



SOUTHLAND CHURCH

THE BOOK OF **EXODUS**

17 Day Devotional



foundations
daily devotional

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CHURCH

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Versions of scripture quotations are noted.

DAY 1**INTRODUCTION**

Exodus is a profound book filled with historical, political, and spiritual content. In order to fully grasp all that is written in Exodus we need to review the book of Genesis – where God first made His covenant with Abram (known later as Abraham after God changed his name).

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

God continues to elaborate, saying that Abrams’ descendants would be as the number of stars that are in the heavens (Ge 15:5). This covenant was one that brought Abram great joy as his wife was barren, unable to bear any children of her own. Additionally, not only would Abrams’ wife bear a child, but he and Sarah would be the father and mother of millions of future descendants. However, in the midst of God’s joyful news He also gives Abram a dire warning:

“...know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.” Genesis 15:13-14 (ESV)

Exodus is the book in which those 400 years come to a miraculous close and God finally delivers His people. As Exodus progresses, we see the rise of a man whom God has called to lead His people through insurmountable circumstances in order that they may be fully free to worship Him and become the first nation under God’s headship.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. To better prepare for the book of Exodus, read Genesis chapters 46-50.
2. One of various themes found within the book of Exodus is deliverance. Reflect upon your life, and write down moments in which you recall God delivering you from a difficult situation or bondage.
3. Ask God if there is anything in your heart that could be holding you back from fully experiencing Him in the book of Exodus. Tell God about any reservations you’ve had about the Old Testament and ask Him to give you a fresh heart for this book.

DAY 2**READ:** Exodus 1-2

I truly wish we were fortunate enough to know how Moses understood He was called to deliver God’s people. Most people (myself included) believed that Moses only knew about his divine call after God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush. However, when we read Stephen’s famous speech in Acts 7 we see that Moses knew (or at least had an inkling) *prior* to that encounter that he would be the one to deliver God’s people. Take a look at a portion of Stephen’s speech below:

“But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸ until there arose over Egypt another king who did not

know Joseph. ¹⁹ He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive. ²⁰ At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God's sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father's house, ²¹ and when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. ²² And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

²³ "When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. ²⁵ He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?' ²⁷ But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?' ²⁸ Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹ At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian..." Acts 7:17-29 (ESV)

The problem with Moses' thinking was that he believed he was going to deliver the Israelites *by his own hand*. Delivering over two million people was going to take a whole lot more than what one man could do on his own. Moses, out of immaturity and lack of understanding, acted rashly. God knew that He would have to humble Moses before He could use Him. Enter the 40 year exile in the land of Midian.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Has God given you a promise that is yet to be fulfilled? How is the waiting process affecting you?
2. Do you truly believe that God fulfills His promises? Ask God to reveal your heart in this area. Ask Him if there have been times in the past when you have doubted His promises.
3. January is the month of prayer and fasting at Southland. Perhaps there is something that you can fast about. This doesn't mean that you fast so that God will move more quickly, but rather that your heart will fully align with God in this area.

DAY 3



READ: Exodus 3-4

Moses spent 40 years as an exile in the land of Midian (Acts 7:30). During this time he had become a husband, a father, and a shepherd; three titles that God uses for Himself throughout the Bible. Before God could use Moses the Lord would have to soften his heart, grow him in character (specifically that of humility), prepare him for rough living (remember, Moses *did* grow up in Pharaoh's palace!) and most importantly, reveal Himself as Yahweh.

Moses probably became highly disillusioned during his time in exile. Having fled for his life 40 years earlier, he was now a shepherd in a distant land and his people were still enslaved under one of the most infamous political and military systems during that time. Surely any thoughts of delivering the Hebrews by his own hand were gone and Moses may have thought that this was just the way his life was going to be from now on.

How very wrong!

God knew that the time had come for Moses to know the truth—who was really going to deliver the Hebrews and what part he was to play in one of the biggest escapes history has

ever known. Moses needed to start by knowing with Whom he was going to be working with:

...he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:6 (ESV)

God then fills in the missing pieces of Moses' call, confirming to Moses that He, Yahweh *did* spare his life from the Nile River 80 years prior and now the time was near for Moses to fulfill is diving calling:

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I [Yahweh] will send you [Moses] to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." Exodus 3:7-10 (ESV)

Moses was going to be the one to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt. However the deliverance would come through God's hand, not his own. After God has finishes speaking Moses responds by saying:

... "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3: 11 (ESV)

What a vastly different response compared to 40 years earlier, when Moses was ready to deliver his brothers from oppression by killing an Egyptian. God's work on Moses' character over the past 40 years was having an effect and Moses now knew he alone could do nothing.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. God still had a few kinks to iron out in Moses' character. We see Moses trying to convince God that because of his speech impediment he should be disqualified from the task God was asking of him. But read God's response to this: *Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."* Exodus 4: 11-12 (ESV)

How arrogant of Moses! Whatever kind of speech impediment he had, did he not realize that he was speaking with the very one who GAVE him that speech impediment? Who made man's mouth? Who makes us mute or deaf? God does!

But perhaps you feel the same way? Perhaps you believe that you are flawed due to a physical feature that you possess, not yet having arrived at the place of peace in knowing that God is the designer and author of your life. Ask God if there is any personal physical feature that you have not made peace with yet.

2. If God revealed anything to you, confess as you feel led and ask Him to bring you to a place of peace, where you can accept yourself for the beautiful creation that you are.
3. If God has shown you that you are, in fact, at peace with yourself, pray for someone you may know is *not* at peace with themselves. You may be a parent who has a child who struggles with self-hate, or have a spouse who is ashamed of their body, or a friend who sees another friend struggling with self-acceptance. Pray that this person would too come to a place where they are at peace with how they have been made.

DAY 4**READ:** Exodus 5–6

Have you ever noticed that sometimes our circumstances get worse before they get better? Like fasting for example! You are fasting for a breakthrough for the salvation of a loved one and suddenly they start acting worse than before! Suddenly you start thinking that perhaps things weren't *that* bad prior to fasting.

In chapter five Moses and Aaron are before Pharaoh, conveying God's message to him – to let God's people go so they may hold a feast to Him in the wilderness. It is important to note here that Pharaoh saw himself as god. Pharaoh was invincible, powerful, rich and untouchable and those slaves out there, well they were *his*.

With that much pride in his heart and mind, no wonder he responds in the following way:

But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." Exodus 5:2 (ESV)

Who was this foreign God that Moses was speaking in the name of? As far as Pharaoh was concerned, *he* was the only one whose voice was worth obeying. In fact, Pharaoh's pride was so offended by Moses' and Aarons' request that he chooses to double the Israelites work by no longer requiring the task masters to provide straw for the slaves.

Once the new news reaches the Israelites regarding their predicament, no wonder they get angry with Moses! Just a little while ago he was promising them deliverance and they were rejoicing (Ex 4:31) but now the situation was worse!

When Moses cries out to God over these new circumstances God responds by saying:

But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

Exodus 6:1

Pharaoh's pride would ultimately be his own undoing and God would use his very arrogance against Pharaoh, showing this leader who *really* would have the final say.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. We are human and therefore finite, utterly weak, and give in quite easily to our emotions. We do not see the whole picture from beginning to end and are often prone to becoming discouraged when circumstances are not going according to plan. *Our plan*. God never told Moses that deliverance would come easily, nor did He promise immediate deliverance. Yet doubling the Hebrews workload and yet still requiring the same amount of bricks produced was an act of injustice on Pharaoh's part; an act done by a man intent on keeping his pride. Would we have responded any differently than the Israelites? Probably not. However that's not to say *absolutely* not. We also must remember that there *are* men and women of God who hold on to God's promises though circumstances are unfortunate (think Joseph, Jacob's son). Today spend a good amount of time in prayer, asking God to ready you for times where your faith will be challenged. When we are in a season of rest the tendency is for us to become complacent, but these are the perfect times to press in and pray ahead for the difficult times—because they *will* come.
2. Chapter 6 contains a short genealogy of Aaron and Moses, a reminder of God's goodness and favor for the descendants of Israel. Meditate on your family, whether immediate, extended, or your church family. If your family bloodline is one of faithlessness, take heart—mine is too. However once we become believers God puts us in a *new* family, our church family. That is after all the family that we will be spending all of eternity with.

3. Pride is the worst. The absolute worst. I hate pride. Hate it. I'll stop there, because I could literally go on, and on, and on... Pride destroys families, our relationships with others, ourselves, our relationship with God, and worse—it blinds us! Pride can take on various masks and we can be utterly oblivious to the hold it has on us. Take some time to ask God to reveal any hidden pride in your heart. Asking God to deal with our pride is such a wonderful gift and opportunity and we need to take advantage of that gift as much as possible. Genuine repentance brings genuine intimacy with our Lord!

DAY 5



READ: Exodus 7–10

Are you one of those people who love reading about the times when God upstages all other forces and there is nothing anyone can do to stop Him!

Each and every single plague God chose to unleash on the Egyptians was to show them and Pharaoh, who still believed himself to be a god, who was really in charge. The ten plagues consisted of the Nile turning to blood, the plague of frogs, gnats, flies, the diseased cattle, the boils, the hail storm, the plague of locusts, darkness over the land, and finally, the death of the first born. The plagues were intentional on God's part, each a specific attack on a particular god worshipped by the Egyptians:

Khuum: the guardian of the Nile

Hapi: the spirit of the Nile

Osiris: the Nile was believed to be the bloodstream of Osiris

Heqt: a frog-like god of resurrection

Hathor: a mother goddess who was a cow

Apis: A bull of the god Ptah, a symbol of fertility

Minevis: also a bull, the sacred bull of Heliopolis

Imhoptep: the god of medicine

Nut: the sky goddess

Seth: the protector of crops

Re, Aten, Atum and Horus: all sun gods

Pharaoh: also believed to be divine¹

For the first four plagues that were unleashed God gave Pharaoh the opportunity to humble himself, submit, and release the Hebrews. This would have saved himself a lot of hardship and future heartache. However we read that instead of submission, Pharaoh gave in to his pride and chose to harden his heart. Unfortunately this would result in Pharaoh's undoing and God used this leaders stubbornness and pride for His (Yahweh's) own glory.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Where in your life do you need to see God take down some false "gods?" Is there a circumstance that seems too big or an obstacle that seems too large? Ask God to show you an area where He wants to move powerfully in your life, helping you rise above your current predicament.
2. Pharaoh's magicians were able to mimic the first three signs and we can see that there was some power that they possessed. However this was not their own power, but rather demonic spirits working through them. Until God brings all things under Jesus' control there will always be a spiritual battle going on – heavenly principalities at war for the souls of mankind.

¹ Pawson, David and Andy Peck. *Unlocking the Bible: A Unique Overview of the whole Bible*. Great Britain: HarperCollinsPublishers. 2003. Print.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

One of the indicators of the end is that powerful signs will be performed and many will be deceived, even if possible, the elect (Mt 24:24). This is why we need to constantly be cultivating and tending our personal relationship with the Father. Truly *knowing* Him is what keeps us from deception. Pray and ask for His Spirit to fill you with a strong desire to want to know Him more intimately this year.

3. In reference to the previous point, spend some time meditating on 1 John 4:4.

DAY 6



READ: Exodus 11-12

God is about to unleash the ultimate plague, one which will demonstrate His power over life and death. Not only will this plague bring about His divine retribution (the order to kill all male infants 40 years earlier), He was also instituting a new yearly tradition which was to foreshadow the final sacrifice that was to be slain; the Lamb of God.

After the death of the first born all of Egypt would have been in mourning. There would be none unaffected by this plague, everyone from the lowest slave to the highest of kings was affected. That would have been a terrible night and an awful morning to wake up to. The sound of wailing and mourning was great in Egypt for there was not a home in which someone was not found dead (Ex 12:30).

But in the land of Goshen there was no wailing, for those who had covered their doorposts with the lamb's blood were saved. None of the Hebrews who had followed these instructions had died.

Finally Pharaoh's heart was broken and he wanted nothing to do with the Hebrews, nor their God. Pharaoh sent the Israelites out of Egypt and the fellow Egyptians, desperate to get rid of them lest they all should die, gave the Hebrews whatever they asked of them.

This mass Exodus from Egypt fulfilled God's word to Abraham:

"...know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions." Genesis 15:13-14 (ESV)

Praise God that He is a keeper of promises!



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. The Israelites had been in Egypt for 430 years and at the end of those years, that very day, they left (Ex 12:40-41). Roughly two million Israelites left in one day! Take some time to imagine what that would have felt like as well as how it would have looked! Imagine the rejoicing that was taking place!
2. ⁴¹ *At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.* ⁴² *It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations. Exodus 12:41-40 (ESV)*
I love this verse and how we are told that this night was a night of watching by the LORD. He took care to watch over each and every Israelite as they left Egypt, to safely bring them out. What a great God we serve. Take some time to praise Him for His goodness!

3. Ask God to show you a time where you believe that His eye was not on you. Perhaps He will bring a memory to mind that He wants to bring clarity to. As He gives you this picture, ask Jesus to show you where He was during that time. Ask for a word, thought or picture to bring you comfort so that you may know He was and always is with you.

DAY 7



READ: Exodus 13-14

Imagine you're walking in a forest. All is peaceful, the birds are chirping, the wind is blowing lightly through the trees and the sun is shining down on the forest floor. Suddenly, you turn and see a bear coming at you full speed! Your brain kicks in screaming "Fight or Flight?!?" What do you do?

In a similar fashion all was well for the Israelites when all of the sudden 600 chariots—yes 600 – are racing towards the Israelites. Moses is able to keep level headed and says:

¹³ ... "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." Exodus 14:13-14 (ESV)

Ummmm..... hello!

The Red Sea is in front of them and 600 chariots led by war horses and probably a very angry and wounded Pharaoh were racing towards them. Stay silent?!?

In one of the most famous incidents in all the Bible, God parts the Red Sea for the Israelites to pass through. Every Israelite crosses safely but read what happens to the Egyptians:

The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. Exodus 14:23-28 (ESV)

The Egyptians knew that they were defeated because they finally realized that Yahweh was fighting on behalf of the Israelites. This powerful truth is one that can and should be applied to our lives as believers as well.

What God was about to do should have been the moment to establish firm faith in all the Israelites hearts for decades upon decades. However, if you are at all familiar with the Israelites and their great tenacity for whining and complaining, you know that this is sadly not the case.

We deal with difficult and painful situations. The doctor walks into the room and gives you a diagnosis that forever changes your life. You receive a phone call and find out you just lost a loved one. You finally conceive after years and years of bareness only to miscarry a few months into the pregnancy. In these situations how can we be still and know that God is still God and is and always will be *for* us?



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Journal out some of the big mountains that are currently in your life.
2. Psalm 46:10 states: *"be still, and know that I am God..."* Find a place to lie down, sit comfortably and just be still, waiting on the Lord. He may not say anything today or He may wait for 30 minutes to respond. However do not be discouraged if you don't receive anything from Him. Try to practice this discipline of stillness daily.
3. In light of the mountains that you are currently facing meditate on Romans 8:28 throughout your day or week, allowing that scripture to bring you comfort as you wait on God to fight on your behalf.

DAY 8



READ: Exodus 15-17

Throughout the book of Exodus God is revealing Himself and His character to the Israelites. So far they have seen Him as a deliverer, powerful, merciful, faithful, trustworthy, dependable, and sovereign. Of course these attributes are not the only ones but for the sake of time I will stop there. Now they are about to understand even more about how God is a provider.

The Israelites are in desperate need of water. They are in the middle of a desert and the only access to water is at Marah where it is bitter. Even though the Israelites complain against Moses, God provides them with safe drinking water by cleansing it and making it sweet.

In chapters 16 and 17, we continue to see God's provision for the Israelites. He sends them manna from heaven and provides even more water for them from a rock. Regardless of how the Israelites respond, we can take comfort in the fact that God was faithful even when they were faithless.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Do you currently have a pressing need for anything in your life? Perhaps you have a physical or financial need. Spend some time in prayer bringing your needs to the King, asking for His divine provision in your life. Confess any pride or self-sufficiency if necessary.
2. If you believe that you currently do not have any pressing needs, ask the Lord to show you an area in your life where you are unaware of your need of Him.
3. Listen to the song "Lord I need you," and spend some time in worship. Often YouTube has lyric videos posted by the artist so you are able to listen to the song on-line for free.

DAY 9



READ: Exodus 18-20

The Israelites have finally made it to Mt. Sinai!

This is the place where God sets the Israelites apart as His people – a holy nation, wholly unto Himself. For the remainder of the book of Exodus there will be a lot of laws and commands, but keep in mind that God was about to form a people group set apart for Himself in the midst of pagan nations. Israel was to be a lampstand, a bright nation and

that would make Yahweh's name famous among the surrounding peoples. He wanted to send a powerful message that He alone was the one true, living God. He made it *very* clear to the Israelites that they were to be holy and were to be completely set apart for Him, partaking in NONE of the practices that the pagans preformed around them.

Even though Israel may have appeared to be a weak nation in regards to the amount of wars fought (none), land conquered (none), rules and regulations for how to run a successful government (none), they did have someone no one else did – Yahweh. The thing about having a sovereign and omnipotent God establishing and defending you is that you're bound to succeed. God gave them the laws and guidelines they would need to be a successful nation blessed and upheld by Him. There are a total of 613 laws divided into four different categories – moral laws, ceremonial laws, civil laws and separation laws.

Although some of these laws no longer need to be followed, there are still general principles and truths we can glean from them.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. The Ten Commandments are the most known commandments in all of history. God literally used His own finger to inscribe the laws onto the tablets of stone (Ex 31:18). Re-read the Ten Commandments and reflect on how each one radiates the goodness of God. For example, 'you shall not murder' shows us how much God values human life.
2. After you have finished reading the commandments, allow God to reveal any sin in your life so that you may repent and be right with Him. Ask God for a step to take in moving beyond your sin. Also ask for opportunities to practice this step so that you may move closer to holy living.

DAY 10



READ: Exodus 21-23

You're now over halfway through the book of Exodus and have arrived at the point of the book where the adventure subsides and things can get a bit dry. In fact, most people tend to stop reading after the initial adventure is done and that is sad! But does the remainder of Exodus have to be dry? As explained in the Leviticus edition of Foundations, these laws can actually be a fascinating read when you have the right perspective. We need to remind ourselves that these laws were written with a tone of sincere Fatherly love and that God wanted the Israelites to succeed.

Not only are these laws loving but they are also incredibly just. 'An eye for an eye' is far more just than the justice system we have today. If you stole a cow, you paid back a cow, and then a little more for a penalty. God wanted fairness and justice among His people along with fair treatment for the slaves. Foreigners, orphans and widows were also to be treated well in order that those who were less fortunate to be taken care of.

Our God is a good God!



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Re-read Exodus 22:21. This verse is very applicable to us today. In a time where a mass crisis is taking place in the Middle East, refugees are flocking to the West for shelter. Some wish to keep our borders closed to them, more concerned about our own immediate safety than the great opportunity to spread the gospel. As more immigrants move into our area, let us as a body of Christ pray to have His heart for

these people. Pray that we would truly love them and make them feel welcome in this land.

2. Keeping Exodus 22:21 in mind, pray and intercede on behalf of the refugees who are fleeing. Pray for God's protection, deliverance, providence and for countries to open their doors. Also, if there are those who are intent on evil, pray that God would expose those plans and then cancel them in the name of Jesus. Pray for the missionaries who are currently bringing the gospel to the displaced people around the globe right now.
3. Chapter 23 contains a portion dedicated to festivals, reminding us as believers that we need to celebrate. In his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster says "freedom from anxiety and care forms the basis of celebration ... celebration brings joy into life, and joy makes us strong."² God knows this truth and this is one of the reasons He established rest and celebration for His people. A key focus during celebration is thanksgiving, which is what these festivals were centered around. Spend as much time as you can thanking God for the various blessings in your life.

DAY 11



READ: Exodus 24-26

Something that is very prevalent in the book of Exodus is that God desires to be with His people. From the very beginning God watched over the mass exodus into the desert, continued to be with them, and has no intention of leaving them. God desires a personal and intimate relationship with His creation, as modeled in His relationship with Moses. However, the problem is that we are a sinful people and He is a Holy God. God begins to bridge the gap by providing us with the law, showing us how we may draw near to Him.

Starting with chapter 25, God gives His extensive and detailed specifications for building the temple to Moses. These parts of the Bible can be hard to push through, but I firmly believe we will reap the rewards of disciplining ourselves to read all of God's Word.

Every part of the tabernacle showed the people something about God and who He is. The tabernacle was a tent that stayed in the middle of the camp, always surrounded and protected by the 12 Tribes. God was the leader of His people and the tabernacle was to go wherever He wanted to lead them—this is why the Tabernacle was a tent – it needed to move.

The Tabernacle also housed the Most Holy Place (which was the inner room). It was in this location where God would descend and meet with the high priest. This was to remind the people that even though He wants to dwell among His people, His presence demands our utmost respect.

Because of the great price paid by Jesus, we are now the Lords dwelling place and Holy Spirit lives in us. There are no words to describe how incredible and awesome this fact is – that the very Spirit who appeared in the burning bush, unleashed the plagues, parted the Red Sea, and rained down manna, lives in us!



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Have you dedicated your home to God? If not, perhaps this is a great time for you to do that. If you are not the home owner you can always dedicate your separate living quarters to Him. As well, what are some ways you can make your house a more holy dwelling place for God? Maybe you need to go through your DVD collection, book or magazine

² Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. 3rd ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988. Print.

collection, or look through your choice of music. If you're willing, ask God if there is something that is in your home that does not bring Him glory. Again, if you are not the home owner, pray about your own living space (the area that you have control over).

2. Ask God if there is anything in your heart that needs to be cleaned out to make yourself into a better dwelling place for God. We need to continually check our hearts for any hidden sin.
3. Thank God that He actually desires to dwell with you and in you!

DAY 12



READ: Exodus 27-28

There is a lot of information in these two chapters; many specifications and directions on how to construct the Tabernacle. Different aspects of the Tabernacle will be discussed over the next few days, hopefully shedding light on these passages.

Today's focus will be on the Ark of the Covenant, the table and the lampstand. Let's start with the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was a chest which held the two tables of the Law. The chest would have been fifty-two inches long, thirty-one broad, and thirty-one deep. The tablets inside were called the testimony, because on them God testified His will and gave them His Law as His token of favour on them. The Ark is a good representation of how we need to hide God's Word inside our hearts.

The mercy seat that covered the Ark was a representation of the saving grace of Christ – how He covers our transgressions. This demonstrates that Jesus is the ultimate one through whom we will become righteous. The cherubim that sit facing each other on top of the ark are a representation of the angels which attend to the Shekinah glory of the Lord, with God sitting between them.

The table sat in either the sanctuary or Holy place and resting on the table was the showbread. There were twelve loaves which were a clear representation of the 12 tribes being presented to God as well as an acknowledgment of God's provision of manna in the desert. The table and the showbread was also a token of communion with God and that all will be abundantly satisfied. This also was to foreshadow the feast that the bride of Christ will enjoy during the wedding banquet in heaven one day.

The directions regarding the lampstand help us understand that it was very magnificent, providing light for the whole tabernacle. The main idea behind the lampstand is that it represents the Word of God being a light in a dark place, which is very applicable for us today.³



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. ¹⁴*Do all things without grumbling or disputing,* ¹⁵*that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.* Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV)
2. After reading the above verse, ask Jesus if there is anywhere in your own life where you are not walking in light. Confess anything He shows you, then accept His forgiveness!
3. Ask Jesus how He is currently using you as a light to those around you who may be walking in darkness. Allow Him to speak encouragement and praises into your heart.

³ Henry, Matthew. *Exodus. N.p., 1706. Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible (Complete). Bible Gateway. Web. 20 Aug. 2015.*

DAY 13**READ:** Exodus 29–30

There is a lot of symbolism in the Bible, which is fascinating to unravel and study! Today we'll be covering the Tabernacle a little more, tackle the tent, the altar and the courtyard.

The courtyard was the first thing part you would come across when you would walk through the gate, which can be seen as a picture of the church. This is the place in which everyone can come – an enclosed space which was supposed to be holy, separate from the rest of the world. The courtyard can also be likened to a prayer room, a place where people would come to praise God and spend time with Him. We need to remember that this wasn't something they could do just anywhere because the Holy Spirit has not yet been sent down, so those who wanted to worship God had to enter a specific sanctified area.

The tent that made up the tabernacle can be seen as a picture that we are only passing through this world on our way to heaven, our ultimate home (we as Christians are not to consider this world our home).

The curtains in the Tabernacle were embroidered with Cherubim to depict that not only were angels around the throne of God but that the elders mentioned in Revelation 5:11 were as well.

The altar was made out of wood, covered and secured by brass. This is where people would come to offer sacrifices to God, a clear representation of Christ dying to make atonement for our sins. Just as the wood was secured we have been covered and secured by Christ's death, appeasing the wrath of God which would have destroyed us due to our sinful natures.

Clearly the Tabernacle wasn't as magnificent or as splendid as the temple Solomon was to build at a later point. Regardless, this was still the temple in which God currently dwelt and therefore it was a Holy place.⁴

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. The Tabernacle and later the temple were the place where God would cause His name to dwell; in other words it was considered *God's dwelling place!* It was therefore a very holy and precious place for the Israelite. But the Tabernacle would eventually be replaced with the temple and the temple was eventually torn down as well. In fact the last Jewish temple was destroyed in 70AD, but that didn't mean that God no longer dwelt among His people!
2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV) says, ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
3. Consider for a moment the kind of awesome sight it would have been for the Israelites as a fairly primitive people, living at a time when the forces of nature were still worshipped as gods, to see the very presence of God in the form of a cloud descend and fill the Tabernacle – it would have been awesome to the point of holy terror. The kind of respect and reverence they gave that space is unheard of today.
4. Ask the Lord to speak to you about His current "residence" within your spiritual heart. Do you respect that space? Do you reverence it? Do you consider it as holy and awesome as the Israelites considered the Tabernacle?

⁴ Henry, Matthew. Exodus. N.p., 1706. Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible (Complete). Bible Gateway. Web. 20 Aug. 2015.

DAY 14**READ:** Exodus 31-32

Some familiar events happen in these two chapters: the calling of the craftsmen to build the Tabernacle, God's instructions about observing the Sabbath, and (sigh!) the golden calf incident.

First of all, take a moment to consider the creativity of God as seen in the people around us. At some point in our lives we all wish that others were more like us; that they thought like us or worked like us. But how would we ever grow in character? If everyone was task oriented and had more dominant personalities, there would probably be a lot more wars! Borders would be closed because this country would be offended at that country, and this country wouldn't trade with that country... But then if everyone was more passive, not really feeling equipped to 'take the reins' then things may never get done! This is why God has given a wide variety of characteristics to each and every human and no two are completely alike!

God called specific men to head up the building of the Tabernacle, empowering them with His Spirit. These men were given specific gifts and talents to accomplish the call God had for them. Often we can fall into the trap of looking at church leaders with envy, desiring their gift or talent. We believe that because they are on the platform they are the ones who are making the biggest impact for the Kingdom of God. But God doesn't call everyone to a life behind the pulpit. He has various tasks and assignments for every human He has ever created and therefore we need to not lose focus on the beauty of our own unique gifts and talents. The fact that God hand-crafted each and every human sheds some light into why idolatry—the worship of idols—is abhorred by God.

When Aaron yielded to the pressure of the Israelites he sinned by building them a golden calf to worship. Moses was so angry over their rebellion that he broke the tablets of stone! This is where we really get a picture of God's jealous love for us as well as His righteous anger and enduring faithfulness. God had just given them the Ten Commandments and one command clearly gave orders to *not* create an idol for themselves nor have any other god before Him.

Moses demands an answer from the people: *"who is on the Lord's side? Come to me"* (Ex 32:26). The tribe of Levi alone gathers around him and Moses tells them to go and destroy their fellow brothers because they yoked themselves to idol worship. Because the Levites alone responded to Moses' call, they were set apart and ordained as the chosen servants of the Lord.

Moses intercedes on behalf of the Israelites. Here is the dialogue between God and Moses regarding what is to happen next:

³⁰ *The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."* ³¹ *So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold."* ³² *But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."* ³³ *But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book."* ³⁴ *But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them."* ³⁵ *Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.* Exodus 32:30-35 (ESV)



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. God takes the sin of idolatry very seriously because idols get between Him and ourselves. Ask God if there is currently an idol that has a hold on your life. Idols don't always come in the form of a 'thing,' but can also be a human (like a spouse, child, boyfriend or girlfriend), a ministry, or a hobby. Allow the Spirit to reveal the truth to you. Confess and repent by taking the necessary steps to remove the position that idol takes in your life. Remember, God is to have first place in our lives.
2. Next, allow God to speak to you, telling you what He likes and loves about you quirks and all! As He reveals His heart to you, write down what He shows you so that you can run to these truths when you start to doubt yourself.
3. Thank God for His unfailing love. He loves us so much that He call us out of our sinfulness so that He can cleanse, heal and restore us.

DAY 15



READ: Exodus 33-34

²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³² Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³ And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵ the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him. Exodus 34:29-35 (ESV)

The personal growth of Moses throughout the book of Exodus is amazing and should be of great encouragement to us! In the beginning we see that Moses is proud, insecure, and in doubt of both his and God's abilities. However, as the book progresses Moses is eventually humbled, coming to terms with his own weakness and trusting in God to fulfill this task. The book of Numbers even states: *...now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth...* (Numbers 12:3 NIV). You want to know the crazy thing? Moses wrote the book of Numbers! One would surely think that just the act of writing that sentence would be an act of pride, but we know this is clearly not the case because Moses wrote under the complete influence of the Holy Spirit!

The above passage of Scripture speaks about the intimate fellowship Moses shared with the Lord. They spoke face to face and as a result Moses' face would literally radiate God's brilliance. We may not be able to speak to God face to face in the literal sense, nor will we radiate God's presence to those around us to the point of having to wear a veil, but we *can* radiate the joy of the Lord after we spend time with Him. I know some people who after spending time with God leave their devotional time smiling ear to ear and seem to have this glow about them.

Sound cheesy?

Well it's not. When we experience something truly pure and joyful we can literally glow with pride and joy. An expectant mother or a newly married couple are good examples. There is nothing cheesy about experiencing life the way God intended! As a result, joy seems to radiate right off of us.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Do you have the joy of the Lord inside? To some, this may seem like an obvious “duh...” but to others the answer is no. Ask the Lord why your heart is the way it is.
2. Spend some time in prayer about the topic of joy. We ALL need the joy of the Lord. Ask God for perseverance to keep moving ahead until you can be filled.
3. How are your times with the Lord? Are you intentional with spending time with Him or do you add Him on to the end of your to-do list? Putting your devotions on your to-do list is NOT a bad thing! I do it all the time! I just try not to get into the habit of putting Him last because I know that I desperately need Him! Don't compare yourself to others. Ask the Lord to show you what priority spending time with Him has in your life.

DAY 16



READ: Exodus 35 – 38

Exodus 35 is a beautiful passage of scripture because we can see the blessings of coming together as a community, working together for one purpose. Starting off with the skilled craftsman, we see every part of the Tabernacle – from the lampstand to the pegs for the tent, were important pieces and God wanted the most skilled craftsman to take care of these details. The one who crafted the peg was just as important as the one who crafted the lampstand, for without the peg what would hold down the tent?

In regards to the generous offering, many of those possessions that the Israelites offered were the very items that the Egyptians would have handed them on their way out of Egypt. Prior to the Exodus they were slaves and would have had very little valuable possessions. But rather than keeping this new found wealth to themselves they were overcome with the desire to give back to God, eager to do their part in the construction of God's Holy Place.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Read Mark 12:41-44.
2. How do you fair with giving your money? Do you have the same mindset as I still struggle with? Do you feel better about yourself the more you give and then embarrassed if you only give a little? We should never value ourselves based on the amount we give in church, nor should we compare our sacrifice to those of others. God is the only One we need to listen to in this area, for He is the One we will give final account to.
3. Allow God to speak to your heart about giving. He may take this conversation in any direction. He may want to praise you for giving away something specific, whether that be your time or money or He may ask you to offer up a specific sacrifice. Do not be afraid to converse about offering with God and what He may or may not ask you to do!

DAY 17



READ: Exodus 39 – 40

We have reached the end of Exodus, but not the end of the Israelites adventures. The end of this book is really only the end of the beginning. God has been very deliberate in preparing His people to become a great nation.

The very end contains the moment the whole book has been leading up to. Here is the

moment when the Tabernacle would be fully erected, ready for the Israelites to use in encountering God.

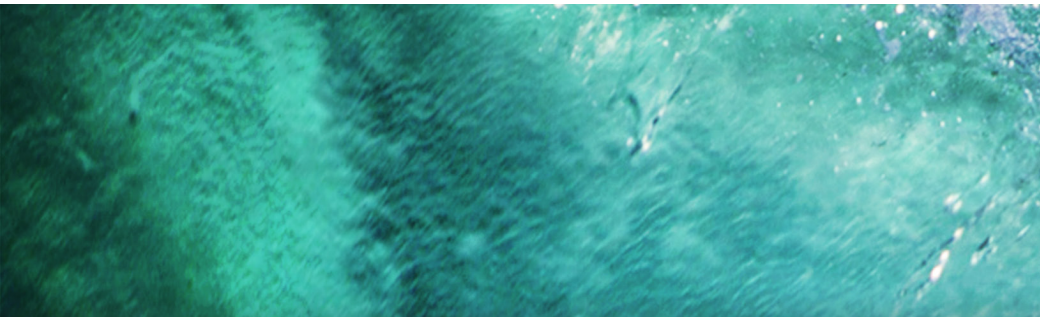
I pray that this book has been a deep encouragement to you, allowing you to soak in all the truths found within the pages. The uncreated God who is the Creator of all desires to dwell in and with you. He longs to spend time with you, whispering to you intimately like lovers do.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Go back in your journal and review your journey throughout the book of Exodus, reflecting on what God has all revealed to you.
2. Ask God if there is anything He is wanting you to do now as a result of reading through Exodus. Perhaps there is an important truth or lesson that He wants you to study more and apply it to your life.
3. Thank God for all that He has taught you through Exodus! Worship and adore Him for who He is!

NOTES



The Book of Exodus

God's intention was never for there to be a chasm between Him and His beloved Creation. When mankind was created, they were walking with the Lord in His Garden – yet we know that since the Fall we have been separated from God, with the Cross and its restoration still thousands of years away.

In the meantime, the Lord had a promise to fulfill to His servant Abraham—the time was drawing near to deliver His people from captivity. As the ultimate foreshadowing of God's deliverance for all of our bondage to sin and restoration to Himself, Yahweh was to deliver His people from their captivity in Egypt in order that they might fully worship Him.

Exodus 29:45-46 (ESV)

"I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God."

