

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG195 – Once More He Will Shake All Things

Welcome to today's podcast. We have just finished up the Feast of Passover, and I want to kind of stay on the theme that is initiated by our time of Passover. I am calling this *Once More He Will Shake all Things*. The reason for that is because when we look at the story of Passover and we look at how God moved in His power, we also see a time when Moses was recounting to the children of Israel, in Deuteronomy the fourth chapter, about all their wanderings in the wilderness; about their time in Egypt, about the deliverance, and how God did deliver them with signs and wonders and miracles and powers; about how He took them to Mount Sinai, where He literally appeared before them in, again, amazing experience that they all had at that mountain, with the thunder and lightning and hearing the voice of God and the trumpet, and God Himself stepping down out of heaven onto the earth – this amazing time.

Moses is telling them this story in Deuteronomy the fourth chapter, and I want to start reading some of these verses at verse 24. It says, "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." We are going to see this Scripture repeated when we get later into the podcast, out of Hebrews the twelfth chapter, so I want you to take note of it now; because as Moses is telling them about this great deliverance and moving of God, and how God moved through His power, we also see, within these verses that lead into that, the very prophecy about God moving again. If you listen to the podcast that I did prior to the time of Passover, the focus was on this idea that they had been in Egypt for four hundred years as slaves. Actually, they had been in Egypt for four hundred thirty years, but as slaves for four hundred years; and they themselves had never seen God move after those many generations. And so, they were going solely on the stories about what they had heard. And in fact, even when God comes to Moses and introduces Himself to Moses, He says, "Listen, I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"; and He directs Moses to go to Israel and tell them that: "I am the God of your fathers." Why? Because He really, in a sense, was not their God yet. They had never had a meeting with Him like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had, that was very personal – creating covenants, speaking with them personally, giving them visions and dreams, so many things in the expression of a relationship that the original fathers had. He was their God, and they knew Him as their God.

When you get to these children of Israel now, who have been developed over four hundred thirty years out of the seventy individuals that went down from Canaan into Egypt, you realize that these people did not have that kind of relationship. Probably they may not have believed at all, or they may have believed a little bit but did not have a great deal of faith. Maybe some of them had lost faith completely. We do not know what their individual relationship was, or status was, at that point. We are talking about now from seventy people has come millions of Israelites, all coming from different places, even though they have a common experience of being slaves in Egypt. But hopefully, they had heard the stories that had come down from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob about this time in Egypt and what God was going to do; especially the fact that He was going to take those seventy people and make them a great nation, and those were going to be a chosen people unto God. He was going to bring them into a land of promise. But, I don't know, just personally, it seems that it must have been like a dream to them. It must have been so far removed from their life and their experience, when they were daily under the task master's

whip on their back and under the oppression of slavery; they were having their children killed, the male children killed; their wives and husbands were being separated from one another; I mean, they were suffering horribly. So, I think that whatever it was that they were thinking or feeling about God, they did not really necessarily see Him in that moment as a God of miracles or a God of deliverance; neither for themselves, nor could they imagine it for their parents, their direct fathers and uncles and aunts before them, because they had been there so long, so many years, and for so many generations.

So Israel goes through this, and when Moses comes, one of the things he faces is the fact that these people do not know who he is. They do not necessarily believe what he is talking about. What he is saying is going to take unbelievable miracles to have them delivered out of the hand of Pharaoh. Why is Pharaoh going to let them go? And how does this life that they have known and their fathers have known going to just disappear overnight? Well, it just seemed impossible; and it certainly was impossible without a God who could move in power and might and miracles, and bring about that type of deliverance.

So, when Moses is telling the story, retelling the story of their history in Deuteronomy, in verse 24 he begins with a statement, "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire." And as I said, this is true for them now, but we also are going to see that this is prophetic for days to come. What I want to get across in this podcast is the reality that God is going to move again as He did in Egypt; and the story that Moses is telling actually holds within it the prophecies of the future moving of God that may happen in our generation, or following our generation; but it will happen. I think that we are positioned, in many ways, as the children of Israel were back in Egypt. I think that it can be a struggle now to believe with fervent faith, intense faith, that God can come in our generation, in our society, with all that we are surrounded with, and move in miraculous deliverance, judgment, and blessings to bring about His prophesied Kingdom on the earth.

You think about it – we, as Christian believers, have 2,000 years of history, much less four hundred years of slavery. 2,000 years – and much of it has been under the oppression of the world systems, the world governments. Yet we are to believe every day that Christ may return at any moment and establish His Kingdom on this earth. It can be difficult to have faith for that, when we have never seen a God who moves that way. Our understanding of God that we have gotten from Sunday school, or from church, or from our own reading from the Bible, may not lead us to the sense that that could happen for us tomorrow, or the day after. But truly, that is the intention of the Scriptures, to create in us a faith that He can move in power and might, and He can fulfill His Word; and that His Word will not return to Him void, and that it will happen, and He will see every promise fulfilled that He has given us. And our job is to be believers. We must believe. We must not doubt because time goes by. We must not be unbelieving because we could say, "Well, we have never seen that. I can't believe that could happen." Or, "You don't realize what it would take at this time. I mean, for gosh sake, I watched the news last night and I saw all this going on in this world around me. Do you understand what it would take for Christ to establish His Kingdom in the surroundings of this world that we now live in today?"

Okay, this now makes the story of the Exodus very real for us, because I think we do live with many of the attitudes that they were conditioned by. And I believe one of the greatest problems we face is the limitations that our paradigms put upon us, and upon our faith. So, we are going to go on reading this story that Moses is telling to the children of Israel.

Verses 24-26,

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today.”

So when we live in this world and we get conditioned by this world and the things around the world, and by what is acceptable to this world, and, you know, “Gee, I know at the beginning I didn’t like it, but I don’t know, woke mentality may have some good points to it; and so may a lot of other religions and religious concepts, and so may a lot of the things; and, you know, there are a lot of drugs now that are legal; and all of these things kind of have changed the way I view things from the way I viewed it.” Moses is saying, “Listen, heaven and earth are watching. They are witnessing what is going on.” They are witnessing the change of the Judeo-Christian ethic that existed years ago, certainly in America, but as well as in other countries, and watching that change. And if we think we can excuse it away because of the amount of time that has transpired, in God’s eyes it is not an excuse. “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.”

Not only are they being told this, but we also have the Scriptures in which we have watched this transpire. Not only do we have the story of Egypt and the Passover and the miracles, and Sinai and the Law and the things given to Israel in the possessing of the land, but we also watched this in the Scriptures of the land being lost because of their lack of faithfulness and their idolatry. So, it is another lesson for us that those who were listening to these words did not even have the advantage of.

Verses 27-28, “The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you. There you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.” I just think of the age we live in – boy, are we serving idols! Serving things that, you know, have no life in them, no ability to see or hear, eat or smell, or teach us of the ways of the Lord. We are living in the delusion of the material world that has surrounded us and convinced us of something other than this living God who has the power to move in our lives.

Verses 29-30, “But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him.” Now, see, we see the prophecy beginning to be spoken here by Moses: “But from there you will seek the Lord your God.” Israel will seek the Lord today. There is going to be a seeking of God today, in the circumstances they live in, like we have not seen in a long time; and we bless them in that. But we bless ourselves, seeing what we are surrounded by, that we begin to seek God on a level that we have not sought God in all of our lives. “And you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.”

I know this is a prophecy over Israel, that in the latter days there will be a seeking, a returning to God like they have never returned. I know there have been times of return, but never like we are going to see. And I think it also applies to believers in Christ, in Yeshua, who have been distracted by many things, who have been sucked away from the truth of the Word and the power of the living God. And in the latter days, I think there is going to be a tremendous outpouring of God’s Spirit, as people begin to seek Him with all of their heart and their soul and their mind and their strength, crying out to Him,

saying, "Meet us now! It has been long enough that you are the God of our fathers. You need to meet us. We need a new covenant with You that is personal, that is living, that is alive in our hearts, that we may search for You, find You, and serve You."

Verses 31-34 say,

"For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. Indeed, ask now concerning the former days which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and inquire from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything been done like this great thing, or has anything been heard like it? Has any people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard it, and survived? Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation, by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?"

He is still talking to the generation that saw these things with their eyes; but He is also speaking this prophetic Word of what will happen in the latter days, and what will transpire, and how they will come and seek Him. And as we seek Him and begin to meet Him, these words will come alive to us; that by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and by great terrors, the Lord brought them out of Egypt. He brought them in to the land of promise.

Verses 35-40,

"To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him. Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire. Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power, driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in and to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is today. Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other. So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time."

There is so much going on in here. There is the story being told to Israel that is standing there waiting to go in and possess the land, and they are hearing a recounting of Egypt and the deliverance from Egypt; about the miracles that they witnessed as they were going through the days of the wilderness; about their disobedience in the wilderness; about their unbelief in Egypt; about all of these things. But we are also hearing Words about the last days, the days to come; about a God who is a consuming fire, and who is going to shake all things. So as we hear this, let us know that God is looking for us to begin to seek Him on another level. We are to know and take to heart that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on earth below, and there is no other; and so, we shall keep His statutes and His commandments. And right now, He may seem like He is merely the God of your fathers. He may seem like something that is at a distance. Religion, as we know it, church, as we know it, even our study of the Scripture, as we know it, may kind of promote in your mind that these things are afar off, or they happened at some time but they certainly do not seem to happen today.

That is what they were faced with when Yeshua appeared on the earth: "How can these things be." That is what was being said by Nicodemus, "How can these things be? What You are telling me, how can

I believe that for me today? How am I to be born again today?" They would witness miracles and say, "This is the work of the devil," because all they knew was the work of the devil. They did not know any longer the works of God like their fathers had. We see this reality that God, the God who brought them out of Egypt, the God who brought forth Yeshua and resurrected Him from the grave, is many times seen by us as the God of our fathers – a distant story, a distant memory, a prophecy that does not seem like it has come true after years and years. But we have to seek Him, we have to realize that that is not the truth.

In Second Peter 3, starting at verses 3-4, it says, "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.'" Boy, do we ever live in this age – this age when people are mocking the very reality of God, the return of Christ, the miracle power of the Lord and the promises that He has made, including His coming. He comes as the Messiah. The Jews wait for that coming, and the promise of the coming Messiah. We, as Christians, wait likewise for the coming of Messiah in our day, in this day. But there is this mocking spirit that exists all around us, that says, "Look, from the days of the fathers, this God you are talking about, He is the God of your fathers; you do not really know Him. You have not really seen Him. You have not witnessed Him coming down like He did at Sinai, speaking the Law, shaking the mountain, manifesting Himself in unquestionable ways. You have not seen Him go in and fight your enemies so that you may possess the land."

It is the spirit that we have lived in; we have been immersed in it, we have been raised in it. And God is speaking to our hearts, saying, "Don't lose faith. I am God. Yes, I am the God of your fathers, but I have come down now, I have heard your cry." And if we cry out to Him, like we are saying, if we cry out with all of our hearts, He will come down as He did when He spoke to Moses. He said, "I have heard their cry and I have come down to deliver them." That is what we look for, and we must have faith for that today, that God is ready to hear our cry and come down in the day we live in to fulfill the promises for today. What is the promise for today? It is the promise of His coming. He will come in power and might and authority, and He will bring with Him the myriads of angels that will root out of this world, as the parable He told – take the tares from the field and burn them up, and garner the wheat into the barn. He is coming in power, power that **we** now, in our generation, will witness with our eyes. And it does not matter how many generations it has been since people have witnessed some of these movings of God; He is going to move in a way today to fulfill this promise of His coming in a way that has never been seen or known before. And it does not matter if the fathers have fallen asleep, and it does not matter if things seem to continue just as they were from the very beginning.

Verses 5-9 go on to say,

For when they maintain this [concept he is talking about], it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

You know, it is the reality. It is like four hundred years in Egypt – He was taking seventy people and creating them into a nation. He was not slow concerning His promises. And yes, from our view it may seem like, you know, a day is a thousand years, and it has been a thousand years since we have seen something happen that we have been believing for. But God is waiting, He is moving within the natural world. He has done that through the Scriptures. He had to wait until Christ was of age before He could be crucified. He could not crucify Him at thirteen; He had to wait for Christ to grow and mature. He had to wait for Israel to become a nation, not just be seventy people, to go in and try to take the land. God has waited. You say, “How can we still believe in the return of Christ into this earth when it has been over 2,000 years since we have heard this promise of His coming?” Believe me, He is waiting for this natural world to have its total preparation for what transpires in the day of His return. And you know what? more than that, He may just be waiting for you. He may be waiting for your growth and maturity, for you to come to the place where you are ready.

This time that transpires is not supposed to bring about unbelief in our hearts. We have to live in faith. We have to live in faith, knowing that in one moment, in the twinkling of an eye, everything could come about and be manifest. As verse 9 says, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness,” but there is a patience in God that is towards us, that is towards the world. He is not wishing for anyone to perish. Everything has to be in its place in the natural world we live in before the spiritual world can come into play and establish the Kingdom.

Verses 10-14,

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! [Remember what he said in Deuteronomy: “Our God is a consuming fire,” part of the prophecy of the end of the age to come.] But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Boy, that will be different, won't it, from what we have today? “Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.” We are not to lose our faith, we are to grow in faith. We are to grow in the things of God and the knowledge of Him, and we are to become what He is looking for.

Romans 12:1-2 says,

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

We are looking for that. We are not to be conformed to this age. If you are conformed to this age, then you keep hearing what Peter was talking about – the mocking, those that are saying, “Where is this promise? It is never going to happen. It hasn't happened since our fathers fell asleep. It hasn't happened since the beginning of time. All things remain as they were, and they are not going to change tomorrow, they are not going to change the day after that.” Well, that is not true. And people will find that out.

It is really emphasized to us, I think, in Hebrews the twelfth chapter, when he does kind of unfold what Moses was talking about there in Deuteronomy. In Hebrews 12:18-29 it says,

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling." But you [we today, we] have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain [we are getting ready to see the power of God move on this earth, in our midst, before our eyes, as they witnessed at that time]. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe [we are not to lose our faith because of the passing of time; we are to grow in our gratitude, and we are to offer up worship in reverence and awe; and we should remember, as Moses said]; for our God is a consuming fire.

He is a consuming fire, and He is not slow to fulfill His promises. Moses said it back in Deuteronomy 4:24, "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God," and he went on from there to prophesy some of the things that we are waiting for to happen in our day. Let us remember those promises. Let us remember the Words of God. And let us look back to our fathers, not to grow weak in faith, but to be strengthened by their experience of watching and beholding the power of God moving in their midst on this earth. Because we, likewise, shall see God move to establish His Kingdom and bring Yeshua the Messiah to return and rule on this earth.

It is for that that we wait, for that that we believe; and because of that, that we do not grow weak in faith, but we grow more bold, and we have more anticipation to see God move on this earth.

Amen.