

ONE in the word

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (Jesus).” (John 5:39)

January 20

TODAY’S READING: Exodus 1-4

OVERVIEW: The bondage of the Jews in Egypt; Moses’ birth and early life in Egypt; Moses’ flight into Midian; the burning bush; God commissions Moses and Aaron to deliver Israel; Moses’ return to Egypt.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS: The word “*exodus*” means “*the way out*.” The Book of Exodus is the story of Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt. It should be noted as we begin this portion of the Bible, that more column inches are given to the record of Israel’s exodus than any other thing in the entire Bible! It is the subject matter, not only of the Book of Exodus, but the Books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy! Why so much detail about one event? We are told why in 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. The exodus is not just a PORTION of Israel’s history; it is a PORTRAIT of the Christian life! God tells us that we are given this incredible record of Israel’s history, so that the same thing that happened to them doesn’t happen to us! (See 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11) The sad reality is that for most believers, it does!

To help you to “develop the pictures” as we make our way through Israel’s exodus, keep in mind that:

- ← EGYPT is a picture of the world and sin that is in opposition to God’s people and seeks to hold them in bondage (Ephesians 2:2).
- ← PHARAOH is a picture of Satan who exercises his will in taking God’s people captive (2 Timothy 2:26).
- ← ISRAEL is a picture of the individual believer. Please note that Israel is **not** a picture the church. In Exodus 4:22-23, God plainly declares that “Israel *is* my son” AND COMMANDS Moses to tell Pharaoh to “let my son go, that he may serve me.” In the New Testament, God reveals that as individual believers in Christ, we now possess the title, “son of God” (1 John 3:2; John 1:12; Romans 8:14). Making the proper connection between Israel and the individual believer will keep you from wrongly “dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), and misapplying God’s Word to your life.
- ← MOSES is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the redeemer.
- ← AMALEK is a picture of the flesh, which constantly wars with our spirits as we seek to walk with Christ (Galatians 5:16-17).

Keep in mind as you read about Israel's affliction in today's reading, that the Jews had gone down to Egypt and lived off the best of the land (Genesis 47:6). This luxury has now turned into sorrow and suffering. It is an inescapable principle of life! Sin promises freedom and happiness, but in the end, only leads to bondage and sorrow. Be constantly on guard against the "deceitfulness of sin"! (Hebrews 3:13; Romans 7:11; Ephesians 4:22)

As the Hebrews remained in bondage for 400 years (!), it seemed as if God was either unaware of or unconcerned with their situation. They, no doubt, felt forsaken and wondered why God had not provided their deliverance. Had they only remembered what God said in Genesis 15:13-16, they would have known that God had already prophesied that the duration of their bondage would be 400 years. During these years, when it seemed as if God was doing nothing, He was actually preparing His people (Exodus 1), preparing a deliverer (Exodus 2-4), and waiting in mercy by giving the wicked nations of Canaan time to repent (Genesis 15:16). When we feel that God is unaware or unconcerned about our circumstances, remember that God is constantly at work in our life for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28-29), even when we can't see it with our physical eyes!

At 40 years of age, Moses determined that it was time to accomplish the mission for which he had been called: to deliver Israel. However, there was only one problem. It wasn't God's time! Exodus 2:12 says that Moses "looked this way and that way". Moses wanted to do what God said, but he was walking by sight and not by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). God had 40 years of training ahead for Moses in the land of Midian serving as a shepherd for his father-in-law's flock before he would be prepared for the difficult task that lie ahead in leading God's flock.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

- Through MOSES as SHEPHERD and DELIVERER – Exodus 3:1, 11 (John 10:11-14; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4; Romans 11:26; Titus 2:14)
- As the GREAT I AM – Exodus 3:13-14 (John 8:58; Hebrews 13:8)

Note: Moses is one of the most perfect types of Christ in the Bible. Moses himself makes this declaration in Deuteronomy 18:15.