Who Is Your Life Travel-Agent; You or God? Oct. 29, 2026

> ***Great Day***.... We are so glad that you have joined us here, to take-in what the Lord is speaking to us about today – which happens to be how: "***God really needs to be our life-travel Agent – meaning, we should all desire for "God" to lead us to the best places for our lives. "We" should never make ourselves, to be our own travel-agent!***".

-- This message segment, is brought to you by: **Discovery Crossroads Ministries**... *a ministry that strongly believes that:* "***Dead-ends, can become alive again!***" Truly, God is "**Good**" - He is "**Life**", and He is leading us to His **Good Life**.

> **Today's message** title: "**WHO Is Your Life Travel-Agent - you or God?**".

- **OK**, When you were travelling to someplace "that you had never been to before", **Did you possibly use a "Travel-agent" to establish your travel plans?** If you did, **how did they do at deciding your trip for you? Let's face it**, sometimes using a "**Travel-agent**", to secure your travel plans for you, can be a "toss-up" - *Maybe they did a great job setting up your trip for you, or maybe it was a total disaster?*
Have you ever experienced a disastrous trip, that someone else set up for you?

-- It is tough to "**LET**" somebody be your "Travel-agent", when you are going to a place unknown! *But the thing is*, since you had never travelled to this new place, they may be the only one who might have the knowledge & wisdom needed, to set up your trip – which will give you the best outcome!

-- **So**, let me ask you this: **How many of you have ever been to Heaven, or for that matter, to Hell?** **So**, I'll bring the travel-bar down a little lower, **Can you agree that we experience a form of heaven & hell, in the things that we experience on earth?** **There are always two roads** to take on earth, that are decided by "**OUR**" choices – the Good road, or the evil one! **Romans 3:10** says, "**There is no one who is righteous (*or good*), not even one**" - *this means that*: None of us knows how to Travel to the places that God calls "Good". *Therefore*, We all need a "Good" Travel-Agent, Who can get us to where we've never been before; (*Heaven*)!

-- Whether you know it or not, we battle in this life with internal desires, that knock us off the Good course... Our broken & corrupt bodies, push us onto the wrong roads.
Isaiah 53:6 says, "**We all, like sheep, have gone astray – each of us has turned to OUR OWN WAY...**"

-- You know, the "**School of Hard-knocks**", teaches us to do life **ON OUR OWN - OUR WAY!** And that is exactly HOW we get

ourselves onto the "**Road of Exile**"! Our "**stubbornness & rebellion against God**", drives us into Exile-moments by our unwillingness to live life by "**God's Standard**"; found in The Bible. Stubbornness & Rebellion against God, is a trap!

> **So**, let me dive deeper into these **two roads** that I just spoke about – roads that we "**interchangeably**" take. **Because**: whichever road you take, **determines** whether your trip experience will turn out "Good or bad".

-- **OK**, I'm going to **label** these roads with the titles: "**Exodus**" **&** "**Exile**". I promise you, both of these two roads have very different physical, emotional & spiritual inputs & outcomes – ***yet***, they have a very big thing in common as well.

- **Hear me**, I am saying that having to Travel on both of these two very different roads, can turn out for some Good - *for* **Romans 8:28** says, "**God causes everything to work together for the Good of those who love God, and are called according to His Purposes for them**."
- **Yeah**, I am saying that: both roads (***Exodus & Exile***) offer different perspectives (*different: routes, views, experiences*). They also offer different: pains, sorrows, comforts & joys.
- Make no mistake about it: The road called "**Exile**", takes us through crooked & dangerous territories - but the road called "**Exodus**", takes us through straight & joyful territories!

(***Exile*** *can bring us much pain & suffering, while* ***Exodus*** *brings us much comfort & well-being*).

Yep, **Psalm 30:5** says, "**Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning**." NLT ***People, we travel though both of these roads, every day – based on "OUR" good or bad choices!***

> **Here now**, I set up the premise that: being on the road named "**Exodus**", is better than being on the road called "**Exile**" - even though, both roads can get you home!

* **So, what do we need to know about Biblically, about: "Exodus & Exile"?**

1) They are two very different things – yet, they have one slight commonality - "Exodus & Exile" share the same prefix "**EX**", and that prefix means: "**from**" or "**out of**".

-- **So**, using this understanding, we can assess the difference to be that: **a)** "**Exodus**" leads us OUT OF "slavery & heartache" – and that is **a Good thing**. While **b)** "**Exile**" leads us OUT OF "freedom & joy" (*"freedom & joy" that we once had while we were in Exodus*) – and that is **NOT a Good thing**.

--- **Truthfully**, "**Exodus**" represents: "Light, Holiness & Walking towards God, Freedom & Redemption, leaving sin behind".

But "**Exile**" represents: "Darkness, Unholiness & Walking away from God, Slavery, A return to sin".

-- "**Exodus**" "**Redeems**" us OUT OF a bad place, *while* "**Exile**" "**Banishes**" us OUT OF a Good place.

-- **Try it this way**: "**Exodus**" looks like: you receiving a "**big check**", when your bank account was really low. Meanwhile, "**Exile**" looks a lot like: you getting a "**big bill**" to pay, when your bank account was still really low. **So**, "**Exodus**" gets you OUT OF hock, *while* "**Exile**" gets you OUT OF financial-freedom – actually putting you deeper into hock!

-- **Exodus** is a spiritually profound journey OUT OF "bondage to sin & darkness", and INTO "freedom & renewal with God". It finds its roots in **our Seeking to repent** (*turn away from*) our known sins. **Exodus** is a "Reestablishment" of our relationship with God! **Exile** is also a spiritually profound journey OUT OF "freedom & a relationship with God", and back INTO "bondage to sin & darkness". **Exile** is truly "**Banishment**" OUT OF God's Presence – *like* Adam & Eve experienced, when they were Banished from the Garden of Eden after they sinned! **Exile** is a "**Deportation**" OUT OF God's Presence – it is Never a Good thing! **Folks**, **I'd rather** be "**Imported**" into Jesus Christ, than "**Deported**" to myself!

> **Secondly**, what we need to know "Biblically" about Exodus & Exile is:

2) They function "Independently "from each other; and at the same time, they function "Interdependently" with each other!

- **The Roads of Exodus & Exile** find their depths, as we walk the paths of our life-journeys. ***Listen now***.... With OUR **life-choices**, we cause "Exodus & Exile" to exist together – literally making them "alternate" between each other!

-- As I have explained, **Exodus** does its thing – while **Exile** does its own thing. They have separate functions, and function well apart from each other. **But**, they also function in a "**cyclic-fashion**" – one depending on the other, for God's purposeful outcomes! As the late **Dolly Pardon** once said, "***The way I see it - if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain!***" Going thru the Storms of life (*or going thru our personal Exiles*), is when we better appreciate the rainbow!

....I've spoken of "Exodus & Exile" from the standpoint of the greater collective upon a nation (*ie: upon Isreal*). **But** that does not exclude any one us, from experiencing own our personal Exodus' (*highs*), and Exiles (*lows*). Each of you listening to this message today, should be able to agree with

this Truth. **YOU KNOW** the times in your life, where you choose the Higher Road, and when you choose the Lower Road too! **Can you not agree that: The Higher (more Exodus) Road felt: right, cleaner, healthier, more peace-filled, more joyous, etc.? Likewise**, You gotta remember the times when you took the Lower (*more Exiled*) Road, that felt: wrong, dirty, unhealthy, lacking peace, and lacking joy as well. **Yet**, the one Road, still got you to the other Road. Thru your "**down & outs**", you learned to shoot for your "**up & in**" experiences. **I mean**, **Does anyone just go out in to the world always seeking to bring pain & suffering into their life? But seriously**, as Exodus & Exile **WORK TOGETHER**, you found out that: even if you did end up on the "Low Road of Exile" – it was there that you learned to NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN, and aim for the "Higher Road of Exodus"... **Yep**, you decided to move OUT OF "slavery & bondage" to old hurtful beliefs, principles & habits, so that you could embrace God's Grace found on His Higher Road of Exodus!

-- **Let me toss you** an example from the apostle Paul's life. The apostle experienced a great Exile in his life, that was brought on by The Lord. His Exile came with a bright light and a Voice out of heaven saying, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**". This "Exile-happening", stopped Saul

(*Paul*) right in his evil-tracks! Saul's sight was taken from him, and he was blindly led to a house, where he had to sit along with himself to think! When the time was right, and Jesus knew that he was ready to hear the Truth, Jesus opened his eyes (*his physical & spiritual eyes*) and Saul began his **new journey** into "**Exodus**" with Jesus! In fact, that is when Jesus changed his name from "**Saul**" to "**Paul**".

....Through this **cyclic-exchange** of "**Exile-Exodus interactions**", Paul began a new & perfect walk with Jesus; no longer serving the desires of self-interest & evil-interests. The Psalmist stated in **Psalm 119:71**, "**It was good for me to be afflicted, so that I might learn your decrees**." NIV

....**Surely** I should ask you here: **What does God have to do, to reach you to your core, before you will grab a hold of His Truths and walk in His Ways? How awful must your Exile have to be, to move you to Exodus with God?**

-- **Let me try this example**: So, you take a nice trip in your car thru "**Yellowstone National Park**"; it's so beautiful & fun there! **But then** you make a grave error (*maybe even a dumb error*) - you get "OUT OF" the car to pet a Bison (*or get a selfie with him*), and you end up getting gored and flying thru the air, with a hard landing on your hip. **And so**, your hip is now broken, and off to the hospital you go... Pain,

doctors, nurses, needles, hospital food, the works - have now become your newest life-experience…(*that's Not what it is, to live the "**Good life**" in Exodus*)! **Folks**, OUR Exodus-life, can quickly be "interchanged out" for an Exile-life!

-- **Please hear this**: The point of Exile, is to "**learn from our mistakes**", so that we can quit going back into our painful & shameful Exile way, over & over again! When we learn how to Revisit & Correct our mistakes, is when we learn how to Stay in the place of Exodus! **Remember**, Exodus & Exile will work together – God uses them both, for our Good. Paul stated in **1 Corinthians 10:13**, "God is faithful; **he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear**. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out** (an **Exodus Road**) so that you can endure it." NIV

> **Lastly**, what we need to know "Biblically" about Exodus & Exile is:

3) In the existence of both "Exodus & Exile", our preferred direction should be that of "Exodus"!

-- *I beat up this thought, so it will stick to our minds & hearts....*

In the low spirits, that come with traveling the "Road to Exile" - we are motivated to do whatever is needed, to get OUT OF the low and back to the high that we once had!

....**Listen**, time spent in the places of low spirits, causes us to want to reach for a better place! *For example*: the longer that people stay overweight, tired and embarrassed - the more they "**become desperate**" for a cure. This is why so many people are on the shot today, it gives them hope when all their other hopes have failed them! **The truth is**: the low, made them reach for the high – and those low moments are intended to: correct our wrong attitudes & sins, and lead us back to God and His Good Exodus (*to His Good Path*)!

*....**So now**, (*spiritually speaking*): when we are out of hope, is when we will desperately seek out "**The One & Only Hope**" that can change the course of our lives and save us – and His Name is: **Jesus Christ!**

-- I'm suggesting (*no, I'm pushing*) that: being on Exodus (*a journey WITH GOD*), is always **the Best Path** for you & I to take for your lives! **Jeremiah 17:8**, "7 **But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord**, **whose confidence is in him**. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that **sends out** its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." NIV *That's "Good stuff"*

-- **Look**, when a fire burns down an entire forest to the ground, we are not to worry – for the roots of the trees & plants are

buried deep underground, and they will bloom again (*they will bring* ***Beauty from the Ashes****!*). **Likewise**, the Bible says, "**let your roots go down into Christ!**" If we'll keep our roots FIRMLY SEATED into the soil of Jesus, we can STAY more on the "Road to Exodus", instead of the "Road to Exile" …(*iow: we can* ***STAY*** *out of the hot waters that burns our spirits, all the way down into our soul*).

> **Ultimately**, we want to **STAY** on the road marked Exodus, as much as possible - but folks, if we find the we've taken a detour onto the "Road called Exile" - Don't panic – Have faith Seek Jesus – and Learn all the lesson(s), that God is trying to teach you. This is the only way to get back home, to your "Highway of Exodus".

* **Come on**, the amount of "**travel Joy, or travel agony**" that we experience on our "**life-trip**" in this world, is solely up to OUR life-choices...(*OUR life-planning*)...(*OUR life-acceptance or denial of Jesus Christ, as our Savior & Lord*)!

I'm telling you that: both roads, (*Exodus & Exile*), are there to help lead us to the same place, at the end of our lives – to "God's Good Kingdom"! Which road you travel, is ultimately "YOUR" choice!

-- **Know this clearly folks**, when you travel the Wrong Road towards Exile, God will Always provide you with a "**U-Turn**" so that you can turn back towards Him… ***and it's just that***: at a "U-Turn", "**You**" have to "make a turn back" to Exodus with God! He still remains **THE ONLY Travel-Agent**, Who can get you into a better place with Him, and with yourself! Driving on the Road of Exodus, or on the Road of Exile - it's always "**Your**" choice!

> **Sweet people**, I just want you all to see the Truth today about: the "round-robin" (*merry-go-round*) journey, that we all take in this life. **Yet**, **THE Good News** is: **Emmanual** (***God*** *- God Who IS with us*), is on this journey with us. He is always willing to take us by the hand, and lead us to Greener pastures – ***Only***, WE have to take His Hand, and let Him guide us there! **Are you willing to do that? *I mean*, Are you willing to take His Hand and travel His "Road of Exodus" with Him – to Discover His place of Good for your life?**

- **In closing**: **Please gain Wisdom** from the Psalmist today.... **Psalm 119:101-105**, "101 **I have** refused to walk on any evil path, so that I may remain obedient to your word. 102 **I haven't** turned away from your regulations, for you have taught me well. 103 **How sweet your words taste to me;**

they are sweeter than honey. 104 **Your commandments give me understanding**; **no wonder I hate every false way of life**. 105 **Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path**. 106 I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations. 107 I have suffered much, O Lord; restore my life again as you promised." NLT

> I always open our messages with this statement, "**With God, Dead-ends, can become alive again!**" This message epitomizes (*perfectly summarizes*) that statement!

-- This message begs you to look at your life-paths; your places of joy, and places of struggle. It begs you to assign the Best paths that you have journeyed, to what were the Best physical, emotional & spiritual experiences of your life thus far. **In doing so**, you might just find that: God's Word REALLY DOES "**Prove to be**" (*point out*), the straightest & Better ways that you can live! Look at your habits, principles & beliefs, and try to label them as having been an Exodus-moment, or an Exile-moment? I believe you will find that the Best & Joyous times in your life, belonged to the Exodus-Road (*the times when you were living out of God's Good Principles & Standards*). God's Word, and living them out, **Truly does** lead us to the Better Way to live – *beside still waters & green*

pastures. And please Don't forget: always ask God to join you on your daily journey, and He WILL walk beside you all the way!

-- **Let us pray together**……

Discovery questions:

1) When you traveled to a new place, that you have never been to before; did you use a travel-agent to plan your trip or did you do it yourself? If you did use a travel-agent, were their plans found to be helpful or a hindrance?

2) Have you ever considered that you are just a pilgrim walking on the face of the earth, in need of a real Travel-agent Who knows the layout of the land; where the mountaintop highs are, as well as where the pitfall lows are too?

3) Many of us realize that there are certainly **two roads** that "we" can accept (*choose*) to travel on in this world. But, have you ever heard of these two roads being labeled as "**Exodus & Exile**"? Do you believe that "YOU" travel these two roads **interchangeably** every day, by your own choice?

4) The prefix that both Exodus & Exile commonly share, is the letters "EX"; which means: "OUT OF" (*or, "OUT FROM"*). With that definition, what did the message say that that the road of "Exodus" & Exile" was OUT FROM?

5) How does the road called "Exodus" work best in & for your life?

6) How does the road called "Exile" work best in & for your life?

7) What are the stated pluses (*positives*) of being (*living*) on the road called "Exodus"?

8) What are the stated minuses (*negatives*) of being (*living*) on the road called "Exile"?

9) Is it possible that the roads known as Exodus & Exile work "**independently**" from each other? Explain your answer.

10) Is it possible that the roads known as Exodus & Exile work "**interdependently**" from each other? Explain your answer.

11) Do you believe that "God" USES our journeys, upon the paths of Exodus & Exile (*both paths*), for "**HIS**" good?

12) Do you believe that "God" USES our journeys, upon the paths of Exodus & Exile (*both paths*), for "**OUR**" good?

13) What is the depth of Romans 8:28? How does "**GOD**" function for "**OUR**" best in this passage?

14) One more time... What all did this message say that the road to "Exodus" means? Now, ask the same question about what the attributes are for the road to "Exile"? (*See pages 4&5 of this message's transcript, to help you answer this*).

15) Does travelling the road called "Exile" really **MOTIVATE** us to get off of its road? I suggest that we have to get "sick & tired of being sick & tired, before we will do something about being sick & tired!"

16) Is the road called "Exodus" really the best road that we should seek to "STAY ON" for our life's travels? Explain your answer?

17) Is Jesus "**YOUR**" Life Travel-agent? Can you yet agree that He is The One & Only, Who can cause us to travel the Good paths that He has planned for our lives?
Listen, if Jesus is Not "**YOUR**" Life Travel-agent now, will you consider asking Him to be it for you? Have you had enough of living an unblessed life, on the road of Exile? Ask Jesus to come into your life, and change the messed up road that you might be travelling on right now!

18) Reread Jeremiah 17:8, and explain what it should mean to "**YOUR**" life.

19) Lastly, and this is not a question... but, please hold tightly to Psalm 119:101-105.