



KINGDOM POWER

PART ONE

Forty Daily Devotionals
on Miracles
From Genesis and Exodus
(Based on the NKJV)

Introduction

Miracles! Simply defined, they are the punctuation marks of the Almighty. Throughout God's Word, miracles are used unsparingly to identify the mood of the Writer as His message is recorded for our instruction and spiritual well-being. Through these divine punctuation marks, carefully placed by the God Himself, we know when to stop, slow down, yield, or simply when to proceed with caution. In the miracles that are recorded throughout the Bible, we can better understand the intent of the Holy Spirit as He guides human beings by His inspired, infallible Word. The Books of Genesis and Exodus are packed with miracles that, when read and studied, teach us that God is all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful!

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Genesis 1:1-31	8/11/21
2	Genesis 5:1-24	8/12/21
3	Genesis 7:1-24	8/13/21
4	Genesis 11:1-9	8/14/21
5	Genesis 12:4-20	8/15/21
6	Genesis 15:1-18	8/16/21
7	Genesis 17:15-19; 18:10-14; 21:1-8	8/17/21
8	Genesis 19:1-11	8/18/21
9	Genesis 19:12-29	8/19/21
10	Genesis 20:1-18	8/20/21
11	Genesis 21:1-21	8/21/21
12	Exodus 3:1-14	8/22/21
13	Exodus 4:1-5	8/23/21
14	Exodus 4:6-17	8/24/21
15	Exodus 4:18-31	8/25/21
16	Exodus 7:1-13	8/26/21
17	Exodus 7:14-25	8/27/21
18	Exodus 8:1-14	8/28/21
19	Exodus 8:15-19	8/29/21
20	Exodus 8:20-31	8/30/21

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Exodus 9:1-7	8/31/21
22	Exodus 9:8-16	9/01/21
23	Exodus 9:17-33	9/02/21
24	Exodus 10:1-20	9/03/21
25	Exodus 10:21-29	9/04/21
26	Exodus 11:1-10; 12:29-33	9/05/21
27	Exodus 12:37-51	9/06/21
28	Exodus 13:17-14:4	9/07/21
29	Exodus 14:5-14	9/08/21
30	Exodus 14:15-23	9/09/21
31	Exodus 14:24-31	9/10/21
32	Exodus 15:19-27	9/11/21
33	Exodus 16:1-15	9/12/21
34	Exodus 16:16-36	9/13/21
35	Exodus 17:1-7	9/14/21
36	Exodus 17:8-16	9/15/21
37	Exodus 19:1-13	9/16/21
38	Exodus 19:14-25	9/17/21
39	Exodus 20:1-22	9/18/21
40	Exodus 32:1-10 & 30-32	9/19/21

Day 1: Genesis 1:1-31

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

The Miracle of Creation

We do not have to read far into the Bible to determine it is a miraculous book that records miraculous events. Here, in the beginning, we find a pre-existent God who “creates” the heavens and the earth. In the Hebrew, the word translated “create” here is used only to describe divine activity. It is never used to describe any work or creative act of man. The name used for God here is Elohim, which is in the plural form and means, “Three Strong Ones.” This name provides evidence for a triune God. That God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit worked together in the miracle of creation becomes even more evident when we begin to read about the creation of man. Look carefully at the first 25 verses of Genesis and you will repeatedly see phrases like “God said,” “God saw,” “God made,” “God called,” “God created,” and “God blessed” throughout the process of creation. Some of those verbs are found multiple times in the creation story. But when it came to the creation of man, God said, “Let *Us* make man in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness” (v. 26). From the very beginning, man has enjoyed the miraculous hand of the triune, Almighty God in his favor. We were created in miraculous fashion and promised a miraculous future. The same God that created us as physical beings is the God that “created” us as spiritual beings through His Son, Jesus. And, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, God is still “creating” us as He transforms us into His image even today!

Prayer Emphasis: **Live** like the person God created you to be today. Seek to be a blessing to someone in need today. **Remember**, a simple act of kindness on your part may be a miraculous answer to prayer to someone else!

Day 2: Genesis 5:1-24

“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (Genesis 5:24)

Enoch

When God created man He made “him in the likeness of God” (v. 1). Then Adam began to have sons who were “in his own likeness” (v. 3). As you follow the lineage of the children of Adam and Eve, you come to Enoch here in Genesis 5:24. Up to this point, all appears to be quite normal in this family record. We read of people living, having children, and then dying. Then we come to Enoch! Enoch became the first of only two men of whom it would be said that they “walked with God.” (The other being Noah, Genesis 6:9.) The Hebrew word used to describe Enoch’s “walk” with God is the same word that was first used when we read that God came “walking” in the Garden to spend time with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8). That word is not found again until this passage to describe Enoch’s personal “walk” and relationship with God. Thus, we get the idea that “walking” with God involves spending time with God and living in accordance with His divine will. Enoch was the first man to avoid death. We are simply told that one day “he was” and then “he was not” because “God took him” to be with Him (v. 24). Thus, his parting becomes a picture of the great New Testament event that we call the rapture. The New Testament teaches there will be a group of Christians who will never taste death, but will “be caught up together” when the Lord returns for His own (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Prayer Emphasis: **Listen** for that soon coming sound of the trumpet of God and **live** as if today could be the day that we could be taken up and out of this world! **Live** a life that is filled with the evidence of God’s **Kingdom Power** by walking in constant fellowship with God!

Day 3: Genesis 7:1-24

“Then the LORD said to Noah, ‘Come into the ark, you and all your household...’” (Genesis 7:1)

The Flood

You might have to speak with a lot of people before finding someone who is not familiar with the next miracle that we are going to discuss. Almost everyone has heard of the story of Noah and the great flood. After much time of preparation and construction, Noah was commanded to take his family and enter the ark. With him he was to take two of every kind of unclean animal and seven of every kind of clean animal. The purpose for taking the additional clean animals was for food during the time in the ark and sacrifices after Noah and his family left the ark. Noah was told that God would cause it to rain for 40 days and 40 nights and every living creature outside of the ark would be destroyed. However, the rain was not the only source of water. The springs of the great deep were also opened. The waters increased until they rose above the tops of the mountains. Since the ark was “thirty cubits” or 45 feet high (Genesis 6:15), the waters had to be deep enough to keep this giant vessel from running aground. Every living creature died, just as God had said they would. However, God kept Noah and his family safe and secure within the ark until it was safe for them to return to the outside world.

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that anything is possible with God. The miracle of the Flood is just another roof of God’s authority and ownership over all the earth. **Lead** your family to the safety that can only be found in God. **Be** a witness to those that you love and would hate to leave behind.

Day 4: Genesis 11:1-9

“And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.” (Genesis 11:2)

The Tower of Babel

Although we would normally consider a miracle as something God would send in response to *prayer*, this morning we read of one that was sent as a response to *pride*. After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons to, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1). Here we find them wanting to stop in Shinar and “build...a city, and a tower” and “let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth” (v. 4). It was their intention to remain together and, thereby, not obey God’s command to fill the whole earth. Not only did they want to control their own destiny, they also wanted to act and sound like God while they were doing it. Notice the phrases in verses 3 and 4 where they say, “let us” make bricks and “let us” build ourselves a city! Compare these verses to Genesis 1:26 where God said, “Let Us make man in Our image” and you will see what I am talking about. In today’s story we read another “let us” statement of God when He said, “Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech” (v. 7). There are times in the Bible where God’s power was revealed to *direct* His people. But here we see the power of God being displayed to *discipline* a group of people who seemed determined to be their own gods and go their own way. I don’t know about you, but I think that I would much rather see God’s **Kingdom Power** made evident in my life as a result of *prayer* and not *pride*!

Prayer Emphasis: Consider how ugly and hurtful our prideful thoughts and ambitions must appear to God. **Confess** such prideful moments as sin and **seek forgiveness** from God today.

Day 5: Genesis 12:4-20

“Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there...” (Genesis 12:10)

The Plagues on Pharaoh’s House

Abraham was a man marked by great faith, but he was also a man marked by some great failures. The miracle that we read about this morning was not born from faith, but from a fib – a half-truth – told by one of God’s most chosen servants. The Bible does little to hide our humanity from us, and by doing so, gives us great motivation to learn to live with caution, ever aware of our susceptibility to sin and our human weakness. With no word from God to do so, Abraham went down to Egypt. He was following his stomach and not his heart, for he was going there to escape a famine in Canaan, the place where God had told him to be (12:4). His intention was to stay there only for a while. As his entourage approached Egypt, Abraham asked Sarah, his wife, to lie to the people there by saying that she was his sister. He may have found some kind of comfort in the knowledge that he was only asking her to tell a “half-truth” and not an outright lie. You see, he and Sarah shared the same father but not the same mother (Genesis 20:12). So, since she was his *half-sister* – perhaps Abraham only saw this as a *half lie!* Pharaoh bargained with Abraham for Sarah and got much more than he bargained for! “The LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues” (12:17) which sent the ruler to Abraham looking for an explanation! Our focus verse states that “Abram went down to Egypt,” but he certainly went down in more ways than that!

Prayer Emphasis: **Measure** your words and seek only to speak the whole truth. **Refuse** to be a part of the problem rather than a part of the solution. Remember: A half-truth is really a whole lie!

Day 6: Genesis 15:1-18

“And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.” (Genesis 15:17)

A Smoking Oven and a Burning Torch

At a time of great concern for Abraham, God sent a sign to assure him of His presence and to bolster Abraham’s faith in God’s promises. In these verses, God reaffirmed His promise of an heir for Abraham and told His servant that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens. Notice in verse five that the LORD “brought him outside” and pointed out the literal stars in the sky as an illustration to calm the fears of His worrisome child. In verse 7, God promised Abraham a land of his own. Abraham asked God for some confirmation. So, the LORD told Abraham to bring a five-fold offering to him: a heifer, goat, ram, turtledove and a young pigeon (v. 9). After Abraham brought these things to the LORD, he cut the larger animals in two, and arranged the sacrifices on opposite sides of the room. After falling into a deep sleep, Abraham heard the voice of God speaking to him. Then, in the darkness, Abraham saw “a smoking oven and a burning torch” appear and pass between the two pieces of the sacrifices (v. 17). In this time of great darkness and many doubts and fears, God sent a special, miraculous sign to His servant to encourage him to continue in the faith. When we compare this event to some of the other things we have read in the Bible, this may not seem like such a great miracle – but try telling that to Abraham!

Prayer Emphasis: **Watch** for God’s acts of confirmation in your own life. **Believe** that the same God that cared for Abraham is the same God that cares for you! Also **believe** that God will keep His promises. **Obey** Him when He asks for a sacrifice and see if God doesn’t reveal His **Kingdom Power** to you!

Day 7: Genesis 17:15-19; 18:10-14; 21:1-8

“Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.” (Genesis 18:14)

Sarah Conceives!

Say what you will, but a woman giving birth at close to age 100 is nothing less than a miracle! When Sarah herself doubted the probability of this event ever taking place, the LORD answered her concerns with a question: “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” (Genesis 18:14) The word translated “hard” in that verse is the same word that is translated “wondrous,” “marvelous,” or “wonderful” in 13 other verses in the Bible. Sarah was unashamed to express her doubts about this promise of a child in her old age. After all, hadn’t her beloved husband “laughed” at such a promise himself? Her opinion was that she was too “old” to have a child (Genesis 18:12). The word that is translated “old” in that verse is translated “worn out” in other translations of the Bible. But isn’t that what miracles are all about? Don’t they help us to understand that **Kingdom Power** is not found in our own physical strength and abilities? God would later ask Jeremiah a question similar to the one He had earlier posed to Sarah when He asked the praying prophet “Is there anything too hard for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27). Jeremiah was in a similar situation as Sarah. *Without God* both of their life situations would have been considered hopeless. But, *with God*, there is always hope!

Prayer Emphasis: Believe God was, and is, able to do miraculous things in the lives of His people today. **Ask** God for something that only He could do today and do not give up on your prayer!

Day 8: Genesis 19:1-11

“And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness...” (Genesis 19:11)

Blindness!

This morning we read what could be one of the most tragic stories in the Bible. God sent two angels to get Lot and his family out of Sodom. Upon their arrival, they met Lot sitting in the gateway of the city. Apparently, Lot had become a member of his adopted city’s ruling council, since the place where he was sitting was much like our town or city hall would be today. It is probable that Lot had learned to live comfortably in a very bad situation without ever actually participating in the things that were happening all around him every day. When the angels declined to spend the night in his home, choosing rather to stay there in the public square, Lot insisted they stay within the safe confines of his personal home. Needless to say, though Lot may have turned a “blind eye” to the things happening around him, he was very much aware of the dangers associated with these two newcomers spending the night out in the open. However, the news of visitors traveled fast and Lot’s house was soon surrounded by the lustful men of the city who demanded that Lot deliver his guests over to them so that they could have sex with them. However, Lot’s new friends were not without the ability to help themselves! When Lot’s arguments against the wrongful intentions of the crowds fell on *deaf ears*, the angels gave them some *blind eyes*, as well.

Prayer Emphasis: See sin for what it is and avoid compromising situations as much as humanly possible. **Thank God** for the ability to “see” right from wrong and **commit** your life to being a light in a dark world.

Day 9: Genesis 19:12-29

“But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” (Genesis 19:26)

A Pillar of Salt

Lot’s heavenly visitors were obviously aware of God’s pending wrath for they urged Lot to get his family safely out of town in order to avoid the punishment that was to come. It is sad to say, but even after this solemn warning, the angels literally had to drag Lot and his family out of the city (v. 16) commanding them to not even “look behind” them at their former home (v. 17). After Lot and his family were safely out of the town, the LORD’s wrath rained down upon the city and it was utterly destroyed! Two sins were committed by Lot and his wife. Despite warnings to flee from his wicked surrounding, Lot *lingered*. And, despite warnings to not even look back at the city, Lot’s wife *looked*. One cannot help but to note the dangers of poor spiritual leadership on the part of the man of this family. He had earlier “looked” at this land and chosen it because of its promising appearance. His wife would later “look” and lose her own life. Many believe that the site of this former city lies under the salty waters of what is now called the Dead Sea. Near the end of the first century, Josephus, a Jewish historian, wrote: “But Lot’s wife continually turned back to view the city...although God had forbidden her so to do, (and) was changed into a pillar of salt; for I have seen it, and it remains to this day.”

Prayer Emphasis: **Realize** the attachment to this world, and its temptations, can lead to some very poor decisions. **Pray** that people will review your life and see you were not so attached to this world but rather greatly attached to the world to come.

Day 10: Genesis 20:1-18

“For the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.” (Genesis 20:18)

Again?

As difficult as it is to believe, Abraham has moved *physically* from where he had been when God spoke to him, but he had not moved very far *spiritually*. Here we see the man described as the “*friend of God*” being every bit a *failure* to his own family! He had, *again*, claimed Sarah to be his sister and not his wife. And, she is *again* taken to another man’s home! God alone spared Sarah from having to have a physical relationship with this man, and ultimately spoke to the man and disclosed Sarah’s true identity to him. As a result of this grievous sin on Abraham’s part, many lives were affected. Verse 18 tells us that God “closed up” every womb in Abimelech’s household because of his taking Sarah to his home. Abraham prayed to God and God “healed” Abimelech, his wife, and his concubines so that they could have children again. We are not given any details as to Abimelech’s need for “healing,” but we can imagine it may have had something to do with how God protected Sarah from him while she was in his home. Although it was fear and not greed that motivated Abraham’s actions, he did benefit financially as a result of this lapse in faith. We should allow this sad story in the life of one of God’s dearest saints to teach us that financial gain does not necessarily imply that we are living or acting in accordance with God’s will.

Prayer Emphasis: **Ask** God to help you **learn** from your mistakes and be mindful to **avoid** lapses in faith and character in the future. **Establish** accountability with a fellow believer by asking them to **pray** with you about your faith and family life.

Day 11: Genesis 21:1-21

“Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water...” (Genesis 21:19)

“Fear Not”

In this case, as in many cases today, we find people in a desperate situation because someone sought to change their own undesirable situation in their own way. Sarah had earlier offered Hagar to her husband in hopes of helping God fulfill His own promise of a seed for her husband. Nowhere in the Bible is Hagar ever referred to as Abraham’s wife. This “home remedy” proved to be more of a *curse* than a *cure* and soon even further actions were taken to try to clean up the messes made by God’s impatient people. In disbelief, we watch as Abraham sends Hagar and their son away with only some “bread and a skin of water” (v. 14). He did not even provide someone to carry her provisions for her, but “gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away.” Compare what Abraham received from Abimelech after his cowardly deception regarding his wife Sarah being only his sister (Genesis 20:14-16), and you can see what a small “token” of kindness this was from a very rich man. Add to that the attitude of Sarah when she told Abraham to, “Cast out this bondwoman and her son” (v. 10), and you may see how fearful Hagar might have been that no one was going to ever care about her or her son again. But God spoke to her and told her, “Fear not” (v. 17). He then showed her a “well of water” (v. 19) from which she could fill her bag. His **Kingdom Power** was revealed in His ability to meet Hagar’s physical needs.

Prayer Emphasis: Pay attention to what you say and do in your relationship with others. **Be** the kind of witness that causes others to desire to know the God you say you serve. **Ask** God to help you defeat your every selfish desire and ambition and show you when you are acting in such a way.

Day 12: Exodus 3:1-14

“And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush...” (Exodus 3:2)

The Burning Bush

As hard as it may be to believe, we do not see another miracle in the Old Testament throughout the remaining chapters of the Book of Genesis. One might consider the provision of the ram as a sacrifice in place of Isaac (Genesis 22) to be a miracle – and I am sure Isaac might have considered it to be so, but that was a natural act of God’s providence for His people. We do not see another recorded miraculous act of God in the Bible until we come to the third chapter of Exodus. So, in today’s Bible reading and devotional, we “fast-forward” to the Book of Exodus and Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush. This brief devotional cannot do justice to this story, but it does teach us much about God’s **Kingdom Power**. We know God’s power is *inexhaustible* – the bush burned, but never burned out. We know God’s power is *incomparable* – nothing like this had ever happened before or has ever happened since God’s meeting with Moses. We know God’s power is *purposeful* – for it was given to declare who God is and how much He loves and cares for His people. Why don’t you take a moment and slip out of your shoes as you read this story and enjoy your own moment on “holy ground?”

Prayer Emphasis: Listen for the voice of God on a moment-by-moment basis today. **Allow** Him to lead you through His wonderful Word. **Live** with the understanding that God desires to lead you to victory in your every endeavor for Him.

Day 13: Exodus 4:1-5

“So the LORD said to him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ He said, ‘A rod.’” (Exodus 4:2)

What is in Your Hand?

In response to the complaining of Moses, we find God reassuring and comforting him with a sign. It is amazing to read how God patiently dealt with Moses through all of his self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy. Perhaps that is because God already knew everything about Moses and could probably have added a few other imperfections to the list that His chosen servant was providing! But God was there to use Moses for His own glory and He was not going to be distracted by the objections that were being presented. For every word of *complaint* from Moses you will find words of *comfort* and reassurance from God given in response. Since Moses was concerned that *someone* as common and weak as he could be used for God’s glory, God chose to use *something* just as common to reveal His power to him. Moses’ “rod” that he himself had brought to the bush with him was to be thrown to the ground. When it was, it became a snake! Moses was then commanded to pick the snake up by the tail, and when he did, it returned to its earlier form as a simple staff. God’s uncommon power was displayed in one of the most common tools of a shepherd. This same type of miracle would be performed with Aaron’s rod at a later time in the presence of Pharaoh. At your very next sense of inadequacy, just take a quick inventory and see how many things you have that are more noteworthy than a simple stick!

Prayer Emphasis: Obey God even when it does not make sense to your natural way of thinking. **Realize** that any victory to be obtained in this world will be due to our obedience to the One who created this world and rules it from heaven. **Ask** God for a detailed plan for your greatest and best spiritual success today.

Day 14: Exodus 4:6-17

“Furthermore the LORD said to him, ‘Now put your hand in your bosom...’” (Exodus 4:6)

The Leprous Hand

Miracles were given for some very specific purposes. They were used to demonstrate authority, provide assurance, bear witness or testimony, give warnings, and encourage and grow faith. Imagine how Moses must have felt when, upon God’s command, he put his hand inside his cloak and then withdrew it to see it had suddenly become white with leprosy. Then, and again upon God’s command, Moses put his hand back into his cloak only to pull it back out and find it fully restored to perfect health! There are far too many things that can be said about this miracle to cover them all in this short devotional, but at least let it sink in to you that God was trying to tell Moses that it is what is in the heart that makes the hand worthy – and not vice versa. What is in our hand cannot be used for God if our hearts are not ready and willing for service. The cleansing from the leprosy was also an indication from God that Moses’ sins were forgiven, and his often faltering humanity was not going to limit what God could do with him, if he would only surrender to His will. After giving God many *excuses* for his not being able to serve in the requested capacity, Moses simply took the direct approach and asked to be *excused*, period (v. 13). However, in this situation God refused to take “no” for an answer.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for the privilege to be called to serve Him in any capacity. **Keep** your heart right so your hands can do works that bring Him honor and glory.

Day 15: Exodus 4:18-31

“Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, ‘Go, return to Egypt...’” (Exodus 4:19)

The Return to Egypt

After being told that those who had sought his life in Egypt were dead, Moses gained permission from his father-in-law to take his wife and two sons and embark on his newly assigned mission from God. It had been 40 years since Moses had left Egypt for Midian, and it seemed that God’s once reluctant servant had finally waved the white flag of surrender over his own heart and soul. It was at this time that God forewarned Moses that Pharaoh’s heart would be hardened and that he would refuse to let God’s people go. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart nine times, and Pharaoh hardened his own heart an additional nine times! It was not until after the sixth plague that God ever hardened Pharaoh’s heart. Up until that time, Pharaoh was doing a pretty good job of things himself! During his years in Midian, Moses had neglected to obey God’s command regarding circumcision, and the Bible tells us that God met Moses along the way and was about to kill him. Many scholars believe Moses was suddenly stricken with some kind of sickness and was very near death. His wife took a sharp piece of flint and performed the circumcision on their sons herself. Afterwards, it appears that Moses was miraculously restored to health after the actions of his wife. Some believe that Zipporah returned to Midian with their two sons at that time.

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that King David stated it was good for him that he had been afflicted. **Be open** to learning through all of your life experiences, good or bad. **Have faith!**

Day 16: Exodus 7:1-13

“‘And I will...multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.’” (Exodus 7:3)

“Signs” and “Wonders”

The mighty acts God promised to perform in the eyes of Pharaoh and Egypt were promised for a dual purpose, that being to bring His own people out of bondage and to convince the Egyptians of who He was. One of the keys to God’s performance of such mighty signs is found in verse 6. “Moses and Aaron did so; just as the LORD commanded them, so they did.” We are told Moses was 80 years old when he went to stand before Pharaoh with his older brother (v. 7). God had coached these obedient brothers and told them what He wanted done when Pharaoh demanded to see a miracle. Moses was to say to Aaron, “Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent” (v. 9). I believe the rod that Aaron held in his hand that day was the same rod that is sometimes referred to as the one belonging to Moses. Sometimes it is said to belong to Moses (4:17) and sometimes it is said to belong to Aaron (7:9). We are again reminded of the importance of obedience in verse 10. “So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded.” We know it is wise to listen when the LORD starts repeating Himself! Notice that Aaron’s “rod” swallowed up the “rods” of the Egyptian magicians. The rod was a symbol of divine power and authority. This miracle was performed to reveal that the power and authority of the one true God was more powerful than the multiplied gods of Egypt. The story of this miracle was obviously retold for many centuries to come, since many believe that the two men named by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:8 (Jannes and Jambres) were the magicians of Pharaoh we read about today.

Prayer Emphasis: Focus on being obedient to God at every opportunity today. **Remember** our obedience is one of the keys that can allow the power of God to express His divine authority to the world around us.

Day 17: Exodus 7:14-25

“I will strike the waters which are in the river...and they shall be turned to blood.” (Exodus 7:17b)

“The Devil” vs. “The Deliverer”

We are ready to review the 10 miracles God performed in Egypt in order to convince Pharaoh to release God’s people from bondage. However, there was much more to the story than God’s people being set free. Each of these miracles became a message to Pharaoh, and all of Egypt, that the great, I AM God of Israel was greater than the multiplied deities of Pharaoh and Egypt. The first blow was against the Nile River. This river was considered to be the source of Egypt’s livelihood and was worshipped in a god-like fashion. It was common for the Egyptians to stand at the bank of this river and call out to their gods for blessings and assistance. That is probably what was happening in verse 15 when God said, “Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him.” It was in this meeting that Moses was to make the second demand for the freedom of God’s people. The first had come in Exodus 5:1. That is why Moses said to Pharaoh, “until now you would not hear” (v. 16). You know the rest of the story. After a full explanation was given to Pharaoh, Aaron held out his rod over the waters of the Nile and they, along with many other sources of water, were turned to blood. Even the water held in storage containers was turned to blood! What repeated phrase do we read just before this miracle is performed? Verse 20 – “And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded!”

Prayer Emphasis: **Keep** your promises to God and **live** a life of obedience to His will. **Fulfill** your commitments. **Remember**, it is always right to do the right thing. **Realize** obedience is a key ingredient to our enjoying true **Kingdom Power**.

Day 18: Exodus 8:1-14

“But if you refuse to let them go...I will smite all your territory with frogs.” (Exodus 8:2)

The Miracle of the Frogs

Although some of the plagues came without warning, this plague, like the one against the Nile, was announced beforehand. When Moses and Aaron visited with Pharaoh a week after the waters of the Nile were turned to blood, they told him “if” he still refused to let God’s people go, God would “Plague their whole country with frogs.” The Bible says the frogs “covered the land” (v. 6). Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and agreed to allow the people to go and make sacrifices to God if they would take the frogs away. Moses agreed to pray and ask God to remove the frogs. But, rather than having the frogs return to the Nile, God caused the frogs to die right where they were. The people were forced to gather the frogs out of their homes and other areas and pile them in heaps. The entire land smelled of death and decay. Look back at Exodus 7:21 and notice that the first plague caused the *waters* to stink. In this plague, it is the *land* (Exodus 8:14) that now stinks. To make matters worse, the Egyptians were known for their cleanliness, sometimes bathing several times each day if they sensed they were not perfectly clean. We can only imagine what having those rotting, dead frogs everywhere, even in their cooking utensils and ovens, did to the psyches of these people.

Prayer Emphasis: **Imagine** the conversations that were being held in the homes of the Egyptians! Then **consider** that Pharaoh still would not surrender his will to the Lord! **Pray** for an unsaved friend or family member today and **ask** God to reveal His **Kingdom Power** to them so that they might be saved.

Day 19: Exodus 8:15-19

“...All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 8:17b)

Dust Turned to Insects

This third miraculous plague must have been quite disturbing to the people of Egypt. A people who once held cleanliness in the highest esteem are now being infested with disease carrying insects. Some translations identify these creatures as “lice” while others prefer to call them “gnats.” Exactly what kind of insects they were is not that important. What is important is that this plague was different than either that had come before in the sense that Pharaoh’s magicians were not able to copy this miracle through their magic, even though they tried. With the frogs, God had miraculously *multiplied* something that was already in existence. In this plague, God miraculously *created* insects to plague the people. The inability of the magicians to copy this miracle proves that God alone has the ability to *create*. This is the first of the plagues that came without warning. Pharaoh was not offered an opportunity to comply with God’s commands prior to the unleashing of this great plague. Like the first two plagues, this curse was a blow against an Egyptian deity who represented their worship of the earth. Pharaoh’s magicians were convinced this was no trick, but rather something that was being done by the very “finger” of God!

Prayer Emphasis: Praise God for His care for you today. **Realize** that the same God who performed all of these miracles for His people in the days of Moses is the same God who sent His one and only Son to die on the cross for you. Take some time to **thank** Him today.

Day 20: Exodus 8:20-31

“‘Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants...’” (Exodus 8:21)

Flies!

As it was with the plagues where the waters became blood and the frogs attacked the people, this is a plague of which Pharaoh was forewarned by Moses. When the Egyptian leader still refused to comply with God’s demands, God sent swarms of flies to fill and contaminate the homes of the people. It is possible that these “flies” could have been several different kinds of biting insects. Psalm 78 recounts many of the mighty works God did in Egypt and states that God “sent swarms of flies among them, which *devoured* them” (Psalm 78:45). Obviously, at least some of these “flies” were biters and, as such, were a source of pain and distress to the Egyptian people. While this plague was troubling Pharaoh’s people, what might have troubled them more was the knowledge that the Israelites, who shared the land with them, remained untouched from this horrible curse. “Goshen” (v. 22) was a land that a previous Pharaoh had given to the Israelites after their arrival in Egypt (Genesis 45:10 and 46:28). After it seemed Pharaoh had finally had a change of heart, Moses prayed and God caused the swarms of flies to withdraw. We should note that these “flies” *appeared* miraculously and that their *disappearance* was just as much a miracle as their appearance. Again, this was a judgment upon another of the false gods of Egypt. Because some kinds of flies were considered to be symbols of reproductive powers, images of them were often worshipped throughout the land.

Prayer Emphasis: Strive to be as patient with people as God was with the people of Egypt – and us! **Seek** creative ways to use the events in your life as a **witness** to the **Kingdom Power** that we find in God!

Day 21: Exodus 9:1-7

“...behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field...” (Exodus 9:3)

The Plague on the Livestock

This morning we find another miracle and another time that Pharaoh is forewarned of what is going to happen if he continues to refuse to obey God. This will be the fifth plague pronounced against Egypt, and it seems that each plague is becoming more and more severe. This plague is to come against all of the livestock belonging to the Egyptians only, since verse 4 clearly indicates that none of the animals belonging to the Israelites will die. The NKJV uses the word “pestilence” to describe this plague. Other translations use words like “plague” or “disease” in this verse. The Scriptures clearly state that this plague came from the “hand of the LORD” (v. 3). In this, we see God’s divine *judgment* upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. However, by appointing a set time (9:5) in which Pharaoh had to comply with God’s will, we see divine *mercy*. Notice in verse 3 that the plague was to come upon only the livestock of the Egyptians that were “in the field.” Therefore, when verse 6 tells us that “all the livestock of Egypt died,” it means all of the livestock that was kept out in the open fields died. We will see evidence of this in a later devotional. Pharaoh sent some of his people to investigate and see if the livestock of Israel had been spared as God had said they would be. What he learned from his investigators was that “not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead” (v. 7). I don’t think Pharaoh was surprised to hear that report. Do you?

Prayer Emphasis: Today would be a good day to spend some time just **thanking** God for your salvation and for every event and person that helped bring you to Christ. **Imagine** what it would be like to face life without Jesus Christ and all the help, hope, and comfort that He brings to our hearts and lives.

Day 22: Exodus 9:8-16

“...they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast.” (Exodus 9:10)

It Starts to Get Personal!

At this time, it has been about six months since the first plague was pronounced against Egypt and her false gods. It is estimated there probably was one plague per month, with each one increasing in severity. Until this sixth plague, the Egyptians suffered great loss but had not yet had a plague pronounced against them personally. God sent Moses before Pharaoh and told him to take a handful of ashes and toss it into the air in his presence. The dust was thrown into the air and festering boils broke out on all of the Egyptians. Even the magicians became so sick that they could no longer stand against Moses. Verse 10 tells us that these awful sores were upon all of the Egyptians, including their animals! God sent Moses to explain His divine purposes to Pharaoh and to, once again, demand the release of His people. God then forewarned Pharaoh that the worst was yet to come! Here we are introduced to the phrase, “The LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart.” Until this point, God had earlier stated that He would harden Pharaoh’s heart, and we have read where Pharaoh hardened his own heart. This is something new and different and is sometimes hard to understand. Let it suffice to say right now that God is not going to allow anyone to make a “false profession” based on personal, physical needs. Until Pharaoh’s heart could be pure in its motivation to bow to God’s demands, it was not going to be allowed to bow at all.

Prayer Emphasis: **Pray** for people who live as though they are at war with God. **Express** love and compassion at your every given opportunity. You never know who will finally see God’s **Kingdom Power** through your life and personal witness.

Day 23: Exodus 9:17-33

“...Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down...” (Exodus 9:18a)

The Hail Storm

The seventh plague is yet another announced plague. Moses confronted Pharaoh and warned him of the plans God had for him and his people if he did not honor God's commands. We mentioned in an earlier devotional that not all of the Egyptian's livestock died in the earlier plague of pestilence. It was only the livestock “in the fields” that died (9:3). Apparently some of the livestock was sheltered in barns or stables at that time and survived. Now, however, Moses warns Pharaoh that he should have his people gather all of their remaining livestock that were in the fields and bring them in to protect them from the pending plague of hail. This plague, like the last, is against human beings as well as animals. Some of the Egyptians were ready to believe God and Moses by now because some of them gave heed to Moses and obeyed his instructions. Others still refused to believe. As God had stated, there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail. In all of the history of Egypt, nothing like this had ever been seen before. Again, Goshen, the land where the Israelites lived, was spared of any damage. Pharaoh seemed to have learned his lesson, but God and Moses recognized that his promises to repent were not sincere. However, in honor of His Word, God still caused the hail to cease.

Prayer Emphasis: Never give up on people. Here we see some of the Egyptians ready to listen to God and His messenger. Continue to **share** God's Word with people you know and bathe your efforts in prayer. **Offer** another invitation to church to someone you have invited in the past.

Day 24: Exodus 10:1-20

“...if you refuse to let my people go...tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.” (Exodus 10:4)

More Bugs!

Moses and Aaron are once again sent to Pharaoh. Even though they have already been told by God that the heart of the Egyptian leader and his officials had once again been hardened, they went without hesitation, to deliver God's message. There is a message to us in these verses, that being, that we should never give up on people, and we should continue to deliver God's message to people no matter the previous results or their previous responses. Like so many of the earlier plagues, this eighth plague came with a forewarning and an opportunity for Pharaoh to come into compliance with God by allowing the Israelites to go free. He was warned that the soon-coming locusts would “eat the residue” of any crops that survived the hail (v. 5). The hail had destroyed many of the *plants*, but the locusts were going to destroy even the *trees*. After meeting with some of his officers, it seemed as if Pharaoh was ready to act, but God was not ready to barter or compromise. God said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt” (v. 12). By morning, Egypt was covered with locusts! Like the frogs had done earlier, the locusts even invaded the homes of the Egyptians. After the locusts had done their damage, “there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field” (v. 15). From the words spoken by Pharaoh, it might have appeared to Moses and Aaron that Pharaoh was truly ready to do business with God. But God knew his heart and refused to accept anything but genuine, heartfelt repentance.

Prayer Emphasis: Pray for those who continue to reject Christ. **Share** a word of witness with your friends and family members at every God-given opportunity.

Day 25: Exodus 10:21-29

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.’” (Exodus 10:21)

Darkness

We have watched as the plagues have moved from affecting the *property* of the Egyptians to affecting the *people* of Egypt. As you read about this ninth plague, please do so from the perspective of one who lived in Egypt, where the Sun was worshipped as a symbol of their greatest and most powerful god. Now imagine these people – people who worshipped the Sun God Ra – engulfed in total darkness by the spoken word of the LORD God of Israel. Note that verse 21 describes this darkness as one that could be *felt*. This plague came with no warning. Moses obediently stretched forth his hand toward heaven, and there was a thick darkness over the land of Egypt for three days. This darkness prevented any visibility at all and rendered these cursed people helpless and homebound for three days (v. 23). This darkness was made even more insufferable by the fact that *all* of the children of Israel had light in their homes! Once again Pharaoh seemed ready to do business with God, but the way that he wanted to do business with Moses left some questions about his sincerity. He called for Moses and all but ordered him and his people out of his land, but he demanded that all of the livestock be left in Egypt. When that “deal” was unacceptable to God, Pharaoh ordered Moses to leave his presence and never return again.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for the blessing of light! There are so many people living in darkness, and yet, as God’s children, we are blessed with the Light of the World! **Praise** God for His goodness and blessings!

Day 26: Exodus 11:1-10 & 12:29-33

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt...’” (Exodus 11:1)

“One More Plague”

The LORD God told Moses that He would bring only one more plague against Egypt, after which, Pharaoh would not only *let* His people go, but would literally *drive* them out of his land. God then revealed His plan to Moses. About midnight God would go through the land of Egypt and all the firstborn of Egypt would die. As it had been with the third, sixth, and ninth plagues, this final curse would come without warning. Some translations insert the word “son” into verse 5 and consistently translate the verses relating to this plague as a curse against only the firstborn sons of both man and beast. Nine of the 27 translations I regularly research include the word “son” in this verse. Their basis for doing so is tied strongly to the interpretation of Exodus 4:22–23 where the word “son” is used to refer to Israel as being God’s firstborn and then to refer to Pharaoh’s firstborn. Most translations do not include the word “son” here because there is no conclusive evidence that the word son was used in connection with Pharaoh’s firstborn. Read verses like Psalms 78:51; 105:36; 135:8; and 136:10 and come to your own conclusions. The miracle of the slaying of Egypt’s firstborn is overshadowed by the miracle of the sparing of Israel’s firstborn. Read all of Exodus 12 and see how salvation has always been connected with the shedding of blood.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for many things today, but thank Him especially for your salvation and the salvation of your children. **Pray** for the many people who do not know Christ. **Share** your own salvation experience with someone today.

Day 27: Exodus 12:37-51

“... the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt...” (Exodus 12:51)

Time to Go!

Some may question whether or not the people of Israel leaving Egypt to begin a journey to a promised future home can be considered a miracle. But note the number of people who are to make the journey. There were 600,000 men alone, not counting the women and children. Beyond that, there was a “mixed multitude” (v. 38) that left Egypt with them. Most Bible scholars suggest that the number of people who left Egypt on this night was between two and three million. This great throng of people was accompanied by their flocks and herds of livestock. After 430 years in bondage, they were finally free to march out of Egypt to their homeland. One can only imagine the amount of baggage they carried along with them. But, since it was the LORD that brought them out, we know that it was done in order. Notice that the Israelites left Egypt “according to their armies” (v. 51). The Hebrew word employed here is a word that is most often translated “hosts” in the Bible and can refer to angels, armies, or any organized group. There was no confusion on this wonderful day. It was a day *of which* God’s people had dreamed and *for which* they had prepared. It was a well-rehearsed, organized march away from bondage and into freedom. You see, the Egyptians were not the only ones who had been learning things about God during the time of the plagues!

Prayer Emphasis: **Become** a part of God’s organized, deputized army. **Practice** your faith among your own fellowship of believers (your church) as that fellowship practices its faith in cooperation with other churches. **Get involved** in some form of ministry for the Lord today.

Day 28: Exodus 13:17-14:4

“...God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines...” (Exodus 13:17)

The Pillar of Cloud and Fire

To the Israelites, it was clear that Moses was to be their leader. But now, God makes it clear that it is He alone who is to be their *Guide*. If there were those among this mighty host of people leaving Egypt who were closely familiar with the geography of the land, they might have recognized that Israel was not traveling by the most direct route to the Red Sea. Notice the word “around” in verse 18. This path was taken to avoid having to pass through the lands of the war-loving Philistines. The Israelites had survived many years of hardships, but a war with the Philistines was something from which God decided they should be spared. Many of the people probably had no idea how God was providentially looking out for their best interests from the very beginning of this march. God then came to them in a pillar of cloud during the daylight hours and a pillar of fire during the night hours. Basically, God set Himself before them to lead them to the Promised Land. This pillar of alternating smoke and fire was, no doubt, a miraculous manifestation of the *presence, power, provision, and protection* of God. Psalm 105:39 describes the cloud as a covering. Even during Israel’s most rebellious seasons, God faithfully led them by His own glory.

Prayer Emphasis: **Pray** for your spiritual leaders today but **praise** only your God! **Allow** God to guide your every step. **Seek** ways to be very intentional in your walk with God. **Witness** in both word and deed as you go about your daily walk.

Day 29: Exodus 14:5-14

“The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” (Exodus 14:14)

“The LORD Will Fight For You!”

It is hard to say Pharaoh “came to his senses” and realized he had allowed the Israelites to depart from Egypt. But that is how some choose to see this scene in the Bible. I prefer to think Pharaoh “lost his sense” and decided to go yet another round with the Almighty God of Israel. Notice the word “all” is used in verse 7 to inform us that Pharaoh is holding nothing back as he launches this final, all out assault against God and His people. Israel was encamped by the sea when Pharaoh caught up to them. The sight of such a large army struck fear into the hearts of the people. Read verses 11 and 12 carefully and circle the pronouns relative to Moses. The terrified Israelites and their guests began to point at Moses and repeatedly blame him for the situation in which they now found themselves. “*You*,” they repeatedly said, are the cause of this terrible situation! “*You*” have brought us out of Egypt to die! “Didn’t we tell “*you*” to leave us alone and let us stay in Egypt?” Even though Israel had gone out in “armies” they felt they were no match for Pharaoh and his war chariots. This battle was not one for which they felt prepared. What did God have Moses say to His crying, cowering people? “The LORD will fight *for you!*”

Prayer Emphasis: Praise God for His mighty acts on behalf of His chosen people. **Praise** Him for all that He has done for you, as well. He might have *fought* for Israel on the day of which we have read, but he *died* for us on the day of His crucifixion!

Day 30: Exodus 14:15-23

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night...” (Exodus 14:21)

The Parting of the Red Sea

Sometimes it is time to pray and sometimes it is time for action! While much of Israel was moaning their desperate situation, Moses was holding fast to his faith in God! Read again verse 13 from yesterday’s section to see (and hear) Moses as he urges his people to believe God and His promises. Is there any question, then, as to why God, Who had shown Himself clearly to all of Israel by the pillars of cloud and fire, would now speak only to Moses? As it is with our Lord Jesus now, so it was with our Father God then. Only those who have an “ear to hear” will benefit fully from God’s mighty Words of instruction. The “Angel of God” who had been traveling in front of Israel moved to the rear and stood behind them. Note that the pillar of cloud is said to have done the same (v. 19). Read Exodus 13:21 again to see that the pillar of cloud and fire was also then connected with “the LORD” going ahead of Israel. Now, the LORD who had *guided* Israel from their front, moved to their rear in order to *guard* them. The cloud would cast a heavy darkness on Egypt’s side while, at the same time, casting forth light on Israel’s side. Perhaps this light was provided to allow Israel to see Moses stretch out his hand over the sea at the command of God. And, better yet, to see how God drove the sea back “all that night” and the waters were “divided” (v. 21). Hence, as the children of Israel went through the sea “on the dry ground...the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left” (v. 22).

Prayer Emphasis: Escalate that matter about which you have been praying to some form of action today. **Look** for a possible next step that God might want you to take. If that next step is something beyond your means and abilities, **ask** God to make a way for you.

Day 31: Exodus 14:24-31

“...the LORD...troubled the army of the Egyptians.” (Exodus 14:24)

The Destruction of Pharaoh’s Army

Just as Israel might have been guilty of overlooking some of the miracles that God was doing for them, we might be guilty of overlooking the miracle found in Exodus 14:24. The Bible says that God looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud and “troubled the army of the Egyptians.” Some translations translate the Hebrew word used here as “threw into confusion.” God actually made the wheels of the chariots come off! In verse 25 we read that God “took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty.” No wonder the Egyptians cried out, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them” (v. 25). Then, at God’s command, Moses stretched his hand out once again over the sea. But, this time, it was not so the waters would part, but so the waters would rush once again back to their original place, burying the Egyptians and their chariots in a watery grave! You can go online to certain sites and see actual photos of the remains of these chariots that are still there on the sea bottom! Not one of those who followed Pharaoh in his futile attempts to defeat God and His people survived this event. The LORD had miraculously saved Israel on that day. The defeat of Pharaoh’s army was confirmed as the Israelites saw the bodies of the once mighty army washing up on the shores. No wonder the people are said to have “feared the LORD” and that they “believed the LORD and His servant Moses” (v. 31).

Prayer Emphasis: Choose not to live by your own wisdom. Elect to live by the wisdom of God. Honor Him today by expressing gratitude for all that He gives and does. Every step toward peace and contentment is a true step toward Kingdom Power.

Day 32: Exodus 15:19-27

“Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.” (Exodus 15:23)

Sometimes “Bitter” is “Better”

Celebrations like the one described in verses 19–21 of our text were common after a victory in battle. (See 1 Samuel 18:6 and 2 Samuel 1:20.) But just three days later Israel met with its first recorded trial on the safe side of the Red Sea. For three days they traveled without water. When they did reach water, they found they could not drink it because it was “bitter.” The name for the place where this first water was found was Marah. It is a word that means “bitter.” Ruth, in her most desperate of situations, asked to be called by this name (Ruth 1:20). The people became angry and began to complain against Moses. Moses began to cry out to the LORD! In answer to prayer, God showed Moses a “tree” (v. 25). When Moses threw a stick from that tree into the once bitter waters, they were made sweet. It was at this once “bitter” place that God made not just a sweet provision for Israel but also a sweet promise to them. He promised His divine protection against all of the things they had seen come upon the Egyptians. We next see Israel at Elim, where there was an abundance of water, food, and shade.

Prayer Emphasis: Remain faithful to God through the tougher times of life. Realize that sometimes the bitter is actually better for us if it leads us to a new level of faith in God. Never doubt that God is acting in your best interest. Claim the promise of Romans 8:28 today and apply it to situations in the past where God has used trials to make you stronger.

Day 33: Exodus 16:1-15

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you...’” (Exodus 16:4)

The Miracle of Manna!

Israel left Elim and headed for Sinai. Between these two stations was the “Wilderness of Sin” (v. 1). While passing through this desert area, the whole congregation began to murmur and grumble against Moses and Aaron. They complained that they had been brought out of Egypt only to starve and die from hunger. The Egypt that they saw in their “rearview mirrors” was nothing like the Egypt that had first led them to cry out to God for mercy and deliverance. In response to these complaints, the Bible states that God told Moses, “I will rain” fire and brimstone? Wrath and plagues? No! God told Moses He would rain down “bread from heaven” for His people (v. 4). We can best perceive how unlike God we are by how unlike God we act! How many of us would have shown no mercy to these crying, complaining people? On the next morning, Israel awoke to an unimaginable scene. The ground around them was covered with bread. Every day God sent the bread for His people. On the sixth day, God sent enough bread for two days so His people could enjoy a Sabbath rest. As Aaron was speaking to the people, God allowed them to see His glory in the cloud. That evening God miraculously provided them meat to go with their miracle bread. Unable to recognize this bread from heaven, the Israelites just called it by a Hebrew word, “Manna,” which means, “What is it?” They might have questioned what it was, but they had no doubt about from whence it had come!

Prayer Emphasis: Remind yourself of the many times God has shown you grace in light of your wrong attitudes or actions. **Praise** Him for all of His merciful words and ways. **Thank** Him for all that He provides for you and your family.

Day 34: Exodus 16:16-36

“... ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need...’” (Exodus 16:16)

Instructions

How many times have we met with frustration simply because we failed to read the instructions? In our verses this morning, we see some specific instructions for how the manna was to be gathered. Each person was allowed to take as much as needed; however, a recommended amount per person for each household was clearly stated. They were to take an “omer” for each person in their family. How much was an omer? Verse 36 provides our answer by stating that “an omer is one tenth of an ephah.” If that doesn’t completely clear it up for you, then just realize that an “omer” was the equivalent to about six pints in our dry measure. With this amount, gathered daily, the Israelites always had enough to meet their needs (v. 18). They were instructed not to attempt to hoard it or save some for the next day. Some tried to do it anyway only to find that which they had tried to “save” full of “worms” and totally unfit for consumption (v. 20). They gathered in the morning, as instructed, because what was left over melted in the heat of the day. However, when they gathered enough for two days on the day prior to the Sabbath, the extra manna that had been gathered in obedience to God was preserved and usable. God’s final instruction regarding this miracle bread was that a container of it was to be in the Ark of the Covenant as a reminder to Israel of this great miracle of provision.

Prayer Emphasis: Trust God enough to know that our hope is not to be placed in our incomes or our bank accounts. **Believe** that God will provide for your every need if you make His work a priority in your life.

Day 35: Exodus 17:1-7

“Then all the congregation...camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.” (Exodus 17:1)

The Smitten Rock

In today’s reading, we see Israel camped at Rephidim. This name literally means “resting place.” But, there was a problem. There was no water there for Israel to drink. You would think by now Israel would simply turn to the LORD in prayer, trusting Him to meet their every need. However, that is far from the case in this situation. The “people contended with Moses,” (v. 2) demanding that *he* give them something to drink. Moses tried to get them to look to God for help, but they just became more quarrelsome and grumbled out accusations that *he* had “brought” them out of Egypt only to now allow them, their children, and their cattle to die of thirst (v. 3). Again, Moses turned to God, confessing he feared the people were ready to stone him! God directed Moses to take some of the leaders of the people and go to the rock at Horeb. If it seems to you that God expected Moses to know exactly where to go, you are correct. Look back at Exodus 3:1 to see that Horeb was the place where Moses had kept the flocks of his father-in-law, Jethro, and was the setting for the miracle of the burning bush. There Moses was directed to smite a rock with his staff. Having done so, God provided water for His people who had just doubted whether the LORD was among them or not. One is not wise to believe that blessings are a sign that we are being obedient to God. Our loving God’s willingness to take care of us does not necessarily mean that our hearts are truly right with Him.

Prayer Emphasis: **Refuse** to take God for granted. With each blessing, **offer** Him your best in love, affection, and service. **Never** measure your *spiritual* condition simply by God’s *physical* provisions.

Day 36: Exodus 17:8-16

“Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.” (Exodus 17:8)

The Victory over Amalek

The Israelites who left Egypt were so blessed by God! They received daily confirmation of God’s presence and provision as they gathered their daily supply of manna. He continually showed Himself mighty on their behalf. God was consistently showing Himself faithful to less than faithful people. Amalek was the first to attempt any kind of warfare against Israel after the failed attempts of Pharaoh. Moses gave Joshua what might have been his very first military assignment when he told him to, “Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek” (v. 9). Moses stood on the top of a hill with the “rod of God” (v. 9) in his hands and Joshua fought the enemy below. As long as Moses held his hands stretched upward toward God, the Israelites were winning. When his hands were lowered, the Amalekites began to get the best of the battle. Aaron and Hur came to Moses’ assistance by standing on each side of him and supporting his uplifted hands. After God gave His people the victory, Moses was commanded to make a written record of this great victory for Joshua’s future reference and to build an altar and to call it “The-LORD-Is-My-Banner” (v. 15). This name was to be symbolic of the fact that Israel marched under the banner of God and that God was to be their leader in every aspect of life.

Prayer Emphasis: **Be sure** to crown our Lord as your Commander in Chief! **Acknowledge** His mighty power and **praise** Him for His every provision. God alone can meet our every need and lead us to victory in any situation that we may face.

Day 37: Exodus 19:1-13

“And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain...” (Exodus 19:3)

Camping at Sinai

Three months after leaving Egypt, Israel was camped before Sinai. There Moses went alone up the mountain to meet with God. God instructed Moses to return to the people and rehearse with them the wonderful things that He had done for them. He had carried them, on eagle’s wings, *out* of Egypt and *unto* Himself. God was going to now tell them they were not freed from their bondage in Egypt without purpose. They were to learn to understand covenant life with God. Notice the “if” and “then” of verse 5. “If” they would obey God and keep their covenant with Him, “then” He would treasure them above all other nations. Out of all that He possessed, they would be His dwelling place and most treasured possession. Moses went and delivered this message to the people. They responded with pledges to be faithful to God. God then told Moses that He would soon come down for a visit with His people, allowing them to hear Him speaking to Moses. Moses was to have the people wash themselves and their clothes and “put on their Sunday best” because, in just three days, He was going to come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. No one was to rush up the mountain on that day, or even reach out to touch it unless an “all clear” was sounded. Failure to comply with God’s commands was punishable by death.

Prayer Emphasis: Live like you know that God is watching! Take His commands to heart and be as obedient as humanly possible. Understand that many of God’s promises contain provisions demanding obedience on the part of His people.

Day 38: Exodus 19:14-25

“Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud...” (Exodus 19:16)

The Third Day!

Moses prepared himself and the people for their special day with God. They were to consecrate themselves by cleansing and separate themselves from certain physical pleasures for a season. Then, on the morning of the third day, there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud over Mount Sinai. But, above the rumbling of the thunder they heard the sound of a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled at these manifestations of the presence and power of God. The mountain was shrouded in smoke as the LORD descended on it in fire. The whole mountain trembled and shook violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder upon the arrival of Jehovah God! Then, God called Moses to come up to the top of the mountain. Moses went! God spoke! This is just another illustration of the “ifs” and “thens” that we read about earlier in verse 5. Leaders must understand and appreciate covenant life if they are ever to explain it to others. God repeated His commands regarding the people – not even the priests – trying to approach Him in the mountain. Moses assured God the people had fully understood His earlier command and that they had “set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it” (v. 23). Moses was then told to go down and bring Aaron back with him (v. 24).

Prayer Emphasis: Prepare yourself to be in the very presence of God when you kneel to pray! Worship Him as if He was right there in the room with you – because He is! Speak to Him as if you could touch His ears with your hands *and* your words. Experience God for all that He is today.

Day 39: Exodus 20:1-22

“And God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I am the LORD your God...’” (Exodus 20:1-2)

The Ten Commandments

We are told that God spoke “words” to Moses and the people (v. 1). The Hebrew word translated “words” here can mean a saying, speech, command, statement, promise, or declaration, among other things. Here, the word is used to describe God’s declarations, or covenant provisions, with Israel. These are the “ifs” of the covenant that God desired to have with them. If they wanted to live with God’s fullest blessings, “then” they were going to have to give heed to these “words.” God’s part of the covenant was reviewed in verse 2: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” Israel’s part of the covenant followed. Note that Israel was not provided these covenant stipulations while in Egypt with the promise that, if they kept them, they would then be freed from their bondage. No! They were first freed, *then* commanded to keep their part of the covenant. Obedience to the Ten Commandments will not produce salvation. Salvation is by grace and not by good works. However, true salvation will create a desire within the believer to be obedient to God and fulfill the “ifs” of our own covenant relationship with Him. Use these ten commands as a checklist today and see how you are measuring up as a covenant-keeping Christian in your daily walk.

Prayer Emphasis: Review your relationship with God and others this morning. **Ask yourself**, “Am I living out the things that God addressed in these verses?”

Day 40: Exodus 32:1-10 & 20-32

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘...your people...have corrupted themselves.’” (Exodus 32:7)

The Golden Calf

Look back at Exodus 31:18 and realize that everything recorded from Exodus 20:21 was spoken to Moses after he, alone, was allowed to approach the thick darkness where God was dwelling on Mount Sinai. Our first verse from this morning’s reading tells us Moses was on the mountain with God for a very long time. We are told in Exodus 24:18 that Moses was away for 40 days and 40 nights! The impatient people began to gather around Aaron and ask him to make some kind of idol or image to serve as a god because they had no idea what had become of Moses. Review Exodus 32:1 and note that they still considered *Moses* to be “the *man* who brought (them) up out of the land of Egypt.” With no real explanation as to why, Aaron complied and soon Israel was dancing around a golden image of a calf and honoring it for the mighty works that God had performed for them. Aaron built an altar before the calf and proclaimed that the day following would be a feast day “to the LORD” (v. 5). Remember that these folks had already heard the words of Commandment One! Although Moses was limited in his knowledge of what was going on, God was very much aware of what was happening in the hearts and lives of His people. Moses’ offer to die for the sins of his people is a strong image and foreshadowing of Christ and His death on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Of all of the miracles of the Bible, the miracle of salvation remains the strongest symbol of God’s **Kingdom Power!**

Prayer Emphasis: Relive your own personal salvation experience throughout your day. **Thank** God for sending Jesus to die on the cross in your place and to pay the penalty for your sins. Contact us at gary@seminolebc.com or call 850-562-8069 if we can minister to you in any way.