Satan who had testified before Pontius Pilate and made the good confession in truth, (1 Ti 6:13) He is the good example for those who are atoned to be the fighting warrior for Christ.

- ※ **【Eat the holy word and be God's spokesman】** 15-21 In distress the prophet Jeremiah prayed for God's care and avenge. He ate God's word and became his comfort, strength and delight in the spiritual war. The people preferred to accept the deception of the false prophet and did not believe in the message which Jeremiah proclaimed. He was filled with indignation and pain. So he poured out his bitterness and asked why God would not rescue. God did not break His promise. He was still with Jeremiah. He promised that if he uttered worthy, not worthless, words, he would be His spokesman. Within the attack of the people he would be like a fortified wall of bronze. He would save him from the hands of the wicked, so his bones would be strong and not be broken. This teaches us to eat the holy word, set apart for the Lord, be God's spokesman and be Christ's fighting warrior unyieldingly and fight the good fight of the faith. (1 Ti 6:12; 2 Ti 2:1-3)

**Ps 62 / Rev 13:15 Main theme: Force and temptation were aggravated. Trust in God wholeheartedly and gain salvation and glory**

**- Trust wholeheartedly / force and temptation**

- (1) **【Rest quietly in God alone】** 1-7 In times of great deception and persecution, only the Lord alone is my rock, salvation, hope, glory and strength. We must stand firm in truth by the Lord.
- (2) **【We should always trust in the Lord】** 8-12 Pour out your hearts before God for He is our refuge. Do not be afraid of the violence of the lowborn or the riches and power of the highborn. We need to believe firmly the word of God as He is strong and loving. His strength will attack all who does evil. His love comes to those who fear Him. He surely will reward each person according to what he has done.

**Central point of the wheels: Be atoned and overcome the enemy by the blood and through the Way**

O Heavenly Father, pray that you will let me eat the holy word, set apart for the Lord, be your spokesman, overcome any persecution and lead many to return to you.

## **Exo 13 / Jer 16**

**Main theme: Remove the yeast and offer sacrifice, remember the Lord's grace forever for doing evil will be recompensed**

**- Remember the grace / Do evil**

## 【Exo 13 / Jer 16】

Golden verses: Exo 13:22 Jer 16:21

A discussion on remembering the grace and doing evil - on one hand it concerned God ordered the Israelites to set apart all the firstborn for the Lord after exiting Egypt. On the other hand it concerned the people of Judah who became ungrateful and would not set apart for the Lord after they had entered the good land. Instead they forsook Him, worshiped other gods, provoked Him to anger and suffered disaster. We would never forget God's great love of salvation and follow the example of Jeremiah to set apart for God, and to deny himself to suffer to obey the will till the end.

### **A. Remember the Lord's love, consecrate for Him and suffer to obey the will**

Consecrate (Exo 13:1-6) - Obey the will (Jer 16:1-5)

1. **【Remember the Lord's love】** 3-10 God ordered the people that after they had entered the good land which God promised, they ought to observe the Passover year after year according to the appointed time to remember His great love who led them out of Egypt by the lamb of the Passover. They also had to tell this to their offspring and descendants as a testimony to pass on the law of God to later generations, to remember forever to learn to fear God. The Lord also ordered us to eat the Lord's Supper often for the purpose of remembering His love without forgetting. (Matt 26:18-19, 1 Cor 11:23-24)
- ※ **【Suffer to obey the will】** 1-9 At the time when the house of Judah was about to be subjugated and captivated, God ordered the prophet Jeremiah not to marry or have sons or daughters. He also forbid him to enter a house where there was a funeral meal to mourn or enter a house where there was feasting to enjoy. This was the warning of the captivity of the people. During his life time, Jeremiah suffered to be a prophet. He denied himself to obey and be the prophecy personally to proclaim the message of God's judgment. What a sacrifice! He was willing to offer himself and endure silently just like Christ became the lamb of the Passover to offer Himself. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp to remember His love through the action of suffering to obey the will. (Heb 13:13)
2. **【Remove the old yeast】** 3-10 God ordered that as they observed the Passover, they needed to eat the unleavened bread for seven days. Nothing with yeast nor any yeast be seen anywhere within the seven days. Yeast represents sin and evil ways. God's children are the unleavened bread and must remove the yeast to be the new batch. (1 Cor 5:7-8, Gal 5:9-10) Remember God's love, recollect our iniquities and guard ourselves always in God's love.
- ※ **【Unwilling to remove the yeast】** 1-9 The house of Judah was ungrateful and let down the love of God. They would not listen to the rebuke of the prophet to remove the old yeast. They would die of deadly diseases. They would not be mourned or buried but become food for the beasts. The Almighty God proclaimed He would bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and the voices of bride and bridegroom. God forbid the prophet to mourn for them and He would withdraw His blessing, His love and His pity from the people. They encountered such miserable end because they had turned the good land which God set apart to sinful, detestable and a land for other



## 【Exo 13 / Jer 16】

gods. Those who are unwilling to remove the yeast thoroughly will be stripped off from everything.

3. **【Consecrate the firstborn to the Lord】** 1-2 God ordered that every firstborn Israelite male be consecrated and belonged to Him, whether man or animal. When they came out of Egypt, God killed the Egyptian firstborn and through the salvation of the lamb led them from the land of slavery. Thereafter God chose the Levites in place of the firstborn Israelites to set apart for Him to serve in the ark. (Num 3:11-12) The church was bought by the own blood of Christ to become a nation of priesthood. Therefore we ought to set this apart for God and serve Him forever. (Acts 20:28; 2 Ti 1:9; 1 Pe 2:9)
- ✧ **【Follow other gods】** 10-13 The prophet obeyed to reply the people why God decreed such great disaster against them. It was because their forefathers had forsaken God and did not set apart for Him. They followed other gods and served and worshiped them. They did not keep His law and behaved more wickedly than their fathers. Each of them had followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts without listening to God. Thus God threw them out of the good land. In the foreign land they would serve other gods day and night. They would be refined completely in suffering and then return to set apart for the Lord to serve Him willingly. (2 Cor 6:14-18)
4. **【Redemption of the lamb】** 13 God ordered that every firstborn donkey be redeemed with a lamb. We are all like donkeys, unclean and rebellious. The holy and blameless lamb had taken up the form of our sinful body on the cross to endure the judgment of sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21) If the firstborn donkey was not redeemed, its neck ought to be broken. Therefore we ought to die to sin and live to God and to experience the redemption of the lamb every day. (Ro 6:8-14) All Israelite firstborn sons were blessed by the redemption of the offering of the firstborn bull or lamb. (1 Cor 6:20)
- ✧ **【Return and revive】** 14-15 In the prophet's long message of judgment, he quoted a part of the promise of revival. We see the loving and faithful God did not forsake His people forever. Israel would receive mercy again to return to their native land. How God's great love of redemption had led them from the land of Egypt would again be brought up out of the land of the north. The Lord is their God forever, their Redeemer! The Gentiles too will be blessed and revive. (Isa 45:22-23)

### **B. Follow the Spirit and go forward for God is the fortress. Doing evil will be punished.**

Go forward (Exo 13:17-22) - Fortress (Jer 16:16-21)

1. **【The march in the desert】** 17-19 After the Israelites came out of Egypt, though the road through the Philistine country was shorter, God would not let them go this way. Instead He led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea to sever any thought of going back to Egypt. The road of the cross is hard, but is a narrow path which God has purposed for us, where many precious lessons can be learned in the desert journey and where those who walk the broad path of the Gentiles cannot learn from. Israel was armed when they came out of Egypt. We too ought to put on the full

## 【Exo 13 / Jer 16】

armor of God and be armed to go forward. (Ro 13:12; 2 Cor 6:7; 10:3-5; 1 Pe 4:1)

- ※ **【Chased by the enemy】** 16-18 The spirituality of the people of Judah had backslid and were not willing to follow the Lord to go forward. They did evil wantonly and defiled the Lord's land with the lifeless forms of their vile images and filled His inheritance with their detestable idols. God would no longer endure and judge them. He sent for many enemies like fishermen and hunters to chase after them with double portion to repay them so they had to disarm and surrender before the enemies. On one side God's eyes guarded the people and chose for them the path they should go. On the other side God's eyes watched all the evil deeds of the people and gave them to the enemies.
2. **【Follow the Spirit and go forward】** 20-22 After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham. God was with them. By day God guided them in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light. The anointing of the Holy Spirit would teach, guide, shine and protect them about all things. Even in the dark night, they would continue to walk and not be lost. (1 Jn 2:27)
- ※ **【God is your safeguard】** 19 Though in his whole life, the path of Jeremiah had difficulties and obstacles and often bore the opposition of the kings, rulers and the people, God was with him and was his strength and safeguard. On the day of suffering, God was his refuge. He was led by God in every step just like the march of the Israelites in the desert. They followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and walked in God's light. God's word was the joy in his heart, the refuge whom he trusted and the weapon which overcame all his enemies. (Na 1:7)

**Ps 63 / Rev 13:16 Main theme: Seek earnestly and follow closely, take the sign of the Lord and rejoice will be the end**

### **- The Lord's sign / the beast's mark**

All levels of the people, big or small received a mark of the beast on their right hand or forehead. Thus they were controlled by the beast in their thoughts and actions. Those who belong to God must escape to the desert so their soul will only see Jesus and no other people.

- (1) **【Seek earnestly and follow closely】** 1-5 In a dry and weary time, continue to thirst and long for the Lord and be watchful day and night. Even on the bed through the watches, think of the Lord unceasingly and follow Him closely.
- (2) **【Two different results】** 6-11 Seek earnestly and follow the Lord closely. No one can disturb him if he bears the sign of the Lord. His soul will be as the riches of foods and delight because of God. He will receive the help of God and rejoice under His shadow. Those who take the beast's mark and do evil will be in disaster going down to the depths of the earth. Their lying lips will be silenced.

**Central point of the wheels: Give thanks and offer, Holy to the Lord, suffer to follow closely.**

Dear Lord, I am willing to be attracted by your love. Let you be my satisfaction and delight, to follow you closely to overcome and rejoice!

## 【Exo 14 / Jer 17】

### Exo 14 / Jer 17

**Main theme: Obey and go forward, rest by God for woe to those who forsake Him  
- Believe and trust in God / Forsake God**

Golden verses: Exo 14:13-14 Jer 17:7-8

A discussion on believing and trusting in God and forsaking God - on one side it concerned the Israelites who believed and trusted in God at the point of life and death and were saved to cross the Red Sea. On the other side it concerned the house of Judah was in monstrous crime but would not listen to the warning of the prophet and thus was disciplined and punished by God. The Israelites were redeemed after the Passover but they were still under the authority of Pharaoh. Therefore, to cross the Red Sea was to let them be saved and be freed from the hand of Pharaoh forever. The Israelites passed through the sea represented they were baptized into the death of Christ, with a new life and became a redeemed person. (1 Cor 10:1-2; Ro 6:3-4)

#### **A. By faith stand firm and blessed for those who trust in God**

Trust in God (Exo 14:1-14) - Trust in man (Jer 17:1-13)

1. **【Glory be to God】** 1-4 God wanted to bring miraculous salvation to the Israelites. So He made them pass the Red Sea and be freed from the power of Pharaoh forever. He told them to turn back and encamp by the sea. Their journey was changed. God deliberately arranged this so as to lead them through the storm in the desert and trial in faith to know and experience Him. Pharaoh regretted that he allowed the people to leave, so he pursued them. God also let Pharaoh go stubborn to pursue the people so He would gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army. Then the Egyptians would know the Lord was God, the Redeemer of Israel.
- ※ **【God will punish the evil】** 1-4 The sins of Judah were heavy and deeply rooted just like the stubborn heart of Pharaoh, unchanged in nature. His sins of adultery and greediness were inscribed with an iron tool and a flint point on the tablets of their hearts and on the horns of their altars with no way to escape from God's punishment. Similarly, God let Pharaoh changed his heart to pursue the people which were to punish his stubbornness. God had purposed the people to be captivated in the foreign land until they had completely surrendered before God. God had gained His glory for Himself through them so they knew the Lord was their God.
2. **【Stubborn to the end】** 5-9 Pharaoh represented the anti-God's power of Satan who was stubborn to the end and not willing to let the people be freed from his power. This also represented our stubborn old self, not willing to forsake the world to serve God. Thus the best chariots, horsemen and troops pursued the people and finally overtook them as they encamped.
- ※ **【Utterly deceitful】** 9-11 God is a God who searches the heart and examines the mind. Pharaoh was stubborn and changed his mind, wishfully to captivate the people back. The people of Judah were utterly deceitful. They seized ill-gotten gains thus God would repay them for what they had done. The heart of Pharaoh was stubborn above all things and the hearts of God's people were deceitful above all things and beyond cure. On one side was unreasonable pursuit of God's people; while the other

## 【Exo 14 / Jer 17】

was gaining not by the proper way. They were all fools and could not escape from the final judgment of God.

3. 【Only see man but not God】 10-12 The people were faced with the great storm of Pharaoh's pursuit. They were cornered to a dead end being tested in faith. They looked up and saw the Egyptians marching near and were terrified. They uttered disbelief and words of complaint. They only thought of going back. They only saw the pursuers of Pharaoh but did not see the Maker of all things, the Almighty God! God's unfailing love, faithfulness and strength were never away from them but they only saw men and not God!

※ 【Trust only in God and not be terrified】 5-8 Though the people of God were near to destruction due to sin, God's unfailing love was not away. God used the disaster of subjugation and captivity to warn the people of Judah so as to rescue them. He listed the two roads of disaster and blessing to let them choose. One road was to turn away from God and depend on flesh for his strength. He would be like a bush in the wastelands without seeing prosperity. The other road was to trust in God and depend on Him. He would be like a tree that sent out its roots by the stream. It did not fear when heat came. Even in the year of drought it would never fail to bear fruit. The Israelites were at the point of life and death and faced the choice of trusting in the Almighty God or to trust in the environment. Only by confiding in God completely will we see His miraculous deliverance.

4. 【Watch God brings His salvation】 13-14 At the crucial moment of life and death with the Red Sea in front and pursuers at the back, Moses appealed the people. "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today....." Moses' eyes of confidence saw only God and His promise. Therefore he strengthened the people "stand firm" and "you need only to be still" because the Lord is God, (Ps 46:10) He would fight for His people! "The Egyptians you see today you will never see again." God is faithful and He will rescue the people from the power of sin.

※ 【See God's glorious throne】 12-13 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Ps 46:1) This refuge is God's glorious throne, from everlasting and from the beginning it has been set. Why be terrified by the pursuers of Pharaoh? The pursuit of Pharaoh was to force them to the glorious throne in heaven to find the refuge. Only there was the hope of Israel. However, the people of Judah forsook the spring of the living water of God. God would no more strive for them or bring His salvation to them. Their name would be cut off just like writing in the soil forever in shame.

**B. Believe, trust and have rest for God will deliver. But disasters will come to those who are contemptuous.**

Believe and trust (Exo 14:15-31) - Contemptuous (Jer 17:14-27)

1. 【Believe and trust and be saved】 15-22 On one hand God ordered the Israelites to move on by faith and on the other hand He ordered Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea to divide the water. The angel of God and the pillar of cloud

## **【Exo 14 / Jer 17】**

moved behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Thus one side was in darkness and light to the other side. Neither went near the other all night long. All that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. There was a wall of water on their right and on their left. The people believed and trusted in God and were delivered from danger. (Isa 28:16)

- ※ **【Scornful and be in disaster】** 14-18 In the days of disasters, the prophet would still experience God and was his refuge. He cried to God and was healed and saved. Thus he extolled God as the one he praised. But those who were contemptuous and persecuted the prophet said to Jeremiah, "Where is the word of the Lord? Let it now be fulfilled!" God would put those scornful in shame and destroy them with double destruction. All the words spoken by God through Moses would be fulfilled.
- 2. **【The whole army was destructed】** 23-28 All the Israelites needed to do was to obey and trust and God would contend for them personally. The whole army of Pharaoh followed the Israelites down the sea. God threw them into confusion and the wheels of their chariots came off. God ordered Moses to stretch out his staff again and swept the army into the sea. Not one of them survived. The Israelites obeyed, rested and were rescued but Pharaoh was stubborn and contemptuous so his whole army was destructed.
- ※ **【The whole city was destroyed】** 19-27 Jeremiah was ordered to remind the kings of Judah and the people to listen to God's word - to observe the Sabbath and to keep the Sabbath day holy. They were prohibited to carry any load through the gates of the holy city and no work during this day. To keep the Sabbath is a specific expression to honor God, love God and keep his commands. However they did not listen and were stubborn to take discipline. Thus the prophet proclaimed that God would kindle an unquenchable fire in the gates so the whole city would be destroyed just like the whole army of Pharaoh was destroyed due to his stubbornness. (Rev 15:4) The people did not listen and had no rest. They were handed to their enemies and destroyed in a moment.
- 3. **【God be the glory】** 29-31 The Israelites went through the sea on dry ground and saw for themselves the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians. They saw the dead bodies of the Egyptians swept on the shore. God saved the Israelites completely from the hands of the Egyptians. Thus the people feared the Lord and put their trust in Him and in Moses his servant. God gained the victory over Pharaoh and his whole army and also on His people.
- ※ **【Rest and glorify God】** 24-26 God promised those who fear Him, listen to Him and keep the Sabbath day as holy to enter the rest of Christ. (Heb 4:1, 11) They will also enjoy the glory and worship of His kingdom. They will come from all directions to His temple and offer their burnt offerings, sacrifices, grain offerings and thank offerings. How God gained His glory from Pharaoh and his army, similarly the returned people would gain the glory. Salvation is completed through Christ on the cross. Only if we would be attentive, obedient and rest, we will be like the Israelites passing through the sea. (1 Cor 10:1)

## 【Exo 15 / Jer 18】

**Ps 64 / Rev 13:17 Main theme: Be alert in prayer and obey the Word, we will blow up the enemies' evil plot and save the people by God**

**- Be alert in prayer / the enemies' plot**

- (1) **【Pray to break away from the enemies' conspiracy and evil plans】** 1-6 The enemies zealously plot and their minds are cunning. May the Lord protect my life and be confused and terrified.
- (2) **【God will face the enemies】** 7-10 God will act suddenly and the enemies will be brought to ruin for they harm others and harm themselves. The righteous will rejoice and triumph in the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Believe, trust and be saved, discern in the enemies' plot and triumph by God.**

O Lord, may you let me die to sin and live for you by the cross, to break away from the evil sin to overcome and triumph in You!

### **Exo 15 / Jer 18**

**Main theme: Turn according to the Lord's word and become a precious instrument but the rebellious will face disaster**

**- Praise / in disaster**

Golden verses: Exo 15:17-18 Jer 18:4

A discussion on praises and in disaster - on one side it concerned the Israelites sang the song of redemption by the sea. They witnessed God's great power and work before all the people. On the other side it concerned the house of Judah was disobedient and would not turn from their evil. They conspired to harm the prophet and thus brought punishment to themselves. They lost their witness and became a terror and scorn before all the people.

**A. God's words will turn, obey and depart from sin and sing God's song of salvation**

Praise (Exo 15:1-21) - surrender (Jer 18:1-17)

1. **【Praise God's work】** 1-12 Moses brought the people by the sea shore and sang to God, praising the God who is majestic in holiness and awesome in glory. Miriam the prophetess also led all the women strike the tambourine and dance. They all responded with songs. The Lord was their Redeemer. They sang a song of triumph, a song of faith and a song of salvation. They praised God's unfailing love which endures forever. They praised God's right hand, majestic in power which delivered them from the sea of bitterness and the dead sea so they might experience resurrection after death. We long that soon we may surround the throne of God and the Lamb with millions of saints to sing and worship.
- ※ **【Turn according to God's word】** 1-6 Jeremiah the prophet obeyed to go down to the potter's house. During the process of the potter's work, he saw God was the great and wise potter. The people were clay, the work in His hands. Through turning the wheel (God's Word), He formed them to instrument. (Isa 64:8; Eph2:10) As God had delivered them from the great death, He also turned them to instrument suitable for His use. We ought to be humble and obedient as clay and surrender completely to His powerful intention, to accept His words with faith and turn in our lives to experience

## 【Exo 15 / Jer 18】

His work and sing the song of salvation.

2. **【Believe, trust and be saved】** 1-12 The Israelites passed through the Red Sea and were baptized into Moses (1 Cor 10:1-2), represented the saints in the New Testament who were buried with Christ and resurrected with Christ. They all believed in the effect of God who made Christ resurrected from death. (Ro 10:9; Col 2:12) By the blood of the lamb and due to faith the Israelites were redeemed and departed from Egypt. And due to faith they were delivered from the control of Pharaoh. By faith and trust in God, they were redeemed into God's grace.
  - ※ **【Turn from evil and be waived from disaster】** 1-10 By the metaphor of the potter turning the wheel, the prophet cried out to the people so they might know that the Lord is the potter, the Lord who formed them. They were the clay in His hands. He would shape it as seemed best to Him. Only if they would trust and obey, turn according to the Lord's word, repent of their sins and change their lives, God would have mercy on them. He would trample their sins under His feet and throw them into the deep sin (Mic 7:18-19), God would relent and waive the disasters.
3. **【He who is against God is doomed to destruction】** 7-10 Pharaoh represented the sinful power of Satan, the power of arrogance and anti-God. He wishfully thought to overtake God's people and kill them personally. But the Lord is the fighting warrior who showed His majestic power. He overthrew those who came to oppose Him. He unleashed His burning anger and consumed them like stubble. Though Pharaoh was stubborn as stone and resisted God's will to death, he would sink in the sea forever.
  - ※ **【Stubborn and suffer disaster】** 8-10 The prophet was ordered to warn the people of Judah again. They ought to turn from evil and reform their ways, otherwise God had determined to punish them. But they insisted on their way straight onto the road of death just like the stubborn Pharaoh who would not surrender before God. They rejected the will of God and thus God sent disasters to attack them. Those who are not willing to turn according to God's word will finally be shattered.
4. **【Sing and enter the good land】** 13-18 Moses brought the people not only to sing the song of salvation and the battle song of faith to enter Canaan. By the unfailing love and the greatness of God, He led His redeemed people to His temple, God's promised good land. He planted them on the hills of his inheritance to serve Him forever and enjoy the abundance of His presence. "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people." (Rev 21:3-4)
  - ※ **【Led astray and scattered among the nations】** 13-17 After the Israelites had entered the good land, they abandoned God. They were not satisfied with God's presence and did not delight in serving Him. Instead they acted detestably by forgetting God and burnt incense to false gods. They fell on the ancient path and walked on the evil way. The people of God had forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water. (Jer 17:14) Thus God scattered them among the nations. Their inheritance of the good land was appalled, laid waste and became an object of everlasting scorn.

**B. Do not grumble and follow no matter bitter or sweet for going against God will be punished.**

## **【Exo 15 / Jer 18】**

Complain (Exo 15:22-27) - conspire (Jer 18:18-23)

1. **【Complain God's servant】** 22-24 The Israelites' journey in the desert tested their corruption in the flesh. They moved onward from the Red Sea and arrived at the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. When they reached Marah (bitter), there was water but was undrinkable due to its bitterness. The people had forgotten God's wonder in the Red Sea and their praise turned to complaint and started to grumble.
  - ※ **【Conspire against the prophet】** 18-20 Jeremiah the prophet had once rebuked the lies of the priests and the prophets and God would deal with them. As a result they united together to go against him and made plans against him. Moses brought the people through the desert road and was complained by them. Similarly Jeremiah had to suffer for proclaiming God's will. Those who set plans against Jeremiah claimed not to pay attention to anything he said. They had their priest to teach the Law and words from the prophets. These priest and prophets forsook God and their lives were withered. They could not provide the people with the living water. What they proclaimed was stagnant and poisonous water.
2. **【Look up to the cross and bitter water turns sweet】** 25 Faced with millions of people, where could Moses find water? He cried out to the Lord and was instructed to throw a piece of wood into the water, and the water became sweet. Christ sacrificed for us and went personally into the deadly bitter water. Thus if we look up to the cross, bitter water turned sweet and curses turned to blessings. (1 Pe 2:24) There will be bitterness and sweetness on the road in the desert. No matter bitter or sweet, we will still obey and follow and advance without turning back.
  - ※ **【Curse the people and bitterness upon bitterness】** 21 Jeremiah the prophet ought to look up to God and intercede for the people in his suffering. But as he could not stand the suffering from them, he turned to curse them. When Moses was complained by the people, he was full of love to cry for them. Through a piece of wood which represented the cross which turned the bitter water to sweet. In Jeremiah's prayer, he blindly wished the people be punished. Thus he lost the love of God and bitterness was added to bitterness.
3. **【Obey the Word and be healed and have abundance】** 25-27 In the journey of the desert, God had made a decree and a law for the Israelites. This was the most precious medicine God prepared for the people. God promised if they would listen carefully to His words, and do what was right in His eyes and pay attention to His commands, He would not bring on them any of the diseases He brought on the Egyptians, for He is the one who heals them. Then they came to Elim and there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees. The twelve tribes were able to enjoy the living water and take root in the Lord to overcome and triumph and rest under the shelter of God!
  - ※ **【Those who are wayward to harm others will harm themselves】** 22-23 The people were wayward and did evil to persecute the prophet. They would suffer persecution from the enemies. God knew their plan to kill the prophet and the evildoer would harm himself. The prophet ought to obey God's will and endure all hardship. God



## 【Exo 16 / Jer 19】

promised the people if they do according to His decree, God would heal them so they might cross Marah to Elim and enjoy God's rest and abundance. In Jeremiah's hardship he also needed to enjoy the rest in God.

**Ps 65 / Rev 13:18 Main theme: The number of the beast is to struggle. Pray and wait so all the land may revive**

### - Wait / struggle

The number of the beast which is the code of the beast is 666, and is also the number of man - that is to struggle by oneself. Human sympathy, human love and human desires have often been used by the evil to hinder God's will. The Lord rebuked Peter, "Satan, get behind me!" because he did not have in mind the things of God but the things of men. (Mk 8:33)

- (1) **【Pray and wait】** 1-4 Come to the presence of the Lord and our sins are forgiven. We will be near God and dwell in Him and be satisfied with His good things.
- (2) **【The effect of prayer and waiting】** 5-13 God will grant us with righteousness. He will still the roaring waves and the turmoil of the nations. He sends water so the land will revive. There will be songs of joy where morning dawns and evening fades.
- (3) The enemies depend on man's power and strive to struggle and resist God's will. They harm themselves and others. Their road is straight to the grave. How foolish!

**Central point of the wheels: Turn according to God's words, discern in the enemies' plot, shun evil and sing.**

Dear Lord, may you let me turn according to your words, to shun evil and do good and become an instrument fit for your use, and to sing of your great love forever!

## Exo 16 / Jer 19

**Main theme: Eat the spiritual food and become a precious instrument. Worship other gods and be smashed.**

### - Obey the commands / disobey the commands

Golden verses: Exo 16:15 Jer 19:15

A discussion on obedience and disobedience - on one side it concerned the Israelites were given manna as food to test if they were willing to listen to God's command and be blessed. On the other hand it concerned the people of Judah were rebellious and would not listen to God's words. They forsook God and were punished like a smashed clay jar. This teaches us we ought to tremble in God's words and listen with care. So they may become our lives and be an instrument fit for use. If we deprave from God's grace, we will be smashed by God like the Judah people.

**A. Do not grumble against God and do not swerve, but eat the spiritual food and take discipline**

Grumble (Exo 16:1-18) - worship evil (Jer 16:1-9)

1. **【Grumble in the desert】** 1-12 The Israelites set out from Elim to the desert of Sin (muddy, thorns). As the road was hard, they could not stand the trial. So they grumbled to Moses and Aaron. The old self was corrupt and could not bear to part with the 'good food' in Egypt. They recalled the joy of sin in Egypt and had forgotten

## 【Exo 16 / Jer 19】

the suffering of slavery in Egypt. They also forgot the great love and power of God's salvation. Would God let them die of hunger in the desert? Their complaint was not to man but to God. And God had heard them, exhibiting their disbelief and the greedy lust of the flesh.

- ※ 【The heart swerved in the good land】 1-9 Jeremiah obeyed God's order to buy a clay jar and took some of the elders to the Valley of Ben Hinnom (that is Topheth where they sacrificed their children to false gods) near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate to proclaim God's punishment. The Jewish people sinned and did evil in the good land. They took God's grace as common and burnt incense to other gods. They also burnt their sons in the fire as offerings to Baal. Thus this place was filled with blood of the innocent. On one side was sinning and going astray and the other side was complaining against God where were both ungrateful and corrupted the body. Jeremiah obeyed to be the sign and Moses and Aaron had to endure all things.
- 2. 【God sent heavenly food】 4-5 Though the people grumbled against God, the loving God still fulfilled His promise to send them food. In the evening, the quails came and in the morning there was manna. This was to let them understand the Lord's abundance was filled in the land. In the morning, when the dew is gone, thin flakes like frost would appear on the ground. The taste was like wafers made with honey. (Exo 16:31) This represented our Lord was sent from heaven to earth to be our bread of life. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. (Jn 6:32-51) The Lord's words are sweeter than honey! The Lord's word is spirit and is life. Thus one may grow gradually and be filled in the spiritual life.
- ※ 【God sent disasters】 1-9 The people burnt sacrifices to gods that they ever knew and violated God's order. They disregarded God's warning. Thus God sent disasters to them so they would fall by the sword. Their carcasses would become food to the beasts. The prophet proclaimed - Ben Hinnom, where they worshiped the false gods would be called the Valley of Slaughter. Men would appall and scoff due to the disasters in this city. They would eat the flesh of their children and one another's flesh during the stress of their siege. God is loving and righteous! On one side was God's mercy to send manna so they might be filled. On the other side was God's anger, thus they were hungry to death. (Deu 28:53-37)

### **B. Be completely attentive and enjoy the abundance. Disobey and be smashed**

Obey (Exo 16:19-36) - disobey (Jer 19:10-15)

1. 【Obey and enjoy the abundance】 19-30 God sent manna to the Israelites to test if they obey His instructions. The people ought to collect according to His order. If they would obey in everything, they would enjoy abounding grace. God was their abundance. Everyone ought to gather as much as he needed and not to reserve till next morning. Someone did not pay attention to Moses and kept part of it until morning. It was full of maggots and began to smell. On the sixth day they had to gather twice as much so they might keep the Sabbath holy on the next day. On the Sabbath they would not be able to find any manna. Some of the people did not keep God's command and honor the Sabbath as holy. They went out on the seventh day to gather

## 【Exo 16 / Jer 19】

but they found none. We ought to obey the Lord's order unconditionally and value the daily manna sent from God more than our daily bread. Then we will enjoy the abundance with grace for grace.

- ※ **【Violate the command and be smashed】** 10-13 The whole of Judah from top to bottom all burnt incense to the starry hosts, and poured drink offerings to other gods. They violated God's command and greatly defiled Jerusalem and God's temple. The prophet was ordered to smash the clay jar before those who went with him and proclaim to them - God would likewise smash these people and this city without regard; just like people smash a clay instrument and could not be repaired. God is the potter and we are the instruments in His hands. (2 Cor 4:7) Therefore we ought to humble to obey, consecrate ourselves from evil and have the treasure in jars of clay so we may be sanctified by the Word with an abundant life and be an instrument fit for God's use. Otherwise we will be smashed.
- 2. **【Remember the abundant grace forever】** 32-36 Israel was given manna in the desert till he entered Canaan to eat the produce there and manna was stopped. (Jos 5:12) God commanded Moses to put an omer of manna in a golden jar and keep it in front of the Testimony for the generations to come so as to witness to the future people for 40 years, God's abundance was indescribable. They experienced God's humility and trial and knew that man did not live on bread alone but on every word that came from the mouth of the Lord.
- ※ **【Well remember the warning】** 14-15 After the prophet had acted according to God's order and proclaimed the prophecy of God's judgment in Topheth, he returned and stood at the court of God's temple to repeat God's warning to the people. All the disasters that God announced would be brought to Judah because they were stiff-necked and would not listen. They did not take God's words as their lives. Today, God's warning is also brought to the church of the final days. We ought to imprint God's words in our heart lest we will follow the same old disastrous road. (1 Th 5:1-6)

**Ps 66 / Rev 14:1 Main theme: Through refinery, obey the Word completely. Need to preach widely after being blessed greatly.**

### **- Refine / God's name**

- (1) **【Hold fast to the Lord's Word and all the earth will shout with joy】** 1-4 Imitate from the Lamb and 144,000 men to hold fast to the true Word (His name is the Word of God Rev 19:13). Be tender and obedient to keep the will and God's name will be greatly glorified. The enemies will surrender and all the earth will worship the Lord.
- (2) **【God works awesome deeds】** 5-7 Keep the Word and obey the will. Then God will turn the sea into dry land and the people will pass through. But the rebellious men must not be arrogant. Though they had the promise, they lied dead in the desert.
- (3) **【Through trials to the abundant land】** 8-12 Be freed from evil and preserve our lives by the Lord. Stand firm in the truth and pass through the trials of fire and water like Joseph was tempted everyday by the adulterous woman. He was bitten, aggrieved, and for long been put in jail. But he remained silent and delighted in the Lord. Finally he reached the abundant land.

## 【Exo 17 / Jer 20】

- (4) **【Fulfill your oath and repay the kindness】** 13-15 We ought to offer huge quantity of the best to repay the Lord's goodness just like Paul made every effort for the Lord.
- (5) **【Witness your own corruption and God's unfailing love】** 16-20 My heart cherished sin and the Lord ought not have listened. But He still heard my prayer. He had mercy and delivered me and was good to me. (Lk 18:1-8)

**Central point of the wheels: Eat the spiritual food and listen completely, through trials stand firm in the Word**

O Lord, Your Word is light and is life. May you make me obey without delay and praise You and your word till the end.

### Exo 17 / Jer 20

**Main theme: Never be discouraged, pray watchfully by God and you will overcome all enemies.**

**- Pray fervently together / preach boldly (pray / overcome)**

Golden verses: Exo 17:11-12 Jer 20:7

A discussion on praying fervently together and preaching boldly - on one side it teaches us that in our spiritual journey in the desert, do not grumble or test God when we encounter difficulties because God is graceful and a merciful God. He will give the living water to satisfy us. On the other side it teaches us not to complain against God for the persecution of the evil leaders. The Amalekites are our greatest enemy in the flesh. We ought to pray fervently together and make good use of the spiritual power to overcome our inner and outer enemies completely.

**A. By the power of God, pour out the living water and preach God's word boldly**

Quarrel (Exo 17:1-7) - persecute (Jer 20:1-6)

1. **【Quarrel】** 1-3 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin and camped at Rephidim as God commanded. The people did not have water, so they quarreled with Moses and insisted water from him. This was due to their sinful and unbelieving heart, they put God to the test. They grumbled at Moses and complained against the leaders. They were stubborn, unbelieving and did not listen to God. They were not willing to part with Egypt or to experience hardship. They had forgotten that they had just eaten the manna sent by God from heaven. Faced with such people, Moses as the leader needed much love, patience and faith!
- ※ **【Persecute】** 1-2 When Jeremiah spoke bluntly to the house of Judah that God would smash them like a clay jar and all the disasters would come to them, Pashhur, the chief officer of the temple of the Lord beat him and put him in the stocks at the Lord's temple to persecute him. Jeremiah faithfully and honestly proclaimed God's word and was persecuted by the religious leaders just like Moses, being the shepherd of the people was being complained and attacked by the people. No matter what kind of encounter, we will only look up to God and not be discouraged. We will have God's graceful help.
2. **【Cry to God and was responded】** 4 As there was no water to drink, the people had nearly stoned Moses. Faced with such quarrel and grumbling, Moses could only turn

## 【Exo 17 / Jer 20】

to God and pour out to Him. He had the response from God.

- ※ **【Rely on God and be His spokesman】** 3-6 Though Jeremiah suffered the hardship, he still relied on God wholeheartedly. The next day Pashhur released him from the stocks. He still proclaimed the judgment of God. When Moses was faced with the quarrel from the people, he turned to God and cried to Him and had the reply. They both had the living water from God and became the spokesmen of God's will. They were courageous, loving and triumphed.
- 3. **【Strike the rock and out pours the living water】** 4-6 When Moses turned to God and cried out, he was instructed to take the staff which performed the miracle and bring some elders with him to the rock at Horeb. God promised to stand before him. God ordered Moses to strike the rock and immediately living water flowed out and provided for the thirsty people. This rock is Christ. It represented Jesus was pierced on the cross and blood and water came out to fulfill the quench of millions of souls. (1 Cor 10:4; Jn 19:34) Due to His suffering of the punishment and wounds, we had peace and were healed. Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. (Jn 4:14)
- ※ **【Be courageous to pronounce the judgment】** 3-6 When faced with Pashhur who spoke false prophecy, Jeremiah the prophet was unyielding to proclaim God's judgment: God said his name would be Magor-Missabib (terror on every side) so he and his partners would be terrified by their enemies and fall by their sword. God would put the Jews into the hands of Babylon and be killed. One side was to strike the rock and living water flowed out; while the other side was proclaiming God's judgment courageously. True prophets flow out living water but the false prophets will pass false prophecy like stagnant water. They harm themselves and harm others!

### **B. Contend in the spirit, pray together and overcome to eliminate the inner adversary forever.**

Pray fervently (Exo 17:8-16) - Overcome the enemy (Jer 20:7-8)

- 1. **【War between the spirit and lust】** 8-16 After the Israelites had drunk the spiritual water, they met the Amalekites who contended with them. The Amalekites were the descendants of Esau who represented the lust of the flesh. They took advantage of the Israelites when they were weary and worn out, and cut off all who were lagging behind. (Deu 25:18) In our moments of weariness and tiredness in our spiritual journey, it is also the time when the spirit and lust contend acutely. We ought to be very watchful to guard at all times. Always set your mind on the Spirit and rely on the Spirit, then we will overcome. (Ro 8:7-8)
- ※ **【Intense spiritual war】** 7-9 Jeremiah had for long been facing the opponents to declare God's message. He would certainly be scoffed, ridiculed and abused. However, in his prayer he also experienced the intense contention. God's word was like a fire shut up in his bones. So he became weary of holding it in and he could not hold it. The Israelites met the external attack of the Amalekites while Jeremiah met the attack of the sinful nature of the religious leaders which was a more intense inner battle. May the Lord make me beat my body and make it my slave to overcome the

## 【Exo 17 / Jer 20】

Amalekites within ourselves by the Spirit. (Ro 8:13)

2. **【Pray together and overcome】** 9-12 Moses ordered Joshua to choose some men to fight with the Amalekites while he himself took God's staff up to the top of the hill. There were also Aaron and Hur with him. They used their spiritual power and prayed in one accord. Moses raised the staff of God while he prayed and the Israelites won. Whenever he grew weary and lowered his hands, the Amalekites won. When Moses' hands were tired, Aaron and Hur put a stone under him so he might sit on it. Man's strength is limited. In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength. (Isa 30:15) Aaron and Hur held his hands up, one on each side so they might pray in zeal together, help one another and surely would see the victory down the hill.
  - ※ **【Fight vigorously in isolation】** 10-11 Jeremiah heard many whispering and terror was on every side. His innermost being was struggling in pain. At this moment, he needed to retreat deeply before the Lord and rest in Him. In the battle between the Israelites and Amalekites, Moses had the help from Aaron and Hur. They were in one heart and thus won. Whereas Jeremiah was fighting alone. Even all his friends were against him, reported him, waited for him to slip and revenged on him. However, God was with him like a mighty warrior so that in his isolation, he was doubled with strength and those who persecuted him stumbled and were in disgrace.
3. **【Overcome the enemy】** 13-16 Joshua overcame the Amalekite king and his army with the sword. God wanted Moses to write this on a scroll and be remembered and to ensure Joshua heard it that the memory of Amalek be blotted out from under heaven. This was to tell Joshua to lead the people to fight against them unremittingly from generations to generations. (1 Sam 15:1-3) With the hidden prayer up the hill top in one accord in coordination with the warriors fighting courageously downhill, the Lord put the enemy in their hand because the Lord was their Banner who fought zealously for them.
  - ※ **【Praise the Lord】** 12-13 In the lonely fight, the prophet deeply understood that God was the Lord Almighty who examined the righteous and probed the heart and mind. He would rescue the distressed that were godly and trust wholeheartedly from the hands of the wicked; just as God contended for the Israelites from the Amalekites so they won greatly. Jeremiah was filled with faith and sang songs of praise to God. The Amalekite king is our old self. We must put it to death by the Lord and then we will sing the song of praise!
4. **【Give thanks and extol】** 15 The Israelites contended with the Amalekites and won greatly over them because the Lord God fought for them and we ought to give glory to Him. Moses built an altar and called it the Lord is my Banner and gave thanks and extolled God. Christ has risen from the dead and leads us in triumphal procession by the cross. (2 Cor 2:14)
  - ※ **【Curse oneself】** 14-18 During the continuous spiritual wars, Jeremiah the prophet might have fixed his eyes on the environment and lost his faith; so that he pitied himself and self loving. He cursed his own birthday. He lacked to build an altar to call

## 【Exo 18 / Jer 21】

for God and he was short of praise to overcome by God. (Ps 106.47) This teaches us that no matter when we are in conditions of victory or failure, we do not be proud, or be discouraged (Heb 12:3) we will give thanks to God, and praise and sing to Him.

**Ps 67 / Rev 14:2 Main theme: Hear the sound of heaven, pray for mercy and lead all people to receive salvation**

### **- Pray humbly / the sound of heaven**

The heavenly sound is like the roar of rushing waters, can cleanse us. Like a loud peal of thunder can shake and warn us. We ought to be awake and do good. It is also like the sound of a harp to rejoice and praise God.

- (1) **【Pray for all nations and all people】** 1-5 Do not receive grace vainly and be complacent in the palace with a shut mouth. We ought to open our mouth to pray (1 Ti 2:1-4) to God for mercy and blessing so all people will receive the Lord's salvation and obey His ways and be glad with shouts of joy. Thus all people will come to worship and praise the Lord.
- (2) **【God will bless us】** 6-7 We will pray in accordance with the mind of God, and make every effort to do His work. Then God will bless us so the land will yield its harvest and extend our boundary. Thus all the ends of the earth will fear Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Pray and preach the Word, contend and overcome and all people will be saved.**

Dear Lord, may you let us pray fervently in unity and overcome all internal and external enemies so your salvation may be known among all nations!

## **Exo 18 / Jer 21**

**Main theme: Follow man's desire and walk a dead road; obey the Lord's word and walk a road of life**

### **- Man's desire / God's will (Do not be partial / do not compromise)**

Golden verses: Exo 18:15-16 Jer 21:8

A discussion on man's desire and God's will - on one side it concerned in Moses' administration on the matters of the people he did not honor God as great. He did not seek His will and easily accepted the suggestion of his father-in-law with man's desire replacing God's will. On the other side it concerned Jeremiah the prophet who was impartial. He did not compromise and proclaimed God's will faithfully without regard to anything. This teaches us we ought to honor God as holy. In everything do not follow man's desire but to God's will. Whatever we do, do it all in the name of the Lord. (Col 3:17)

**A. Witness God's glory and be bold to proclaim God's will for punishment comes if we reject.**

Witness (Exo 18:1-12) - proclaim boldly (Jer 21:1-7)

1. **【Witness God's glory】** 1-8 When Moses' father-in-law Jethro heard of the great wonders how God did on the Israelites when He brought them out of Egypt, he led Moses' wife and his two sons to God's hill. Moses met his father-in-law and told him about the salvation of God for Israel. He rescued them from the bondage of Pharaoh

## 【Exo 18 / Jer 21】

and Moses witnessed God's glory.

- ※ **【Proclaim God's will boldly】** 1-7 As Zedekiah the king of Judah was besieged by the army of Babylon (2 Ki 25), he sent the leaders to inquire of Jeremiah the prophet. Apparently the reply of the prophet was opposite to the desire of Zedekiah. He boldly claimed without cover up that God had given Jerusalem to the hands of their enemy. In fury and great wrath, the king of Judah, his officials and the people would die of a terrible plague, so that they would become a scorn to the Gentiles. Jeremiah faithfully and boldly proclaimed God's will while Moses grasped the chance to witness and preach the glory of God's salvation. God still use His mighty arm to attack the house of Judah to exhibit what God did was all righteous. (Ps 145:17)
- 2. **【The foreigners praised God】** 9-12 Jethro was a foreigner, a priest of a foreign religion. He heard Moses' witness and had to praise the Lord. He then knew that the Lord, God of Israel, was the God of all gods. So he burnt offerings and worshiped Him.
- ※ **【The king of Judah rejected God】** 1-7 King Zedekiah was influenced by the officials who were pro-Egypt and tried to lean on to the help of Egypt and betrayed Babylon. This led to the attack on the holy city by the army of Babylon. Though the father-in-law of Moses was a foreigner, he praised God for His work. He knew that the Lord was greater than all other gods. As a king of Judah, Zedekiah did not honor God as holy and did not trust in Him. Instead he secretly relied on the power of Egypt and rejected the will of God. He wishfully thought that God might work wonder to make the army of Babylon leave. On one side is praising God while the other is rejecting God.

### **B. Do not follow man's desire, act according to the will of God and proclaim according to God's will**

Man's desire (Exo 18:13-27) - God's will (Jer 21:8-14)

- 1. **【Man's idea】** 13-23 Jethro saw Moses sat alone to judge all the people and thought the burden was too great for Moses. So he gave him an advice. He suggested to select some leaders from the people to assist Moses to manage the people so as to alleviate his burden. Jethro was a foreign priest and from his worldly view and man's wisdom, it was hard for him to understand God's rule of work. His advice seemed to be sensible, but was not the arrangement of God. Man's idea could not replace the will of God.
- ※ **【God's will】** 8-12 Jeremiah the prophet was faithful to proclaim God's will. Without regard for anything he warned the people again. God placed the way of life and the way of death before them. One way was to obey God's will and surrender to the Babylonians and they would live. The other was rejecting God's will stubbornly without surrendering. Then they would die by the sword, famine and plague. The prophet cried out to the royal family of David to listen to God's word and administer justice according to God's law lest they would suffer God's wrath.
- 2. **【How could one follow】** 24-27 Moses was shouldering the heavy burden to judge between the two parties. On one hand he taught God's decree and instruction to the



## 【Exo 18 / Jer 21】

people. On the other hand he inquired of God's will for them to settle the disputes between them. This was the power and mission God gave him which was not out of his competence but from God. (2 Cor 3:5) God has incomparably great power for us who believe. God's burden was light. How could Moses easily accept man's advice and lost the honor of bearing the burden alone! (Num 11:11-15) Faced with this heavy burden, Moses had complained to God that he could not carry them all by himself. God had selected seventy elders to share his burden. This showed his lack of faith and God's assumption and condescension. God took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on them. God's Spirit was with Moses and God's grace was always sufficient. How could he follow man's advice!

- ※ **【Unyielding and do not follow】** 8-14 Jeremiah was faithful to declare God's will and face opposition from the whole nation of Judah from top to bottom. He was treated as traitorous with a motive of collaborating with the enemy. But the prophet was loyal and unyielding. He did not follow man's idea and endure from the beginning to the end to declare God's will. Moses easily accepted his father-in-law's advice and followed man's idea resulting in troubles. The selected leaders subsequently joined with Korah and his followers in their rebellious act. (Num 16:1-3) This teaches us we can never compromise due to fear and we cannot considerate man's mind and give in. We ought to honor the Lord as great and in anything Christ may have the supremacy. (Col 1:18) Jeremiah sharply pointed out to those who lived above the valley and on the rocky plateau. They thought they had the strong city as their fortress and could be complacent without worry. But God would punish them.

**Ps 68 / Rev 14:3 Main theme: Grab God's word, pray according to the Spirit, sing a new song for the great revival**

### **- Song of triumph / New song**

Only those who bear the mind of the Lord and follow Him loyally may sing the new song. This new song is also a song of triumph which is sung by faith, by grabbing the promise of God and bearing His mind for all people to praise God. The effect is great and far.

- (1) **【Sing out God's righteousness】** 1-6 May God arise so His enemies be scattered. God is the father of the fatherless and a defender of widows. He sets the lonely in families. He leads forth the prisoners with singing. But the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
- (2) **【Sing out God's Almighty】** 7-18 God's bounty is provided for the poor. The Lord announced the word, and great was the company of those who proclaimed it. The Almighty scattered the kings like falling snow. God always dwells in the holy mountain.
- (3) **【Sing out God's unfailing love】** 19-27 God our Savior who daily bears our burdens, is a God who saves. He will crush the heads of His enemies so the captives may return.
- (4) **【Praise and glory to God】** 28-35 It is God who summon His power to His people. May He show us His strength as before. He has scattered the nations who delight in war. All people will come to the Lord. We ought to praise God and ascribe glory to Him.

## 【Exo 19 / Jer 22】

**Central point of the wheels: Do not follow man's idea, obey the will to overcome the enemy and sing the song of revival**

O Lord, I am willing to obey your will firmly, to overcome all inside and outside enemies by You and sing the new song and triumphant song to glorify your name!

### Exo 19 / Jer 22

**Main theme: Honor and glory come if you really listen and do according to the Lord's word; disgraced for not listening**

**- Keep the covenant / forsake the covenant (honor and glory / shame)**

Golden verses: Exo 19:9 Jer 22:16

A discussion on keeping the covenant and forsaking the covenant - on one side it concerned God made a covenant with His elect. They had to listen to God's word, obey and keep His covenant. Then they would enjoy the honor and glory as promised in His blessing. On the other side it concerned the prophet warned the king of Judah to earnestly walk the Way and shun evil to do good. If they did not forsake God's covenant, they would not have been taken captive and be disgraced.

**A. Obey to keep the covenant, consecrate, get prepared and be righteous and merciful**

Keep the covenant (Exo 19:1-15) - Abandon the covenant (Jer 22:1-19)

1. **【Do not forget to love God】** 1-4 On the very day after the third month when the Israelites were redeemed out of Egypt, they came to the Desert of Sinai and camped in front of the mountain. God called to Moses and told him to remind the people not to forget all the wonders God had done to the Egyptians and not to forget God's unfailing love. God carried them on eagles' wings and brought them back from Egypt, the land of slavery.  
※ **【Do not let down God's love】** 1-4 Jeremiah the prophet and Moses were chosen to proclaim God's instructions. God instructed Jeremiah to go down to the palace of the king of Judah to remind the king who sat on David's throne and his officials not to forget the covenant God made with David (2 Sam 7:8-16) and do not fail God's love of selection on them. He warned them to obey, be just and righteous to the people, do not act in violence, have compassion to those in hardship and earnestly walk the Way. Then they would go in and out of the holy city and be well favored by God.
2. **【Obey and keep the covenant】** 5-6 To fulfill the promise He swore to Abraham, the loving and faithful God made a covenant with the Israelites so they would be His treasured possession among the nations. He also wanted them to set apart for Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. All the land belonged to God but He only selected Israel to be His people. Therefore he required them to earnestly obey and keep the covenant. This perfect law which gives freedom to mankind if well listened and acted will surely be blessed.  
※ **【Violate and abandon the covenant】** 5-12 The prophet warned the Judah royals if they did not listen to the warning, the holy city would become a ruin. God would send destroyers against them. They would be cut up and thrown into the fire. Other nations

would know that the disasters came because the people of Judah forsook the covenant of God and served other gods. The prophet prophesied that Jehoahaz king of Judah would die in the captive land (2 Ki 23:31-34) without return and no one would mourn for him. This is his shameful result for violating and abandoning the covenant. He had lost the honor to be God's people and the priesthood.

3. **【Obey and consecrate】** 7-15 After the people heard God's instruction, they all responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has said." But by their flesh they could not obey God's law. Only by Christ who became an atonement sacrifice for our sins, so we might be redeemed by grace and obey through the Spirit. (Ro 8:3-4) Moses ordered first to consecrate themselves, wash their clothes and be ready to meet God. On the third day He would come down on Mount Sinai. Limits would be put for the people around the mountain so they would not cross lest they would die. Mount Sinai represented the law. Under the law, everyone feared and trembled. Now we are in the age of grace and not going to the mountain that can be touched but to Mount Zion, the city of the living God. By the mediator of the New Testament and the blood which Jesus shed, we are consecrated and may meet Him in confidence. (Heb 12:18-24) We ought to have clean hands and a pure heart to meet the Lord and be ready for Jesus' second coming to bring us to the heavenly Jerusalem.
- ※ **【Do evil and harm oneself】** 13-19 The prophet seriously rebuked Jehoiakim, king of Judah who built for himself a luxurious upper room and palace. He was brutal and tyrannical and not willing to consecrate and do justice. The prophet prophesied he would die tragically in the foreign land and be mocked. No one would mourn for him for he had walked an opposite way from his father Josiah who feared God and shun evil and administered justice and righteousness. Though the Israelites had responded together to promise to obey the Word, they quickly turned aside and did evil. Similarly Jehoiakim was wayward and acted wickedly. He did not tremble at God's warning and even arrested the prophet (Jer 36:20-26). Thus he did evil and harmed himself and ended with a shameful result.

**B. Was summoned to go up the mountain and obeyed in trembling; abandoned for disobedience**

Obey the command (Exo 19:16-25) - violate the command (Jer 22:20-30)

1. **【Obey the command in trembling】** 16-25 On the morning of the third day, the Lord descended on the mountain in fire. The whole mountain was covered with smoke with the roar of thunder and lightning and the mountain trembled violently. Moses let the people meet God at the foot of the mountain. The people did not see the image of God but only heard His voice in the fire which made them terrified and trembled. God descended on Mount Sinai and personally announced the Ten Commandments so the people might fear God, obey in trembling and understand God's majestic and awesome law. God also instructed the priests who were near Him to consecrate themselves. They were to set a limit on the boundary of the mountain so it would be sanctified lest the people would die for breaking in.
- ※ **【Stubborn without listening】** 20-23 The prophet prophesied that the whole nation of

## 【Exo 20 / Jer 23】

Judah would mourn due to the destructive disasters. This was because since they came out of Egypt, they were stiff-necked. They did not tremble and listen to the commands. They were stubborn and would not listen to the repeated warning of Jeremiah. Thus even the king and the people were taken captive in disgrace without escape. "Our God is a consuming fire." How holy, righteous, majestic and awesome! We ought to walk the Way in trembling and serve God with a heart of godliness and fear. (Heb 12:28-29)

2. **【Be near to God】** 16-25 Moses was the mediator in the Old Testament and a good shepherd of the Israelites. He was summoned to go up the hill top and talk to God face to face and then return downhill to tell the people of God's instruction. (Deu 5:5) He himself trembled to listen and proclaimed the fiery law and also ordered the people to listen in trembling and be attentive to keep.
- ※ **【Driven out of the land】** 24-30 The last few generations of kings of Judah were evil shepherds. They themselves sinned and led the whole nation in sin. Jehoiachin on the throne of David was originally a signet ring on God's right hand, full of honor and authority. But he was king for only three months because he did evil. He was put in the hands of the Babylonians just like a ring being pulled off. Moses was God's specially chosen instrument to be summoned uphill to be near God. Jehoiachin was a broken instrument being driven out to other place and die there.

**Ps 69 / Rev 14:4 Main theme: Follow the Lord in chastity, call out in the hardship and destroy the enemy and gain inheritance**

**- Suffer hardship / Follow closely**

- (1) **【Suffer for the Lord】** 1-12 I am hated without reason and being mocked by relatives and people. I also have my folly and guilt.
- (2) **【Cry out to the Lord】** 13-29 May God answer me in His great love and do not let the sufferings swallow me up. In great distress may God answer me quickly and deal with my foes for me so their eyes be blind and their backs be bent and God's fierce anger overtakes them.
- (3) **【Repay kindness to the Lord】** 30-36 I will give thanks and praise God, witness in humility and seek Him. God has heard me and He does not despise His captive people. He will save and rebuild Zion so His people and those who love Him will inherit the possession to accomplish His destined plan.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey the commands and keep the covenant, carry the cross and follow closely**

Lord Jesus, may you let me obey the commands and keep the covenant. Be faithful and chaste to follow you till the end, burn with jealousy for your temple and pay the price for prayer!

### **Exo 20 / Jer 23**

**Main theme: Good shepherd comprehends the Word and save people but wicked shepherds mislead and harm people**

**- Preach God's word / preach lies (wheat / chaff)**

Golden verses: Exo 20:20 Jer 23:29

## 【Exo 20 / Jer 23】

A discussion on proclaiming God's word and preaching lies - on one side it concerned God sent forth His ten commandments from the fire on Mount Sinai to the Israelites. On the other side it concerned the false prophets cheated the people and preached out lies. The ten commandments are the core of the law, the foundation of the elects' faith, the standard of the ethical behavior and Christ is the end of the law. (Ro 10:4) The center of the law is to love God and love people. We ought to fear God, observe His commandments, love God, love people and guard against every wrong path. (Ps 128:1)

### **A. Comprehend God's word, observe the commands for violating will be punished**

Observe (Exo 20:1-17) - comprehend (Jer 23:1-22)

1. **【Observe the fiery law】** 1-17 The ten commandments were the fiery law declared by the Lord on Mount Sinai to the Israelites. (Deu 5:4-5; 33:2) Later, a covenant was set through Moses so they might keep them for all generations to be the people of God's covenant. The Ten Commandments were the foundation of the law which symbolized God's righteousness and holiness like a majestic fire not to be infringed upon! Whoever does not walk according to the law will be cursed. But Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. (Gal 3:13) The Ten Commandments include two sides of loving God and loving man and all the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. (Mt 22:37-40)
- ※ **【Violate God's law】** 1-2 Jeremiah the prophet rebuked the kings of Judah who tended the Israelites as wicked shepherds. They willfully tyrannized God's flock and only tended themselves. They had severely violated God's fiery law. Thus He would make them accountable. They were kings and were supposed to write for themselves on a scroll a copy of the law and to read it all the days of their life to observe them carefully and to love God and man. However, they did not shepherd God's people according to His mind. Instead they were arrogant and swerved from God's commands. Thus their kingdom would not last long. (Deu 17:14-20)
2. **【No other gods beside the Lord】** 1-3 The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and served the gods of Egypt. (Jos 24:14) They were oppressed and in bondage. How miserable! God brought them out from Egypt so they might be freed from the bondage of sin to serve the everlasting God. Therefore God declared to them the first commandment was, "You shall have no other gods before me."
- ※ **【Raise up a righteous Branch】** 3-8 The main reason of Israel being subjugated and taken captive was they had forgotten the Lord their God and served and worshiped other gods. (Deu 8:19-20) Therefore God scattered them among the nations to serve gods made of wood and stone whom they never knew. But the day would come and God would gather all the remnants from the nations. After they had been taken captive and thoroughly suffered and refined, they would worship the only God. God would raise up from the house of David a righteous Branch, Christ, to be the King to rule them with righteousness. He would place shepherds over them so they would increase in number and live in peace. How God brought them up from Egypt, similarly He would lead them from the north and the scattered nations. God's name is called "The Lord Our Righteousness".

## 【Exo 20 / Jer 23】

3. **【Prohibit to worship idols】** 4-7 Since the Lord is the only true God, apart from Him there be no other gods. God strictly prohibited men to make for themselves or worship any idol. God is a jealous and holy God (Jos 24:19). Thus He would not allow them to be defiled by any foreign detestable idols. Nor should they misuse the name of the Lord which was to swear by means of God's name to deceive His people. God would not treat him as innocent. The second and third commandments were to maintain the purity and chastity of the faith of the Israelites to separate them completely from foreign belief.
- ※ **【Led away to do evil】** 9-12 Jeremiah was filled with anger and seriously rebuked the false prophets and their evil ways. They were full of adultery and induced God's people to turn away from the only true God to worship the idols and even to blaspheme God's dwelling. They willfully broke God's law and misused God's name. Thus the people fell into false ministry. God would let them be accountable for their sins, so disasters would come to them. God is a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him; but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep His commandments.
4. **【Honor God as holy and enjoy rest】** 8-11 God instructed the fourth commandment: to keep the Sabbath day as holy. Not only to remember God's creation to respect God and love God and to honor Him as holy; and also to bear His mind to care for the servants, the livestock and the aliens, so they might enjoy rest as well. We should not do any work. God blessed this day as a holy day. Due to the redemption of Christ we have entered rest in the spirit and no longer hold fast to the external and formal Sabbath. Jesus is the Lord of Sabbath. Real rest is to rest from all his work and enter God's rest, the rest of life. (Mt 11:28-30; Heb4:1-4)
- ※ **【Obey to rebuke sin and enjoy rest】** 13-15 Jeremiah disclosed the prophets of Samaria in the north who prophesied through Baal, thus the people ran a wrong path. But the prophets of Jerusalem were even more detestable. They blasphemed the holy temple and were blindly greedy and indulging. They offended the law of God and violated the true meaning of Sabbath. Their monstrous crimes reached the sky and were no different from Sodom and Gomorrah. (Isa 1:10) They ought to be punished in double. Though Jeremiah was in great agony, he did not work on his own. He still honored God as holy and bore the mind of God to proclaim His will faithfully. He strictly rebuked evil and enjoyed God's rest.
5. **【Holdfast to the Way of love】** 12-17 The fifth commandment is 'honor your father and mother'. This is the first commandment which brings a promise. Parents are the representation of the heavenly God. The sixth commandment is 'you shall not murder'. This is because God has made man in the image of God. (Gen 9:5-6) The seventh commandment is 'you shall not commit adultery.' This emphasizes the sacredness of marriage. God will judge the adulterer. (Heb 13:4) The eighth commandment is 'you shall not steal'. This is a selfish and greedy behavior. Therefore we ought to be on guard against all kinds of greed. (Lk 12:15) Godliness with contentment is great gain.

## 【Exo 20 / Jer 23】

The ninth commandment is 'you shall not give false testimony against your neighbor'. This is detestable to God. (Pro 6:19) The tenth commandment is 'you shall not covet your neighbor's house or wife, or his manservant or maidservant or his ox or donkey. (1 Ti 6:10) God is love. (1 Jn 4:8) Love does no harm to its neighbor. (Ro 13:8-10; 1 Cor 13:1-5) The entire law is included in the rule to love others as yourself. Therefore we ought to love each other deeply and hold firmly to God's Way of love. (1 Pe 4:7)

- ※ **【Comprehend God's word】** 16-22 The false prophets were bold and reckless. They declared the message of 'peace' with false raves to deceive men and induced the people to abandon God's law. Thus a lot of people fell on the law. Only those who obey God and love His way have true peace. How can there be peace if we sin and do evil? Jeremiah the prophet deeply sighed, 'which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word?' We ought to deeply comprehend God's word and write His commandments word by word on the tablet of our heart. Then we may hold firmly to the Way of love and do not sin but be blessed. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Ti 1:5)

### **B. God's words and lies, wheat and chaff**

Fear God (Exo 20:18-26) - Anti-God (Jer 23:23-40)

1. **【Fear God and keep His Way】** 18-20 The people saw the mountain in smoke and due to the thunder and lightning and the trumpet, they trembled in fear. Thus they requested Moses to speak to them and not to have God to speak to them or they would die. God tested them and let them understand that His words are majestic and awesome, so they might fear God always and not sin.

※ **【Falsehood and self-deception】** 23-32 Can anyone hide in secret places? Does not God fill heaven and earth? God saw the falsehood and self-deception of the false prophets. Thus Jeremiah, filled with the spiritual authority, disclosed the nature of the false prophets mercilessly. In line with the delusions of their own minds, they prophesied by means of God's name. They used dreams to replace God's law to teach the people so as to let God's people forget the name of God. As the people saw the majesty of God and trembled to fear and obeyed, they were favored before God. The false prophets did not fear God's commandments and induced the people to depart from the Lord's way, to worship idols and commit adultery. God would punish them.
2. **【True prophet】** 18-23 As the people feared God, they remained at a distance down the foot of the mountain while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. In the hidden place, he spoke to God face to face and sent the instruction of God to the people. Moses was the prophet of God. How God instructed him, he declared the same and let the people reject every image of gold and silver to fear the only true God.

※ **【False prophet】** 28-32 Both Jeremiah and Moses were prophets appointed by God. They declared faithfully and unmistakably the revelation and prophecy of God. The words of God in their mouths were like fire full of strength and majesty. (Deu 33:2; Jer 5:14) The messages declared by Jeremiah were like a hammer that broke a rock in pieces and attacked the false prophets and their illusive prophecy. How can chaff be

## 【Eso 21 / Jer 24】

compared to wheat? They told them and led God's people astray with their reckless lies. God would be against them.

3. **【Serve the Lord and be blessed】** 24-26 God brought the Israelites out of Egypt for the purpose to serve Him and to be a kingdom of priests. God did not bring them to the mountain of raging fire, but to a place chosen by God to be called by His Name to serve Him. To avoid the people from falling into the evil practice of worshiping idols, God prohibited them to use dressed stones to build God's altar. Nor should they go up the altar on steps. This shows that the altar which God met with the sinners should not be by man and artificial to avoid being defiled and man's shame would be shown.

※ **【Forsake God and be punished】** 33-40 The whole nation of Judah from top to bottom belittled and forsook God's word. They listened and believed in the false prophets and sought 'The Lord's oracle'. They distorted the words of the living God and provoked him to anger. God would cast them out and bring everlasting shame on them. On one side was the worship in God's grace without man's intention and man's work and the people would be blessed. The other was false service, full of man's idea and man's work and finally led to the curse of God.

**Ps 70 / Rev 14:5 Main theme: Seek fervently, make every effort to be perfect, holy and without blemish**

### **- Pray fervently / without blemish**

- (1) **【Pray fervently for God's rescue】** 1-3 Sins have overtaken me and troubles have waited for me. (Ps 40:12-17) May the Lord help me to depart from evil and the pit of disaster so the enemies will turn back in disgrace.
- (2) **【Seek the Lord and be glad in Him】** 4 It is because they have experienced the Lord's salvation.
- (3) **【I am desperately in need of the Lord】** 5 Because I am poor and needy, unless God helps me, I cannot reach perfection and be without blemish. We ought to imitate Paul never be complacent and not to consider to have taken hold of it. But always thirst for the Lord and press on toward the goal of His word and to make every effort to know Him and become Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Pray fervently, be firm to keep the Word without blemish to fight against the false path**

O Lord, may you give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to comprehend your word deeply, to keep firmly the good way and see you faultlessly.

## **Exo 21 / Jer 24**

**Main theme: Superb to be one heart in the Lord; extremely bad to violate the command and de evil**

### **- Obey / Rebel (a slave of love / a slave of sin)**

Golden verses: Exo 21:5-6 Jer 24:7

A discussion on obedience and rebellion - on one side it concerned God had set the decree and laws for the Israelites so they might obey to observe. On the other side it concerned God ordered the prophet to set two baskets of figs as a metaphor to warn the



## 【Eso 21 / Jer 24】

remnants of Judah not to be rebellious again lest they would be punished. We ought to obey and love man, and willing to be the slave of love for the Lord to serve Him forever to be the superb figs.

### **A. Obey and love man will be blessed; rebel and harm others will be punished**

Obey (Exo 21:1-11) - Build up (Jer 24:1-7)

1. **【Set the decree】** 1 After the Lord had promulgated the ten commandments on Mount Sinai, He ordered Moses to set up the laws before the people which was to set the norms of life based on the foundation of the ten commandments so they might observe them strictly and be people holy to God. The contents of the laws clearly displayed the corruption and evil of man and the righteousness and majesty of God's laws. The laws make men be aware of their sins. Only by the blood of Christ may the sins be cleansed completely to observe the Lord's word in grace.  
※ **【See the vision】** 1-3 After the second captivity of the house of Judah, Jeremiah the prophet was instructed by God in his vision of two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten. Moses was summoned to the mountain top face to face to tell of the commandments and decree revealed by God to the people. When faced with the condition of a perished nation, Jeremiah still had great intimacy with God and saw the vision which he told to the remnants. Israel was the fig tree. God hoped they might bear sweet fruit to satisfy God and benefit man.
2. **【Treat the servants with love】** 1-11 The center of God's decree was "to love others as you love yourself". Let no debt remain outstanding. He who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (Ro 13:8-10) If a man bought a Hebrew servant, he was to serve him for six years. But in the seventh year, he might go free. They were Israelites and had the right of the Sabbath year (Lev 25:4) different from the rule of the maidservants. They might become the master or the wife of the master. This safeguarded their position and their deserved treatment so that they might not be sold as slaves. To love is not to add injury to others. As masters, they ought to treat the slaves with justice for they too have a Master in heaven.  
※ **【God will have regard】** 4-5 After Jeremiah had saw the vision, God instructed him that the basket of good figs represented the Jews who were humble, obedient and willing to surrender to Babylon. God promised to regard the exiles so they would benefit and be blessed in the captive land. They would increase in number, seek God and serve Him. (Jer 29:1-14)
3. **【Willing to be the loving slave】** 5-6 If the servant loved the master and was willing to be slave and did not want to go free, then his master should take him before the judges to confirm his desire. His ear should be pierced with an awl and be his servant for life. Thank God, due to the redemption of Christ we are set free from sin and no more be a slave to sin but be a slave to righteousness, a slave of love (Ro 6:15-22) to fear Him and love Him forever. They will obey His command to bring millions of slave of sinners to be freed from the bondage of sin.

## 【Eso 21 / Jer 24】

- ※ **【Return and build up】** 6-7 Those Jewish exiles of Babylon who were willing to obey, God promised not only to watch over them for their good, He would also bring them back to their homeland. God would build them up and not tear them down. He would plant them and not uproot them. He would give them a heart to know Him so they might return to Him with all their heart just like the servants who were willing to live with the master and never leave him and be God's slave of love to serve Him with one heart.

### **B. Put the old self to death, do not harm others and return to build up**

Disobey (Exo 21:12-36) - be punished (Jer 24:8-10)

1. **【Hard to escape the guilt】** 12-17 God's judgment is righteous. Whoever killed someone intentionally, attacked or cursed his father and mother and kidnapped another would be put to death. As God made man in His own image, (Gen 9:6) He valued man's life! Whoever killed a man unintentionally or killed someone who deserved punishment, God had set a place where he might escape to avoid death. However, if he used deception to kill his neighbor intentionally, even if he escaped to God's temple, he would be put to death. Like Joab who plotted to kill and Adonijah who mutinied and usurped. He was drowned by his sins and still not willing to repent. Though he escaped to the altar and grabbed at the corners of the altar, he was finally killed. They are our warnings.
- ※ **【No way of remedy】** 8-10 Here Jeremiah declared the judgment of God again: Zedekiah the king of Judah had repeatedly rebelled and rejected the warning of the prophet and would not obey the will of God to surrender to the Babylonians. The officials and the false prophets had misled the people. They were like kidnappers who plotted deception to kill and would be put to death. God's wrath was on them and there was no way of remedy. (2 Ch 36:11-16). God would send the sword, famine and plague to destroy them. Zedekiah, Joab and Adonijah could not escape the righteous judgment of God. They were like the basket of extremely bad figs forever rejected by God.
2. **【Deserved】** 18-36 God's decree is holy, righteous and kind. (Ro 7:12) He required the people to adhere to the rules strictly so they might partake in God's temperament. The rule stated: in a quarrel the offender should repay according to the severity of the damage; even if the slave was injured, the master ought to be punished. If a pregnant woman was injured and the survival of the fetus was affected, the offender would be punished. Animals that repeatedly gored and hurt man or even gored to death should be put to death. "And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting". (Gen 9:5) Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. We ought to observe God's commandment from the heart. Not only we do not hurt others, we ought "not to hurt others" in our mind by the Spirit. (1Jn 3:15) Be careful that we do not repay evil with evil, to treat each other or treat all people. Always pursue good and be God's children of light. (Eph 5:8-9)
- ※ **【Be cursed】** 8-10 Zedekiah was stiff-necked and hard-hearted. He did evil in the

## 【Exo 22 / Jer 25】

eyes of God. Jeremiah exhorted him with God's words. Not only did he not humble himself, he repeatedly afflicted the prophet brutally. Such stubborn and undisciplined nature was just like the bull that had the habit of goring and injured and harmed others. It was not willing to be penned up and be dealt with and thus be put to death. As he did not love God and hurt others, according to the law of God, he would suffer severe punishment! God would make them abhorrent and an offence to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, an object of ridicule which was what they deserved.

**Ps 71 / Rev 14:6 Main theme: Seek righteousness persistently, preach quickly and widely, increase in honor and the enemy be in shame**

**- increase in honor / fly to preach**

God's children ought not be willing to turn back and be disgraced but seek to increase in honor to fly to preach the gospel to repay the Lord's goodness.

- (1) **【Always dwell in the Lord and praise God all day long】** 1-8 Always dwell in the Lord by Him to be delivered from the hand of the enemy. Never be put to shame but declare God's splendor all day long.
- (2) **【Pray to increase in honor】** 9-24 Pursue righteousness continuously and exalt salvation. Though there have been troubles, the Lord will deliver. Even I am old, I will still preach the grace of the Lord forever; not awaiting death negatively but pray to increase my honor. I will be like the angels who can fly to preach the gospel widely to save millions of people and declare the Lord's strength to the future generations to comfort the Lord's heart.

**Central point of the wheels: Be righteous, obedient and love man, preach the Lord and satisfy the Lord**

Dear Lord, may you let me observe the Way of love all my life, willing to be your slave of love and proclaim your love till you come!

### **Exo 22 / Jer 25**

**Main theme: Make restitution for your sins and turn from evil to do good for wickedness will be punished**

**-Restitute / recompense**

Golden verses: Exo 22:21-31 Jer 25:4

A discussion on restitution and retribution - on one side it concerned God is righteous and restitution should be given by those who has damaged the benefit of others. On the other side it concerned God's wrath was sent not only to rebellious people of Judah but also to the foreign nations who were against Him. Each one would be judged according to his behavior.

**A. Make restitution for your sin for whoever does evil will receive judgment.**

**Therefore take the warning.**

Restitute (Exo 22:1-20) - recompense (Jer 25:1-14)

1. **【Restitute for your sin】** 1-6 God wanted His people to pursue righteousness and love because God is a righteous God and a merciful God. Stealing someone's ox or sheep

## 【Exo 22 / Jer 25】

whether for slaughter or for selling are selfish and greedy wickedness. This violated the commandment of God and ought to be punished. He ought to pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep. If a thief was caught and struck at night, the defender would not be guilty for self-protection reason. If a man let his livestock stray and graze in another man's field or if he set fire to burn others field or vineyard, these were extremely selfish actions which damaged the benefit of others. He ought to restitute from the best of his own. We ought to obey His commands, deny ourselves to love others, and guard against greed. God promised He will never leave us and never forsake us. (Lk 12:15; Heb 13:5)

- ※ **【Do wicked and be punished】** 1-11 Jehoiakim was the king of Judah. He did not observe the decree and the law of God. He even did evil in the eyes of God. He did not care for the suffering of his flock and only enjoy his own pleasure. He was violent, oppressive and selfish. (2 Ch 36:5-8; Jer 22:13-19) God warned him through Jeremiah the prophet but he dishonored and would not listen to him. The thieves who came to steal the ox and sheep had to restitute for four or five times, how much more for a king of Judah who sinned! He ought to be punished! God sent his servants and prophets from morning to warn the people, but they would not listen and were unwilling to turn from the evil way and followed other nations to worship foreign gods. Coveting others' property is sinful and worshiping idols is detestable. Greedy person and idolaters have no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ.
- 2. **【Watch faithfully】** 7-15 Those who are entrusted to guard others property or borrow from others ought to be faithful to avoid the property being damaged or the violators will restitute. Workers entrusted to take care of God's church ought to be faithful housekeeper. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock. Shepherd the church of God and be faithful to watch over His flock. (Ac 20:28; 1 Cor 4:1-2)
- ※ **【Be faithful to God's entrustment】** 1-14 For twenty three years - from the thirteenth year of Josiah king of Judah till then, the word of God had come to Jeremiah the prophet continuously. He was faithful to God's entrustment and firmly declared God's will. Again and again he painstakingly exhorted the people to repent and turn from sin. But they would never listen and instead, they followed other gods. With their hands they did to enrage God such that He summoned Babylon and the tribes from the north to attack them, destroying them utterly and were taken captive in shame. After seventy years were full, God would judge Babylon so their land would be forever desolate, recompensing them according to what they had done.
- 3. **【Act abhorrently will be punished severely】** 18-20 Do not allow a sorceress to live. They use sorcery and evil spirit against God and deceive man to be strayed to evil path. Sexual relations with an animal is severely prohibited for this violates the law of God's creation. This is wicked and outrageous. Sacrificing to other gods and imitating from foreign nations should be prohibited. The above three are serious crimes and detestable to God and will be punished severely and cannot live. (Lev 20:6-7, 15-16) God used decree and law to teach and warn the people lest they follow the evil practice of the foreign nation and sin against Him. The Lord God is the consuming

## 【Exo 22 / Jer 25】

fire, is a holy God and a jealous God. Anyone who deals dishonestly is detestable to the Lord. (Deu 4:24; 25:16)

- ※ **【Sin repeatedly and be punished severely】** 15-19 After the people had entered the promised good land, they abandoned the covenant of God and violated God's law. They imitated the foreign nations and acted all the detestable ways which God prohibited them. They sinned repeatedly and did not listen to the exhortation of the prophet. The prophet was ordered to give the cup of God's wrath to Judah and Jerusalem for them to drink so they would become a ruin and an object of horror and cursing. As God had started to judge the city which is under His name, He too would give this cup of wrath to the other nations.

### **B. Have compassion on the orphans and afflicted, be jealous and hate sin. Guilty of escape**

Compassionate (Exo 22:21-31) - jealous (Jer 25:15-38)

1. **【Bear the Lord's mind and have compassion on man】** 21-27 Our God is abounding in love and mercy, a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows in His holy dwelling. God instructed us to be compassionate to them and should not defraud, oppress or mistreat them. Nor could we charge interest on a poor brother for lending him money. We could not take the neighbor's cloak as a pledge; for the purpose that the people might remember they had been slaves in Egypt and had suffered all the hardship. We ought to learn from Christ who is full of compassion and is the friend of tax collectors and sinners. He came to seek and to save what was lost. (Lk 19:10)
- ※ **【Act violently and not be given mercy】** 15-31 The Lord is a God who shows unfailing kindness and compassion. He is also a righteous and jealous God who gives judgment. Jeremiah announced the judgment of God, declared His righteousness, jealousy and majesty. God would not leave the guilty unpunished and would punish them for their evil and violence and no one could be spared or escape. Finally the king of Sheshach would drink God's cup of wrath. As they had afflicted them over the measure without any mercy and laid a very heavy yoke on the aged, God would not endure. (Isa 47:6; 14:3-4) The prophet used a metaphor of treading the grapes to trample them, (Isa 63:2-4) and sent His great wrath to punish all the ferocious enemy states. The final day is near, the Lord will roar from on high, "He will bring judgment on all mankind." How holy and how godly should we be!
2. **【Honor God as holy】** 28-31 God wanted His people to be holy, to honor God as holy and to honor their ruler and remember their labor. So they should not blaspheme for the authority of the rule came from God. (Ro 13:1) In their abundance from God, bring in grain and wine to offer to Him without delay. We ought to give the firstborn of our sons to be holy to God. We are prohibited to eat the torn meat of an animal. Then we would be blessed. The Holy Spirit has similar requirement for the church. (Ac 15:28-29)
- ※ **【Presumptuous and insolent】** 32-38 Jeremiah the prophet prophesied that the insolent leaders of other nations would be shattered like fine pottery. When the wrath of God came, they would wail and roll in the dust with no way to escape and die in

## 【Exo 23 / Jer 26】

misery. God gave them the authority but they were presumptuous and insolent and did not fear the most high God. They did not honor God as holy and through the work by their hand they provoked God to anger. They plundered God's people, attacked the Almighty Lord and did not ascribe glory to Him. His vigorous wrath would come upon them.

**Ps 72 / Rev 14:7 Main theme: The time of judgment has come, fear God and be blessed but evil will be recompensed**

**- Fear God / judge**

- (1) **【Pray for righteousness and justice, lead man to fear God】** 1-5 The judgment of God has come. We ought to pray for righteousness and justice, and lead man to turn to righteousness and fear God so man will have peace and the Lord is comforted.
- (2) **【Great blessing comes with righteousness and mercy】** 6-17 He will be like showers watering the earth with power in His control till the end of the world. Further, He is full of abundance. All nations are blessed because of Him. Those who love the Lord will be renowned forever.
- (3) **【Lead man to God】** 18-20 We ought to cry aloud so man will fear the Creator and the God who alone does marvelous deeds. May the whole earth be filled with the Lord's glory!

**Central point of the wheels: Make restitution for your sins, be righteous and merciful and glorify God to save people.**

O Father God, may you let the church reject all sins and wickedness, be careful to be self-controlled, be watchful in prayer and earnestly love each other so glory will fill the earth!

## **Exo 23 / Jer 26**

**Main theme: Do not follow evil, really obey, sacrifice oneself to preach and God will guard you**

**- Follow evil / obey (follow evil / warn evil)**

Golden verses: Exo 23:20-21 Jer 26:2

A discussion on keeping the Word and preaching the Word - on one side it concerned God required the people to really listen to God's instructions, righteousness, mercy and to keep the feasts and serve Him. On the other side it concerned God called to the evil leaders and the people to take warning and turn from their evil way, and then they would be free from disasters. We ought to follow Jeremiah who was firm to keep the Word without partiality but denied himself to risk his life to warn people.

**A. Do not follow evil, do not be partial and risk your life to warn**

Righteous (Exo 23:1-9) - turn from evil (Jer 26:1-9)

1. **【Do not follow evil】** 1-5 Our God loves righteousness and hate evil. He does not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great. (Lev 19:15) In a lawsuit, the witness should not spread false reports to discredit one's reputation. Nor should one help a wicked man to give a malicious witness to injure the innocent. There should be no partiality, whether the poor or the great. "It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the innocent of justice." (Pro 18:5) If you come across your enemy's ox

## 【Exo 23 / Jer 26】

or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him with love, God's mind is to treat the ungrateful and the wicked. Therefore, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Ro 12:21)

- ※ **【Warn to turn from evil】** 1-7 Jeremiah the prophet was honest in all his life. He was God's faithful witness. He strictly kept His law and never gave in to power forces. He did not have partnership to flattery or show partiality. He only obeyed to declare God's will without asking for result. When Jehoiakim king of Judah reigned, God ordered Jeremiah to stand in the courtyard of the Lord's house to warn all who came to worship in the house. So Jeremiah obeyed without omitting a word to warn them - "they ought to turn back from the evil way, then I will not bring the disasters on them. If they do not listen, He will let the judgment which they fear come upon them; so the house will be like the house in Shiloh, in disasters and be ruined."
- 2. **【Righteous and jealous】** 6-9 In the lawsuits, the judges must be most fair and righteous, (Deu 16:18-20) and should not deny justice to the poor people so that there will be no false charge to the innocent and the righteous. God will not acquit the guilty. We ought to be far from falsehood and do not accept bribery or we will take the right for wrong. God holds righteousness and justice as the foundation of His throne. The kingdom of Christ is established and held by justice and righteousness. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears. (Ps 89:14; Isa 9:7, 11:3)
- ※ **【Risk death to preach the Word】** 8-9 After the priests, the prophets and all the people heard the warning of Jeremiah, not only they did not humble to repent, they allied to resist him. Moses obeyed to declare God's decree and law so the people might turn from evil and do good. What Jeremiah declared was the same. But those rebellious leaders and people angrily seized and condemned him. They determined that the prophet deserved to die and wanted to put the faithful servant of God to death. The responsibility of a priest was to teach God's decree and law to the people and to solve the hard cases so more people would turn from their sin. (Deu 17:8-13; Mal 2:6-7) However, they colluded with the false prophets. They hated what Jeremiah had prophesied to them and would be judged severely. Jeremiah was full of God's righteousness and jealousy. Even under such oppression of resistant forces, he still risked his life to preach the Word without submission and taking any bribe!

### **B. Obey and rest, be firm to proclaim God's will, be delivered and take possession of the land**

Obey the command (Exo 23:10-33) - observe the will (Jer 26:10-24)

1. **【Obey and rest】** 10-19 The Sabbath year and the Sabbath were set up to display God's intention. On one hand it was to let the Israelites to honor God as holy, to delight in fearing God and serving Him and enjoy His rest. On the other hand God wanted them to have regard for the slaves, the alien and the animals so they too might rest. The Sabbath year was to let the poor and the wild animals may have mercy and have food. God also took this to test the practicality of the people in love, faith and obedience. God also made a rule; after entering the good land, every Israel male had

## 【Exo 23 / Jer 26】

to celebrate the feasts and meet with God three times a year to give thanks, to offer the firstfruits of their offering and remember His great love of redemption. (Deu 16:1-17) God is a jealous God. Never offer the blood of a sacrifice to Him along with anything containing yeast. He would not allow a little yeast (sin and false teaching) be mixed in our spiritual ministry. Simultaneously, the fat of the festival offerings should not be kept until morning. The firstfruits of the land had to be offered with a thankful heart and be set apart for the Lord. Whoever listens and observe these decrees will be blessed and rest.

- ※ **【Declare according to God's will】** 10-15 The wicked priests and the prophets attempted to induce the officials to go against Jeremiah trying to put him to death to resist what he declared. Nevertheless, the prophet still remained calm to declare God's will without change. Again the prophet cried out to them to listen to God's words, to shun evil and do good, to reform their ways, then God would not send the disasters to them. Jeremiah was faithful in his entrustment and firmly obeyed God's will. He was indomitable because he put God's decree in his heart and rested in God's will. He treated himself as a firstfruit to offer to God. He deeply believed that the power of death and blessing were in the hand of God. No matter how they treated him, he was willing to endure. But he warned them that if they put him to death, the innocent blood would go to them.
- 2. **【Obey and be blessed to take possession of the land】** 20-23 The promise and the covenant which God swore to the forefathers of Israel would never be renounced but be fulfilled. He promised to send an angel along the way to protect them and would cut off the tribes of Canaan and bring them to the promised good land. But they had to be careful and obedient without violating, then God's promise would be fulfilled.
- ※ **【Fear God and be saved in troubles】** 16-19 Jeremiah feared God and listened to His orders. To prophesy the word of God faithfully, he was persecuted by the priests, the false prophets and the people. But some of the officials of Judah heard the self-defense of Jeremiah and saw his utter loyalty. He was full of power and God was with him. They claimed that Jeremiah should not be sentenced to death and he had spoken to them in the name of the Lord. Some of the elders of the land also quoted the example of Micah the prophet in the time of Hezekiah who spoke the prophecy but was not out to death. This stated that if they put Jeremiah to death, they would bring a terrible disaster on themselves. Jeremiah feared God, trusted in God. Thus God made the officials worked for the good of him to save him from death. If the Israelites were careful to obey, they would be protected to gain the good land.
- 3. **【Tremble to take discipline and be blessed】** 24-33 God strictly ordered the Israelites that after they had entered the good land, they should not bow down or serve the gods of Canaan. They had to demolish them completely lest they might be lured to worship these gods. He also warned them not to make a covenant with them or their gods, lest they became their snare. (Deu 4:23-26) If they would take warning and serve God wholeheartedly, He promised to remove all kinds of diseases and let the enemies turn their backs and run. God would gradually drive out the seven tribes of Canaan lest the



## 【Exo 24 / Jer 27】

people were few, the land became desolate and the wild beasts multiplied around them. (Deu 7:22) This showed the love of God to the people was meticulous.

- ※ **【Declaring the word of God absurdly leads to disaster】** 20-24 There was Uriah who spoke the prophecy. Unlike Moses and Jeremiah who directly declared the message of God, he prophesied the same as Jeremiah. As a result King Jehoiakim sought to put him to death. In fear, he ran to Egypt but he still could not escape the sword. (Pro 29:25) The people trembled and took discipline because of God's words and were favored. Uriah did not fear God but he declared His words absurdly. Thus disaster came upon him. Jeremiah obeyed and kept the covenant. He faithfully declared God's prophecy and was bold without fear. God was with him. He was not afraid of death and he did not escape. He was faithful till death and was saved by God from the snare of the enemies. If the people were obedient and took discipline, they would also be able to break away from the snare of the evil.

**Ps 73 / Rev 14:8 Main theme: The adulterous will fall, love God with a pure heart. This is blessed indeed.**

### **- Pure heart / adultery**

- (1) **【A pure heart is blessed】** Be sincere and consecrate ourselves, keep your hands clean and a pure heart. Though you run the road of the cross and all day long you have been plagued, you have been shone by God's light and punished very morning. But the Lord is always with you and holds you by the right hand. He leads you with His counsel and afterward takes you into glory. As you have been near God, you may speak of all His work and lead men to righteousness and be rewarded.
- (2) **【Adulterous and fall】** Though the wicked seemed complacent and strong and their wealth increase, they are arrogant and violent. They blaspheme God and slander man and consider themselves unexcelled in the world. But they are belittled by God. They harm themselves and harm others. They allure others to adultery and evil way and provoke God to anger. Thus in a moment, they fall and become such a desolation.

**Central point of the wheels: Be firm to obey the Word, love God with a one heart, overcome evil and God will protect**

O Lord, I wish to be obedient, love you with a pure heart, overcome evil, be a faithful witness and lead men to get out of darkness to enter into the light.

## **Exo 24 / Jer 27**

**Main theme: Go up the mountain top, dwell in the Lord, proclaim God's word and attack the false way**

**- Set a covenant / break a covenant (Go up to the mountain top / false way)**

Golden verses: Exo 24:10-11 Jer 27:4-5

A discussion on setting a covenant and breaking a covenant - on one side it concerned God confirmed a covenant with the Israelites through Moses so they might observe God's commands and unite with God and be God's people under the covenant. On the other side it concerned God declared His prophecy through Jeremiah to rebuke the king of Judah

## 【Exo 24 / Jer 27】

who broke the covenant. He betrayed Babylon like the other nations of their time. The covenant of the law was the shadow and only Christ is the reality. He is the mediator of the superior covenant. By His own blood, he has set the new covenant so sins may be forgiven. (Heb 10:1)

### **A. Obey to keep the covenant, keep the will and bear the yoke, so you may live and avoid death**

Keep the covenant (Exo 24:1-8) - Obey the will (Jer 27:1-13)

1. **【Declare the book of covenant】** 1-8 God wanted to set the covenant with His elect. He summoned Moses up to the mountain so he might clearly understand the whole book of covenant and then go down to declare to the people. God summoned Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy of the elders up the mountain. Only Moses alone could go up to the mountain top to be near God. The rest could only worship at a distance. The people, however, could stay at the foot of the mountain and wait. This indicates the sacredness and majesty of God's law. He who has clean hands and a pure heart can go up the mountain and see God!
- ※ **【Be a sign】** 1-8 Zedekiah reigned as king. But he did not seek God or be near Him. Instead he allied with the neighboring countries to resist God's will and betrayed Babylon. For this Jeremiah the prophet obeyed to be a sign. He put straps and crossbars on his neck. He sent the message of the Most High God to the envoys who came to see Zedekiah so they might send the straps and crossbars to the various kings to warn them. Those who were against Babylon were against God. God would make them accountable for their sin. Jeremiah courageously contended with the reckoning of the various nations without flinching to declare God's will. As he had united with God and ascended the spiritual mountain just like entering the presence of God's throne, he was discerned in the destined will of God on the earth.
2. **【Obey to keep the covenant】** 1-8 Moses led the people hold a ceremony for the covenant at the foot of the mountain. He set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. He built an altar and offered burnt offerings. Then he read the book of covenant to the people and sprinkled blood on the people as a sign that God had established the covenant with them. This represented Christ had used His own blood to set the new covenant. We are all sprinkled by the blood of Christ and should, all the more, keep all the commands in the book of covenant to engrave His living and enduring Word in our heart.
- ※ **【Obey to bear the yoke】** 12-13 God told Jeremiah the prophet to be the sign to declare the will of God to the envoys of the various nations. This was to tell them to obey and act, and to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Most High God in all the land. With His great power and outstretched arm He made the earth. He would give His power to whoever as He wished. As God had given the power to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and set him as the lord of all the land, the various nations ought to obey to put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him. The prophet also warned Zedekiah the king of Judah to obey and bear the yoke, surrender to the king of Babylon and he would live and avoid death. But Zedekiah and his

## 【Exo 24 / Jer 27】

people would not listen to bear the yoke to serve Babylon. So God made them subject to the yoke of the Babylonian king for a long period and suffer. After they had been refined, then they willingly obeyed.

### **B. Go to the mountain top and the spirit is discerned, then boldly attack the false prophecy**

Discern (Exo 24:9-18) - power (Jer 27:9-11, 14-22)

1. **【Workers of the mountain top】** 9-18 Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the seventy elders went up the mountain and enjoyed the feast of God. God displayed to them His glory and interacted with them through the setting the covenant. They saw under God's feet something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. This exhibited God was in the light, pure, majestic and holy. The workers of the middle of the mountain could only see God's glory from afar. Only the worker who ascended to the top of the mountain like Moses might see God face to face. The Lord's glory was on the mountain top. There he saw no one and he was alone with God in close communication uniting with Him.
- ※ **【Life of the mountain top】** 1-22 Jeremiah the prophet was like Moses. He feared God and loved God. He was intimate with God continuously and united with Him, full of life of the top of the mountain. He considered the mind of God. On one side he felt sad and sighed for the people who would soon be captivated. On the other side he was in the presence of God's throne. He deeply understood God's will towards the various nations and the house of Judah to surrender to Babylon. The prophet also had the prophecy from God that the people would be captivated and returned.
2. **【Understand the revelation deeply】** 12-18 God summoned Moses uphill. For forty days and night he humbled himself without eating and drinking to accept the law and commands and the form how to build the tabernacle. Then he also brought back God's desire and plan and declared them to the people. Therefore he had to put down all his work, with the elders, Aaron and Hur among the people. Moses went up and God's glory was like a cloud covering the mountain. He waited for seven days and God summoned him from within the cloud. He entered the cloud and his spirit was in the deep to meet with God.
- ※ **【Attack the false way vigorously】** 9-11,14-22 Jeremiah the prophet had the discernment of the mountain top just like Moses. He trusted in God and was filled with faith and boldness to attack the rave of the false prophets. They allied closely with the resistant forces inside and outside the nation and declared 'You will not serve the king of Babylon.' The king of Judah and the people loved to hear false 'auspicious words'. They hated Jeremiah who declared ominous word in the name of God. The false prophets were daring and reckless and won the heart of the people. They misused God's name and falsely claimed that the captivated articles would soon be brought back. But Jeremiah firmly stated that the furnishings in the house of the Lord would be brought to Babylon until the day God had come to help Israel, then they would be brought back. Jeremiah's prophecy was completely fulfilled in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia. (Ez 1:1-11)

## **【Exo 25 / Jer 28】**

**Ps 74 / Rev 14:9 Main theme: Cry aloud to warn and pray fervently to destroy the enemy and save the people.**

### **- Pray fervently / warn**

On one side is to pray fervently while the other side is to cry aloud to warn.

- (1) **【May God stretch out His hand to destroy the enemy】** 1-11 May God do not reject us forever. We are redeemed by You, your inheritance. Now You are angry with us and our enemy has destroyed your sanctuary, crushing it completely. How long will they blaspheme and mock You? May God stretch out His hand to destroy them.
- (2) **【May God rise up to redeem】** 12-23 God had used His great power to deliver our forefathers. Now may you save the afflicted people, remember the wickedness of the enemy and have regard for Your covenant. May You rise up and save us.
- (3) **【Cry aloud to warn】** We ought to follow the angel to cry aloud to warn. Do not worship the beast or the image of the beast. Do not receive his mark so as to provoke God's wrath with everlasting punishment. We ought to love the Lord with one heart, meditate His word, receive His sign to avoid disaster and be blessed.

**Central point of the wheels: Keep the covenant firmly, do not worship the beast. Go to the top of the mountain and attack the false way.**

Dear Lord, may you make my hand clean with a pure heart to go to the top of the mountain. Be steadfast to keep the truth to overcome the false way and temptation.

## **Exo 25 / Jer 28**

**Main theme: Be careful to do according to the pattern the Lord has instructed and to resist the false way**

### **-According to the pattern /against the false way (God's word / lies)**

Golden verses: Exo 25:22 Jer 28:9

A discussion on acting according to the pattern and resisting the false way - on one side it concerned Moses was instructed by God the pattern how to build the tabernacle. This was a revelation by the Holy Spirit. On the other hand it concerned the prophecy declared by the false prophets were lies. What Moses and Jeremiah declared were all true words and endured forever. While the words of the false prophets were all lies and could not stand. The tabernacle on the earth is an image of the sanctuary in heaven. The true image is Christ. (Heb 8:1-2) Therefore the mystery of the tabernacle is the mystery of Christ. It also represents the church. Thus we must be careful to build according to the 'pattern of the mountain'.

### **A. Do not listen to lies, be refined and return and sacrifice willingly**

Willing to sacrifice (Exo 25:1-22) - Taken captive (Jer 28:1-4)

1. **【Be willing to sacrifice and God is with us】** 1-9 All the materials for building the tabernacle was sacrificed willingly by the Israelites to be set apart for the Lord. Sacrifice is the thanksgiving and reciprocation of love from God's children to Him. God instructed the Israelites to build the tabernacle. His intention was to dwell in His children through the worship of the tabernacle. Christ is the Word who became flesh and made his dwelling among us, full of grace and truth! We ought to sacrifice

## 【Exo 25 / Jer 28】

ourselves willingly, being built into a spiritual house, (1 Cor 3:16; 1Pe 2:5) be near to Him, unite with Him and be one with Him in spirit. (1 Cor 6:17)

- ※ **【Forsake God and be captivated】** 1-4 In the time of Zedekiah king of Judah, the whole nation from top to bottom was corrupt and depraved. The ministry of the house of the Lord had a mere appearance of godliness but the real worship had long been abandoned. God no longer lived in them and His glory would soon leave the house. (Eze 10:18-19) The articles of the Lord's house represented those who served God. Because they did not set apart for the Lord, as a result, they were taken captive to Babylonia and put in the temple of the false god (Dan1:2) being defiled and lost God's togetherness.
- 2. **【Precious material】** 1-9 The material of the tabernacle was the gold, silver and bronze willingly offered by the people. These represented faith, love and hope. Further, there were blue yarn (heavenly), purple yarn (noble), scarlet yarn (Christ's suffering and sacrifice), fine linen (Christ's holiness), goat hair (Christ's tender affection), ram skins dyed red (Christ's obedience to death), hides of sea cows (Christ's suffering and triumph), acacia wood (Christ's humility and toughness) etc and all kinds of precious stones. They had to undergo all kinds of cutting and chiseling and been painfully dealt with before they might become a precious material.
- ※ **【Refined and fit for use】** 1-4 The Jews worshiped idols and committed adultery in the good land and swerved from God's Word. They lost the faith, love and hope. Instead, they were filled with secular, lowly, filthy and corrupt sins and tendency. God would place them in the furnace of Babylon to refine them. So after they had thoroughly suffered and been refined, they would become precious building material for the church. Faith through refinement has greater value than pure gold. (1 Pe 1:7) Love and hope are produced from suffering. (Ro 5:3-5) After the exiles had returned, God would ornament them with all kinds of colorful precious stones and build them up. (Isa 54:11-12)
- 3. **【See God's face and declare His words】** 10-22 The ark of God, was called by the Name, the name of the Lord almighty. It was a representation of Christ. The ark was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold. This represented Christ completely displayed God's glory when He was on earth. The ark could be carried which represented the Israelites could exalt the truth in the long journey in the desert and follow the Lord's leading. Inside the ark were two stone tablets displaying Christ put God's law in His heart. (Ps 40:8) The atonement cover of pure gold (to cover sin) was placed on the ark representing God's throne of grace. On it were two cherubim of the same size, facing each other and looking toward the cover showing God's glory and guarding God's righteousness and truth. By the blood of Jesus we may approach God in confidence (Heb 4:15-16) and keep the word in our heart. Workers must enter the Most Holy Place and meet with God and proclaim His word.
- ※ **【Pour lies and full of evil】** 1-4 Hananiah was full of evil. He did not have the Word in his heart. He hated the true prophet and rejected what he proclaimed on the face. (Jer 27:19-22) He misused the name of the Lord Almighty and stated that within two

## 【Exo 25 / Jer 28】

years the articles would be returned. The captives would also be brought back. The yoke of Babylon would be broken. Jeremiah met with God in the Most Holy Place. He saw His face and listened to His voice and every word of God was fulfilled.

### **B. Eat up the holy word, pray and shine to resist the false way**

The holy word (Exo 25:23-40) - lies (Jer 28:5-17)

1. **【Eat up the holy word】** 23-30 The table of the bread of the Presence displayed Christ is our feast of life. There is always the bread of the Presence representing Christ, the Word who became flesh had broken to be the bread of our life and spread before us so we might enjoy His abundance. The table could be carried showing the Lord's word is our ever-present help. The rim of the table was embedded with a gold molding to protect the holy bread from falling. We too ought to guard the truth with faith and love by the Holy Spirit. (2 Ti 1:13-14) The plates, the dishes and the small articles on the table were all of pure gold. We ought to cleanse ourselves from ignoble to be an instrument for noble purpose, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. (2 Ti 2:20-21)
- ※ **【Resist the false way】** 5-11 Jeremiah took God's words as food and ate them and became his life. (Jer 15:16) God's words came to him continuously. He had completely set himself up at all costs to resist the false way and to guard the truth. He specified in the presence of the people that the declaration of Hananiah was false prophecy and would not be fulfilled. He was not sent by God. When Hananiah heard this, he broke the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah. He resisted God's will and was filled with the authority of Satan. Jeremiah was like a pure gold article who was not afraid of power. He firmly declared God's will without any compromise. Jeremiah used the Lord's words as weapon and faced the challenge of the false prophets courageously.
2. **【The Spirit prays and shines】** 31-40 The gold lampstand represented Christ is the light of life, (Jn 8:12) and also indicated the church ought to be full of the Holy Spirit to shine and glorify God. A gold lampstand was hammered from a talent of pure gold. The church came as a result of Christ who paid a suffering price. It has been hammered by sufferings to be holy, loving, and united to shine in the Spirit. The priest in the sanctuary has to tidy the lamp and be watchful and tireless to make the seven lamps shine by the Holy Spirit.
- ※ **【Discern in the Spirit with power】** 12-17 Jeremiah was like a light in the dark. No matter Hananiah broke the yoke on his neck, he did not flinch but stated, "You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place you will get a yoke of iron." This indicated Judah and the other nations would serve Babylon for a long period of time. God's will would not be changed. Jeremiah paid the price to pray for the people and discerned in the spirit. He sharply rebuked the error of the false prophets and resisted the power of darkness of Satan and sent forth the glorious light. In the end, Jeremiah prophesied Hananiah would die that year which was the retribution of his cheating. He walked in the dark just like a blind leading a blind who fell into the pit together. The prophecy of Jeremiah fulfilled as expected. Hananiah died in July of that year. (Pro 13:9)

## 【Exo 26 / Jer 29】

3. 【Work carefully】 40 Moses was warned by God to make every article carefully according to the pattern shown on the mountain. God's work cannot be devised by man's desire and man's ability and skill to replace His pattern.

※ 【Do not preach wrongly】 12-15 God's workers could not be like Hananiah who tried to please men, covet in worthless name, or seek some status and wrongly preach God's Word. We ought to learn from Moses and Paul who deeply understood God's will, be careful in their work and firmly keep the pattern and the good way entrusted by God. (2 Cor 4:1-2; 1 Th 2:3-4; 2 Ti 1:13-14)

**Ps 75 / Rev 14:10 Main theme: Worship the image and drink the cup of wrath, obey the Word and preach the Word and exalt God**

**- Exalt / suffer wrath**

(1) 【When the time comes, God will judge】 1-7 God will judge all people according to His upright words. The worldly people will quake. But those who are steadfast to keep the Lord's Word will have the mark of God and not be shaken. Therefore, the evil should not be arrogant and self-deceiving. But it is God who judges. He brings one down and exalts another.

(2) 【The result of good and evil】 8-10 The wicked will drink the cup of God's wrath and be afflicted. The horns of the righteous will be lifted up to proclaim and recount the wonderful deeds of God.

**Central point of the wheels: According to the pattern, go against the false way, keep the Lord's way and be exalted**

O Lord Jesus, please reveal to my heart the mystery of the ark and let me be bold for the truth and make every effort to contend!

## Exo 26 / Jer 29

**Main theme: The craftsman leads men to be holy and be fastened together to resist the false way.**

**- Be fastened together / Be strengthened (enter the curtain / resist the false way)**

Golden verses: Exo 26:30 Jer 29: 11-13

A discussion on being fastened together and strengthening - on one side it concerned every part of the curtain and the upright frames of the tabernacle had to be fastened closely together. On the other side it concerned Jeremiah the prophet wrote a letter to strengthen the exiles so they might be holy and loving, standing firm in the truth and building up in one heart in their sufferings. God had placed the people in the suffering furnace of Babylon for a long time. The purpose was to refine them so they might be strengthened and guarded. When they returned, they might become a glorious temple.

**A. Be holy and fasten together, God's word will strengthen and he who seeks Him will be favored.**

Fasten together (Exo 26:1-14) - strengthen (Jer 29:1-4)

1. 【Be holy and fasten together】 1-6 The tabernacle is the dwelling of God, a place where God meets with man just like the church is the house of God. How holy and

## 【Exo 26 / Jer 29】

glorious it should be! The inner part of the tabernacle was made of ten pieces of embroidered curtains of the same size. The curtain was made of twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn demonstrating the holiness (Heb 7:26), heavenly (Jn 3:13), noble, suffering and glorious pattern of Christ. The church ought to imitate Christ to live out the life of Christ. Each piece of the curtain had to be fastened together by blue loops and the gold clasps to become a beautiful curtain. The church ought to reach unity in the faith and be united in love to build up the body of Christ and become a glorious church. (Eph 4:1-3,11-16)

- ※ **【Be in touch with love】** 1-4 The people of Judah sinned and did evil. They had turned away from the pattern of holy, heavenly, noble and suffering of God so that they suffered disasters and were captivated. Even so, Jeremiah the prophet still bore the mind of God and wrote a letter to the priests, the prophets and the people who were exiled to Babylon. He used the word of God (God's measurement and requirement) to strengthen them. He communicated with them with God's love lest they were deceived and shaken by the rave of the false prophets. In his letter, it revealed the unchanging love of God towards the people. Though they were captivated and the physical temple was gone, God was still with them. Through refinement, they would become a glorious temple. They would be holy and be fastened together, united to serve the Lord, in accordance with the pattern and measurement of God to serve Him in spirit.
2. **【God's love covers】** 7-14 The upper part of the tabernacle had four layers of cover representing God's goodness and great love always guarding and protecting so that the Israelites might peacefully and smoothly finish the journey in the desert. How wide and long and high and deep is God's love! The second layer was made of goat hair (Christ's love and warmth) as tent cover being tenderly protected under the cover of God. The third layer was made of ram skin dyed red (Christ's obedience to death) as the cover of the tent which could withstand bad weather in the desert. The external layer was made of hides of sea cows as the tent cover. The hides of sea cows are coarse and tough representing Christ had no beauty or majesty on earth but He was indomitable and overcame all tests and sufferings for the purpose to deliver us from the storm.
- ※ **【Strengthen by gracious words】** 5-14 The letter of the prophet was full of God's love and brought much faith and hope to the captives just like the cover of the tabernacle which thickly covered them. The prophet encouraged them in the captivated land (1) to increase in number and live peacefully in the foreign land to enjoy the abundance; (2) to pray for the peace of the land and they would be blessed; (3) to stand firm in the truth and not be tempted by the false prophecy; (4) to pray and seek and His gracious word would be accomplished.
- God promised that after seventy years of exile they would be blessed to return to their homeland. The gracious words of God gave them great comfort and encouragement. So they were strengthened and built up in their suffering at Babylon!

**B. Be faithful and stand firm, hold fast to the truth and uphold God's will.**



## 【Exo 26 / Jer 29】

Stand firm (Exo 26:15-37) - taken captive (Jer 29:15-32)

1. **【Stand firm in the truth】** 15-25 The tabernacle was supported by forty eight upright frames just like the church was established by the workers according to the pattern of God. Every piece of frame had the same measurement and was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold. This represents that God's workers ought to have the same spirit and the same course (2 Cor 12:18) to humble and deny yourself completely exhibiting the glory of Christ. Each frame had two projections to be placed in the silver base to strengthen it. Workers need to unite with the Lord, with a foundation in love and to stand firm in the truth (Eph 3:17; 1 Cor 16:13) so the church will be strongly established on the rock of Christ.
- ✧ **【Backslide and be scattered】** 15-20 The exiles of Judah thought God had raised 'prophets' for them in Babylon to declare the message of peace. Faced with such fallacy, Jeremiah announced to the king of Judah and the people in the city that they would be like extremely bad figs being discarded by God. They would suffer from the sword, famine and plague. They would be tossed to and fro among all the kingdoms of the earth and be an object of cursing, horror and reproach. The false prophets declared false peace. They deceived the people so they could not stand firm. While Jeremiah was like an upright frame in the era of great turmoil, loyal without yielding, steadfast and stood firm to attack the false prophets courageously.
2. **【United and strong】** 24-30 In the tabernacle, every upright frame needed a crossbar to fasten it so as to strengthen the whole architecture. Workers need not only to stand firm in the truth and also to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit and be concerted and diligent for the faith of the gospel. The five crossbars represented the five gifts of the Lord so the workers might be undivided and strong in Christ. The gifts and entrustment are different but the mission to save man is one which is to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Eph 4:8-12) The construction of the tabernacle could not swerve from the pattern on the mountain. If the church swerves from the truth and surrenders to man's desire and false way, it cannot be established and will finally be demolished.
- ✧ **【Split and harm themselves】** 21-23 The prophet said about the two false prophets Ahab and Zedekiah. Not only did they use lies to incite the exiles, they had also committed adultery with their neighbors' wives and did outrageous things and blasphemed God's name. God personally witnessed their evil and handed them over to the king of Babylon and put them to death before the people's very eyes. Their result would be the curse of the exiles. God gives the church with workers of five gifts, so the church may be established. But the false prophets agitated and ruined the unity of the church. They used false way to tempt the people so that the church split and became lax. They ought to be cursed.
3. **【Keep hold of the truth】** 31-36 To make the curtains for the Most Holy Place, and to separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place and a curtain for the entrance of the tent, all required the embroidery of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and twisted linen with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman. The curtain represented the body

## 【Exo 26 / Jer 29】

of Christ who split for us on the cross so we may enter the Most Holy Place in confidence. (Heb 10:20; Mt 27:51) The Lord is the glorious curtain. We too ought to have good witness to lead more people to enter the door of salvation, the sanctified door (the door of triumph) and the glorious door (the curtain of the Most Holy Place). May the Holy Spirit be in our lives, embroidering us with a glorious image full of the righteousness of Christ. The curtain for the tabernacle and the curtain for the entrance ought to be hanged on four and five posts respectively overlaid with pure gold. This represents the witnesses who guard the truth and the firm rock in the midstream. They are faithful to God's mission who keep hold of the truth and resist the false way. The posts were placed in the silver bases; that is to continue in the faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. (Col 1:23)

- ※ **【Guard the will of God】** 24-34 Shemaiah was the false prophet of the exiles. He had sent letters in his own name to Zephaniah the priest of Jerusalem and to the people and all the other priests. On one hand he appointed Zephaniah as priest without authorization and on the other hand he presumptuously attacked and injured Jeremiah the prophet and misled the people. Jeremiah was ordered to write again to the exiles to disclose the lies of Shemaiah, stating he had not been sent by God. He seriously advised the people not to believe in his rave. Simultaneously he also declared that his descendants would never see the good things God would do for His people. Jeremiah kept hold of the truth and guarded the will of God just like the post of the sanctuary. In the tempest he still stood unmoved to resist the rave of the false prophets and also stated a path of life to the people of God.

**Ps 76 / Rev 14:11 Main theme: Worship the image and be punished forever, be bold to keep the Word and lead man to God**

### **- Glorious beauty / eternal punishment**

Those who worship the beast (worship the flesh; the false prophet and the anti-Christ) will be tormented day and night without peace. There will be peace if you keep the Word and be in the Lord.

- (1) **【The Lord is with you and there is peace】** 1-5 We ought to imitate Judah to be contrite and repent of our sins. (Gen 38) Whoever honors the Lord will know Him. He will dwell in him and overcome all his enemies so he will be full of peace. But those who worship the beast will not have peace. There will be peace if you keep the Word and be in Him.
- (2) **【The Lord alone is to be feared】** 6-9 God's children ought to be strong without fear. When the Lord rebukes, who can stand Him? The Lord alone is great and awesome. We ought to tremble at God's judgment (the Scriptures) sent to us from heaven and be a humble man to obey the precepts of the Lord.
- (3) **【God will restrain the men's anger】** 10-12 Everything will work for the good of it. Surely your wrath against men brings you praise. The persecution and temptation of the enemies have brought up many beautiful instruments like Daniel, Joseph, etc. But God will restrain men's excessive anger. God will exhibit His awesome majesty so His suffering children may fulfill their oath and repay your kindness to lead men from

## 【Exo 27 / Jer 30】

all directions to fear the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Strengthen by the Word, be fastened together to resist the false way and not to worship the beast.**

Dear Lord, may you make me do according to your measurement, to build the spiritual house, stand firm in the truth, be united in love and exhibit your glory!

### Exo 27 / Jer 30

**Main theme: Consecrate in your suffering, sins are redeemed on the cross and be alert in pray and return**

#### **- Redeem / return**

Golden verses: Exo 27:20 Jer 30:11

A discussion on redemption and return - on one side it concerned the altar which represented the redemption of Christ on the cross, the manufacture of the curtain of the courtyard of the tabernacle and the rules for lighting the lamps. On the other side it concerned the Israelites were redeemed by God. They experienced His great love so that they returned and revived and shone to glorify God.

**A. God's love redeemed us, so we may return to inherit the land and be sanctified to serve the Lord.**

Redeem (Exo 27:1-9) - return (Jer 30:1-11)

1. **【God's love redeemed us】** 1-8 God revealed the pattern to build the altar to Moses.

The altar represented the cross of Jesus (Heb 13:10). It was made of acacia wood representing the humility of Jesus who descended to the earth as a man, His suffering and perfection. The outer part was overlaid with bronze representing Jesus suffered and was judged for us. The altar was to be square. He wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. The altar had four horns, God's horn of salvation, a horn of strength indicating the power of the cross and the gospel (Ro 1:16) for the salvation of everyone who believes. The altar symbolized the redemption of the cross of Christ and the Passover Lamb was killed and sacrificed as an offering for us. (1 Pe 2:24; 1 Cor 5:7)

- ※ **【Return and inherit the land】** 1-3 Jeremiah wrote the prophecy that the elect would return and revive on the book. The day would come and God would turn back their poor condition. His promise of comfort and revival would be fulfilled. God's mind was on the exiles who always remembered His covenant with their forefathers. So when they had thoroughly suffered and refined, He would still bring them back to the inheritance of their forefathers. God's great love through the blood of the atoning sin offering had brought back the sinful exiles so their sins might be forgiven. (Isa 44:22) The altar was a place for offering all kinds of burnt offerings. The fire had to be kept burning on the altar continuously and should not go out. (Lev 6:13) Through repentance and confession, those redeemed and returned would revive in their spirit. The fire of love would kindle like a returned prodigal son forever won by God.

2. **【Tied by the cord of love】** 1-8 The four horns of the altar were also for the binding of the festal sacrifice (Ps 118:27), or those who sacrifice to God, willingly be bound

## 【Exo 27 / Jer 30】

by the love cord of God to the horn of the altar. They would forever be His captive. All the articles of the altar, whether large or small, were made of bronze. We too ought to have the suffering experience of Jesus just like the apostles were treated as men condemned to die. The bronze network was for holding the meat of the sacrifice, to be protected in Christ and not lost. (Jn 6:39) The altar could be carried in the march in the desert that we might exalt the cross at any time and remember the great love of the Lord. The altar was empty indicating the humility and self-denial of Jesus. We too ought to receive Christ as the surpassing greatness.

- ※ **【Saved in the disaster】** 4-7 Jeremiah the prophet prophesied the house of Jacob would be in disasters and everyone would be in terror due to this disaster, like a woman in labor. Not only did he state the elect would be taken captive, but he also stated the calamity would come in the last phase. (Dan 12:1) But God promised that they would be saved showing the never changing love of redemption of God. He would deliver them till the end. In disasters the Israelites would look on Jesus whom they had pierced and be saved to enter the kingdom of Messiah. Due to the excitation of God's love, they would be like a sacrifice being willingly bound to the horn of the altar forever set apart for the Lord and serve Him. (Jer 33:14-18)
- 3. **【Set apart for the Lord】** 9-19 The curtain for the courtyard of the tabernacle was made of twisted linen. The church ought to be holy without blemish. The linen of the curtain for the courtyard was hooked to silver hooks of the bronze posts and strengthened by the cord and the tent pegs just like the walls of salvation. (Isa 26:1) The curtain of the courtyard was to separate the tabernacle from outside. The church ought to be guarded in Christ and be set apart without contaminated by the worldly customs. All the posts around the courtyard were bound by the silver bands just like Jerusalem was built to be united in love like a city that was closely compacted together. (Ps 122:3) The posts of the courtyard represent God's workers who stand firm in the truth and compacted firmly in love. There was an embroidered curtain on the east end of the courtyard leading to the sanctuary. We ought to admonish and teach everyone with all wisdom like an embroidered curtain to lead man completely before God. (Col 1:28)
- ※ **【Serve the Lord in peace】** 8-11 God's people had abandoned God and followed others gods of foreign nations. They had departed from the courtyard of God's salvation and united with the world so God had to punish them. But when the time came, God would break the yoke off their necks set by the enemies so they would no longer be enslaved. Similarly, Christ has set us free so we no longer be the slave to sin (Ro 6:16-17; Gal 5:1) and enter the door of salvation. God promised to be with the elect and be their fortress like the courtyard guarding them on all sides so they would not be afraid again. God would discipline them but only with justice and be revived. God would raise King David (Christ) to rule them so they might enjoy peace and serve the Lord. He would completely destroy and scatter the enemies. Jeremiah was like the post and the curtain who faithfully kept God's will in the tempest and stood firm to lead the people to set apart for the Lord and enter the courtyard of God to

## 【Exo 27 / Jer 30】

enjoy peace.

### **B. Pray like extracting oil, set apart to be holy, and return and revive**

Pray (Exo 27:20-21) - revive (Jer 30:12-24)

1. **【Pray like extracting oil】** 20-21 The lamps of the lampstand in the sanctuary ought to be kept burning. Olives are pressed to produce clear oil and there should always be sufficient oil. The whole church should grab the promise of God and pay the price to pray in one accord. Then we will see the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The church will revive and shine to glorify God. We ought to imitate the example of the Lord to pray like extracting oil with tears and implore in Gethsemane.
- ※ **【Being healed】** 12-17 Jeremiah was not only a prophet, he was also a faithful and watchful priest. He confessed and interceded for the people and paid the price to pray so they were like the lamps always kept burning to give light and shine. Through the cruel enemies God disciplined the people and their wound was incurable. Thereafter God would avenge the enemies and heal their wound by Himself. The prophecy of the prophet not only related to the judgment and punishment of God, but he also related to the redemption and revival. After seventy years, Zion returned and revived and the prophecies of the prophet were all fulfilled. We ought to be alert and always keep on praying in the Spirit for all the saints. (Eph 6:18)
2. **【Shine to glorify God】** 20-21 The lampstand represented the church. God's workers ought to be like the descendants of Aaron to serve watchfully in the sanctuary. They ought to keep the lamps before God and to remove any dirt in the lamp so the Spirit might work on the lives of God's children without interference and send forth the glorious light of Christ. This light is the light of the Holy Spirit, the light of life and the light of the truth (Jn 8:12; 1 Jn 5:7; Rev 4:5) and always be kept burning. God's love is like a burning fire which shines and gives light everywhere. We ought to have love and the light in us.
- ※ **【Return and revive】** 18-24 God promised Jacob that the exiled tent would be restored. (Am 9:11) Darkness would be away and Zion would be built on the original hill and be a light of salvation to shine among the nations. (Isa 60:1-3; 62:1) God would make them prosper and revive so they might be near Him to give thanks and rejoice. They would stand firm before God and forever be His people. The people would shun evil and return to serve in holiness. They would shine to glorify God and lead all nations to know Him. The fierce anger of God would be like a driving storm turning to the heads of the wicked. The purpose of His heart would be fully accomplished.

**Ps 77 / Rev 14:12 Main theme: Be watchful in prayer and keep the Word to endure till the end for God will work wonders.**

- Recollect / endure

- (1) **【Cry out in trouble】** 1-4 Be alert in the dark. But my heart grew faint and was not comforted.
- (2) **【Remember the years past】** 5-20 God never forsakes His children. His promise never fails! Therefore my faith cannot be weak. I will remember and state all the great

## 【Exo 28 / Jer 31】

work and miracles of God in the days of old. He had redeemed His people. He displayed His power among the peoples. He made the heaven and earth quake. He did awesome things that we did not expect. He will lead His people to accomplish His plan.

- (3) **【We ought to endure to keep the Word】** Rev 14:12 Therefore all we need to do is to consecrate and keep the Word, endure to the end and we will see the Lord's glory.

**Central point of the wheels: Endure to keep the Word, be redeemed and return, pray watchfully and shine**

Dear Lord, may your love kindle my heart, to be watchful and tireless, to cry out unceasingly so the captivated churches will return and revive!

### Exo 28 / Jer 31

**Main theme: Being refined to be a holy and beautiful priest and steadfast  
- Be sanctified / revive (beautiful / refined)**

Golden verses: Exo 28:29 Jer 31:3,11-1

A discussion on sanctification and revival - on one side it concerned the descendants of Aaron were selected to be priests and were required to wear beautiful holy garments to set apart to minister. On the other side it concerned the elects were contrite and returned. They revived and served the Lord and displayed God's glory.

**A. Be loved and returned, sanctified to minister and clothed with beauty**

Sacred (Exo 28:1-14) - refined (Jer 31:1-14)

1. **【Were loved and chosen to minister】** 1-5 God ordered Moses to summon his brother Aaron and his sons to minister together as priests before God. He also ordered whoever had the wisdom and was filled with the Spirit could come to make sacred garments representing the dignified priesthood and life, the holiness and honor. The whole family of Aaron was favored all because of God's grace and God's love.

※ **【Were attracted by love and returned】** 1-6 "I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with loving-kindness." God's love for Israel is a never changing love, an everlasting love. Though He had forsaken them for a short while, He would win them back forever. So when the time came, God promised they would depart from the oppressive sword of the other nations to return to their homeland and be re-established to minister as priests. Similarly, Aaron and his sons were chosen to set apart to minister as priests who were completely due to the choice of love by God as priests from generation to generation. Since the priests were chosen due to God's love, they ought to bear the great love of God to atone and intercede for others and thus turn many from sin. (Mal 2:6)

2. **【By grace and nothing to boast】** 1-5 While Moses was receiving the pattern of the tabernacle on the top of the mountain and instructed by God to select Aaron as the priest, Aaron was just bringing the people to worship the gold calf at the bottom of the mountain. God's eyes had already seen everything. But God's love never changed, He still chose Aaron as priest showing His chosen purpose and grace so no one might boast! Christ also saved us with His great love and called us to a holy life. The same is

## 【Exo 28 / Jer 31】

true and there no nothing we may boast about.

- ※ **【By redemption and was recalled】** 7-14 Israel was the leader of all nations and blessed by God. But due to sin he was scattered by God. The remnants from the north and the ends of the earth were called back in great throngs away from the hands of the enemies. Aaron was chosen as priest by God and Israel was recalled to return, both were due to grace. Their return would be proclaimed among the nations and coastlands. Due to God's love they would come in weeping. God would lead them as they prayed like a shepherd care for them.
3. **【Be clothed with beauty】** 6-11 The sacred garment of Aaron was made by skilled men who were filled with all the wisdom of the Spirit of God. It included a set of seven pieces - a woven tunic, a robe, an ephod, a breastplate, a turban, a sash and a headband. The ephod was clothed on top of the robe. It was made of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and of finely twisted linen, extremely holy, glorious and beautiful. The ephod could only be wore by the high priest. The blue, purple and scarlet yarn used to weave the ephod indicated Christ's entire life of heavenly, nobility, suffering and holiness respectively. The gold yarn was made by gold hammered out to thin sheets and cut to strands (Exo 39:3) representing Christ's divine nature of suffering and endurance being woven into other colored yarn, noble and beautiful. (2 Pe 1:4)
- ※ **【Give thanks and rejoice】** 12-14 The elects were punished because of their sins and placed under the hand of the enemies. They suffered and were not comforted! But now they were redeemed by God to stream back to God's place of grace to enjoy His abundance just like a well-watered garden. They played the harp and danced and sang with joy in the presence of God. The priests were satisfied due to the abundant love of God and the people gave thanks for God's never ending grace. They had gone through the suffering refinement and edification and returned to be clothed with beauty just like the beautiful sacred garment of Aaron. Before their exile, they followed other gods and were filled with filth, and now they were refined and returned. Their lives were changed, the old one had been removed with a new life to show God's image of holiness and glory!

### **B. To shoulder the important entrustment, holy to the Lord and the Law was engraved in the heart**

Return to God (Exo 28:15-43) - set the covenant (Jer 31:15-40)

1. **【To shoulder the important entrustment】** 15-30 The ephod, the shoulder pieces and the breastplate were attached. On the shoulder piece, there were two pieces of onyx stones, each on the right and left side and engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel mounted on the filigree settings so the shoulder piece and the ephod are fastened together. Our heavenly High Priest treated His people as precious and honored and carried them on His shoulder. We too ought to carry the burden of the churches to intercede before God. The breastplate was square and mounted with four rows of precious stones making a total of twelve pieces. On the precious stones were engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel tightly attached to the breast of

## 【Exo 28 / Jer 31】

the priest. This stated the heart of Christ; He does not want anyone to perish just like Paul who was full of the mind of Christ. He bore what the Lord bears, and loved what the Lord loves and placed the churches in his heart.

- ※ 【Intercede and revive】 15-30 Jeremiah understood God's great love and placed the Israelites in his heart. He shouldered the responsibility of the Israelites to confess and intercede for them and prayed day and night. Thus God comforted the prophet. The elects wandered in the foreign land just like Rachel wept for her children and refused to be comforted. God would make them be hopeful in the future. For a long period of time the prophet interceded in weeping so they would be contrite and return. They would repent and understand to beat their breast due to God's discipline. Therefore God changed His intention and named them as "my dear son" and "the child in whom I delight". Though He rebuked them, He still had deep regard for them. God promised that when they returned, they would be led. He would dwell again in the elect and bless them.
- 2. 【Holy to the Lord】 31-43 The robe of the ephod made for Aaron was entirely of blue, a heavenly color. Around the hem of the robe were pomegranates of colored yarn. In between the pomegranates were gold bells so that Aaron would be watchful when he ministered to produce spiritual fruits, full of the witness of godly service. A plate of pure gold was made for Aaron and engraved with "HOLY TO THE LORD" with a blue cord attached to the turban. Pure gold is the divine nature of Christ's nobility and glory. He is holy. As priests we ought to be holy to the Lord forever and live out the noble witness and image of Christ.
- ※ 【Engrave the Law to the heart】 31-40 God promised to make a new covenant with the house of Israel and Jacob. The heart of the returned people would be renewed and changed. The law would not be engraved to the stone tablet. Instead, by the Holy Spirit it would be written in their hearts. They would all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Hab 2:14) This is the work of the Holy Spirit. They would obey the law of God from their heart and be my people of the covenant. Their sin would be forgiven due to the precious blood of Christ. God would no longer remember their evil. They would be holy due to the Word and be a true priest forever 'HOLY TO THE LORD'. In the end, God promised Jerusalem would be re-built and extended and be holy to the Lord.

**Ps 78 / Rev14:13 Main theme: It is empty to live in sin, but if we die in the Lord, we will flourish with blessings.**

### **- Break the covenant / obey the Word**

Blessed are those who keep and proclaim the Word and who die in the Lord for their deeds will follow them. The light and momentary troubles will achieve for them an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- (1) 【Rebellious and be in trouble】 1-67 But most of God's children did not have regard for God's words. Their hearts were not loyal to God. They were stubborn and rebellious. They were repeatedly beaten by God and experienced many miracles. But they still sinned against the Lord. Even when they were given the promised land, they



## 【Exo 29 / Jer 32】

still worshiped other gods and united with the foreigners so that they provoked God to anger and were given to the hands of the enemies.

- (2) **【Be contrite and reformed and be blessed】** 68-72 Judah was the worst of sinners but was favored. He knew that the more he was given, the more he ought to love the Lord. He considered the mind of the father and interceded for his youngest brother; just like Paul who willingly denied himself to save the souls of all the land. So he was chosen and was greatly blessed.
- (3) **【Blessings and admonition be proclaimed to all generations】** So man will swear to keep and proclaim the Word. Do not be rebellious and break the covenant lest we will harm ourselves and harm others, and provoke God to anger and be in trouble.

**Central point of the wheels: Return and be sanctified, serve the Lord and keep His Word so our work may be kept forever.**

O Lord Jesus, may You make be holy and perfect. Write your words in my heart and be holy due to the Word to exhibit Yourself!

### Exo 29 / Jer 32

**Main theme: Consecrate to minister, suffer to keep the will for there is nothing too hard for God**

**- Undertake the priesthood / return to the good land**

Golden verses: Exo 29:43 Jer 32:27

A discussion on undertaking the priesthood and returning to the good land - on one side it concerned God ordered Moses to arrange for the ordination and consecration of Aaron and his sons through seven days sacrifice, and to eat the meat of the sacrifice to be consecrated and minister. God would dwell in the Israelites. On the other side it concerned the holy city was besieged. It was the eve of the captivity of the house of Judah. God commanded Jeremiah to buy a field symbolizing the return and revival of Judah. The prophet deeply believed God promised that when the people returned, they would buy a field and serve God with joy and thanks. God would dwell in them forever. There is nothing too hard for God, and He will fulfill everything.

**A. Undertake the priesthood, suffer to keep the will and buy a field by faith**

Consecrate (Exo 29:1-25) - keep the will (Jer 32:1-25)

1. **【Undertake the priesthood】** 1-3 When Aaron and his sons undertook the priesthood, they ought to take a bull and offer as a sin offering, a ram as a burnt offering and another ram to undertake the priesthood. They ought to bring a basket of unleavened bread representing Jesus Christ had completely sacrificed for us to be the merciful and faithful high priest who ministered in heaven and interceded for us. The ordination and consecration of priesthood was performed by Moses so Aaron and his sons were consecrated representing Christ made us holy. (Heb 2:11; 10:10)
- ※ **【Suffer to preach the Word】** 1-5 The last time when the great army of Babylon besieged the holy city, Jeremiah was like a faithful priest who interceded in weeping for the nation and the people. Further, as he obeyed God's will to declare the prophecy of captivity, he was persecuted and confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal

## 【Exo 29 / Jer 32】

palace by Zedekiah. He was like a sacrifice who denied to offer in silence. He was also like unleavened bread willing to be put forth. Though he suffered, he did not complain. Thus God's words came to him again. Aaron had connived the people to worship the gold calf and now was forgiven by God to undertake the priesthood, he ought, all the more, to obey for the rest of his life to minister faithfully and intercede for the people.

2. **【Ordain to be holy】** 4-9 When Aaron and his sons undertook to minister as priest, they had to be holy to the Lord and worship Him in the splendor of His holiness. (Ps 29:2) God ordered them to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting and wash with water to cleanse themselves (Eph 5:26). Then they should put on the tunic, the robe and the ephod. They ought to change anew from inside to outside and dress on the beautiful sacred garment, with the breastplate, tied the sash, put on the sacred diadem with "HOLY TO THE LORD" on the head. Moses would pour anointing oil on the head of Aaron so he might be ordained to be holy just like Christ was filled with the Holy Spirit and ordained to preach full of the power of the Holy Spirit. (Lk 4:14)  
※ **【Obey to buy a field】** 6-7 In his suffering, Jeremiah purified himself to be holy. He wore the sacred garment of the priest and ministered faithfully. Men saw him as a prisoner but God saw him as a beautiful priest. In his misery, he had an abundant life. He walked with God and His words came to him. He was told to buy a field from the son of his uncle on the eve of captivity of the house of Judah to be the sign of the house of Israel being returned from captivity. So he unconditionally obeyed God's will. The Spirit of God was on him and God was with him.
3. **【In everything be in the name of the Lord】** 10-21 After Aaron had put on the sacred garment, he ought to follow God's order to take a bull as a sin offering and take all the fat to be burnt on the altar. Then he was to burn the flesh, hide and the offal of the bull outside the camp. The blood of the bull was to be put on the horns of the altar so it might be consecrated indicating Christ suffered for us outside the city gate. We too ought to go to Him. (Heb 13:10-13) Then Aaron ought to take a ram as a burnt offering to be burnt on the altar just like Christ thoroughly broke and sacrificed completely as an aromatic offering. Another ram would be offered to undertake the priesthood together with the unleavened bread. The blood of the ram would be applied on the lobes of the right ear, the thumb of the right hand and on the big toe of the right feet of Aaron. Every move would be cleansed by the blood and act in the name of the Lord. (Col 3:17) Then they ought to take the anointing oil and the blood on the altar and sprinkle on their clothes. They would not only be purified by the blood but also be renewed by the Holy Spirit so the body and the spirit would be sanctified through and through. (Tit 3:5; 2 Cor 7:1)  
※ **【Broken to be the sign】** 8-20 After God had ordered Jeremiah, the son of his uncle came to request him to buy his field as expected. So he knew that it was God's will. By faith he bought the field and sealed the deed. He gave the two copies of the deed of purchase to Baruch in front of the son of his uncle, the witnesses of the seal and all the Jews. He ordered Baruch to place the deed in a clay jar so they might last a long

## 【Exo 29 / Jer 32】

time. He also prophesied that "Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land". Disregarding men's opposition, Jeremiah denied himself to preach the word just like a burnt sacrifice completely broken on the altar. He then prayed earnestly for he believed that there is nothing too hard for God. Not only did he see the result of the subjugation and captivity of the house of Judah, he also saw the prospect of the return and revival.

4. **【The fat was all offered】** 22-25 God ordered Moses to put all the fat of the ram chosen for the ordination and its fat tail, the kidneys, right thigh with the unleavened bread, a cake made with oil and a wafer in the hands of Aaron and his sons to be waved before God as a wave offering to give thanks. Then all the above would be burnt and sacrificed to God as a pleasing aroma to God just like Christ willingly obeyed the Father's will and poured out all His love for us. (Ps 40:6-8)
- ※ **【Pour out all the love】** 21-25 When Jeremiah was confined, he was filled with the love of God. He confessed for the people before God and acknowledged they had depraved in grace after they had entered the good land. The prophet interceded with love and God treated this precious. He poured out His love like the fat and all libate before God. How satisfied was God's heart! May the love of Christ impel us to pour out all our love.

### **B. Consecrated by the Word, return to minister and there is nothing too hard for God**

Consecrate (Exo 29:26-46) - Return (Jer 32:26-44)

1. **【Enjoy the share from God】** 26-28 God ordered that the wave offering and the contribution for the ordination should be given to Aaron and his descendants as the regular share from the Israelites. This was the best part of the fellowship offering, the breast that was waved and the thigh that was presented. Therefore they ought, all the more, be close to the mind of Christ to follow his suffering footpath, faithful to serve and intercede for the sinners.
- ※ **【Full of God's comfort】** 26-35 At the time when the house of Judah was subjugated and captivated, Jeremiah was still filled with God's mind. Not only did he obey His will, he bought the field by faith as the sign. He also considered His mind and pleaded. So he received God's comfort and reply, "Is anything too hard for me?" God's graceful word was fulfilled. But the people forsook God and burnt incense to Baal and placed abominable things in God's house and defiled it. So the people sinned and God placed the holy city in the hands of the enemies.
2. **【Life becomes abundant and consecrated】** 29-46 For the seven days of the ordination, Aaron and his sons were to eat the meat for the sin offering and bread and be consecrated by the Word. Both the meat and the bread represented Christ and His Word of life. In order for the life of the priest to be more abundant, he had to eat the word of the Lord every day. (Jn 6:51; 17:17) Everyday a bull had to be offered for the sin offering and also a ram in the morning and at night. This had to be offered together with the grain offering and the drink offering. Through the daily offering, the priest would have fellowship with God, die completely to oneself and be kindled with love.

## 【Exo 30 / Jer 33】

No matter life or death, he would always display God completely. The tabernacle and the altar were consecrated; the priest himself had been consecrated to minister. God would dwell in them and bless them.

※ **【Refine, return and be consecrated】** 36-44 Not only did Jeremiah eat up God's word every day, he also offered himself completely every day. His body was confined but his heart was in the sanctuary of God. He saw in the spirit and heard in the spirit. After Israel had been refined and returned, God would rejoice in doing them good and plant them in the good land. From the priest to the people of the house of Judah all sinned greatly. They defied God's word and blasphemed the priesthood of the priest and provoked God. All the blessing and joy would come to them whenever they were refined and returned to be consecrated, value God's word and unite with Him and be a true priest. In the future there would be people dwelling in this desolate land and more fields would be bought. God would come back to them and be their God.

**Ps 79 / Rev 14:14 Main theme: The harvest is near, may the Lord stop His anger and save the people and attack the enemies.**

### **- Plead / harvest**

The son of man had a sharp sickle in his hand. The Lord's coming is near and He will harvest. But the saints are in trouble and the holy temple is in desolate. We ought to bear the mind of the Lord. May God stop His anger, save the people and attack the enemies.

- (1) **【Will the Lord be angry forever】** 1-5 The holy temple is defiled and is reduced to rubble. The saints are in trouble and become the scorn of the people. How long will God be angry with us?
- (2) **【Pray that the anger be poured on the enemies】** 6-8 Pray the wickedness of the enemies be remembered. Do not remember the sins of God's people for we are in desperate need.
- (3) **【May the Lord save us for the glory of His name】** 9-13 Do not allow the nations say "Where is their God?" May the Lord preserve the nearly perished remnants and pay back the enemies with seven times the reproach so the Lord's people will recount and praise the Lord forever!

**Central point of the wheels: Consecrate and minister, plead to return and harvest**

O Lord Jesus, may you let me eat up the holy words and be consecrated to minister, bear your mind and intercede for the sinners and the revival will come!

## **Exo 30 / Jer 33**

**Main theme: Grab the promise of God, intercede for all the people and gain the revival.**

### **- Intercede / revive**

Golden verses: Exo 30:7-8 Jer 33:2-3

A discussion on intercession and revival - on one side it concerned the importance of the ministry of the tabernacle to burn incense and intercede. On the other side it concerned the effect of the intercession of the prophet. He was given the promise of revival for the elect. We ought to grab the promise by faith and intercede faithfully and see the wide

## 【Exo 30 / Jer 33】

spread of the gospel, the elects are favored and the coming of the kingdom.

### **A. Burn the incense and intercede, return and revive, and offer sacrifice to give thanks.**

Intercede (Exo 30:1-16, 34-38) - revive (Jer 33:1-13)

1. **【Burn incense and intercede】** 1-8 God ordered to use acacia wood to make an altar for burning incense representing the intercession of Christ who had now become our mediator in heaven interceding for us. (Heb 7:25) The saints' prayers are like incense set before God. (Ps 141:2; Rev 5:8) The altar was square, that is, to bear the mind of the Lord to intercede for all people. (1 Ti 2:1-4) The horns of the altar and the altar were of one piece and were overlaid with pure gold. Prayer in faith has great power and effect and God is glorified by this. (Jn 14:13; Jas 5:16) There should be two gold rings by the side of the altar to hold the poles used to carry it. The purpose is to listen with care on God's promise and pray in the Holy Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request. (Eph 6:18) The altar should be placed in front of the curtain before the ark of the Testimony - before the atonement cover. Our prayers ought to be targeted to God's mind, understand His intention in prayer and pray according to His will. God prohibits offering of any other incense or drink offering and does not allow other service to replace prayer.  
※ **【Return and revive】** 1-9 The whole life of Jeremiah was a life of prayer. Even when he was confined in the courtyard of the guard, he did not stop praying. He suffered in the flesh but his heart was caught up to the throne to burn incense and intercede. God's words came to him again for the second time and it concerned the revival of Judah and Jerusalem. God's anger was stopped. The captives would return to their native land. They would enjoy the abundant peace and security and be rebuilt as they were before. The forgiven and purified people would display God's glory among the nations. Jeremiah's prayer was targeted to God's mind. He interceded by faith and had great power. How aromatic! God's heart was satisfied! The house of Judah would return and revive due to his intercession.
2. **【Burn fine incense】** 34-38 The Lord told Moses to solemnly make the pure incense according to the formula – to add salt to the four fragrant spices. These four spices represent the full nature of Christ (2 Cor 2:14-15). The more we understand Christ, the more mature will be our life, to consider the mind of Christ according to the will of God to grab the never failing covenant of salt (Num 18:19) to pray. God ordered Moses to take some which was ground to power and place it in front of the Testimony in the Tent of Meeting where God would meet with him. It should be the most holy and the incense ought to be the finer the better! We ought to eat up the Lord's word before Him and intercede for men carefully and specifically according to the will of the Lord. God awaited to meet with and speak to us (Jer 33:2-3) God forbid men to make any incense with this formula or to enjoy its fragrance. It is detestable to God to pursue or enjoy for oneself.  
※ **【Receive the instruction】** 1-3 Jeremiah suffered a lot in the flesh but he was much favored in the spirit. Not only did he bear the mind of God to intercede for the exiles,

## 【Exo 30 / Jer 33】

he also entered the Most holy place to burn incense and intercede before God. God met with him and was told the great and unsearchable things which involved the revelation of the revival of the people and the promised kingdom. God revealed Himself and His Name to him so he might understand the God who create and establish. He is the God Who He is and there is nothing too hard for Him!

3. **【Offer money for live】** 11-16 The Lord ordered Moses to take a census of the Israelites to count those twenty years old or more to receive a half shekel according to the sanctuary shekel as gift for the Lord. This money is the atonement money for life. No matter rich or poor, they would give a half shekel to be used for the Tent of Meeting and remembered by the Lord. (Neh 10:32) Christ paid a great price to atone for us (1 Cor 6:20), we therefore ought to sacrifice the whole of our body and mind to the Lord and be ascribed to the Lord to repay His great love!
- ※ **【Offer thanks offering】** 10-13 “The Lord is good, His love endures forever!” The prophet prophesied the people would return. Jerusalem and the long desolated city would hear the sounds of joy and gladness and the voice of thanksgiving to the Lord. They would be revived by God’s salvation and bring their thank offering to His house filled with praises and thanks. On one side to give thanks to offer the money for life while the other side to give thanks to offer thank offering. Christ became our everlasting atonement for our lives and we ought to give thanks and repay.

### **B. Consecrate and be sanctified, return to serve the Lord and His gracious promise will be accomplished.**

Consecrate (Exo 30:17-33) – Serve the Lord (Jer 33:14-20)

1. **【Consecrate and be sanctified】** 17-21 God ordered to make a bronze basin and a bronze stand so the basin would not be defiled to be set apart to be placed between the Tent of Meeting and the altar. Aaron and his sons were to wash their hands and feet when they entered the Tent to minister, lest they would die. The bronze of the basin was made from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. (Exo 38:8) The Lord’s word is a mirror. (Jas 1:23) So through Jesus Christ we may mirror to understand ourselves by the water and His word to consecrate and remove all the dirt of the body and soul and be sanctified (Eph 5:26) to offer the spiritual offering pleased by God.
- ※ **【Refine to serve the Lord】** 14-26 God would fulfill His gracious promise toward Israel and the house of Judah so they might refine and return, be sanctified to serve the Lord. The days would come and He would raise a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line. His name will be called the Lord Our Righteousness who is Jesus. “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.” Ro 11:26-27) He will administer justice and righteousness and Jerusalem would live in safety. The throne of David would last forever. By that time the priests and the Levites never failed to have a man to stand before God continually to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings. The redeemed people would pass through the altar. Their sins were forgiven and came to the bronze basin to consecrate and be sanctified to serve the Lord.

## 【Exo 31 / Jer 34】

2. 【The anointing oil of the Holy Spirit】 22-33 The holy anointing oil represented the Holy Spirit to anoint the Tent of Meeting and the articles so they would be holy and to anoint Aaron and his sons so they might serve as priests. This anointing oil was made according to God's formula for making incense with fine spices of liquid myrrh, fragrant cinnamon, fragrant cane, cassia and olive oil. Christ also followed God's will to suffer on earth, to die, resurrect and ascend and also bestow the promise of the Holy Spirit. How fragrant and precious! He would never allow any replacement or falsity. (1 Jn 4:1-6) God promised the revival in the last days. He would pour His Spirit to His servants and maids and the men on earth and indeed it was fulfilled in the Pentecost of the age of the apostles. (Ac 2:16-18)
- ※ 【The prophecy of Christ】 14-20 The gracious promise of God to the house of Israel and Judah would be fulfilled. The days were coming and God would make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line – Christ the anointed King, the name by which would be called 'The Lord Our Righteousness'. His people would be poured and renewed by the Holy Spirit through repentance. They would be justified by righteousness due to faith (Ro 3:21-26). This was the work of the Holy Spirit. (Isa 32:15'Zec 12:10) The covenant which God made with David and the Levites who ministered Him would turn day and night unbroken and unfailing. Besides, the Levites would be countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore. By faith we will also receive the promised Holy Spirit and the kingdom of Christ. (Gal 3:14, 22)

**Ps 80 / Rev 14:15 Main theme: The time for harvest has come. May we be returned and revived.**

- Revive / Harvest

On one side the harvest on earth is ripen while the other side we pray to return and revive.

- (1) 【May the power of God make us return】 1-3 We ought to cry aloud fervently and restore to God, then the great revival will come.
- (2) 【Do not be discouraged but pray persistently】 4-7 Though the Lord seems not to listen for long and our enemies mock us, we insist to pray for revival.
- (3) 【May God restore us and have regard for His people】 7-19 May the Lord remember how He painstakingly cultivates the children who belong to Him, so He will not be angered and place them into the hands of the enemies. May the Lord turn back and have regard for them so they they will not perish. May the Lord save us, so we may be restored and revive.

**Central point of the wheels: Grasp the promise and pray for revival. Go and harvest quickly and save all the people.**

Dear Lord, may you let me eat up the book and intercede for all the people, pray thoroughly and meet with you!

## Exo 31 / Jer 34

**Main theme: Listen to the command and rest and be blessed. Woe to those who go back and break the covenant.**

## 【Exo 31 / Jer 34】

### - Establish / destroy (Obey / rebel)

Golden verses: Exo 31:18 Jer 34:10

A discussion on build up and destruction – on one side it concerned the expert builders who were chosen by God and filled with wisdom to build the tabernacle according to the instructions on the mountain. On the other side it concerned the foolish ruler did not listen to God and broke the law resulting to the destruction of the house of Judah. God's church which deviated from the instructions of God would be destroyed by Him. Without destruction it would not be rebuilt. Our old lives also need to be completely destroyed, and then they would be rebuilt.

#### **A. According to God's instruction – destroy and rebuild and work by the Spirit**

Build (Exo 31:1-11) – destroy (Jer 34:1-7)

1. **【Chosen to work】** 1-2 God revealed the instructions of the tabernacle to Moses and wanted His chosen workers to work according to His instruction. Bazalel (in the shadow of God, God is protection) was chosen by God and entrusted to work for the tabernacle; that was to work according to the instructions on the mountain. Nothing could be done if we leave God. Building the tabernacle was the plan and the will of God. Workers had to be sure of God's calling and mission just like Paul was purposed to be the apostle specially to proclaim God's gospel.
- ※ **【Be a puppet king】** 1-2 Zedekiah king of Judah was not set by God but by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to be a puppet king. (2 Ki 24:17, 2 Ch 36:10) He reigned for eleven years but did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He was just like a hired worker and not elected by God. He reigned as his own desire and his old self was king.
2. **【The expert builder】** 3-5 Not only did God choose Bazalel, He filled him with the Holy Spirit so he had wisdom, skill and knowledge and could make everything in the tabernacle. (Pro 24:3-4) He had the skill to use gold, silver and bronze (faith, love and hope) to make artistic designs. He was also able to cut and set stones, to work in wood and engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Bazalel was like an expert builder to build the tabernacle with all precious materials by the Holy Spirit and God's word. Likewise, workers must be filled with the Holy Spirit to build up the church with revelation, knowledge, prophecy and word of instruction, so it may be established. (1Cor 14:6)
- ※ **【The foolish leader】** 1-5 Jeremiah the prophet was also like an expert builder. Through his message to the house of Judah, he did the work of destruction and rebuild. God's word came to him and he had to proclaim to Zedekiah – through the hand of the king of Babylon, God would destroy and burn down Jerusalem and the cities of Judah. Even Zedekiah could not escape from the hands of the Babylonian king. The ending of captivity was destined. Before the disaster came, Jeremiah still advised Zedekiah to humble before the Most High God and listen to His words, and then he would not die under the sword but die in peace. The word of the prophet revealed God's heart. He still gave him the chance to repent. But it was saddening because Zedekiah was stubborn to the end. He would not listen to the exhortation of



## 【Exo 31 / Jer 34】

the prophet and so he harmed himself and others. On one side was the expert builder filled with the Holy Spirit to build the tabernacle while on the other side was a foolish leader filled with sins and resulted to the destruction of the house of Judah.

3. **【Match and build】** 6-11 God also appointed Oholiab (my father God is the tent) to work with Bazalel. Together they made all the instruments God had ordered. They feared God and hated evil (Job 28:28; Pro 9:10) and were emptied instruments. They were filled by the Holy Spirit and were in one spirit. They matched each other mutually and bore the mission of establishing the tabernacle together.
- ※ **【In crisis】** 6-7 Zedekiah as a leader of the house of Judah ought to be in one heart and spirit with Jeremiah the prophet to lead the people to fear God. However, he was stubborn and rebellious. He listened to the false prophets and injured the true prophet cruelly. He brought his whole country to sin and provoked God to anger. Those craftsmen who are wise, God will make them wiser with blessings upon blessings. But the leaders who is foolish in heart and do not listen to teaching, even the two left fortified cities would be besieged by the enemy's army. The work of Jeremiah, Bazalel and Oholiab was the work of gold, silver and precious gems with eternal value.

### **B. Obey God's word and keep His covenant and rest. Those who break the covenant will be punished.**

Keep the covenant (Exo 31:12-18) – break the covenant (Jer 34:8-22)

1. **【Keep the covenant and rest】** 12-17 The purpose of building the tabernacle was God wanted to dwell among the Israelites, just like the church was God's dwelling place through the Holy Spirit. He also commanded the Israelites to observe His Sabbaths. He reminded them that God cared not of work but they should listen and keep the covenant. God also made them holy. To observe the Sabbath was a witness between God and His people for generations - to honor Him as holy, to love Him and understand God's love and care for the servant and livestock so they may enjoy rest together. We do not observe the Sabbath of the Israelites but to remember the 'Holy day' of Christ who resurrected from death. We worship God wholeheartedly and make every effort to enter the rest of Christ. (Heb 4:11)
- ※ **【Perfidious】** 8-16 Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves and no one was to hold a fellow Jew in bondage. This was God's decree with the Israelites. (Exo 21:1-2) After Zedekiah and the officials had freed their brothers, they changed their minds and took back the slaves and enslaved them again. They did not obey the law to free the slaves and so broke the covenant with God and man. The goal of the law is to love God and love man. They had no mercy on their brothers. Even though they had observed the Sabbath externally, they had violated the true meaning of Sabbath internally.
2. **【Keep the word and be blessed】** 18 After the Lord had finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave the two tablets of the Testimony inscribed by His finger to Moses which the Israelites ought to obey and observe to enjoy the blessing on the good land. (Deu 6:1-3)

## **【Exo 32 / Jer 35】**

※ **【 Punished for breaking the covenant 】** 17-22 Zedekiah would not listen to proclaim freedom for his fellow countrymen. Thus Jeremiah the prophet declared ‘freedom’ for him. He would have ‘freedom’ to fall by the sword, plague and famine. God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites so they might obey and be blessed. But the house of Judah did not put it to heart. They violated and broke the covenant and thus were perished and captivated. God had destined their land to be desolate and rest till seventy years were full. (2 Ch 36:21) We too ought to consider the mind of God and lead men away from the bondage of sin and to enjoy the rest and freedom in Christ. (Gal 5:1; Jn 8:36)

**Ps 81 / Rev 14:16 Main theme: Cry out to God, obey His word, open the mouth wide and take possession of the land**

-Open the mouth / good harvest

May the Lord appoint the refined workers to go out like swinging the sickle and take the great harvest.

- (1) **【 Increase our strength by the Lord and be steadfast to obey His command 】** 1-7 Pay attention to the Lord’s command in every step of our spiritual journey. We ought to listen to the voice of the trumpet and take warning no matter in the Sabbath, New Moon, when the moon is full, the Passover, the Pentecost, or the Feast of Tabernacles. We let the Lord be the center. In every misfortune, we are tested to call on to God to give us strength so we may cry in joy and victory and take the harvest.
- (2) **【 God’s heart is saddened 】** 11-12 Helplessly the Lord’s people will not listen and do not care. So He allowed them despite their rebellion. God’s was disheartened.
- (3) **【 Advise the people to listen to exhortation 】** 8-10, 13-16 We cannot have other gods. We ought to open our mouth wide and thirst for the Lord’s word, His Spirit, His love and all the souls. Then He will fill you in full. May the people be willing to listen to the Lord for He will quickly overpower the enemies and give the good food and the message from the Most Holy Place to those who thirst for them.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen and walk His Way, remove other gods, build the spiritual temple and take the harvest.**

O Father, may You raise the contemporary workers, remove all their other gods, open their mouth wide so their lives are abundant to build your church!

### **Exo 32 / Jer 35**

**Main theme: Be firm to keep the Lord’s word and be loved. Cast the calf and provoke God’ anger.**

- **Be wayward /obey the Word**

Golden verses: Exo 31:18 Jer 34:10

A discussion on waywardness and obeying the Word – on one side it concerned Israel openly violated the commandments of God. They worshiped the gold calf and provoked Him to anger. They swerved from God’s Way and broke the covenant of God. On the other side it concerned the Recabites refused to drink wine before the prophet. They firmly kept the command of their predecessor without swerving and finally gained the

## 【Exo 32 / Jer 35】

good promise of God.

### **A. Do not worship the image, refuse to drink the wine, steadfast to keep the Word without swerving**

Worship the image (Exo 32:1-6) – refuse to drink (Jer 35:1-11)

1. **【Worship the gold calf】** 1-6 Moses was on the mountain for forty days and nights and was instructed to build the pattern of the tabernacle. God wanted the Israelites to be a kingdom of priests according to God's pattern to worship and serve Him. When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they requested to make a god to go before them. Aaron was a worker of the mid level and did not put God's law in his heart. So he easily cast a gold calf to replace God who led them out of Egypt. They built an altar and offered sacrifice before the gold calf. Then they ate and drank wantonly provoking God to anger. This was the evil plot of Satan who tried to damage the building of the tabernacle and hindered God's will so the people might be cursed.
- ※ **【Refuse to drink wine】** 1-11 In the days of Jehoiakim king of Judah, all the people from top to bottom were stubborn and wayward. They departed from the pattern of God to serve other gods. Their hearts were deceived and fell into the trap of Satan. But through many means of Jeremiah, God repeatedly warned them. God ordered Jeremiah to set bowls of wine for the Recabites in the house of God. They were in great trials but they refused to drink and would not compromise. The Recabites were Kenites, the same tribe as the father-in-law of Moses. (Jdg 1:16; 1 Ch 2:55) They were not Israelites and yet rejected the secular to refuse to drink wine. However, the Israelites were tainted with secularity and followed the Gentiles.
2. **【Swerve from the Lord's Way】** 1-6 The people of Israel had just exited Egypt and confirmed the covenant with God in Mount Sinai not long ago and quickly swerved from God's Way. They broke the covenant of God and forgot about the Lord who delivered them from Egypt. They turned to the worship of the gods and goat of Egypt. (2 Ch 11:15) They were not able to stand the test of time and left future troubles to their descendants. Since the split up of the south and north kingdom, all the kings of the nation of Israel worshiped the gold calf. They had trapped the people in sin and finally was subjugated and taken captive.
- ※ **【Keep the order firmly】** 1-11 Jehonadab son of Recab (2 Ki 10:15-23) once commanded his offspring to refrain from drinking wine. Two hundred years had lapsed and they still seriously kept the teachings of their forefather. Though the prophet personally set the wine, they insisted to refuse to drink. But the people of Israel quickly deviated from the word of God and abandoned God's covenant. The Recabites had been tested for long and led a godly live. They would not be defiled by sin which was commendable! Aaron and the people were not able to stand the test and worshiped the gold calf which led to endless future troubles!
3. **【Deceived and lost the glory】** 1-6 Though the Israelites had exited Egypt, their hearts were still in Egypt. Moses went up the mountain for less than forty days and they had started to worship the idols of Egypt, like the lure of money and the

## 【Exo 32 / Jer 35】

inducement of desires had trapped them to deception. The people openly violated God's commandment and depraved from grace. They worshiped other gods, ate and drank wantonly and depraved in morality. Everyone took off their gold earrings and cast a detestable idol. They did not listen to God's words and lost the spiritual glory and humiliated God's name!

- ※ **【Overcome and glorify God】** 1-11 The descendants of Jehonadab the Recabites feared God and kept the command of their forefather firmly. They never drank, build houses or buy any property. But they lived in tents as aliens, several hundred years like a day not infected by the secular and not deceived. They kept the feast and serve God with a clean heart. Their victory was full of testimony and revealed God's glory. The people lost their testimony before the test and humiliated God's name. Wine represented the joy of sin. It has deceived a lot of God's children and caught them in a snare of sin. (Pro 23:29-35) The gold calf and wine are instruments which Satan uses to deceive men. We ought to detest them seriously and abandon them completely.

### **B. Be jealous of evil and attack sin, give warning and depart from sin**

Attack sin (Exo 32:15-29) – Give warning (Jer 35:12-17)

1. **【Smash the gold calf】** 15-24 The Israelites swerved from the command of God and worshiped the gold calf. They violated the covenant with God. Moses went down the mountain and saw them dancing wantonly before the gold calf. He heard shouts of songs so his anger burned and threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces. They violated the law and provoked God to anger and offended Him greatly. Moses was filled with God's jealousy and wrath. So he thoroughly smashed the 'gold calf' which led the people to great sin by burning it in the fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water. Then he made them drink it so they might taste the sorrow of punishment due to sin and deeply abhorred them. The gold calf represents all sorts of deception of Satan, the inducement of the idols and the power of the false teaching. We ought to burn it completely by the raging fire of the Holy Spirit. (Isa 4:3-4)
- ※ **【Warn to depart from the evil way】** 12-16 After Jeremiah had obeyed to set the wine in the house of the Lord to test the Recabites, God's word came to him again. He ordered him to rebuke the people of Judah who did not listen to God's warning through the witness of the Recabites who refused to drink and their godly example. They were not willing to turn from their evil way and reform their actions. With God's jealousy and resentment Moses completely ground the gold calf so the people might turn from the evil way to worship the only God. The work of Jeremiah and Moses was to retrieve God's anger.
2. **【Attack and destroy evil】** 25-29 Moses gathered all who belonged to the Lord to attack and destroy evil, to remove the influence of the wickedness of the gold calf and punish those who led the evil. All the Levites firstly responded and cleansed themselves. Each man strapped a sword to his side full of jealousy of God and ran through the camp, killing all the culprits who worshiped the gold calf without mercy. The Levites courageously attacked and destroyed the evil and took the jealous heart of

## 【Exo 32 / Jer 35】

God. Thus they were chosen to replace all the firstborn of the Israelites to serve in the tabernacle. (Num 8:15-16) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, (Heb 4:12) and can pierce through all the power of the gold calf. May God raise up warriors who will attack evil. (Ps 94:16)

- ※ **【Serious warning】** 17 Before Judah faced subjugation and captivity, God's heart still hoped they would listen to depart from evil and reform their actions. God is a jealous God and will not tolerate adultery with idols and continue to defile the good land. The words of the prophet were like a sharpened sword and severely rebuked their evil and waited for their repentance and warned them again. If they closed their ear without listening to God, He would make all disasters to come without mercy. Jeremiah and the Levites were jealous like fire to fight crime ruthlessly. We ought to treat God's Word as weapons and fight our desire of sin by the Holy Spirit and serve God in the new way.

### **C. Deny yourself to intercede and stand before the Lord forever**

Intercede (Exo 32:7-14) – serve (Jer 35:18-19)

1. **【Intercede with love】** 7-14 Before Moses went down the mountain, he saw the people worshiping the gold calf and God was so angry to destroy them. Thus he sought the favor of God to turn from fierce anger and not to bring disaster on them. Moses interceded with love for the people and would not consider the least that God would make him into a great nation. He only had the thought of God's will and his people!
- ※ **【Willing to sacrifice】** 16-19 Jeremiah was not only the weeping prophet just like Moses who wept and implored for the sinning people. He was also an absolute obedient prophet. In order to warn the rebellious king and people, he sacrificed himself and paid the entire price. He obeyed to set the wine for the Recabites in the house of God and warned his people with their example. He also obeyed to proclaim the promise of God to the Recabites. Such obedience and willing sacrifice and proclamation of God's message was just like Moses, totally filled with God's love.
2. **【Deny yourself to intercede】** 30-35 After Moses had led the Levites to destroy the evil of the gold calf, he went before God to atone and intercede for the people. He was even willing to be blotted from God's book just like Paul who was willing to be cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of his brothers. (Ro 9:3) His self-denial and intercession finally retrieved God's anger.
- ※ **【Serve before the Lord forever】** 18-19 The Recabites were the descendants of the Kenites. They solemnly kept their forefather's command and denied themselves to obey, and thus was commended by God to bestow them the precious promise to serve before the Lord forever. Moses denied himself to intercede to retrieve the anger of God. The Recabites denied themselves to obey and were given the portion of God's precious promise and ministry. We ought therefore, to keep the Lord's Way firmly with a pure heart and clean hands to serve the Lord forever, to pray for the nation and people with love and self-denial to retrieve God's anger.

**Ps 82 / Rev 14:17 Main theme: The Lord's Way judges, pray and preach lest people**

## 【Exo 33 / Jer 36】

### will be punished

#### - Judgment / Punishment

An angel came out with a sickle. God's punishment has come! In time, God will judge all the people. He will punish the evil and reward the good.

- (1) **【Judgment begins with the family of God】** 1-2 Those who inherit God's Way, God will give them the power to establish men and not to corrupt them. If we do not hold on to righteousness and be partial, God will punish.
- (2) **【We ought to save the oppressed】** 3-4 We ought to bear the mind of God to have compassion on the lost sheep of all the land to intercede and preach day and night. So they may be delivered from death and return to the true God.
- (3) **【If we are still ignorant and do evil, we will fall】** 5-8 If we do not take warning and do not understand God's mind and commit sin and do evil in the dark, we will be like Saul who was once anointed but ultimately fell. The Lord will come to judge the world. We ought to bear the mind of the Lord. He wants everyone to be saved and no one to perish. We need to use God's power and strength to save more people. Then we will not be punished but be richly rewarded.

**Central point of the wheels: Be righteous and merciful, keep the Word and reject temptation, fight crime and intercede.**

O Father, may you let me be completely knowledgeable on Satan's evil plot, firmly keep the truth, intercede with love and deliver the captivated children.

### Exo 33 / Jer 36

**Main theme: Honor the Lord and value the Word and be blessed, belittle the Lord and go against the Word then trouble will come.**

#### - Intercede / warn

Golden verses: Exo 33:13-14 Jer 36:18-19

A discussion on intercession and warning – on one side we ought to imitate Moses to intercede for the sinful people faithfully to retrieve God's anger. On the other side we ought to imitate Jeremiah and Baruch to obey to warn the evil officials and the people. They were willing to sacrifice to obey the will of God and pay the price.

#### **A. Be contrite and take discipline to turn from the evil way**

The distressing words (Exo 33:1-6) – warning (Jer 36:1-10)

1. **【Pass the distressing words】** God swore to promise to give Canaan to the descendants of Abraham and this would not be changed. The people stubbornly worshiped the gold calf thus God refused to go with them to the promised land, lest He might destroy them on the way. Instead He sent an angel to lead them so they might undertake the result of sinning. Moses obeyed to pass these distressing words to the people.
- ※ **【Pass the warning】** In the fourth year of Jehoiakim, Jeremiah was detained and afflicted. He obeyed to write the words of God to attack the Israelites and the house of Judah on a scroll. The people abandoned God's covenant just like the people who worshiped the gold calf. They were stiff-necked and worshiped idols on the good

## 【Exo 33 / Jer 36】

land given by God. They committed adultery and greatly provoked God. God wanted Jeremiah to warn the king of Judah, the officials and the people with the ominous letter of disaster. On one side was to obey to pass the bad news while the other was to obey to pass the warning which revealed the voice of God towards His elect so they might completely repent for their sins.

2. **【Be contrite and take warning】** 1-6 When the people heard the distressing words, they mourned and repented and deeply took the discipline. Israel was the army of God. Thus without God, they had lost the protection. Without God, even when they reached the land with milk and honey, they had no joy. The people obeyed to put down any ornaments completely. They thoroughly removed all the outward ornaments and understood the importance of sinning and shame. So they no longer became stiff-necked to stop God's anger and were forgiven.

※ **【Be contrite and turn from evil】** 1-10 While Jeremiah was detained, he summoned Baruch to record his words. So when the people go fasting in the house of the Lord, he ought to read to the people from the scroll. The people mourned and were contrite when Moses passed them the distressing words, God earnestly wished the people of Judah would repent from evil after hearing the warning so He might forgive them. The people took off all their ornaments like the people of Judah ought to put off all hypocritical fasting and be contrite from the heart to worship God with an honest and pure heart. Therefore they ought to rend their hearts and not their garments to return to the Lord God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. (Joel 2:13)

### **B. See the Lord's face, understand God's will, preach boldly and hear with trembling.**

Understand the will (Exo 33:7-11) – preach honestly (Jer 36:11-18)

1. **【See the Lord's face and understand God's will】** 7-11 To thoroughly retrieve God's anger, Moses went to the 'tent of meeting' outside the camp. When Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance. There God spoke with Moses face to face as a man spoke with his friend. Moses would first listen clearly to God's will and then pass the message to the people in the camp. God's workers ought to enter the curtain and see God's face, carefully listen to the whisper of God, and then they might honestly pass God's words.
- ※ **【Understand God's will and preach boldly】** 11-18 Even in his affliction, Jeremiah the prophet listened clearly to God's message just like Moses and passed the instruction of God to his co-worker Baruch. Without any deduction, Baruch recorded on the scroll and he also courageously read aloud God's judgment in all occasions. They were in one heart and one spirit, and full of power to preach God's will.
2. **【Worship humbly】** 7-11 Moses set the tent of meeting outside the camp to set apart for the Lord. Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting. When Moses went inside the tent of meeting, the people would stand at the entrance to their own tent and wait respectfully for God's reply. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they would stand at their tent and worship

## 【Exo 33 / Jer 36】

humbly. As Moses interceded before God and stopped His anger, He promised to go together with them.

- ※ **【Listen with trembling】** 11-18 When the officials heard all the words of God on the scroll, they trembled and were frightened. They looked at each other in fear like the people waited for God humbly and in trembling. They earnestly wished to tell all this to the king so he might turn from evil due to the disasters sent by God and be forgiven. Heaven is God's throne, and the earth is His footstool. Where is the house they will build for Him? This is the one God esteems; he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at His word. (Isa 66:1-2)

### **C. The mediator intercedes; he denies his life to preach the Word and satisfies God's heart.**

Intercede (Exo 33:12-23) – warn (Jer 36:19-32)

1. **【The mediator intercedes】** 12-16 Moses deeply understood God's righteousness and unfailing love. He knew God was angry so they might repent their sins from their heart. The people were truly contrite, so Moses pleaded God to go with them. May God think that these were His people and may God teach him His ways so he might find favor with Him. He bore the heart of God and he pleaded directly with earnestness. Due to his intercession, God promised His Presence would go with him and give him rest.
- ※ **【Deny one's life to preach the Word】** 19-26 After Jeremiah and Baruch has passed the judgment of God, they were being hated. The king sent an order to arrest them. But God was with them and gave a sign of His goodness so that their enemies might be put to shame. (Ps 86:17) God hid them from trouble. In order to preach God's message, they gave no thought to their lives just like Moses paid the price for the rebellious people.
2. **【Ask for a sign and God reveals】** 17-23 Then Moses asked for a sign from God to prove He had answered his request. He asked God to show him His glory. Again God revealed Himself to Moses as a sign that He would go with him and the people. God let Moses see His back, showing God's majesty for no one might see Him and live. Moses was the mediator between God and the people and he paid the price to intercede for them. Firstly, he himself was tested by God and favored by Him. He was given the promise to reveal the power and effect of interceding as a mediator.
- ※ **【Burn the scroll and God is angered】** 17-32 After Jehoiakim the king heard the words on the scroll, not only did he refuse to tremble and be contrite, he disrespectfully cut it with a scribe's knife and angrily threw it into the firepot. This provoked God's anger. God ordered Jeremiah and Baruch to re-write again and added more words. God's words stand firm in the heavens forever and will not be burnt! As God refused to go with the Israelites, they deeply repented and were forgiven by God. Jehoiakim heard God's warning and still was hard-hearted. He broke the covenant and was rejected by God. The calamities prophesied by the prophet all came true on him. "Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism." (Col 3:25)



## 【Exo 34 / Jer 37】

**Ps 83 / Rev 14:18 Main theme: The enemies collaborated. May the Most High God destroy them and save His people.**

### **- The enemies gathered / Call for God**

On one side the poisonous grapes on the land are ripe. Their sins have over flown. Thus the punishment of God's wrath comes. On the other side we pray that God will smash the collaboration of the attack of the enemies.

- (1) **【The enemies collaborate to attack and pray that God will destroy them】** 1-17 The enemies unite to plot against God's children. Those Edomites who are carnal and covet the secular, the Ishmaelites who are born of flesh and blood, the hypocritic Moabites, the Hagarites who make rules for others and the slaves of the basic principles, the fence-sitter of the Gebalites, the Ammonites who think themselves righteous, the lustful Amalekites, The Canaanites who disbelieve, The people of Tyre who are the great harbor of the nations, the Assyrians who confuse the truth and the descendants of Lot who covet the world all unite together and attack God's children. We should not stop our mouth to cry out to our Most High God so He will stretch His hand and make the enemies like chaff before the wind and like the dust of the ground forever be perished in disgrace.
- (2) **【Exalt the Lord's name and all the earth will return to Him】** 18 May the Lord's name be widely preached so everyone on earth will know only my Lord is the only Most High God.

**Central point of the wheels: Preach the Word and intercede, be contrite and take discipline for who is against God will be punished.**

O Father God, may you raise those workers who intercede faithfully so the rebellious children with turn back and satisfy your heart!

## **Exo 34 / Jer 37**

**Main theme: Remove the yeast and keep the covenant and be glorified. Be selfish and keep the yeast will lose the glory**

- **Keep the covenant firmly / do not be self-deceiving (Radiate / lose the glory)**

Golden verses: Exo 34:6-7 Jer 37:7-8

A discussion on keeping the covenant firmly and not be self-deceiving – on one side it concerned the Israelites worshiped the gold calf and broke the covenant of God. So Moses went up the mountain for the second time to intercede as a mediator. God made a new covenant with them so they had to keep it firmly and never be rebellious. On the other side it concerned Zedekiah the king of Judah was stubborn and broke the covenant again. God still told him to listen and not to be self-deceiving through Jeremiah who passed him God's will.

**A. Go up to the top of the mountain, set the covenant again, understand God and do not be self-deceiving**

Observe the covenant (Exo 34:1-17) – Self-deceiving (Jer:1-10)

1. **【Listen to go up the mountain】** 1-3 Israel worshiped the gold calf and sinned greatly.

## 【Exo 34 / Jer 37】

But as Moses interceded as mediator before God and the people were deeply contrite, so God forgave them. God wanted to reset the covenant and ordered Moses to chisel out two stone tablets and bring them up the mountain. God wanted to write the Ten Commandments on them and never be abolished. Before Moses went up the mountain he had to prepare for himself:

- (1) A pure heart to see God: no one was to be on the mountain.
- (2) See God by himself: no one could go with him.
- (3) See God wholeheartedly: there should be no flock and herd grazing on the mountain lest he was distracted.
- (4) Chisel out two stone tablets: his life had been dealt with and then the commandments might be written on his heart.
- (5) See God in the early morning.

※ **【Violate the command and be self-deceiving】** 1-5 Zedekiah the king, the officials and the people did not listen to the warning of the prophet. They repeatedly rejected God's will and offended God greatly. Even when Moses obeyed to go up the mountain, he still had to prepare himself before seeing God. Zedekiah did not repent for his own sin and still he went to inquire of the prophet. He was self-deceiving, how would he be blessed? He thought the Egyptian army would come and the Babylonian troops who had besieged the holy city would flee when they heard this. He thought he might succeed to rely on the power of Egypt. He was filled with wishful thinking. Such self-deceiving, rigid as stone, not willing to humble to surrender and be dealt with would never see God.

2. **【Go up the mountain top and God descends】** 1-9 When Moses was on the mountain top, his spirit also reached the spiritual peak. God came down in the cloud and revealed His name, the Lord. He proclaimed to Moses that He was loving and righteous for the purpose that the people should know God, fear God and serve Him forever. Due to God's appearance and revelation, Moses prostrated humbly. Again he interceded earnestly for the people and asked God to take them as His inheritance and go with them.

※ **【Ascend the peak and proclaim the prophecy】** 1-10 Jeremiah stood at the spiritual peak and was discerned in everything. He was meticulous and faithful to proclaim God's will and prophesied that Judah would ultimately be overturned by Babylon. The prophet obeyed to tell Zedekiah that the army of Egypt would return to their nation and the Chaldeans whom they feared would come again to attack and burn the holy city. The proclamation of the prophet was to thoroughly shatter the illusion of Zedekiah to rely on Egypt. He pointed out his hypocrisy and self-deception. He revealed that God is righteous and cannot be mocked and he should not continue to resist stubbornly. The two servants experienced to ascend the mountain and see God, full of spiritual power and discernment.

3. **【Make a covenant again and do not violate】** 10-17 God's love for Israel never changed. Though they worshiped the gold calf and violated His covenant, yet after they had repented, God made a covenant with them again. He wanted them to obey

## 【Exo 34 / Jer 37】

and observe the covenant without violating:

(1) Break down all the stones and poles.

(2) Prohibit worshipping other gods.

(3) Do not intermarry with the local people lest they may be trapped to the snare of worshipping idols and committing adultery and repeat the sin of worshipping the gold calf for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

※ **【Burnt for violating the command and breaking the covenant】** 1-10 Jerusalem was a holy city chosen by God, a dwelling in His name. The holy temple was the center which all nations admired. But due to violating the covenant and committing sin, imitating the evil customs of the Gentiles, worshipping idols and committing adultery, Israel greatly sinned against God. Thus God gave them to the hands of Babylon and the holy city was besieged by the army of the enemy. The prophet prophesied that the Chaldean troops would decamp because they were afraid of the army of Pharaoh but this would be temporary. The Chaldean troops would still besiege the holy city and burn it with fire. God's jealousy was like fire. His will never changed and He would destroy all those who violated the command and broke the covenant.

### **B. Not by our own desire, obey to keep the covenant and shine to glorify God**

Rest (Exo 34:18-35) – suffer (Jer 37:11-21)

1. **【Remove the yeast, celebrate the feast and rest】** 18-28 God wanted the people to remember forever the redemption of the Lamb of the Passover, to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread and eat bread made without yeast for seven day to take away sins completely. All first offspring ought to belong to God. To observe the holy Sabbath and honor God as holy. Even during the harvest, we ought to rest. All men of Israel ought to appear before God for three times a year. God promised to enlarge their territory and encouraged them to set their mind at rest and no one would interfere. God also reminded them to bring the best of the firstfruits of the soil to give thanks and glorify God. Moses obeyed and wrote them and made the covenant again so they would not violate the covenant again and celebrate the feasts and rest to serve God.

※ **【Own idea with yeast and suffer】** 11-19 Jeremiah was like a firstborn and belonged to God. This time, without inquiring of God, he went to Benjamin. Thus he was afflicted by the officials and put him to prison. On one side was God's promise to remove the yeast and celebrate His feasts and then see God and rest. On the other side was the prophet was afflicted due to his own desire just like taking the yeast without rest. But when Zedekiah the king privately inquired of the prophet, though the prophet was afflicted, he was not shy to proclaim God's will to him. Again he warned him that he would be given to the hands of the enemy. He reminded him not to readily believe the rave of the false prophets. The temple of Jerusalem was filled with false and detestable ministry with yeast. They celebrated the feast externally but were rebellious in heart and violated God with their own desire, thus there was no rest.

2. **【Radiant】** 29-35 Moses had close fellowship with God for forty days and nights

## 【Exo 35 / Jer 38】

and spoke to Him face to face. Thus unconsciously he was radiant. Christ is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. (Heb 1:3) Moses became an opaque instrument of God. His face showed the holy light of God. Aaron and the people were afraid to come near him. To sympathize and bear their weakness, Moses put a veil over his face to hide himself. But whenever he entered the Lord's presence, he removed the veil and was face to face with God.

- ※ **【Lose the glory】** 20-21 Jeremiah the prophet was severely tortured in the prison and his body was inevitably weak and could not overcome. Thus he pleaded Zedekiah the king not to send him back to the prison, lest he would die there. Therefore the king ordered him to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and be restrained. He was given a piece of bread a day until all the bread in the city was gone. Moses paid the price for forty days and night without eating and drinking, and he saw God face to face and became radiant. Jeremiah was momentarily weak and pleaded the king to be compassionate and help him. Thus he lost the light.

**Ps 84 / Rev 14:19 Main theme: Sin and drink the cup of wrath, but obey the Word in the Lord and blessings overflow**

**- the cup of wrath / the cup of blessing**

Once the angel stretched his hand, the wicked would be recompensed and thrown into the great winepress of God's wrath.

- (1) **【Dwell in the Lord and be blessed】** 1-4 I yearn and faint to dwell with the Lord and cry out to God that I may have this blessing. I will pursue toward this objective with all my heart and strength.
- (2) **【Blessed are those who go forward by the strength of the Lord】** 5-12 We cannot turn back and fall for we will be punished for sinning and doing evil. Be sure to go forward diligently by the Lord and walk up the holy path. Though we may experience suffering, it will turn to joy. The Lord will bestow favor and honor, and not a good thing does He withhold. Trust in the Almighty Lord to add strength and then we may turn from evil and do good and be greatly blessed.

**Central point of the wheels: Yearn to live in the house of God, keep the covenant and be blessed for doing evil will be punished.**

O God, I yearn to dwell in your house. May you write your word in my heart. Unite with you and run toward the pilgrimage by You.

### **Exo 35 / Jer 38**

**Main theme: Great blessing for willingness to obey and eager to sacrifice. Defeated for being double-minded.**

**- Establish / destroy (eager to sacrifice / hesitant)**

Golden verses: Exo 35:2 Jer 38:20

A discussion on building and destruction – on one side it concerned the whole assembly of Israel obeyed God's order and were willing to sacrifice gifts for the tabernacle. They also got ready for workers filled with the Holy Spirit to work together. On the other side it concerned Zedekiah disregarded the warning and was hesitant. He was not willing to

## 【Exo 35 / Jer 38】

surrender to Babylon. He oppressed the prophet. Finally the disasters came and the holy city was burnt. This teaches us we ought to destroy our old life by the Holy Spirit and then we may be built to be a new man to sacrifice ourselves to serve the Lord.

### **A. Obey the command and rest, willing to sacrifice and be saved in trouble.**

Obey the command (Exo 35:1-19) – rebel (Jer 38:1-13)

1. **【Obey the command and rest in everything】** 1-3 Before the Israelites started to build the tabernacle, God reiterated to them the importance of observing the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a sign that God made the covenant with men. He wanted them to obey His command and observe the covenant to treat this day as holy and keep from doing as we please. This day was the rest of God's creation. We ought to honor God as holy, fear God and love men, obey His command, keep His covenant and enjoy to rest. Whoever does work on this day must be put to death. Do not light a fire in any of our dwellings on the Sabbath day, even though the fire is for smelting to build the tabernacle. God reiterated this command showing God emphasized men to obey and rest in His will irrespective of how much labor but He cared if we obey in everything and enjoy the rest. God is the Lord of our work. (Eph 2:10) All who are weary and burdened may put down their work and let Him do it and make every effort to enter His rest. (Mt 11:28-30; Heb 4:11)
- ※ **【Only wish to be perfunctory】** 1-4 Jeremiah the prophet obeyed God's will to proclaim the prophecy to the house of Judah. He set before them two roads of life and death. If they stayed in the city without surrendering to Babylon, they would die by the sword, famine and plague. But if they surrendered to the Chaldeans, they would live. The officials of Judah only pursued 'peace' before their eyes. Thus they hated the true prophet and conspired. They requested Zedekiah to put Jeremiah to death. They were self-deceiving and harmed themselves. They did not obey God's will and made their old self as king and would not observe the rest. Therefore the disasters of the sword, punishment and destruction came upon them. There will be peace and rest if we listen to the command and keep the covenant. Whoever does not obey and is rebellious and stubborn will have no peace and no salvation. (Isa 30:15)
2. **【Willing to sacrifice】** 4-9 The building of the tabernacle was the gift of the willing sacrifice of God's children. They prepared the materials, not by force but due to thanksgiving and offered. They had gone through failure and were deeply contrite of their evil acts. Now they were forgiven because of God's love. They were inspired by God's great love so they offered their portion without reserve. All the materials, no matter gold, silver, bronze or all kinds of colored yarn, fine linen, goat hair, hides of sea cows, acacia wood and all sorts of gems, etc represented God's children themselves. They were under suffering and refinement, and being dealt with in life and became precious materials.
- ※ **【Completely set】** 5-6 In order to proclaim God's will, Jeremiah the prophet willingly set his life completely. This was precious in the eyes of God, far better than thousands of gold and silver. The cruel official first placed the prophet into the muddy cistern, wantonly to put him to death. But he was silent and endured the

## 【Exo 35 / Jer 38】

affliction. He placed himself completely to the trust of God. He offered himself totally and suffered in God's will. God was with him so he became pure gold after refinement. (Job23:10) He was a precious material of God's heart and fit to His measurement. He was like a valuable gem being painfully chiseled to radiate the glorious light of God.

3. **【Match and build】** 10-19 All who were skilled came and made everything the Lord had commanded. All the objects in the sanctuary were essential; even a piece of rope, the tent peg could not be overlooked. The building of the tabernacle represented the building of the life of the church which was in the unity of the love of God, the Holy Spirit and the truth mutually matched and built. Everyone would serve according to the gift of God to the best of their position to build up the body of Christ. There was no big or small in the holy articles and the most important was it had to be according to the holy measurement of God. Similarly for the building of the church, it must be strictly according to the standard of truth and love and mutually matched and built to be blessed by God.

※ **【Deny one's life to rescue】** 7-13 When Jeremiah was put in the cistern, a Cushite Ebed-Melech came forward to take the risk willingly to rescue him. He was a courageous man who feared God and had wisdom. He was concerned of the safety of the prophet. So he ignored the opposition of the officials and boldly went before the king to allow him to bring people to rescue the calamitous Jeremiah. They took some old rags and worn-out clothes and let them down with ropes so Jeremiah might put them under his arms to pad the ropes and rescue him. Though Ebed-Melech was a Gentile, he denied himself to rescue and cared with love meticulously. But the officials of Judah were cruel and ruthless. They oppressed the prophet and resulted to harm others and harm themselves. They were rejected by God. The rescue of Ebed-Melech reflected the mutual love and care within the members. Men might treat the old rags and worn-out clothes as trivial, but God saw they were valuable and were remembered forever. (1Cor 12:14-27)

### **B. Obey to offer and work by the Holy Spirit lest we may be handed out.**

Offer (Exo 35:20-35) – hand out (Jer 38:14-28)

1. **【Inspire to offer】** 20-29 Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. They brought their gold jewelry and silverware and all kinds of ornaments when they exited Egypt and worked together on God's instruction. Every skilled woman spun with her hands. They brought the blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen which they had spun with love, intercession and labor. The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the sacred garment of the priest, the ephod and the breastplate according to God's instructions.
- ※ **【Resist and be injured】** 14-23 According to God's will, Jeremiah again replied Zedekiah's inquiry – Babylon would capture Jerusalem. If he would surrender, his life would be spared. Otherwise, the city would be handed to the enemy and be burnt. He could not escape from their hands. According to God's instruction, the leaders and

## 【Exo 36 / Jer 39】

the assembly all offered their love and intercession, skill, wealth and strength. How blessed! Zedekiah was selfish. He resisted till the end and was injured by the enemy.

2. 【Full of wisdom】 30-35 Bezalel and Oholiab were the chosen expert builders of God. They were filled by the Holy Spirit with wisdom and could do all the work which God instructed Moses. No matter carving or embroidery or any work of the craftsman, they were able to do them all. They were prudent, and had the ability to teach others and led the people build the tabernacle according to God's pattern. The Holy Spirit has given all sorts of gifts to the church and we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Each part does its work and builds itself up in love. (Eph 4:15-16)

※ 【Indecisive】 24-28 After Zedekiah heard the words of the prophet and knew the will of God. He was still stiff-necked and hard-hearted. He was afraid of Babylon and he was afraid of the people and the officials. But he was not afraid of God. He was not willing to humble before the prophet and hid himself from the officials. Such faltering, indecision and only cared for himself without regard for the safety of the country resulted in the capture of Jerusalem. His self-respect and his face were also destroyed together with the holy city. We must let God destroy our old self which is as hard as stone. Then we may become a living stone and be built into a spiritual house.

**Ps 85 / Rev 14:20 Main theme: Our sins will be recompensed. Return and be redeemed and do not return to folly**

**- fear / folly**

On one side is the wicked are punished and blood filled the land; while the other side is the righteous are in trouble and they seek the grace of God.

- (1) 【The Lord had shown favor and saved His people】 1-3 God set aside all His wrath.
- (2) 【Now we ask the Lord to put away His wrath and grant us His grace】 4-7 Do not be angry forever and let us be a prodigal son and restore to God so we may see His unfailing love and salvation.
- (3) 【Ought to take warning】 8-13 We ought to listen to God's word. He will promise to give blessings but we must not return to folly. We ought to fear the Lord persistently and glorify Him in grace. Pursue love and faithfulness, righteousness and peace and then God will indeed give what is good and our land will yield its harvest. He will open the righteous door for us.

**Central point of the wheels: Deny ourselves, eager to offer and save others. Do not hesitate and turn to folly**

O God, May you accept my willing offer. Let me have wisdom to obey your will courageously and build your church.

### Exo 36 / Jer 39

**Main theme: Obey and grace will abound. Rebellion harms ourselves and others.**

**- Abundance / misery (obey / violate)**

Golden verses: Exo 36:6-7 Jer 39:18

## 【Exo 36 / Jer 39】

A discussion on abundance and misery – on one side it concerned the expert builders worked with God and built the tabernacle according to God's will. They were blessed by God and the people offered abundantly. On the other side it concerned the stupid officials violated God's order and swerved from His pattern. Thus the holy city was destroyed and the people were captivated. They were disgraced and the end was misery.

### **A. Listen to the order and be abundant. Lost everything due to rebellion. Be holy and united.**

Obey (Exo 36:1-7) – violate (Jer 39:1-3)

1. **【More than enough】** 1-7 Moses gathered Bezalel and Oholiab the craftsmen and everyone whom the Holy Spirit had inspired. They all worked according to God's instructions. The construction of the church all depends on the Holy Spirit and the word of God. (Zec 4:6) Every morning the people brought their freewill offerings and gave thanks to God. (1 Ch 29:14) They continuously brought their offerings and there were more than enough far exceeding what was required. Thus Moses gave an order to prevent them from sending the offering. The church is the body of Christ, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. How rich is His glory! (Eph 1:18, 23)
- ※ **【Lost everything】** 1-3 Zedekiah the king of Judah was stubborn and rebellious. He was not willing to obey God's will to surrender to Babylon. Thus Jerusalem was besieged by the army of Babylon for as long as a year. Jerusalem was supposed to be full of God's rich glory and a dwelling blessed by Him. But now it was full of sin and resisted the Holy Spirit. (Ac 7:51) It swerved from the word of God and lost the presence of God and His blessings. The Israelites obeyed to offer and had more than enough. But Jerusalem was besieged by the enemy and instantly lost everything.
2. **【Repay God's goodness】** 1-7 Israel was the elect of God. Not only were they redeemed to escape from the suffering of slavery from Egypt, they were also freed from the sin of worshiping the gold calf. They had experienced God's incomparable love. Therefore they willingly offered which God plundered for them to show their thanksgiving and paid back for His love.
- ※ **【Forget God's grace】** 2-3 Zedekiah repeatedly rejected the warning of the prophet. He was ungrateful and rebellious to the end. He refused to surrender which led to the fall of Jerusalem and everything was stripped away completely. The people of Judah were also just the same. They ate and were satisfied in the good land and built fine houses. Then their heart became proud and forgot about God's grace. They indulged in sins (Deu 8:11-14) and thus God put them in captivity and suffering. When they returned and began to be grateful and love God, they offered everything and rebuild the glorious house of the Lord.

### **B. Holy and united, and then God is the protection. Whoever sinned will be abandoned.**

Concern and protect (Exo 36:8-19) – be abandoned (Jer 39:4-10)

1. **【Holy and united】** 8-13 To build a glorious and beautiful tabernacle, God might dwell forever within the people. (Exo 25:8) Thus everyone who had the skill would do



## 【Exo 36 / Jer 39】

this work. The curtains were made of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn weaved together with cherubim embroidered by skill work. The church must share in the holiness of God (Heb 12:10) and then it may live out the virtues of Christ. (Col 3:12-15) Every curtain had the same measurement, and then they might be joined together. The same number of loops was made on the joined curtains. Through the gold clasp (Christ) and bronze clasps (Christ suffered for us and was judged) so the curtains might be fastened together. In Christ we are brought to complete unity.

※ 【Deserted】 4-5 Jerusalem is the center of the ministry of God and the place of His mind. God delights to dwell with the people and be their God to care for them and show His love just like the covering of the tabernacle protecting them layer by layer. But Zedekiah abandoned God and took refuge in Egypt. He pursued the protection of men to resist the attack of Babylon. As a result, the holy city was broke through and his soldiers fled away from the city. Zedekiah was deserted and was forced to flee. He deserved the punishment and could hardly escape God's judgment. Finally his enemy overcame him and he was taken to Riblah being judged by the king of Babylon. The tabernacle was united in holiness and love. But the house of Judah swerved from the holy measurement of God and became fragmented. They were subjugated and taken captive.

2. 【Being cared and protected】 14-19 The second layer of the tabernacle was made of curtains of goat hair which represented the suffering of Christ. His righteous for the unrighteous. (1 Pe 3:18) The curtains were united piece by piece. The church ought to be one in the spirit, one in the truth and one in love full of the complete witness of Christ. (Eph 4:1-16) The third layer of the covering was made of ram skins dyed red which was firm and durable. Christ denied Himself to sacrifice for us. He obeyed till death and became our firm refuge. The most outer layer was made of tough hides of sea cows as the top cover which could stand the storm in the desert. This represented the suffering and victory of Christ. During His time on earth, he had no beauty or majesty. He was rejected by men. But he endured all the hardship and became our fortress day and night. He hid us inside Him. If we take refuge in Him, then we may overcome all the tests and suffering.

※ 【Be rejected】 6-10 Again Zedekiah rejected the will of God and fell into the hands of the enemy. He was not cared and protected but was cruelly judged. The king of Babylon slaughtered his sons before his eyes and also killed all the nobles of Judah. Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. He encountered such miserable ending just like a branch being thrown outside and withered. The beautiful holy city was burnt to the ground. The remaining people were taken captive to Babylon. Only the poor people were left behind in the land of Judah without captivated to the foreign land. The tabernacle was loved by God and was covered layer by layer just like inside the protection of God. Zedekiah was not willing to take refuge in God and lost His protection. As a result he was rejected completely by God. (Na 1:7)

**C. Be faithful and stand firm, so we may be saved in trouble**

## 【Exo 36 / Jer 39】

Stand firm (Exo 36:20-38) – be saved (Jer 39:11-18)

1. **【Stand firm in truth】** 20-34 There were forty eight pieces of upright frames for the tabernacle. The north and south sides each had twenty pieces. The west side had six pieces. Two frames were made for the corners. The frames were double from the bottom all the way so they might be firm. The forty eight frames were united together like the church was united due to the rise and establishment of the workers. The measurement of the upright frames was the same. Each frame had two projections set in the silver bases so it might stand firm. Then a crossbar was placed at the middle to unite the frame. First we ought to stand firm in the truth and take root on the rock of Christ, then we may let the church stand firm. The workers ought to obey the arrangement of the Lord. They ought to pay a double price in the difficult environment (the corner) just like Paul worked harder than all the apostles by the grace of God. As a servant of God, he commended in great endurance, in troubles and in hardships. The five crossbars made the upright frames set together. By the truth and love and all sorts of gifts, the whole body was mutually united (Eph 4:16) without divisions. The upright frames were made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. Workers ought to display Christ and not to show off themselves.  
※ **【Be firm and steadfast in troubles】** 11-14 Jeremiah the prophet was the type of worker like an upright frame. He stood firm in the truth. He would not be beaten down whether he was being imprisoned or in distress. He was deeply rooted in the Word of the Lord. He was also the pillar of truth. He stood faithfully to resist all the false teachings and had good witness. When the house of Judah was subjugated and taken captive, God made the enemy work for the good of him to protect and save him. When all the people had lost their freedom, he had the freedom. The leader of Babylon ordered to release Jeremiah from the prison and live among the people. Jeremiah was like the crossbar of the upright frame. He did not forget about the people who were captivated to Babylon and wrote them repeatedly to strengthen them. He brought God's comfort to them and displayed the glory and majesty of the Most High God.
2. **【A good witness】** 35-38 The curtain of the entrance of the tabernacle was supported by the posts. Workers ought to be strong and stand firm to resist the false teaching to keep hold of the deep truths of the faith (1 Tim 3:9, 13) so the church will be the pillar of the truth and not be blown by every wind of teaching. The way of making the curtain for the tabernacle, the curtain for the entrance or the curtain for the courtyard was the same. Christ is the gate. (Jn 10:9) We ought to be the curtain to lead others into the gate of salvation, the gate of consecration, and the gate of glory to experience the perfect salvation. We ought to be faithful to watch and be aware of the enemy, to imitate the heavenly, noble, holy and suffering witness of Christ to attract all people to return to the Lord.  
※ **【A good result】** 15-18 When Jeremiah was imprisoned, God ordered him to tell Ebed-Melech, the eunuch who had saved him. God promised to save him from the sword. In the time of God's judgment, his life would be kept. Ebel-Melech trusted in

## **【Exo 37 / Jer 40】**

God and resisted the evil power to deny and sacrifice himself to save the prophet. He was like a post which had set a firm foundation. He was faithful to God. He loved God and man. He saved others and saved himself just like the curtain of the entrance of the tabernacle with a good witness and had a good result.

**Ps 86 / Rev 51:1 Main theme: The angel had control over the disasters. Call on and obey the Word and God showed rich grace**

**- Seek / free from disaster**

God's wrath is completed by the end of the seven plagues. We ought to seek and pursue the Word to be favored and free from disasters.

- (1) **【Call on and obey the Word】** 1-11 Call on in a godly manner, put your hope and trust in the Lord, then the Lord will save us and deliver us from trials and evil. Further we ought to seek to understand the Word of the Lord. Be wholehearted to fear Him and walk according to His truth. Then, disasters will not be upon us for the angel is in control of the disasters.
- (2) **【The Lord shows His great love and grace】** 12-17 The Lord will give a sign of His goodness to those who call on Him and seek to obey His Way. In times of distress He will comfort them and that their enemies may see it and be put to shame just like God exalted Mordecai in front of Haman. Thus we ought to give thanks and glorify the Lord's name.

**Central point of the wheels: Establish in love, seek the Lord's Way and be saved and freed from disaster**

O Lord, may you completely destroy my old life; that I may be filled with your Word and your Spirit to display your beauty!

### **Exo 37 / Jer 40**

**Main theme: Listen to the Lord's word and walk according to His will. Do not follow men or our own will**

**- God's will / our will**

Golden verses: Exo 37:8 Jer 40:3

A discussion on God's will and men's will – on one side it was Bezalel made the ark, the table, the lampstand and the altar of the tabernacle according to God's will. On the other side was the army officers went according to their own will and relied on power to fight against each other. We ought to tremble and be careful to work according to the pattern on the mountain without relying on men and not according to our own desire. We do not lead others to ourselves or to injure others.

**A. Enter before the Lord, understand His will, eat up the spiritual food and follow His will.**

Seek (Exo 37:1-16) – Understand the will (Jer 40:1-12)

1. **【There is the Word in the heart】** 1-9 Bezalel used acacia wood to make the ark. The outside was overlaid with gold showing Christ was incarnated and became the son of man just like the ark was overlaid with gold totally displaying God. Then Bezalel made the poles for carrying the ark showing God was with the Israelites and He

## 【Exo 37 / Jer 40】

helped and led them everywhere and even fought for them. The most precious inside the ark was the two stone tablets representing the Word of God. The Word is God. So no matter where, it will display God's power (1 Sam 5)

- ※ **【Deeply understand the will of God】** 1-6 Jeremiah the prophet was placed among the exiles of Babylon. Though he was physically bounded without freedom, his spirit was before the atonement cover of God. God made the enemy work for good of Jeremiah. He was released at Ramah and pronounced him freedom as he chose. He had God's word in his heart and God's presence was with him so the enemy could not influence him. Jeremiah was just like Moses who completely lived before the throne of God. Though he encountered trouble he was always united with God and deeply understood His will and was discerned in the spirit.
- 2. **【Listen to God's whisper】** 1-9 On the ark were the atonement cover and two cherubim made of gold. This was the glorious presence of the Lord, the throne of God where God would meet with Moses. (Num 7:89) We also ought to enter before the atonement cover to hear the whisper of the Holy Spirit and understand the will of God. The two cherubim were one in heart and watchful to protect the righteousness of God and display His glory. We come before God because Christ opened a new and living way for us (Heb 10:19-20) so we may have confidence to come before Him. (Heb 4:16) God is waiting to meet with us and speak with us! (Exo 30:36)
- ※ **【Choose the will of God】** 1-6 Jeremiah the prophet had the life of the Most Holy Place and he heard the whisper of God before the atonement cover. He did not choose his own way or made the slightest arrangement for his own interest. He rejected to accept the special treatment of the king of Babylon and preferred to select the will of God to live with the remnants. He suffered together with God's people and continued to proclaim God's message.
- 3. **【Keep the good Way firmly】** 10-16 Bezalel made the table of acacia wood and overlaid it with gold and laid it with the bread of the Presence showing Christ came to earth as a living bread and laid down completely for us. (Jn 6:35) By eating the living bread, we unite with the Lord and our life becomes abundant and is filled with the fullness of Christ. A gold molding was made on the rim of the table to avoid the bread of the Presence being fallen down. We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away (Heb 2:1), and even to guard the good deposit with the help of the Holy Spirit. (2 Tim 1:13-14) The table was set with four rings to hold the poles used in carrying the table, to share the word of the Lord anywhere to satisfy the need of men's soul. All the articles on the table were made of pure gold being refined to be precious instruments fit for God's use so all men would understand the truth. (2 Tim 2:21)
- ※ **【No Word in the heart】** 7-12 All the army officers and their people heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah as governor of the land. They all went to Mizpah to see him. Gedaliah was a puppet leader and did not have God's Word in his heart. He inclined to rely on the power of Babylon and did not proclaim God's words. By his own desire he appeased the remnants thinking that 'serving Babylon will go

## 【Exo 37 / Jer 40】

well'. Alas, the people did not receive any supply of life from him. He did not trust God wholeheartedly but sought the protection from men. He took refuge from the power on earth and the strength of the flesh. As a result he was killed in the slaughter in Mizpah. "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." (Pro 30:5)

### **B. Not by vigor, united and shine, burn incense to intercede**

Prayer (Exo 37:17-29) – vigor (Jer 40:13-16)

1. **【United and shine】** 17-24 Bezalel made the lampstand of pure gold foreshowing Christ is the light of the world and the light of life, (Jn 8:12) representing the seven spirits before the throne of God (Rev 4:5) which is the light of the Holy Spirit. This lampstand was hammered from a piece of pure gold showing Christ suffered for us and through hundreds and thousands times being hammered and created the church. The church ought to be a shining gold lampstand and had to go through hammering and refining to be a lampstand of pure gold (Job 23:10). The church ought to be completely united in Christ just like the six branches on the two sides of the lampstand. They were united together and connected to the main stem into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ, loving each other and united and shine. (Eph 4:15)  
※ **【All in darkness】** 13-16 Johanan and all the army officers went to see Gedaliah and told him that Ishmael was instigated by the king of Ammon to assassinate him. Gedaliah was arrogant and self-assuring. He did not have the light of the Holy Spirit and lived in the dark. He thought he would be safe and did not believe in others' warning. He believed Babylon would be his protection. The fact proved he was stubborn and self-deceiving. He was blind and harmed himself. As a governor of Judah, Gedaliah did not exalt God as holy. He did not united with God but took refuge on the worldly power resulting the light of the house of Judah was on the brink of extinguish, all in darkness! The last phase of the church ought to pursue holiness and harmony. Do not covet in vanity and get angry with each other or be jealous. (Gal 5:26) We ought to unite in one and emit the light of Christ's truth.
2. **【Rely on the Holy Spirit】** 17-24 The Israelites paid a price to press the olive oil (the Holy Spirit) used to bring light by the lampstand. They obeyed God's order and sent it to Aaron so the lamp would always be lighted. (Exo 27:20) The churches unite together in prayer and the Holy Spirit pours to revive and shine. The revival of the church is not by might nor by power but by the Holy Spirit. (Zec 4:6)  
※ **【Extract the oil and pray】** 13-16 After the house of Judah was exiled, the remnants were sad and miserable. There was confusion and they were all divided. They were in the dark and lost the witness. Only Jeremiah was like a light in the dark. He bore the mind of God and paid the price for the remnants to extract the oil to pray so Judah returned and revived after seventy years of subjugation and exile.
3. **【Burn the incense to intercede】** 25-29 Then Bezalel made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. He overlaid it with pure gold representing Christ as the mediator between God and men, the everlasting great priest by the right of the Heavenly Father to intercede for us. The altar of incense was placed outside the curtain facing the

## 【Exo 38 / Jer 41】

atonement cover. The altar was square representing the salvation of Christ is prepared for all nations and all people. The saints ought to target at the atonement cover of God and bear His mind to intercede for everyone. (1 Tim 2:1-4) The four horns of the altar were of one piece showing the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (Jas 5:16) The altar of incense could be carried, that is the work of intercession by the saints would not be hindered by time or environment. But pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request with alertness and continuity. (Eph 6:18; Rev 8:4)

- ※ **【Fight by force】** 13-16 Faced with such a mess, the house of Judah was attacked by the enemies from within and without. They ought to have imitated King Zedekiah in those days to gather the workers and people to enter before the atonement cover to pray aloud for the remnants and call for the protection of God. But distressingly, Gedaliah as a governor and Jehanan, the army officer did what they wished and fought against each other by force. Gedaliah took Babylon as his support and was not watchful to guard against his enemy and was assassinated. This teaches us that the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, we have the divine power. In everything, through prayer and intercession to overcome the inner and outer enemies to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor 10:3-5)

**Ps 87 / Rev 15:2 Main theme: Obey the Lord's word completely, make every effort to enter the narrow gate and become a illuminating instrument**

- Foundation / victory

The victorious will stand on the sea of glass and sing the triumphant song. God's children ought to:

- (1) **【The Foundation on the Rock】** 1-3 After hearing the Lord's word, overcome the inner and outer enemies by the Lord. Obey the Lord's word and set the foundation on the Rock. Be diligent to enter the narrow gate and be loved by Him. Then we will glory the Lord and be honored.
- (2) **【God strengthens those who obey Him】** 4-7 No matter from which country you come from or you have been such filthy and corrupt, only if you will take refuge in the Lord, repent and accept the Lord's salvation and make every effort to know Him, He will put your name on the Book of life. God is impartial but wants all people to be in Him to drink from the living spring and sing the triumphant song together.

**Central point of the wheel: Build according to the will, strengthen the foundation and overcome to sing praise**

Lord Jesus, may you control my temper so I will obey your will completely, build up your body according to your pattern!

## Exo 38 / Jer 41

**Main theme: God is delighted if we do according to His word. Contention and robbing will harm yourself.**

- Save men / harm men (match / contend)

## 【Exo 38 / Jer 41】

Golden verses: Exo 38:8 Jer 41:14

A discussion on saving men and harming men – on one side it concerned the altar of burnt offering represented the cross of Christ. He denied himself and saved men. On the other side it concerned Ishmael representing the power of evil and murder. He harmed others resulting in harming himself. On one side is love; while the other side was hatred. The love of Christ is to deliver men while the Satan was a murderer from the beginning. (Jn 8:44)

### **A. Deny yourself to carry the cross and save men but the body and the flesh will harm men.**

Save men (Exo 38:1-8) – Harm men (Jer 41:1-9)

1. **【Deny oneself to save men】** 1-8 The altar of burnt offering was the place where the Passover lamb Christ was killed to offer, a place where the atoning blood was sprinkled. The altar of burnt offering was made of acacia wood and overlaid with bronze representing Christ came down to earth humbly to endure the opposition from sinful men. He was beaten and judged. The pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls were made of bronze. We ought to go outside the camp, carry our cross, and bear the disgrace and suffering and lead men to be favored and offer our body to love the Lord. The altar was square with four horns and they were of one piece. The gospel of the cross is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. (Ro 1:16) The altar of burnt offering could be carried so the army in the desert might lift up to the cross, exalt the cross and triumph by the cross. The altar was hollow showing Christ abandoned everything for us. We too ought to be like Him to humble ourselves, deny ourselves and die to everything.
- ※ **【Conspire to harm others】** 1-9 Though Ishmael was the descendant of the royal family of David, he was a murderer. He took shelter from the power of Ammon and was instigated by the king of Ammon. He brought ten killers to murder Gedaliah and all the Jews who took refuge in Gedaliah. Christ denied himself to save men and became the sacrifice on the altar of burnt offering. Ishmael was selfish and killed cruelly which was extremely tragic! He killed the remaining Jews and also the seventy men who came from the North country to mourn at the house of the Lord. He wept as he went and hypocritically welcomed them. But he was honey-mouthed and dagger-hearted. He killed and shed others blood and created the great tragedy of Mizpah. The altar of the burnt offering reflects the redemption love of the cross of Christ. He abolished the enmity and became our peace so thousands of sinners may be saved. (Eph 2:13-17) For his own interest and ambition, Ishmael killed numerous Jews.
2. **【Be sanctified】** 8 The basin for washing was provided to the priest for washing and consecration to enter the Holy Place to serve. This basin did not have any measurement showing that there was no limit on pursuing holiness. The basin and the basin stand were made of the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. These laboring and faithful women loved God and sacrificed their precious mirrors, so the priests may use them to cleanse themselves to be sanctified to

## 【Exo 38 / Jer 41】

minister. The sacrifice of the women was the most precious. They abandoned the external ornament to let those who minister to pursue the inner spiritual ornament.

The Lord's words are mirrors (Jas 1:23-25), a judgment on the unpurified. (Eph 5:26)

- ※ 【Ugly】 8 The action of Ishmael mirrored from God's law reflected his ugly face of greed, cruelty and selfishness. He was mercenary and waived the death of ten persons because they gave him a lot of grain and oil. He was covetous of the present power, position and the satisfaction of the flesh. This type of person is the enemy of the cross of Christ. Their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. (Php 3:18-19) Ishmael was also our mirror to contrast and understand our ugliness and corrupt nature. So we may come to the Lord for cleansing.

### **B. Not by might, set apart to be holy, firm and beautiful**

Set apart to be holy (Exo 38:9-20) – guard (Jer 41:10)

1. 【Set apart to be holy】 9-20 The curtain of the courtyard was made from finely twisted linen just like Christ, pure and flawless. Every side of the curtain had posts and bronze bases through silver bands and silver hooks (Christ's love of redemption (Col 3:12-14)) united firmly to become a wall of redemption to set apart those whom He loves from the secular and sins. (2 Cor 6:14-18) Those who are favored and saved need to be dealt with by the cross to make the twisted white linen to set apart to be holy to live before God.
- ※ 【Take refuge in might】 10 After Judah was taken captive, the mess of Judah was controlled by Gedaliah, Ishmael and the officers of Johanan. They did not set apart for the Lord and did not take refuge in God. Each depended on his own support and trusted in the worldly might. They brought deeper disasters to the remaining people into the abyss of evil. The saints set apart for the Lord and serve Him in one heart. They love one another and are well guarded!
2. 【Enjoy peace forever】 18-20 The curtain for the entrance to the courtyard (the gate of salvation) was of blue, purple and scarlet yarn finely twisted linen - the work of an embroiderer represented Christ's heavenly, noble, suffering and holy life. We ought to have this good witness to lead more people into the gate of salvation.
- ※ 【Without protection】 10 Ishmael was filled with ambition. He killed Gedaliah and took the remaining people captive and attempted to bring them to Ammon to seek shelter. There is no peace when we depart from God's will without protection, leading men into destruction forever. The curtain of salvation of Christ brings men into the Lord and be guarded and enjoy the everlasting salvation and peace!

### **C. Do not do as one wish but work according to God's instruction.**

In one heart (Exo 38:21-31) – contest (Jer 41:11-18)

1. 【Work in one heart】 21-23 Bezalel and Oholiab were expert builders and wise designers. They were one in heart and in spirit. Together they built the tabernacle according to God's instruction to Moses and then recorded by Ithamar, the priest. The whole tabernacle was constructed according to the pattern on the mountain and reflected the perfection and glory of Christ. The major materials were gold, silver and



## 【Exo 38 / Jer 41】

bronze (faith, love, hope) all hammered in the furnace to be more strengthened.

- ※ **【Intrigue】** 11-18 The army officers of Judah had their own ambition. They struggled for power with each other and intrigued. They bit and swallowed each other and engaged in internal strife, which were a big contrast compared with the workers of the tabernacle. On one side was one in the spirit and worked together in love with faith, love and hope to build and make works of gold, silver and precious gems. On the other was acting by the flesh in strife. Their work was of wood, hay and straw which could not be able to undergo the test of God and were all burnt up. (1 Cor 3:12-15)
2. **【According to God's will】** 24-31 The amounts of the articles in the holy sanctuary used with gold, silver and bronze were all according to the sanctuary shekel and not by the earthly standard. This was the standard of God, the standard of truth (Isa 8:20), full of spiritual weight and significance. Those who were counted in the census would offer half a shekel of silver as the atonement money for the use of the tabernacle to remember the Lord who had paid a heavy price (the Passover Lamb) to redeem them from Egypt. Every Israel male offered only the slightest and lightest atonement of life as thanksgiving and commemoration. Everything was done according to God's instruction
- ※ **【Do as one desire】** 11-18 Johanan was an arrogant man. He took the chance to strive with Ishmael. He had his own ambition to snatch the remaining people to himself and bring them to Egypt. The gold, silver and bronze for constructing the holy sanctuary were weighed according to the sanctuary shekel with weight and value and lasted forever. While Johanan conspired his plot and did as he desired. In God's weigh, he showed his evil. Israel offered the atonement money and God treated as precious. Johanan was selfish and did not rely on redemption. He had no regard for the life and death of the people, so he finally ran toward destruction. It was a pity the people did not have the standard of truth. They followed Ishmael for a time and then to Johanan, tossed by the wind and the cunning and craftiness of men. (Eph 4:14)

**Ps 88 / Rev 15:3 Main theme: Cry out day and night in suffering and the song of mourning will turn to song of joy.**

- Song of mourning / song of joy

- (1) **【In affliction cry out day and night】** 1-9 When you are in depths and pit, and your friends and relatives forsake you, cry out to the Lord everyday for He has the great power of resurrection.
- (2) **【Be saved and the song of mourning turns to song of joy】** 10-18 The dead cannot declare the love, faithfulness and righteousness of the Lord. May I be able to see you work great things and wonders while I live. But now your wrath and terrors surround me the whole day and I still call on you unceasingly. God's children cry out day and night and He will quickly see they get justice. (Lk 18:7-8) By that time when we look back, everything is grace and the song of mourning will turn to song of joy. We will sing aloud the might of the Lord and His great love and great deeds.

**Central point of the wheels: Not by the flesh, deny ourselves to save people and pray**

## 【Exo 39 / Jer 42】

### **watchfully day and night**

O Lord, may your Holy Spirit shine on me, weigh me with the truth so I will lead others to You and sing aloud the song of salvation!

### **Exo 39 / Jer 42**

**Main theme: Do according to the Lord's word and be blessed. Disasters come if we are in duplicity**

#### **-Obey the command / declare accordingly**

Golden verses: Exo 39:43 Jer 42:4

A discussion on obeying the command and declare accordingly – on one side it concerned Bezalel did according to God's instruction to make an exquisite holy garment for Aaron so he might bear the mind of God and care what God cares and love what God loves to be faithful to intercede. Every part of the holy garment was strictly made according to God's instruction. On the other side it concerned God raised up the faithful servant Jeremiah who proclaimed the message according to God's will to lead the people away from evil and walk in God's will.

#### **A. Bear the mind of God, undertake to intercede, proclaim according to God's word**

Faithful prayer (Exo 39:1-21) – proclaim accordingly (Jer 42:1-6)

1. **【Obey to work】** 1-7 The fine garment which Bezalel made for Aaron contained the sacrifice and the price of love and labor of many Israelites. The skilled women spun yarn and fine linen with their hands. (Exo 35:25) Their thousand needles and million threads of hidden intercession and ministry of love were often neglected but were remembered by God. The gold yarn of the holy garment was made from gold hammered to thin sheets of gold and then cut to strands. The life of the priest had to be dealt with through suffering to be blameless. Then the gold yarn would be worked with blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen to make ephod, shoulder piece and waistband to become a beautiful holy garment, full of heavenly, noble, suffering and holy pattern to intercede faithfully for people. We as the deacons of the New Testament, the priest of the gospel ought to be the same to live out the abundant life of Christ!
- ※ **【Declare God's will accordingly】** 1-4 Johanan, the army officers and all the people went to Jeremiah to inquire of the Lord for the entire remnant so God might tell them where they ought to go. The prophet promised to pray for them and declare everything the Lord said without keeping back anything. Jeremiah was also a faithful priest. During his life, he denied himself to suffer irrespective of what circumstances to endure with all patience. He bore their sins to intercede with love and faithfully declared God's will without change. His life was tempered just like the beautiful holy garment. His ministry and life reflected God's glory.
2. **【Heart to heart with God】** 8-21 The ephod and the breastpiece were connected. Each shoulder piece had a piece of onyx mounted in gold filigree setting. The names of the twelve tribes were engraved on two pieces of onyx showing God has loved Israel with an everlasting love and he was precious and honored in His sight. When

## 【Exo 39 / Jer 42】

the priests put on the ephod to minister, they ought to carry them on the shoulder and to remember and intercede before God. The breastpiece was square to bear the mind of God to intercede for all people. On the breastpiece was mounted with four rows of precious gems totaling twelve pieces. Each gem was engraved with the name of the tribes of Israel. The breastpiece was close to the breast of the priest. Israel was like a precious gem placed on the heart of the chief priest to be remembered forever before God just like Paul who placed all churches in his heart and interceded day and night and remembered them unceasingly.

- ※ **【To bear with love】** 1-6 In the dark of the subjugation and captivity of the house of Judah, Jeremiah carried the misery of the people. He loved what God loved and wept and pleaded unceasingly for their rebellion. The army officers and the people came to inquire of Jeremiah. Faced with the people of duplicity and sham, Jeremiah retreated before God to seek just like each needle and thread of the holy garment of the priest, was strictly according to God's instruction. He placed them like the precious gems on the shoulder and engraved them in his heart. On one side he interceded while the other he waited for God's reply like the priest put on the ephod, heart to heart with God. He carried what God carried and loved what God loved.

### **B. Minister faithfully, work obediently and take the warning**

Obey (Exo 39:22-43) – Disobey (Jer 42:7-22)

1. **【Minister faithfully】** 22-26 The robe of the priests was entirely of blue cloth and full of heavenly glory. The priests only set their hearts on things above and not on earthly things. Their lives were hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:1-3) There were fine pomegranates and bells of pure gold between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe. The priests ministered in the holy sanctuary with faith and alertness full of witnesses and fruitful results. The tunics, the turbans, headbands and undergarments were all made of fine linen. The priests ought to be holy internally and externally for without holiness no one would see the Lord. (Heb 12:14)
- ※ **【Warn courageously】** 7-17 Jeremiah was a priest who lived before God. How holy, faithful and watchful! He united with God. He did not curry favor with men but on God. The Lord's words came to him after ten days. Faced with the rebellious and stubborn people, he courageously declared God's will which was to stay in Judah and God would be with them to build them up and be their fortress. If they did not listen to God's words and insisted to go down to Egypt, the sword and famine which they feared would come upon them.
2. **【Holy to God】** 27-31 According to God's instruction, Bezalel made the plate and the sacred diadem out of pure gold and engraved 'HOLY TO THE LORD' on it. He also used a blue cord to attach the inscription to the turban so it would not fall off. Pure gold had undergone the refinement of fire representing the priests ought to have the witness of faith and suffering completely separated from the secular and evil to set apart for the Lord and totally to the Lord. This gold plate was tied to the turban showing the sacred ministry and the life witness of the priest forever holy to the Lord.
- ※ **【Prohibit to go down to Egypt】** 19 Jeremiah the prophet cried to the rebellious

## 【Exo 40 / Jer 43】

people, the remnants of the Jews not to go to Egypt so they might completely turn from the world and be holy to God. They ought to be a kingdom of priests and serve God forever. Though Jeremiah lived among the rebellious people, he was completely holy to God and not polluted by evil. He did not curry favor from men and was God's faithful priest.

3. **【Obey to complete the work and be blessed】** 32-43 Under the direction of Bezalel and Oholiab, the Israelites had completed the work of the tabernacle together according to the instructions God had spoken to Moses. Then they sent all the articles, big or small to Moses for inspection. Every saint serves each other according to the gift of the Holy Spirit. They are equipped and serve the Lord in one heart and accepted by God. Moses saw that they had done just as the Lord had commanded and so he blessed them. The church that serves according to God's will and pattern in various ministries will also be blessed by God.

※ **【Did not take warning and disasters came】** 18-22 Jeremiah the prophet declared the result of the people of Jerusalem who suffered the pour of God's wrath to warn those rebellious people who wanted to go to Egypt. If they still did not take warning and be hell-bent to go to Egypt, the worldly way, God's wrath would also be poured on them. The Israelites obeyed to work and was blessed by God and received God's salvation, abundance and peace. While the wayward people who insisted to go to the place would become an object of cursing, horror and condemnation. They would die tragically in the foreign land.

**Ps 89 / Rev 15:4 Main theme: God is righteous and loving; therefore grab His promise and plea for the great revival**

- unfailing love / righteousness

God's righteous deeds are shown. Who dare not to fear God? Pray that God will stop His anger and direct His love.

- (1) **【God is loving, faithful and righteous】** 1-37 God has loved us with an everlasting love. The words that He swore in His covenant will stand forever. He is righteous and has the might to punish the evil. He exalts the saints. Thus we ought to grab His promise and pray for God's people.
- (2) **【Pray that God will stop His anger and direct His love】** 38-52 But because we are against the Lord and provoke him to anger, so the righteous God put us to shame and desolation. How long will this be? May God remember the covenant He swore and by His faithfulness directs His love. May He have mercy on our fleeting life and remember all the evil our enemies did on us so we may revive.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey to work, give warning and intercede and all people will return to the Lord.**

O Lord, may you let me set apart to be holy and do not be rebellious again. Let me intercede faithfully and help others with love and the kingdom will come at an early day.

**Exo 40 / Jer 43**

**Main theme: Do according to the Lord's word and God's glory abounds. Rebellion**

## 【Exo 40 / Jer 43】

**will be disastrous.**

### **- Work completed / destruction (Obey / rebel)**

Golden verses: Exo 40:34-35 Jer 43:10

A discussion on completing the work and destruction – on one side it concerned the Israelites had completed the work of the tabernacle according to God's pattern and the tabernacle was set up. God's glory filled the tabernacle. On the other side it concerned the army officers were rebellious and would not listen to Jeremiah's warning. They brought the remnants to Egypt and resulted with God's wrath and destruction.

### **A. Obey to set up the tabernacle. Rebel to walk our own way**

Set up (Exo 40:1-16) – bent on one's way (Jer 43:1-7)

#### **1. 【Set up the tabernacle】 1-8 God's mind was to dwell among the Israelites.**

Therefore when the Israelites had done according to the pattern of God and completed the work of the tabernacle, He ordered Moses to set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. The ark of the Testimony (representing Christ) should be put in the curtain in the holy place. The table (the bread of life), the lampstand (the light of life), and the gold altar of incense (intercession) should be put in the holy sanctuary. The altar of burnt offering (the cross) should be placed in front of the entrance of the tabernacle. The basin (the fountain of sin washing) should be place between the Tent of Meeting and the altar. The courtyard and the curtain should be set up. From the ark of the Testimony to the altar of burnt offering, we see Christ's example to humble to come down on earth and deny himself to save men. From the altar of burnt offering into the ark of the Testimony is the process of our live that we are saved, sanctified and glorified. When do we set up the tabernacle in our heart, there our live will have a new starting point (the first day of the first month).

※ **【Walk our own way】 1-7** God desired that those remnants of Judah should still live in the land of Judah. Then God will build them up and be with them just like the Tent of Meeting of God was among them to deliver them from the hands of the king of Babylon. Alas, the army officers led by Johanan were arrogant and rebellious. They chopped and changed and walked their own way without letting God's ark of the Testimony to lead them. (Num 10:33) They would not take God's word as their bread of life and rejected the light of the Holy Spirit. On one side was setting up the tabernacle and building up the ministry. On the other side was walking their own way and their spirit went backwards running backtrack.

#### **2. 【Anointed to be holy】 9-16** God ordered that the anointing oil be applied to the tabernacle and everything in it so the work would be consecrated. Aaron and his sons were to be anointed too so they were consecrated to minister as priests forever. Every article in the tabernacle, no matter big or small would be anointed with oil. Everyone serving God in the church needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be consecrated. They will serve each other according to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and build up the body of Christ together.

※ **【Suffer to be holy】 1-7** Not only did Johanan and the army officers did not humble, instead they framed Jeremiah and Baruch. They had evil intention and harshly

## 【Exo 40 / Jer 43】

rebuked the prophet had lied and put the blame on Baruch. They had already determined to go to Egypt. They rejected the Holy Spirit and did not listen to the prophet's warning. Thus they brought all the remaining Jews together with Jeremiah and Baruch to Egypt. Aaron and his sons were anointed to be holy to minister as priests. Jeremiah and Baruch were brought to Egypt to suffer to be holy. There they still set up the spiritual tabernacle and continued their ministry. Whether in Judah or in Egypt, Jeremiah had the presence of the Holy Spirit, thus he courageously declared God's will.

### **B. Obey to complete the work and be filled with God's glory. Rebellion brings wrath.**

Completion of work (Exo 40:17-38) – destruction (Jer 43:8-13)

1. **【The Lord's word builds up】** 17-33 Moses set up the tabernacle and placed all the holy things and articles completely according to God had instructed him. Every construction could not depart from the 'pattern on the mountain' and the standard of God's word. (Isa 8:20) The build up of our spirituality is also the same, to be built up and established in the most holy faith. (Jude 1:20)
  - ※ **【The Lord's word judges】** 8-9 Jeremiah the prophet was like Moses, serving in the heavenly holy sanctuary. His life was hidden in God. Whether he was brought to Judah, Jerusalem or Egypt, he did not deviate from God's pattern from the start to the end. Therefore even in Tahpanhes, God's word still came to him to prophesy and proclaim the message of God's judgment. He solemnly warned the rebellious people who went to Egypt for protection. They insisted not to obey God's words and would receive the judgment of God. (Jn 12:47-48) They stumbled because they disobeyed the message. (1 Pe 2:7-8) On one side we saw the tabernacle was constructed according to God's words while on the other side those who rejected God's command would be judged severely. Moses and Jeremiah were obedient leaders who led the people into the perfect salvation while Johanan was a rebellious leader who led the people to destruction.
2. **【Work completed】** 17-33 On the first day of the first month of the second year Moses obeyed to set up the tabernacle. First of all, he had to set up the frames, placed the bases, inserted the crossbars and set up the posts so the tabernacle would be firmly connected and set up. This shows that the workers have to help the believers to continue in their faith, established and firm. (Col 1:23) Then he spread the tent layer by layer over the tabernacle so God's children would be guarded in God's love. After the tabernacle was firmly set up, the ark was carried into the Most Holy Place to let Christ take the lead in everything. Then the table, the lampstand, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering and the washing basin were all placed accordingly on God's instruction. All the big and small articles of the tabernacle had different effect and in the church, each one has different gifts as Christ apportioned to match with the ministry. All the work was completed through Moses, created in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:10)
  - ※ **【Destruction】** 8-11 God ordered the prophet to take some large stones with him

## 【Exo 40 / Jer 43】

while the Jews were watching and bury them in clay in the brick pavement of Pharaoh's palace. Jeremiah declared that God would send Babylon and set his throne over Pharaoh's and attack Egypt by fire, killing and captivity. This was done to warn the people of Judah. They thought that was the safest place and there was no way to escape from the judgment of Babylon. They betrayed God's will and went down to Egypt which was away from God's protection, thus they lost the fortress. They preferred to go down to Egypt and were not willing to have God among them and be their dwelling. God could only let them go so they would be destroyed together with Egypt.

3. **【Filled with glory】** 34-38 When the construction of the tabernacle was finished according to the pattern God instructed on the mountain, the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting and the glory of God filled the tabernacle, full of the work and presence of the Holy Spirit! This fulfilled the promise that God dwelled with Israel. The church has revived, God and man dwell together and Emmanuel all exhibit God's glory. Thereafter, the Israelites were led by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night throughout their journey in the desert till they had finished the path in the desert.
- ※ **【Destroyed by the fire of wrath】** 12-13 The remnants of Judah rejected God's will and were not willing to listen to the prophet to live in the land of Judah. They were afraid of the Chaldeans but did not fear God. They did not pray for God to be with them and be their protection but to take refuge in the temple of Egypt. They shamefully burnt incense to other gods and served the detestable idols of Egypt and greatly provoked God's wrath! Therefore the prophet proclaimed that God will captivate the idols of Egypt through Babylon. They would burn down the temples and demolish their sacred pillars. And if they still continue to rely on the earthly power and the wicked worship, they would encounter God's wrath with a miserable ending. On one side was filled with glory while the other was burnt down by fire of wrath.

**Ps 90 / Rev 15:5 Main theme: The Lord's word judges, pray for a heart of wisdom and obey to work**

### **- wisdom / the ark**

Apart from the Testimony, there is nothing in the ark. The Testimony is the word of God. In the final day, God's word will judge all people. Those who obey the word will be rewarded while the wayward will be punished.

- (1) **【Live our days with a heart of wisdom】** 1-12 Man's life is short, laborious, distressful and fleeting by the wink of the eye. Only by fearing the Lord and obeying the Word will we be remembered and rewarded. Apart from the Lord, it is a chasing after the wind and all meaningless. If we are wayward and do evil, we will even be punished severely. Therefore, we ought to live our days with a heart of wisdom.
- (2) **【Pray to see the glory of God】** 13-17 The Lord entrusts us with our work and is also the work of our hands. May He establish so we may see God's glory at an early date and rejoice in the harvest and sing praise to the Lord's name.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen and walk the Way, work diligently, set up the**

**【Exo 40 / Jer 43】**

**tabernacle and be filled with glory.**

Dear Lord, may you make the tabernacle in my heart be set up early to serve diligently, faithfully and watchfully to reflect your glory!