

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

A Hard Truth But Still Truth

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

A Hard Truth But Still Truth

Part One of Two

December 09, 2015

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-25.

Major Themes

The Nature of Hard Truths

Biblical truths are often hard because they oppose human flesh, pride, and limited understanding. Unsaved man cannot comprehend spiritual truth, and even believers may struggle but must bow to God's revelation.

Lecture support: There are many hard truths in the Bible. They are hard not only because of our ignorance but also many times they are hard just simply because they go against our flesh. (163.7-230.5s)

God's Sovereignty in Election and Reprobation

God sovereignly chooses some to salvation (election) and passes over others, leaving them in their sin (reprobation). This is illustrated by Israel and Pharaoh in Exodus 14.

Lecture support: In Exodus chapter 14 Pharaoh is an excellent illustration of reprobation. In fact, I will go further and tell you that in this passage the Israelites are an excellent illustration of election. (1016.9-1053.0s)

God's Prerogative to Harden Hearts

It is God's sovereign right to harden or soften hearts. He hardened Pharaoh's heart to ensure he pursued Israel, demonstrating His power and justice.

Lecture support: Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. (Romans 9:18, quoted at 2346.4-2380.0s)

The Deception of the Wicked

Those who reject truth are given over to strong delusion and believe a lie, leading to their destruction. This is both a natural consequence of sin and a judicial act of God.

Lecture support: Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, quoted at 2425.8-2487.0s)

God's Purpose in Predicaments

God sovereignly arranges difficult circumstances to teach His people to trust Him and to demonstrate His power to His enemies. Israel's entrapment at the Red Sea was designed for this purpose.

Lecture support: God places us in a predicament that he has sovereignly designed, He'll work it out. Because he's going to use that to teach us and he's going to use that to teach other people as well. (3516.6-3558.0s)

Human Forgetfulness of God's Grace

Believers quickly forget God's past deliverance and power when faced with new trials, as Israel did only three days after leaving Egypt.

Lecture support: These people are not more than three days out of Egypt. What? Can we not remember God's grace and mercy and deliverance more than three days? (3356.4-3395.0s)

God's Absolute Control Over Life and Death

God alone has the power to kill and make alive, to wound and heal. All people are in His hands, and He does as He pleases with His creation.

Lecture support: See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. (Deuteronomy 32:39, quoted at 3649.3-3691.4s)

Key Arguments

Unsaved man cannot understand spiritual truth

The natural man lacks the faculty to comprehend God's truth because it is spiritually discerned. Those who claim inability to understand the Bible are either not seeking God or are lost.

Lecture support: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14, quoted at 230.5-298.3s)

Fallen man misinterprets God's love

People wrongly assume that God's love negates His justice and holiness, leading them to believe He will not judge sin. This is a twisting of Scripture.

Lecture support: It is true that God is love, the Bible says that. But the Bible also says that God is righteous, that God is holy, that God is just. (410.8-453.3s)

Hard truths must be faced, not avoided

Believers should not run from difficult doctrines like election and predestination. God revealed them for our understanding, and any 'soul winning' that the Bible kills ought to be killed.

Lecture support: It just appears to me that if God revealed them in His Word He meant for us to understand them. I said, 'Secondly, it appears to me that any soul winning that the Bible kills ought to be killed anyhow.' (634.6-682.2s)

Reprobation is a biblical doctrine

God passes over some individuals, withholding grace and leaving them in their sin, which is just because they willingly rebel. Pharaoh is a prime example.

Lecture support: Reprobation just simply means that God passes over certain individuals. He withholds grace from them. He allows them to continue in their sin and their rebellion. (955.6-985.4s)

God's hardening of Pharaoh was an act of strengthening his resolve

The Hebrew word for 'harden' means to strengthen or make resolute. God gave Pharaoh the courage to think he could defeat God, leading to his destruction.

Lecture support: If you'll take the time to look up the word, it literally means to strengthen, to make strong, to make resolute, to make courageous. (2000.0-2055.9s)

Rejecting truth leads to judicial hardening

When people refuse to love the truth, God sends them strong delusion to believe a lie, resulting in their condemnation. This is both natural consequence and divine judgment.

Lecture support: For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, quoted at 2425.8-2487.0s)

God orchestrates predicaments to teach dependence on Him

God placed Israel in an impossible situation to show them that only He could deliver, teaching them to trust Him and not false gods or their own strength.

Lecture support: He put them in this predicament where they understood that if they ever got delivered it was going to be from God. (3184.0-3233.9s)

God's eternal purpose governs all things

Nothing happens by chance; God has an eternal plan purposed in Christ, ordaining the end and the means. Believers can trust that He will complete His work in them.

Lecture support: According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:11, quoted at 3558.3-3596.5s)

Scripture References

Exodus 14:1-12

The primary text of the sermon, describing God's instructions to Israel to encamp by the sea, Pharaoh's pursuit, and Israel's fear and complaint.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Used to explain that the natural (unsaved) man cannot understand spiritual things because they are spiritually discerned.

Revelation 4:11

Cited to show that all things were created for God's pleasure, emphasizing a theocentric rather than anthropocentric world.

2 Peter 3:14-16

Peter's acknowledgment that some of Paul's writings are hard to understand, and that the unlearned twist them to their destruction.

John 6:59-66

Jesus' teaching on being the bread of life was called a 'hard saying,' causing many disciples to leave. Illustrates people rejecting hard truth.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Quoted to affirm that God has revealed certain things for our obedience, while secret things belong to Him.

Exodus 12:12

Shows that the plagues were judgments against the gods of Egypt, not just Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

Exodus 13:17

Explains why God led Israel in a roundabout way - to prevent them from returning to Egypt when facing war.

Isaiah 37:29

God's promise to put a hook in Sennacherib's nose, similar to how He enticed Pharaoh to pursue Israel.

Exodus 7:3

God's declaration to Moses that He would harden Pharaoh's heart before the plagues began.

Psalms 10:4

Describes the wicked who, in pride, do not seek God; applied to Pharaoh's arrogance.

Romans 9:18

The apostolic conclusion that God has mercy on whom He wills and hardens whom He wills, affirming divine prerogative.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Explains that those who reject the love of the truth are sent strong delusion to believe a lie and be damned.

Romans 2:2

Asserts that God's judgment is according to truth, ensuring His justice is always right.

1 Kings 11:8-14, 23-25

God stirred up adversaries against Solomon because of his sin, illustrating that God raises up enemies as judgment.

Deuteronomy 6:23

Moses' statement that God brought Israel out of Egypt to bring them into the Promised Land, not to abandon them.

Philippians 1:6

Confidence that God will complete the good work He began in believers until the day of Christ.

Ephesians 3:11

God's eternal purpose purposed in Christ Jesus, showing His sovereign plan.

Acts 15:18

Known unto God are all His works from the beginning, affirming nothing is left to chance.

Deuteronomy 32:39-43

God's declaration that He alone kills and makes alive, wounds and heals, and none can deliver from His hand.

Discussion Questions

1. Why are some biblical truths 'hard' for us to accept, and how should we respond when we encounter them?

Consider: Weaver explains that hard truths go against our flesh and pride. He encourages believers to bow to them rather than run away.

2. How does the doctrine of reprobation, as illustrated by Pharaoh, challenge common assumptions about God's love and justice?

Consider: The sermon defines reprobation as God passing over some and withholding grace, using Pharaoh as an example.

3. In what ways do people today, like Pharaoh, harden their hearts against God, and what are the consequences?

Consider: Weaver discusses both divine hardening and the natural hardening that comes from sin and rejecting truth.

4. How can we reconcile God's sovereignty in hardening hearts with human responsibility for sin?

Consider: The message presents God's hardening of Pharaoh as strengthening his resolve, while also noting Pharaoh's own rebellion.

5. Why did God lead Israel into a seemingly impossible predicament at the Red Sea, and what does this teach us about His purposes in our trials?

Consider: Weaver explains that God designed the predicament to teach Israel dependence on Him and to judge Egypt.

6. How quickly do we forget God's past deliverance when facing new difficulties, and how can we cultivate a better memory of His faithfulness?

Consider: Israel forgot God's power within three days of leaving Egypt, prompting application to believers today.

7. What does it mean that God 'may do with us as he pleases,' and how should this truth affect our daily lives and worship?

Consider: Weaver cites Deuteronomy 32:39 and 1 Samuel 2:6-8 to emphasize God's absolute control over life and death.

8. How does the truth that God has an eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:11) provide comfort and direction in a chaotic world?

Consider: The sermon concludes with the application that nothing is left to chance; God's plan is certain in Christ.

Applications

Bow to hard truths rather than running from them

When we encounter difficult doctrines, we should not deny or avoid them but submit to God's Word, seeking understanding through prayer and study.

Lecture support: As believers, as children of faith, we may not understand certain truths... However, we believe them just simply because God has revealed them. (822.9-892.6s)

Recognize God's sovereignty in salvation and judgment

Acknowledge that God has the right to have mercy on whom He wills and to harden whom He wills, trusting His justice and goodness.

Lecture support: Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. (Romans 9:18, quoted at 2346.4-2380.0s)

Trust God in impossible situations

When God places us in predicaments with no human way out, we must remember that He is our deliverer and will work for His glory and our good.

Lecture support: He put them in this predicament where they understood that if they ever got delivered it was going to be from God. (3184.0-3233.9s)

Remember God's past faithfulness

We must actively recall God's grace and deliverance in our lives to avoid faltering faith when new trials come.

Lecture support: These people are not more than three days out of Egypt. What? Can we not remember God's grace and mercy and deliverance more than three days? (3356.4-3395.0s)

Submit to God's absolute authority

Since God kills and makes alive, we should live in reverent submission, knowing we are entirely in His hands.

Lecture support: God may do with us as he pleases. And God may save us, or God may damn us, or God may kill us, or God may keep us alive. The truth is we are in His hands. (3649.3-3691.4s)

Do not misinterpret God's love as license to sin

Understand that God's love does not negate His holiness and justice; He will judge unrepentant sin.

Lecture support: It is true that God is love... But the Bible also says that God is righteous, that God is holy, that God is just. (410.8-453.3s)

Persevere in studying all of Scripture

Do not avoid difficult passages but diligently seek to understand them, trusting that God revealed them for our good.

Lecture support: It just appears to me that if God revealed them in His Word He meant for us to understand them. (634.6-682.2s)

Rest in God's eternal purpose

Find peace in knowing that God has a plan purposed in Christ, and He will complete the work He began in us.

Lecture support: According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:11, quoted at 3558.3-3596.5s)

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

A Hard Truth But Still Truth

Part Two of Two

January 12, 2016

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 27-43.

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God in Election and Reprobation

God sovereignly chooses some for salvation (election) and passes over others, hardening their hearts for destruction (reprobation), all for His glory.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Exodus chapter 14... dealt with what we would call election and reprobation. Election would be where God chose Israel. Reprobation would be where God bypassed the Egyptians, allowed them to sin, and then judged them.'

God's Glory in Both Salvation and Judgment

God is glorified not only in saving His people but also in the righteous condemnation of the wicked, as both display His attributes.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'One group is going to praise His justice and His righteousness and His holiness, and the other group is going to praise His grace, His mercy, and His love.'

Human Inability and Divine Deliverance

Israel's predicament with no human escape illustrates that salvation is entirely a work of God, requiring only that His people trust and obey.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'They are now in a predicament and situation that if they ever get out of it, it will have to be by a miracle and the grace of God.'

The Hardness of Biblical Truth

Some biblical doctrines are difficult and flesh-withering, but believers must accept them by faith, even when they do not fully understand.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'When you and I run across these hard and difficult truths of the Bible, we have to admit them... I may not understand it at this particular point, but I believe it and I bow to it because it's in the Word of God.'

The Certainty of God's Victory Over His Enemies

God will ultimately destroy all who oppose Him and His people, and this destruction is as certain as His salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver declares, 'When God fights, He wins. And when God fights, His enemies lose. And when God fights, the outcome is absolutely certain and sure.'

The Believer's Response: Faith and Obedience

In the face of impossible circumstances, God's people are called to stand still, see His salvation, and move forward in obedience to His commands.

Lecture support: Weaver paraphrases Exodus 14:14 as 'Shut up and watch God,' and emphasizes the command to 'go forward' in obedience.

Key Arguments

God hardens hearts to accomplish His purposes

God actively hardens the hearts of the wicked, like Pharaoh, to ensure they pursue His people and thus bring about their own destruction and His glory.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God said, "I'm going to harden his heart."... God just allowed him to think that he could beat God... Just pride and arrogance and pure stupidity.'

Salvation includes the destruction of God's enemies

God's deliverance of His people is inseparable from the judgment of His adversaries, as seen in the Red Sea event.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God's salvation also includes the destruction of His enemies... He was actually setting a trap and setting up His enemies for destruction.'

God's truth is light to believers and darkness to unbelievers

The same divine truth that illuminates and guides God's people blinds and condemns those who reject Him.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'God's truth, God's Word, God's will, and God's way will always be light to His people. But... will always be darkness to His enemies.'

God has the right as Creator to choose some and reject others

Using the potter and clay analogy from Romans 9, Weaver argues that God is not unjust in electing some to salvation and leaving others in their sin for destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Romans 9:21 and says, 'What God says is, "Look, I'm the potter. I can make one vessel to honour, one vessel to dishonour, out of the same lump. I'm God. I can do as I please."'

All people will ultimately acknowledge God, either in salvation or judgment

Every person will one day confess that God is Lord, either willingly in salvation or forcibly in condemnation, fulfilling God's purpose to be known.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'All men will know God either in salvation or condemnation. But they shall know Him.'

The enemies of God will realize too late that God fights against them

In their destruction, the wicked will discover with horror that God Himself is their adversary, as the Egyptians did when their chariot wheels were removed.

Lecture support: Weaver describes, 'Can you imagine the absolute horror and terror in their hearts... when all of a sudden they realize, "Hey, this is it. God is fighting against us. We're doomed."'

Scripture References

Exodus 14:1-4

God instructs Moses to encamp Israel in a seemingly vulnerable position to bait Pharaoh into pursuing them, as part of His plan to gain honor over Egypt.

Exodus 14:4

God declares He will harden Pharaoh's heart so that Pharaoh will pursue Israel, resulting in God being honored and the Egyptians knowing He is the LORD.

Exodus 14:8

The LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh pursues Israel, while Israel goes out with a high hand.

Exodus 14:10-12

Israel sees the Egyptians approaching and cries out in fear, complaining to Moses that it would have been better to serve Egypt than die in the wilderness.

Exodus 14:13-14

Moses tells the people not to fear, to stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, for the LORD will fight for them.

Exodus 14:15-16

God tells Moses to stop crying out and to command Israel to go forward, while Moses lifts his rod to divide the sea.

Exodus 14:17-18

God says He will harden the Egyptians' hearts to follow Israel into the sea, gaining honor over Pharaoh and his army, so that Egypt will know He is the LORD.

Exodus 14:19-20

The angel of God and the pillar of cloud move between Israel and Egypt, giving light to Israel but darkness to the Egyptians, preventing them from approaching.

Exodus 14:21-22

Moses stretches out his hand, and the LORD drives back the sea with a strong east wind, making dry ground for Israel to cross with walls of water on either side.

Exodus 14:23-28

The Egyptians pursue into the sea, but the LORD troubles them, removes their chariot wheels, and causes the waters to return, drowning the entire army.

Exodus 14:30-31

The LORD saves Israel that day, and Israel sees the Egyptians dead on the seashore, leading them to fear the LORD and believe Him and Moses.

Exodus 15:1-10

Moses and Israel sing a song of praise to the LORD for His glorious triumph, describing the destruction of Pharaoh's army in the sea.

Romans 8:28

Weaver cites this verse to affirm that God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, even in predicaments.

Philippians 1:28

Believers are not to be terrified by adversaries, as their opposition is a token of perdition for the enemies but of salvation for God's people.

Romans 9:10-13

Paul uses Jacob and Esau to illustrate that God's election is not based on works but on His calling, showing that God loved Jacob and hated Esau before they were born.

Romans 9:14-18

Paul argues that God is not unrighteous in election, quoting Exodus 33:19 to show that God has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills, using Pharaoh as an example.

Romans 9:19-23

Paul rebukes those who question God's sovereignty, using the potter and clay analogy to show God's right to make vessels of honor and dishonor, enduring the wicked to display His wrath and power.

Revelation 19:1-3

A great multitude in heaven praises God for His true and righteous judgments in destroying the great whore, with her smoke rising forever.

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD has made all things for Himself, even the wicked for the day of evil, indicating that God ordains the wicked for judgment.

Philippians 2:9-11

God has exalted Christ so that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

1. How should we respond when we encounter biblical truths that are difficult to understand or accept?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that we must bow to hard truths even when we don't fully comprehend them, trusting God to give light in His time.

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2. In what ways does the account of Israel at the Red Sea illustrate the doctrine of God's providence?

Consider: Weaver explains that God sovereignly placed Israel in a predicament with no human escape to display His salvation and destroy His enemies.

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3. What does it mean that God's salvation includes the destruction of His enemies, and how should this affect our view of current opposition to the church?

Consider: Weaver points out that God's deliverance of His people is tied to the judgment of His adversaries, and that apparent threats to the church will ultimately be overturned.

4. How does the potter and clay analogy in Romans 9 help us understand God's sovereignty in election and reprobation?

Consider: Weaver uses Romans 9 to argue that God has the right as Creator to make vessels of honor and dishonor from the same lump of humanity.

5. Why is it important to recognize that all people will one day acknowledge God, either in salvation or condemnation?

Consider: Weaver stresses that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, either willingly now or forcibly in judgment.

6. What does the terror of the Egyptians when they realized God was fighting against them teach us about the fate of those who oppose God?

Consider: Weaver describes the horror of discovering too late that God is one's enemy, using the Egyptians' experience and the story of Voltaire.

7. How does the truth that salvation is entirely of the Lord bring comfort and assurance to believers?

Consider: Weaver concludes that just as the wicked will know God's judgment, the saved will eternally know that their salvation is solely by God's grace and power.

Applications

Humble Submission to Hard Truths

Believers should acknowledge and bow to difficult biblical doctrines, even when they do not fully understand them, trusting God to provide understanding in His time.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When you and I run across these hard and difficult truths of the Bible, we have to admit them... I may not understand it at this particular point, but I believe it and I bow to it because it's in the Word of God.'

Trust in God's Providence Amid Trials

When believers face seemingly impossible situations, they should stand still and trust God to fight for them, knowing that He works all things for their good and His glory.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Oftentimes when it looks as if God's people are about to be overthrown and wiped out, God turns the tables and it's the enemies of God... that are destroyed.'

Obedience in the Face of Fear

Regardless of their position, believers must obey God's commands without hesitation, moving forward in faith even when the path seems impossible.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes, 'Your responsibility is to be obedient, unquestionably obedient... Moses, you hold up your rod. You divide the sea. Israel, you march.'

Rest in God's Sovereign Justice

Believers should not be terrified by adversaries, recognizing that their opposition is a sign of their own destruction and that God will ultimately vindicate His people.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Philippians 1:28, 'in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation.'

Acknowledge Salvation as Entirely of God

Believers should humbly recognize that their salvation is not due to their own will or effort but solely to God's mercy, leading to eternal gratitude.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When we get in the presence of God only by His grace and mercy, we will know powerfully that it was God and God alone who saved us.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: A Hard Truth But Still Truth - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01411

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01411&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01411&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: A Hard Truth But Still Truth - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01413

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01413&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.