

# teemit' FOR CHILDREN

## Bible Lesson Quarterly

Year 2 - 3rd Quarter - "THE AMAZING EXODUS"

In this quarter of lessons we are going to learn about the Amazing story of the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt and learn lessons that apply to the time we now live in.

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible, just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

### Weekly Bible Lesson #1: "BABY MOSES"

**MEMORY VERSE: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season..." Hebrews 11:24, 25**

#### Sunday

**Text: Genesis 15: 13, 14 "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."**

Many, many years had passed since God had given this prophecy to Abraham, the father of the children of Israel. You will remember how Jacob, to whom God gave the name of Israel, had moved into Egypt at the time of the great famine, when Joseph was used by God to save the lives of many people including all his family.

They had been given the land of Goshen in Egypt and lived there and had many babies and grew in number until they were a large nation living in Egypt. The Pharaoh at

the time of Joseph was very thankful to the God of heaven for Joseph and his work in the country of Egypt, Because of Joseph's wise planning under the guidance of the true God in Heaven, Egypt had become a very rich and well-off nation. Remember that all the peoples around it had to come to buy food from Egypt and thus they heard the story of the one true God of Heaven and they also brought a lot of riches to Egypt.

Joseph knew about the prophecy God had given to Abraham and so when he was old and dying, he made his family promise they would take his mummified body with them when they left.

For many years Israel lived there in Egypt and did very well there because the Egyptian knew that the God of Israel, through Joseph had saved their lives. But finally there came a wicked and proud King to the throne of Pharaoh, and he wanted to control everything and everybody!

The Bible says it this way: “Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.” Exodus 1:8-10

Now it wasn't so much that this Pharaoh hadn't heard the story of Joseph and the great famine, he had probably learned it from childhood, but he didn't want to admit that there was any God higher than himself. The Egyptians worshipped Pharaoh as the son of the sun god. He knew that the Israelites worshipped the God of heaven and were very different in their ways than the Egyptians, so he got to thinking that if there were a war, maybe the Israelites would fight against Egypt and leave the country with all their valuables.

Satan gave Pharaoh a cruel plan and he ordered that all the Israelites were to be slaves and he made them to work under cruel slave-drivers who beat them if they did not get enough done for Pharaoh. It was the Israelite slaves that built most of the great wonders of Egypt.

**Thought** - When things were easy for God's people, many forgot God and if He had told them to leave Egypt— they probably would not want to bother. But now as things became very hard, they began to cry to God for help.

### Monday

**Text: Exodus 1:15-17 “And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.**

**But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.”**

It seemed no matter what the Egyptians did to the Israelites, that still God blessed them and they multiplied and grew stronger. So he then ordered the nurses that delivered the babies to kill all the boy babies. He hoped then there would eventually be no more Israelites who might fight against him.

But the midwives believed in God and they knew it was a terrible sin to kill the baby boys, so they made up an excuse and refused to do it. Then Pharaoh made a law that anyone who saw an Israelite boy baby was to throw him into the river as an offering to the gods. The Egyptians worshipped the river Nile.

Now I don't know for sure if Pharaoh knew about the prophecy that God was going to send help to the Israelites, but I do know that Satan did, and so this plan to kill all the boy babies was to try and prevent God's Word from coming true, just like Herod tried to kill baby Jesus centuries later.

But God has a thousand ways to see to it that His Word never fails. You would think that Satan would learn that and quit, but pride and wickedness also make one crazy and very foolish, so he keeps on fighting against God and trying to destroy his people.

During this terrible time a lovely baby boy was born to Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi. There was something extra special about this baby that made his parents determine to keep him from being killed. Of course every baby is special, but this man and wife somehow thought that this was going to be the promised one, who would deliver Israel from the cruel slavery.

The Bible says: “When she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.” By this time the little fellow was such a size that his loud cries could be heard and they were all afraid he would be found and thrown into the river. What were they to do?

**Thought** - When things seem impossible to us that is when God will show us that nothing is impossible to Him!

## Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 2:3,4** “**And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.**”

The loving mother wove a basket boat for her precious baby and carefully made it all waterproof so it would float, then she put warm cloths in there and wrapped up the baby and put him inside. Then she closed the lid of the basket so the baby could not fall out or be seen. Secretly she went and hid the basket in the bulrushes and cattails at the side of the river.

They all prayed to God to protect their dear baby boy, and Miriam the sister of the baby watched to see what would happen. The gentle movement of the water rocked the baby to sleep and everything was still by the river-side.

All at once Miriam hears happy voices; someone is coming! It was the princess, the daughter of Pharaoh, coming down to the river with her maids to have her bath in the sacred river. Miriam must have been terrified! I am sure she probably prayed that the Princess would not see the basket-boat.

But God had other plans and sure enough the Princess DID see the basket. What could it be? She wondered. Quickly she told her maids to bring the basket to her. I am sure Miriam’s heart was beating hard as she saw the Princess open up the basket-boat. The baby looked up expecting to see mother Jochebed, but instead he saw the face of the Princess, a stranger to him, so he started to cry with all his might.

Now the Princess was not hard and cruel like her father, and I am also sure that God

touched her heart to feel sorry for the poor little water-baby. She knew it was a Hebrew baby, but she decided to adopt it and raise it for her own son. This meant that one day, it would be Pharaoh of Egypt, as this Princess had no brothers.

Miriam was quick thinking, and as she saw her chance, she courteously approached the Princess and asked her if she would like a slave to nurse the baby for her. The princess said yes, and Miriam raced off to find her mother!

**Thought** - God has such amazing ways of answering our prayers!

## Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 2:9** “**And Pharaoh’s daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.**”

Now see what a wonderful thing had happened! Now mother Jochebed and father Amram and big sister Miriam and older brother Aaron had such a prayer-meeting, thanking the wonderful God of heaven for His goodness to them. Here they not only had the baby back, but were being paid by the Princess to nurse him and care for him.

Verse 10 “And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.”

Jochebed was very careful that as soon as Moses was old enough to learn anything, she taught him all about the wonderful God of heaven. She also taught him that she believed he was going to be the one who would deliver the Israelites from Egypt.

She also taught him to work hard, have good manners, and to always obey the God of Heaven. Over and over she told him the wonderful story of how God had saved his life and that one day soon, he would go to the palace to be the son of the Princess.

Moses stayed with his family until he was

about 12 years old. Then one day the chariot came from the royal palace and he said goodbye to his real family and went to be the son of the Princess.

**Thought** - It is important for children to learn all about the True God when they are very young. Every mother and father should teach them carefully so that if they are separated from home, they will know their Heavenly Father.

### Thursday

**Text: Acts 7:22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds."**

Now Moses found himself being taught all the wisdom and knowledge of the Egyptians, but he always refused to worship the gods of the Egyptians, no matter how hard they tried to get him to do it. The Pharaoh of Egypt also had to be a priest of their pagan worship, but Moses refused to accept this title.

He learned about leading an army and fighting in war. He learned about law and history of Egypt and all kinds of things because he was being trained to be the next king of Egypt.

Moses always refused to become an Egyptian in habits and religion, but other than that he was obedient and good to his adopted mother. When he was grown up, more and more he remembered the teaching of his real mother, that he was to be the one to rescue the Hebrews from slavery. As our memory verse says, he decided he would rather suffer with the people of God than to be rich and live in pleasure at the palace.

He felt he could certainly find a way to do God's work, and so he began to watch for a chance to get the Hebrews to know he was ready to fight for them. One day he saw a cruel task-master beating a poor Hebrew man half to death. He jumped out of his chariot and struck the Egyptian so hard that he died. He didn't see anyone around and the Hebrew had run away, so he buried the

body in the sand.

But the next day when he rode out, he saw two Hebrews fighting with each other, and he stopped to tell them they should be kind to one another. Verse 14; "And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known."

**Thought** - Even though angels had told the Hebrews that Moses was going to be the one God would use to free them, they were not interested in what Moses had to say to them.

### Friday

**Text: Exodus 2:15 "Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well."**

It seemed to Moses that everything had gone bad for him. He had hoped to be able to help his people but now he did not even dare return to Egypt.

Angels had also instructed Moses that Jehovah had chosen him to break the bondage of His people. He had remained true to God in the Egyptian court, refusing to indulge in the sinful pleasures that surrounded him. He thought that the Hebrews were to obtain their freedom by force of arms, and expected to lead the Hebrew host against the armies of Egypt. Moses was well qualified to do this as he was skilled in battle and highly trained, but this was not God's way of doing things.

Now as Moses fled into the wilderness, no doubt he felt very bad that he had failed God. He was forty years old now, and had been able to do nothing to help the enslaved Israelites; now it seemed hopeless.

But God was taking him to study in a higher school, there to learn the ways of God, and to unlearn a lot of things he had learned in Egypt.

He was guided to Midian where he met Jethro, who was also a worshipper of the true God of Heaven. He married one of his daughters and stayed there working as a humble shepherd for forty years.

“In slaying the Egyptian, Moses had fallen into the same error so often committed by his fathers, of taking into their own hands the work that God had promised to do. It was not God’s will to deliver His people by warfare, as Moses thought, but by His own mighty power, that the glory might be ascribed to Him alone.

“In the school of self-denial and hardship

he was to learn patience, to temper his passions. Before he could govern wisely, he must be trained to obey. His own heart must be fully in harmony with God before he could teach the knowledge of His will to Israel. By his own experience he must be prepared to exercise a fatherly care over all who needed his help.” Patriarchs and Prophets Pg.- 247

**Thought** - People tend to be in a hurry to do things their own way, but God has better ways. Here in the wilderness, caring for the sheep was where Moses learned his greatest lessons. = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #2: “LET MY PEOPLE GO”

**MEMORY VERSE: “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” Exodus 3:12**

#### Sunday

**Text: Exodus 3:2,3 “And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.”**

Things had gotten much worse for the Israelites during the forty years Moses was in Midian caring for his father-in-law’s sheep. The Bible tells us in Exodus 2:23-24 “...the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.”

Moses was now eighty years old, any ideas that he was ever going to do anything for Israel was long gone from his mind. He expected to live peacefully in the land of Midian with his wife and two sons for the rest of his days. But God knew that Moses was now ready for the task for which he had been

born. He also knew that the Israelites were ready to listen to Moses.

But Moses now had no thought that he could do anything for God and his people at all. Do you know that it is only when we realize that we are nothing and can do nothing that God can begin to really use us? It is hard for us to understand this because we tend to want to tell God all the wonderful things we will do for Him if He just ‘helps’ us.

But we can do nothing really for God; He has to do everything for us; and once we really know this deep down in our hearts, then, we are living in reality and God can begin to teach us.

Moses was out in the desert with the sheep when he saw in the distance an amazing sight; a bush was on fire, but as he watched it, it didn’t burn up it just kept flaming there.

He decided to go and see this strange thing, but as he drew near, a voice told him to take off his shoes, because this was holy ground. The Angel of God was there, and Moses must not go near to the presence of the Lord with the attitude of careless curiosity. We must be reverent and truly humble

when we approach God's presence!

Immediately Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. All the self-confidence and pride that Moses had before, was gone, and he humbly bowed before the presence of the Lord.

**Thought** – When you are thinking you can do great things for God, remember Moses, and what he had to learn before God could use him.

### Monday

**Text: Exodus 3:7-9 “And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; ... Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.”**

Now the Angel of the Lord told Moses about the suffering of the children of Israel in the land of Egypt and that God was going to bring them out and take them to a fine land that He had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.

Then in verse 10, He says to Moses: “Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”

Now here is the amazing thing; the man that was so sure he could do God's work for Him forty years ago, now did not believe that he was able to do it at all! 11 “And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

God promised Moses that He would be with him. Then when Moses asked what was God's name so he could tell the Israelites.

God said unto Moses, “I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

God went on to tell Moses just what was going to happen and just what he was to do. But Moses said that they would not believe him if he told the people this.

God said to Moses, “What is that in thy hand?” “A rod.” He answered.

God told him to throw it on the ground and it turned into a real snake! Moses ran away from it, but God said to take it by the tail and pick it up. Now a poisonous snake is not good to ‘take by the tail’, but Moses obeyed and it was a rod again.

Then God said to put his hand into the top of his robe and when he took it out it was white with leprosy! Then when he put it back in and took it out again it was normal!

Then God gave him a third sign, He told him when he got to Egypt to take water from the river and pour it on the ground and it **would become blood!**

**Thought** - The great I AM is the same One who we know as Jesus, our Creator and Redeemer. Remember how, when Jesus was on earth, he used that same Name and the Jews wanted to kill Him for it, because it is the Name of God! See John 8:58.

### Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 4:11,12 “And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.”**

Moses still kept on making excuses and telling God why he could not be the one to do this task. Now he told God that he couldn't speak very well, after all he had been away from Egypt forty years and wasn't using that language much in Midian. Also spending most of his time out in the wilderness with a flock of sheep, he didn't do a lot of talking in any language.

But the Bible tells us that God promised to be with him and give him words to speak. Moses still made excuses and the Bible says in verse 14; "And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart."

Moses knew that he must not argue any more, and he was glad to hear that God had also been talking to Aaron his older brother and had sent him on his way to meet Moses and together they would go to the Israelites and Pharaoh.

So with the final instructions and promises from the Lord ringing in his ears, Moses went to Jethro, his father-in-law, and asked for his permission to go to Egypt. The man was also a servant of God and quickly gave his blessing. Moses took his wife and his two boys on a donkey and started on the long trip to Egypt.

God told Moses that the ones who had wanted to kill him were all dead, but He also warned Moses that even though he was to do all the miracles before Pharaoh and tell him what God had said, that Pharaoh would not agree to let the people go. God knew the stubborn heart and the terrible pride of that man who thought himself a god.

**Thought** – Always remember that what God has done for others, He is ready to do for any of His children who need that help! If you don't know what to say, ask the Lord, and He will give you the right words.

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 4:27-28 "And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him."**

On the way, while they were at an inn, a

strange and terrible thing happened. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and threatened to kill Moses! Why would he do that? Moses was on his way to do a work for the Lord, why would the angel seek to kill him?

There is a very important lesson here for us today! Now Moses was an Israelite and his wife was a Midianite. God had given a special ceremony to Abraham as a sign that his children were God's chosen people. But Moses had listened to his wife and he had not carried out this duty on the youngest son. Now God was not going to allow him to go on further in his journey until all known duties were done.

His wife, afraid her husband was about to be killed, quickly performed the duty, and then the angel left them in peace.

Now why was this so important? It was a duty that Moses knew he was to do, but he had not done it. So he was in this thing disobeying God. He was starting out on a very dangerous task, and he was going to need the full and total protection of God and the angels or Satan would destroy him. But God could not fully protect him as long as there was any way in which he was being disobedient to God's requirements.

So it is with us, and we need to take this very seriously; we are in a time when we need the full care and protection and guidance of God and the holy angels or Satan will certainly find a way to destroy us. And yet if we have habits, or practices in our life that we know the Lord does not want us to have or do, the angels are not able to fully protect us!

This is why Satan doesn't come to Christians who really love God and try to get them to do some terrible, horrible thing. No, he just gets them to want something that they know God has warned that we should not have or do, and then they lose a little bit of protection and he can come and get them into worse things and eventually, even destroy them.

Satan doesn't care which of God's 10

commandments he gets us to break, it leaves an opening in our protection if we break any one of them. Some he gets to break the second, by wearing ornaments or crosses or little gold angels; others he gets on the fifth by saying mean and nasty things about their parents; others he gets breaking the laws of health which are a part of 'Thou shalt not kill'; some he gets to admire a movie or Rock star, a sport or game, and this takes the place of God in their lives. For every commandment he has sneaky little things he gets people to do, so they break even just one of them, then they are open to his attacks.

Soon after this Aaron met Moses and you can imagine how glad they were to see each other after being apart for forty years!

**Thought** – Remember, there is no such thing as “Oh, it’s just a little thing, God isn’t going to keep me out of heaven for that!” We will surely keep ourselves out of Heaven and in the power of Satan if we neglect any known duty!

### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 4:29-31 “ And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”**

Finally they reached Egypt and first they met with the leaders of Israel. They showed the signs God had given Moses and they told all the things God had said to them. The people believed and worshipped God.

But now the two brothers went to the palace of Pharaoh to carry the message God had told them to tell to the cruel Monarch. When Moses and Aaron arrived and talked with the Hebrew leaders, quickly the news spread though the land, and soon reached

the Pharaoh making him very angry.

Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, “Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.”

And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go!” This is why ‘Egypt’ in Bible prophecy is used to refer to people who refuse to believe in God.

Again Moses and Aaron repeat the command of God for Pharaoh to let Israel go into the wilderness to serve their God.

Now the king flew into a rage and told them, “Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, hinder the people from their works? get you unto your burdens, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.”

Then the cruel Pharaoh turned to the taskmasters and order that the people not be given any more straw to use in making their bricks, but still they were to make just as many bricks as ever.

So the people had to go about gathering grass and straw to try to make their bricks and the situation was worse than ever for them. Satan hoped by this to turn the people away from Moses and Aaron, and it almost worked!

The leaders of the people went to Pharaoh and asked why he was treating them like this. In rage he shouted at them, “You are idle! You are idle! And that is why you want to go hold a feast to your God. Get back to work and no straw will be given you!”

Then they turned to Moses and Aaron and said, “just look what you have done to us! Now we are in worse trouble!”

**Thought** – Often when God is about to work in a wonderful way for His people, things at first get worse. We must always trust in Jesus and His promises, no matter what happens to us.

**Friday**

**Text - Exodus 5:22, 23** “And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.”

Moses did what we all must learn to do when trouble and trials come to us, we must go to God and tell Him all about it. Moses' faith was being tried here also, but he did not give up but cried to God for the answers.

God spoke to Moses and told him to tell the people that God was going to bring them out and take them to the good land that He had promised their fathers to give them. He told them that He would make Pharaoh drive

them out of Egypt.

Moses told the people but they were so upset they paid no attention to what he told them. Then Moses cried to God again and said that if the people of Israel would not listen to him, how could he expect the Pharaoh to pay attention to him.

But God told Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh again and tell him, “Let My people go!” and He assured them that even though Pharaoh would harden his heart and refuse to obey God, yet in the end he would be forced to let Israel go.

**Thought** - God's Word always comes to pass, even when it seems absolutely impossible. We need to learn now that God means what He says, so that when trials come, we will know we can trust our Heavenly Father!

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### Weekly Bible Lesson #3: "PLAGUES!"

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments."

**Exodus 6:6**

#### Sunday

**Text: Exodus 6:1** "Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land."

God had told Moses to go and tell the Israelites that God would indeed take them out of the land of Egypt and bring them to their own land, but they were so upset because of the extra cruelty Pharaoh had put on them by refusing to supply the straw they needed to make their quota of bricks each day, that they didn't even listen to Moses.

So Moses cried to God again and asked Him why did He even send him to the people because it only made the problem worse? God told Moses and Aaron to go back to see Pharaoh and he would ask them to show a miracle. Then Aaron was to throw down his rod and it would become a real serpent.

Again the two brothers stood before Pharaoh and when he asked them to show a miracle to prove God had sent them, they did what God had said and the rod became a serpent. Pharaoh was startled by this, but not willing to admit Moses and Aaron were anything more than ordinary magicians, he called for his magicians and sorcerers to come and do the same thing.

They cast their rods down and they appeared to become serpents also. But something happened; Aaron's rod ate up all the other serpents! So the magicians didn't get their rods back.

The magicians did not really cause their rods to become serpents; but by magic, aided by the great deceiver, they were able to make it look that way. It was beyond the power of

Satan to change the rods to living serpents. The prince of evil, though possessing all the wisdom and might of an angel fallen, does not have power to create, or to give life; only God alone can do this. But all that was in Satan's power to do, he did; he made a counterfeit. To human sight the rods were changed to serpents. Pharaoh and his court believed they were because they looked the same as the serpent produced by Moses. Though the Lord caused the real serpent to swallow up the fake ones, Pharaoh regarded this, not as a work of God's power, but as a kind of magic superior to that of his servants. See Patriarchs and Prophets PG- 264

When Pharaoh saw the fake miracle, he hardened his heart and refused to believe what God was saying to him through Moses. He was looking for an excuse to do this and the fake miracle gave him this excuse. This is happening very much today as people who don't want to believe, that if they want to belong to Jesus, they must obey Him, will often use some marvelous happening or seeming miracle to 'prove' that they are right and need not change.

**Thought** – Always remember that Satan cannot create life, but he can use tricks and hypnotism to make things seem real that are not. Also his angels can take different shapes and appear as people that have died, and this gets people believing that the dead are not sleeping in their graves like the Bible tells us they are.

#### Monday

**Text: Exodus 7:15-17** "Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's

**brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand. And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear. Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.”**

The Egyptians worshipped many things of nature and one of the things they worshipped was the river Nile. Every year at a certain time the river Nile would flood and thus the ground was made moist and able to grow food. Every day the Pharaoh would go in the early morning to worship the sun and the river. Now God told Moses to go and meet him at the river and warn him that if he didn't let Israel go, he would turn the river to blood!

Pharaoh refused to listen to the warning, so they struck the sacred river with the rod and it became blood and all the fish died in the river and it smelled terrible. But Satan caused his magicians to make it appear they could do the same thing and Pharaoh didn't listen to Moses and Aaron even though this terrible plague lasted for a whole week and even the water in the people's houses was turned to blood and they had to dig holes near the river to get some water to drink.

I want you to see what God was doing here; God loved the Egyptian people and wanted them to come and worship Him, the only real God so He could save them, and stop worshipping Satan in the form of idols and animals and rivers and stuff. So he showed them the truth by attacking the gods they thought ruled the world. God always has a reason of mercy in what he does.

Egypt had become the most powerful nation on earth and it was really because of Joseph and the blessing that came to them

from the True God of Heaven because of God's people among them. But now they were only exalting heathenism and unless God did something about it, these bold and cruel idol worshippers would soon wipe out the true worship of God. God was going to take away the power of Egypt, but first He wanted to give them a chance to repent and turn to Him.

There was another meaning for why the river was turned into blood. Do you remember in our first lesson how the Egyptians had been throwing babies into the river to kill them? Well God was showing that he remembered all the cruel acts they had done and the lives of those poor little babies were all written down in His records. So the river was the first thing God attacked.

**Thought** – There are many cruel and hateful things being done in our world today, and people think because God does not reach down right now and force it to stop, that it is perfectly OK. But God is keeping track of it all, and punishment is soon going to come on the earth. But first God will send a last warning message for people to repent of their horrible deeds and obey His Ten Commandments.

## **Tuesday**

**Text: Exodus 8:1-3 “And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs.”**

Again Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh and demand that he let Israel go or else frogs would come in huge numbers all

over the land!

○ Pharaoh refused to listen, so Aaron stretched out the rod over the streams and waters and frogs swarmed out in great numbers. They were everywhere! Now frogs are kind of cute, but if you had them in your food and your bed and your clothes you would not be very happy with them at all.

Also, the Egyptians worshipped frogs, and therefore it was against the law to kill one of them. They were in a terrible position because they could hardly walk, without stepping on one of their gods. They were even in the bread dough and ovens, so they could not cook without killing their gods.

But Satan was allowed to make it appear that the magicians could make frogs too, although these were fake frogs, as Satan cannot make a real frog. But this plague began to get to Pharaoh and he called for Moses and Aaron and said the Israelites could go if they would make the frogs go away and just be where they belonged in the river.

○ God warned Pharaoh he had better keep his word, but he said the frogs would go the next day. And sure enough they were dead the next morning, but their dead bodies had to be collected up and the piles of smelly dead frogs everywhere showed the Egyptians just what a silly thing it was to worship a frog.

**Thought** – In Revelation 16:13, we see a plague of frogs again, but this time it is not real frogs, but devils working miracles in the world to get people to harden their hearts against the True God like Pharaoh did. As these false miracles spread everywhere, just like the frogs in Egypt. People and the leaders of this world think it is the power of God, but we know it is Satan's tricks, because they do not keep God's Ten Commandments.

### Wednesday

○ **Text: Exodus 8:15-17** **“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto**

**them; as the LORD had said. And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.”**

As soon as Pharaoh saw, and smelled, that the frogs were dead in the land, he again refused to listen to God. It is important to notice that although the Bible says in some verses that God hardened Pharaoh's heart; we must understand how it was that this happened. It was because of the light of Truth that God allowed to come to Pharaoh that his heart was hardened.

God did not just force Pharaoh not to be able to obey Him, and then punish him for it; that would be unreasonable and cruel! No it was Pharaoh's free choice whether or not he would listen to God, and when he refused, his heart became hardened.

Now Aaron stretched out his rod and the very dust became creepy, crawly, biting LICE! But now we see a change in what God is doing here; when He sends the third plague, the magicians are not able to make a fake miracle. They also could not keep the lice off of their own bodies. So much for so-called 'magic spells'.

Verse 19, “Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.” Now the wicked king would not even listen to his own magicians when they tried to tell him to watch out, that this was a real God's power doing this!

The next day, God send Moses and Aaron to meet Pharaoh as he again came down to worship the river, and they said that if he did not let Israel go, God would send swarms of flies all over the land, to follow the lice in

tormenting people.

But now God was going to do something even more different, this time he would not send flies into the land where the Israelites were, only on the Egyptians, so it would be a double miracle.

Pharaoh refused to listen and so came the swarms of buzzing, biting flies. It got to the king again, and he sent for Moses and Aaron and said for them to make their sacrifice in the Land of Egypt. Moses and Aaron refused and so Pharaoh said they could go, but not very far.

**Thought** – When God’s truth comes to us and we see something that God wants us to do, or something we should not be doing, then if we obey God’s truth, our hearts become softer and it is easier to obey God again. But if we say, ‘I don’t want to do that, or stop doing this other thing, so I won’t obey.’ Then our hearts get harder and it is easier for us to go on disobeying God more and more, until we won’t care about God’s Word at all!

#### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 8:30-32 “And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD. And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one. And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.”**

Moses prayed and God took away all the flies, but Pharaoh hardened his heart again and would not let the people go. Notice how very stupid people are, that refuse to believe God and obey Him, and choose the ways of wickedness instead!

The next plague was a disease on the cattle and animals of Egypt, which they also worshipped as gods. They got sick and many of them died, but none of the cattle of the Israelites died.

Egypt was fast becoming a poor nation,

but still Pharaoh would not listen. God told Moses and Aaron to take ashes from the furnace and throw it into the air and boils would break out on the people. And the magicians could not even come to appear before the king because they were so full of sores.

Still Pharaoh refused to let Israel go, and Moses warned them to bring the cattle they had left, into shelter because there was going to come a terrible hailstorm. Now the Egyptians that had begun to believe what Moses and Aaron said, brought in their cattle and servants, but all the people and animals left out were killed by the terrible hailstorm, and the crops were smashed and even trees were broken down. But in the land where the Israelites lived, there was no storm.

Now Pharaoh said that he was sorry, and he would let them go, if they would just stop the storm. They went out and raised their hands to the heavens and the storm stopped. Notice also that Moses and Aaron were able to walk safely in the storm and were not hurt. God protects His obedient children.

Next Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh how long he would refuse to obey God and let His people go? Now he was warned that God would send locusts into the land to eat up what was left of the crops.

**Thought** – In Revelation 16 we see the 7 last plagues that will fall on the wicked of the earth, and the last one is a terrible hailstorm with hailstones over 50 lbs! It will smash the cities into ruins. (See Psalms 91)

#### Friday

**Text: Exodus 10:14-16 “And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any**

**green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.”**

Now even the servants of Pharaoh began to beg the king to let the Israelites go, before Egypt was totally destroyed! So he called them back and said the men could go and offer a sacrifice, but the women and children had to stay in Egypt. Moses refused and again Pharaoh hardened his heart.

Then God sent the locusts and they ate up every green thing. And Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and begged to have the locusts sent away. So God sent a wind that picked up the locusts and carried them away and dropped them into the sea, where the fish had a wonderful supper.

But as soon as he saw the plague was gone, Pharaoh hardened his heart again, and would not let Israel go. Then Moses stretched out his hand towards heaven and the sun just seemed to disappear. Verses 22,23 “And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Thick darkness covered the land except in the land of Goshen where the Children of Israel lived and there was light. There were good reasons for this plague also; for one thing, the Egyptians main god was the sun god, and Pharaoh himself claimed to rule by the power of the sun! This showed to all that this was a lie.

Also Light represents God’s Truth, and God was showing all who cared to see, that truth was with the Israelites, but darkness or error was in Egypt. There are people today who claim that there are mysterious secret powers in the ancient religions of Egypt, and they try and learn these secrets so they can work magic. But we can know by what happened back in Moses’ day just how silly and worthless the so-called magic of ancient Egypt was and still is!

This plague also did something else for the Egyptians; it gave them time to think about what was happening. And some of them did think about it, and some learned the lesson. But Pharaoh did not listen or learn. He had refused to believe the truth until now his heart was like a cold rock.

Now Pharaoh sent and said they could leave the land but they had to leave their cattle behind. Moses refused, and now Pharaoh flew into a rage, and told them to come no more before him, or he would kill them! ‘Very good’, said Moses, ‘We won’t see your face any more.’ There was something very scary about these words, and Pharaoh thought about them, as Moses and Aaron left his throne room.

**Thought** – When people refuse to obey God, they get very angry against those who tell them the truth and show by their lives that they do obey God. Finally they will always try to kill them! This happened with the leaders of the church in the time of Jesus and they murdered the Son of God. It will happen in the end of time also, when the wicked religious powers of our world, will make a decree that all God’s true obedient children are to be killed. But Jesus will come and put an end to their evil plans. = ^ .. ^ =

**Weekly Bible Lesson #4: "ANGEL OF DEATH!"**

**MEMORY VERSE: "And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage." Exodus 13:14**

**Sunday**

**Text: Exodus 11:4-7 "And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."**

Pharaoh had threatened to kill Moses if he came before him again. Now God was finished with pleading with Pharaoh, now Pharaoh was to feel the wrath of an offended God.

God bears long with the wicked, because he loves them and wants to be able to save each one of them; but when they set themselves to destroy God's messengers and His people, He 'stands up' to defend His children. This will happen at the end also.

This is what happened at the time of Noah. The people in their wickedness had come to the place where they were determined to wipe all the true worshippers of God off the face of the earth and if God had not destroyed them with a flood, they would have done so. But notice that He preached to them through Noah for 120 years, pleading that they would come onto the ark and they would be saved.

This has always been Satan's plan, to get rid of all the true followers of God. He thinks

if he does this, God would have to say, 'OK, Satan, you win; you can have Planet Earth for yourself and your followers and live here in sin forever.'

In this crazy idea, Satan is forgetting one BIG thing; he is not God, he has no life in himself at all, he cannot raise humans from the dead and he can't even keep himself alive. It is life from God that keeps him alive during the set time God had laid down to allow him to demonstrate his form of government. God is allowing the Great Controversy to continue until all the universe, including the humans who have chosen to return to Him and be saved, will know clearly, and with no doubts in their minds, that God Government is perfect and there is no reason for Satan to have rebelled. Sin had NO EXCUSE!!

By now the people of Egypt were very in awe of the prophet Moses. They were begging Pharaoh to let them go. But the priests of the heathen worship and Pharaoh were still determined to win. God had shown all just how worthless and foolish their heathen religion was, and they wanted revenge! But they could not harm Moses, for two reasons, one; God was protecting him, and two; they were afraid of the people!

**Thought** – Notice when you read the story of Jesus in the gospels, how many times it says that the priests and rulers of Israel 'feared the people'. Why? Well I think this verse gives a clue: Pr 28:1 "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

**Monday**

**Text: Exodus 4:22-23 "Thus saith the Lord, Israel is My son, even My first-born: and I say unto thee, Let My son go, that he**

**may serve Me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy first-born."**

It is interesting that God had given this warning to Pharaoh the first time Moses and Aaron had appeared before him. He knew that before the final plague, Pharaoh would forbid them to come before his face.

Now Moses and Aaron warned the people of Egypt that a final plague was coming. Read again the text for Sunday. But now God did a further thing; He gave a lot of very careful directions that the Israelites were to follow if they were to be protected.

At the other plagues after the first two, He automatically protected their whole land, but now He was going to have them do something to show they believed Him and then they would be protected.

He also gave clear directions about how they were to get ready and BE READY to leave Egypt at a moment's notice.

He also gave them some other directions, "Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people." Ex 11:2,3.

Now I often wondered why they would 'borrow' these things when they were not going to return them, but the original word translated 'borrow' really means ask, or even demand. The people were by now very afraid of God's children, and gave whatever they asked for.

God's people had worked hard for Egypt and had made it rich; they were not to leave Egypt as beggars. Remember God's promise to Abraham that his children would be slaves for four hundred years and then "And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance." Genesis 15:14

*Thought* – Did you ever wonder why God did not protect them from the first two plagues? Well there could be many reasons, but I think that one of them was that at that time Israel was not looking to God or listening to Him. Remember, they were discouraged by the added cruelty of Pharaoh and would not even listen to Moses. By the time the third plague came they were looking to God.

## Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 12:1 "And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."**

God was about to create a new nation, and He told them that from now on, their ceremonial year would begin with the day that they came out of Egypt. This was to be their 'Birthday' as a nation.

God also made it clear that they were to always hold a special religious ceremony that would forever help them to remember the God of Heaven and what He had done for them in rescuing them from slavery. He had a reason for this, and it was so the children would grow up learning and knowing all about the wonderful things that God had done for them.

This whole story is a parable for us also; being in 'Egypt' means to be lost in the wicked world with no hope of being saved. Until we accept Jesus as our Savior and give ALL our heart over to Him, we are slaves to sin. We cannot break the chains of bad habits ourselves.

Oh, sometimes people can work very hard and stop doing a few bad things for a while, but not one of us can change our hearts. We have to allow Jesus to do that, and He won't do it unless we really want Him to, AND ask Him to, AND co-operate with Him while He does it!

People today teach and believe that hu-

mans are basically good and if they do bad things it is because they didn't get treated the way they ought to be, and if you are kind to them, they will be good. But after our first parents, who **were** in a perfect place, chose to sin, all of their children were born with a heart that would naturally prefer sin.

We are NOT naturally good, we are naturally wicked, and it is only when we realize that, and allow Jesus to take over in our hearts and minds completely, writing His laws there and putting His Holy Spirit in us to teach us and give us heavenly power, that we can actually obey God.

The Israelites had no way to save themselves and get out of slavery. The only way they could escape was to die. And so human beings have no way to stop sinning, except to die and no hope of heaven at all— outside of Jesus.

Now they were going to be given a ceremony that would tell them about how God had made a way to save them, not only from Egypt, but also from sin and eternal death! Although we no longer have the same ceremony, we can learn a lot about Jesus by studying it.

**Thought** – Next time you hear of some horrible sin that someone did, and you start to say, "What a terrible person that is!" Stop and remember that if you don't have the power of Jesus ruling in your heart, you will do wicked things too!

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 12:3, 6-8 "Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: ...And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses,**

**wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it."**

This Lamb was to represent Jesus and what He was going to do for us by dying on the cross as our substitute. Only the houses that had the blood on the doorposts would the Death Angel 'Passover', sparing the first-born in that family. And it is only if we have the 'Blood of the Lamb' on our hearts that we have any hope of being saved!

Now when the people were told this, some believed and some didn't believe. The ones that believed, they were very, very careful to follow God's instructions exactly! They chose a perfect lamb, they took it into their home and kept it as a pet for a few days, then on that evening that the Lord had said the Death Angel was coming, they killed the innocent lamb and caught the blood in a bowl, then they took the hyssop, the plant that God had told them to use, and they painted the blood onto the door posts and the lintel.

The Death Angel was coming! They must be protected!

Now they gathered all the family into the house together, and they roasted the lamb on a cross-shaped stick. They also had unleavened bread and bitter herbs to eat with it. Each of these items had meaning; the bitter herbs represented sorrow and repentance for our sins; and the unleavened bread represented Jesus' life without any sin that we must accept in place of our own sinful life. And of course the Lamb represented Jesus sacrifice for our salvation, It isn't enough that Jesus died for us, we must each accept Him ourselves into our hearts to be Lord of our lives; this is what eating the Lamb represented.

There were many prophecies in this Passover service that were all fulfilled when Jesus, the real Lamb of God was killed. For one thing, they were to eat all the lamb and leave none of it; this means we are to obey all of what the Bible teaches, not just some of it.

They were not to break one bone of the lamb, and Jesus had no bones broken when He died on the cross.

The lamb was to be chosen from the flock and brought in to live with the people a few days before, and Judas, at the very time the Priests were selecting the Passover Lamb, sold Jesus, to go to His death! And He died at the very time that lamb was to be killed. The lamb that year, got away and ran off, as the curtain was torn from top to bottom, when Jesus shouted "It is Finished!" and died!

**Thought** – We have a service that Jesus gave us just before He went to the cross, and it takes the place of the Passover. We call it the Lord's Supper; and we have the unleavened bread, that represents Jesus body, broken for us, and the grape juice, which represents His blood, shed to cover our sins and wash them away.

#### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 12:11,12 "And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD."**

**Ex 12:29,30 "And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead."**

The Children of Israel were to be all ready to leave, dressed and with their walking

sticks in their hands, when they ate their 'Passover' meal. God was about to deliver them and they were to leave quickly when the time came.

This shows that we should always obey God right away when we learn His will for us, and not put it off till a more convenient time. If the Children of Israel had not left immediately, they would have been attacked, when Pharaoh again hardened his heart and decided to get revenge.

If you were the oldest child in the family that night, I am sure you would be very anxious to make sure your father did everything just right and that the blood was on the doorposts! Imagine the excitement in those houses as their belongings were tied up in bundles to be carried or loaded on the animals, and the dinner was eaten.

They were going to the Promised Land, no more slavery! No more being whipped and beaten! They were going to be FREE!

Young people—this is what Jesus wants to do for each one of us! He wants to make us truly free! Now sometimes we think that having no-body tell us what to do, and being able to do just what we want, that would be freedom. But this is Satan's big-fat LIE!

It is only those who give ALL to Jesus and choose to obey Him in all things that find themselves totally FREE! Free from restlessness and boredom; free from sinful habits and addictions; free from FEAR; free from loneliness; free from doing sinful things, and feeling guilty afterwards, but not being able to break the chains that bind us. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

Suddenly at midnight a terrible sound was heard! All over the land of Egypt, people were screaming and crying and wailing! In every home was at least one dead person and even Pharaoh now looked with sorrow on the dead face of the Prince of Egypt, the son he had been training to rule after him.

**Thought** – There are many ways people try in this world to protect themselves and keep safe, but there is no lock or fence that

can keep out the Angel of Death! Only the 'Blood of the Lamb' can save us!

### Friday

**Text: Exodus 12:30-33 "And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men."**

Now Pharaoh sent a messenger to Moses and Aaron and when they came before him he said the words in our text. The people were terrified; they gave the Children of Israel anything they wanted and begged them to get out of Egypt!

Imagine how thankful each oldest child in the Israelite families were to realize that the Blood had worked and they had been saved, while the heathen had been smitten by the Death Angel.

What a bustle and stir there was that night in Egypt, in the land of Goshen as the bundles tied up earlier were placed on animals or shoulders, and the people hastened to the meeting place to be organized by Moses for their long march.

The children were excited and ran about, people were laughing and talking, fathers were giving orders, while mothers called out, anxious that nothing important be forgotten.

Soon the multitude gathered in the large area where they were brought into order, assigned to groups by families and instructed how to march like soldiers in ranks.

There were at least about 3 Million people that were leaving Egypt that night! Nothing as big as this had ever happened before in the history of the world, and I don't think it has happened since either.

Soon the trumpet sounded and the people hurried forward eagerly. They also remembered to bring a mummy with them! It was Joseph's body in his royal coffin because he had asked to be carried with the Children of Israel when they left Egypt. See, he knew God's prophecies and he knew God keeps His Word!

Everyone was happy and excited that night, they had eaten a hearty meal, they were thrilled with the promise of freedom, but Moses knew they would get tired and things would change.

A great number of Egyptians and what the Bible calls a 'mixed multitude' decided to go with the Children of Israel because they were caught up in the thrill of the moment. God does not forbid people to follow Him, but He knew most of them had hearts that were not at all right with God.

**Thought** – Our Passover Lamb, Jesus, has died for us. How important it is that we have His 'Blood' on the doorposts of our hearts. We do this by giving our whole lives to Jesus by repenting and turning away from sin, asking Jesus to wash away all our sins and live in us, to give us power to obey Him in all things! The Death Angel will come, but all who have the 'Blood of the Lamb' on their hearts will be saved! = ^ .. ^ =

**Weekly Bible Lesson #5: "THOU SHALT SEE THEM NO MORE"**

**MEMORY VERSE: "He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night." Psalm 105:39.**

**Sunday**

**Text: Exodus 13:20-22 "And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people."**

With their clothes on, with sandaled feet, and staff in hand, the people of Israel had stood, hushed, awed, yet expectant, awaiting the decree that should allow them to go. Before the morning broke, they were on their way.

Already, as the people had seen more and more the power of their God, they had begun to have faith in Him and to listen to Moses. So there had been plans made and the people had been divided into groups under leaders, so they could proceed in an orderly way.

This was a huge group of people, estimated at a million or, likely even more. As well they had great herds of cattle, and other animals. The Israelites had never sold their animals to Pharaoh like the Egyptians had in the days of Joseph, and when they came to Egypt they brought herds with them and these had increased, just as the people had increased.

This day, the prophecy given to Abraham so long before, was fulfilled. And they did not come out as beggars, they came out with 'Egypt's spoil' as the song says. 'Spoil' means loot or treasure captured in war. Today we use it to mean something is ruined.

At Succoth they were quickly organized, and then began their march in a southward direction towards the Red Sea. Moses knew

there was no time to waste, as Pharaoh would again harden his heart. God did not lead them straight to Canaan as the Philistines were there and would attack them; the fleeing slaves were not ready to fight with these warriors.

As the people started out they looked up ahead of them and there was a lovely pillar of cloud. This was the sign of their unseen Leader, Jesus the Lord, and was like a flag for them. At night it became a pillar of fire that lighted the whole camp with a soft, warm glow, in the day it helped shield them from the blazing desert heat. How the people could forget Who was their real Leader, with this pillar ever in sight, is a mystery, but time after time when things got hard, they accused Moses saying, "Why have YOU brought us out here to die?"

**Thought** – We are told we are worse than they, because we show so little faith in God, and we have so much more knowledge about the things of God, and we have their example as well!

**Monday**

**Text: Exodus 14:5, 7, 9 "And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?... And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them... But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon."**

Now God did an amazing thing. He led

the people to camp in a flat area, where there were mountains on either side, and the Red Sea in front. He knew that word would reach Pharaoh that they were trapped there and he would come to capture them and drag them back to Egypt.

It did not take long for the people to start getting tired; after all, they had little sleep, and had been so busy getting ready to march. They began to wonder where they were going, and then there they were on this huge beach area by the Red Sea.

Moses was told that Pharaoh was going to chase after them and God promised to deliver them. He must have wondered how!

It is amazing the unbelief of Pharaoh and the priests of Egypt! Already they decided that it was not God who had slain all the first born, but only some unusual disease. It shows that when a man refuses to believe, all the evidence that even God can give, does no good.

Now Pharaoh was organizing his army and he ordered all his captains and mighty men to get ready, and the Priests and Magicians came as well to 'bless' the troops. Quickly the swift Egyptian horses were harnessed to chariots, and out across the desert galloped the angry army.

The Egyptians had a system of signal towers in those days, and messages had been flashed from one to the other, so Pharaoh knew right where the Children of Israel were. He certainly thought, "I have them for sure as they can't get away from there!"

All at once someone in the camp of Israel caught the gleam of sunlight reflected from shiny armor; "The Egyptians are coming! The Egyptians are coming! We'll all be killed or dragged back to Egypt as slaves!" someone shrieked, and soon all the people were wailing and crying.

**Thought** – In the Time of Trouble ahead of us, "The Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for above all the glory shall be a covering. And

there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." Isaiah 4:5, 6, margin. This means He will protect His people!

## Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 14:11-13 "And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness."**

A few in that vast multitude began to pray to God for deliverance, but most of them just turned to Moses and yelled at him the words of our text. It seems they did not have any more faith in God than the Egyptians had! Moses felt bad that after so much evidence, they would still show such lack of faith.

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Ex. 14:13

The people were yelling and screaming in panic and Moses was having a terrible time to keep them in order. All at once the Pillar of cloud did a wonderful thing, it rose up into the air, and went and settled between the approaching Egyptians and the Children of Israel. It change into dense darkness on the side towards the Egyptians and it was a great light for the Israelites.

The pursuing army was forced to stop as they could not at all see the camp of Israel. Now if only at this time they would have turned around and went home, they would have been OK. God was even then giving them a chance to save their lives.

Now the screaming in the camp of Israel began to quiet down, hope came into their hearts. Maybe, just maybe, there really was a God, Who was about to rescue them.

**Thought** – There are movies made about this story, but they show a very false idea of what really happened! If we want to truly understand Bible truth, we should NOT watch movies made about Bible stories. The people who make these movies are just seeking money and fame, often they do not even believe in God, and they do not understand the truth the Bible teaches. Such movies are worse than fiction.

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 14:15,16 “And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto Me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.”**

Now God told Moses to lift up his rod over the sea and the waters would be opened up to make a way for the people to march through. Now in movies it shows him hold up his rod and the water just goes back, but this is not how it happened.

God used natural methods in a supernatural way to open the waters. He sent a fierce wind blowing onto the sea, and it blew all night, forcing the waters back and drying up a place for them to walk.

But how could the people go across in the kind of hurricane it took to do this? Well they didn't have to. We find the secret in Ex 15:8 “And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.”

This word ‘congealed’ means they froze! The wind blew so hard that it cleared a huge passage for them to walk in, and the water on either side was frozen! Huge walls of ice. Because it came from the east side where

they were headed, the walls of ice were thicker there, and would take more time to come down again. The area where the Israelites were leaving from would have the thinnest walls.

Towards morning the wind had finished its job and died down, so the people could cross and under the direction of Moses they hastened into the path between the frozen walls. It took time for over a million people, as well as millions of animals to cross the seabed, but eventually the last of them were in the path hurrying to the other side.

All at once came another cry of terror, the Egyptian army had been released by the Lord from the darkness He had held them in, and they were heading into the sea-path after their prey.

**Thought** – For those that think water can't freeze in the desert, think again; there are cave tunnels in the desert of USA, called the ice caverns, where the wind blows through them so fiercely, that people used to leave water there and overnight it would freeze into ice.

### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 14:24-26 “And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.”**

The Children of Israel were terrified again, but right before their eyes something began to happen; The Lord began to ‘trouble’ the Egyptians. When the Lord troubles someone,

they are in deep trouble indeed! Their chariot wheels began to break and fall off. Big trouble!

They were unable to proceed after the Children of Israel. Now the Bible says, "the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians." Ex 14:25. Finally it seems, they caught on! But it was too late to save them. Even as they tried to turn around and head back to the shore, Moses was stretching out his rod and the walls began to melt and fall down.

26 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."

As you remember, because the wind came from the east, the walls on the side that Israel was going to were much thicker than those on the side they came from. So the walls first began to come down between the Egyptian army and the shore they so much wanted to reach, but never would!

As the day was dawning, the walls came down, the deep sea returned and the great Egyptian army was no more. Later the Children of Israel saw some of their dead bodies washed up on the shore. Never again would they harass God's people.

It is just amazing that through the blessing of the Lord under Joseph, Egypt came to be the greatest nation in the world at that time; and now through the judgments of the Lord under Moses, they were brought low. Never again did Egypt become as great as it had been.

**Thought** – This story of escape from slavery and the cruelty of Pharaoh has great meaning for God's people today. Someday soon, when it looks like God's true people are about to be wiped from the face of the earth, God's judgments will fall again, and this time the hosts of wickedness will be finished. Never again will they be able to hurt God's people! I know who's side I want to be on in that day—don't you?

## Friday

**Text: Exodus 15:1 "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."**

What a wonderful praise session the Children of Israel had that morning as the dawn broke over the scene. Finally they were really free from the chains of Egypt, never again would they bow to the lash of their enemies.

Now Moses sang a song of deliverance and Miriam, his sister led the women in singing also. Ex 15:21 "And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea." The mountains must have echoed with their joyful music.

In heaven the redeemed will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, and what joy there will be then.

Bringing the people of Israel out of Egypt, was a wonderful miracle of the Lord. It has never been forgotten in the world down through all the ages. But did you know that there is an even greater miracle, and it can be part of your life right now? It is the miracle Jesus does when He takes sinners like you and me, and he sets us free from the slavery and chains of sin and bad habits. When we ask Him to, Jesus puts His obedient life in us and we live His obedient life, instead of our rebellious life.

"What compassion, what matchless love, has God shown to us, lost sinners, in connecting us with Himself, to be to Him a peculiar treasure! What a sacrifice has been made by our Redeemer, that we may be called children of God! We should praise God for the blessed hope held out before us in the great plan of redemption, we should praise Him for the heavenly inheritance and for His rich promises; praise Him that Jesus lives to intercede for us." P & P 289

**Thought** - There is a sadness to the story

though, as God did not want to destroy Egypt, He did everything He could to warn them, but they kept right on in their stubborn, wicked ways. It will be the same at the end of time. God is going to give the people of

the world every evidence that He can, to show that His Law is to be obeyed, but most will refuse, and just as stubborn as Pharaoh, will harden their hearts until mercy can plead no more, and they are destroyed. = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #6: "LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS"

**MEMORY VERSE: "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26**

#### Sunday

**Text: Exodus 15:23-25 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them."**

As the Children of Israel left the shores of the Red Sea, now lined with the scattered bodies of the fearsome Egyptian army, they were full of joy and all their complaints were hushed. But this did not last long.

They traveled on into this bleak wilderness for three days, and by then they were beginning to run out of the water they had brought with them. They began to get tired. They began to get thirsty. Moses knew that the first source of water they were going to get to was called 'Marah' (bitter) because the water was not fit to drink.

Sure enough, the people spied the water up ahead and ran joyously to get a drink, and then quickly the shouts of joy changed to wails of disappointment and the Children of Israel again turned on Moses and demanded him to give them water to drink.

Again they had been tested and again they failed. Moses did what they all should have done, he prayed to the Lord and the Lord showed him a tree to cut down and put into the water. When this was done, the water was OK to drink. Now there was no magic in that tree. God just wanted to show the people that if they would seek Him and obey Him, then whatever they needed would be provided.

Then God went on to give them a very wonderful promise that we have for our memory verse this week. This promise is for us as well. In it God says that if we will just be very earnest about listening and learning His laws and instructions to us, and if we will be careful to obey them; then He will give us a very special blessing. He says He will prevent us from getting the nasty diseases like the people of the world are getting.

**Thought** – We were given so much wise counsel on staying healthy in these last days in the writings God sent us through Ellen White. Just this week I heard from a friend that some of the Catholic priests are reading Ellen White 's books and asked why are we not following Ellen White's message on health when she has written everything about it. He said that if we had obeyed, we could have been the healthiest people in the whole world.

**Monday**

**Text: Exodus 14:16:2,3 “And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”**

After the waters had been made good, they traveled on and camped at a place where there were 70 date trees and some wells. Then they went on into the wilderness. There was not much grass there for the animals, and the people were starting to run out of food. Again they were being tested to see what they would do. And again they flunked the test!

They began to grumble and complain again and accused Moses of bringing them out into the wilderness to die there. Again they totally forgot Who it was that brought them out of Egypt, and the incredible miracles they had just seen a few days before and just looked at the human and not to God. And again they forgot to simply come to God in prayer and ask for what they needed.

It is interesting that at this time, nobody was really hungry. They were running out of food, but as yet they still had food. But here they were grumbling and complaining for the future imaginary wants. They even went so far as to say that they wished they were back in Egypt as slaves so they could have what they wanted to eat!

Now just to show you the human side of the problem these people were grumbling about, look at these facts. According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1500 tons of food each day, to feed the people!

They would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day! Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him. Now do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

**Thought** – How many people today are staying in spiritual Egypt, just because they don't want to give up eating certain foods that we are told the Lord does not want us to eat. They are slaves to their appetites.

**Tuesday**

**Text: Exodus 16:6-8 “And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.”**

Again Moses went to the Lord in prayer and God told him that He would send them some quails to eat that night, (Quails are like a small chicken.) and the next day He would send them a special kind of bread that would feed them.

As Moses explained this to the people, he was careful to show them that they were not grumbling against him, but they were grumbling against the Great God of heaven. After all that God had done for these people, they still were doing nothing but grumble and complain!

Every test that came along, they flunked.

It is amazing the patience God had with them, and the patience He has had with us today!

Sure enough, the winds blew in hundreds of birds that evening for their supper and in the morning when they got up, a strange sight met their eyes; all over the ground lay a small seed-like something. As soon as they saw it, the people began to say “Manna? Manna?” Which means, “What is it?”

**Thought** – Next time you catch yourself starting to grumble or complain, stop right away, and remember how hateful it is to God when you do this. Instead start to praise the Lord for something and you will feel entirely different.

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 16:15-17 “And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat. This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents. And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.”**

Moses explained to the Children of Israel that this was the special bread God was sending for them to eat. He passed on to them from the Lord some very special instructions about this food. They people were to get up early and gather it in the morning. And they were only to gather as much as they thought they wanted to eat that day.

If they tried to gather extra to keep it until the next day, so they could sleep-in and not get up to gather it; it would spoil and get worms in it. Some of the people tried to do this and soon found out the hard way. Also if they did not get up early and gather the Manna, when the sun got hot, it just melted

away.

There is a very special lesson here for us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus told the people the He was that ‘bread’ that came down from heaven. He was also the ‘Word’ of God. He told the people they each needed to eat that ‘bread’ from heaven. Every day we need to ‘eat’ the bread of heaven by getting up early, praying to the Lord, and reading and studying our Bibles. It seems that it is important to do this early, because if we put it off, we get busy with other things and we loose the chance to gather our ‘Manna’. Always be sure to gather your spiritual ‘Manna’ from the Word of God and prayer, early every day!

Now there was another very interesting miracle that happened with the Manna. It is important for us to remember because it proves something about the Sabbath day. There are people who say that the Sabbath was only given to the Children of Israel on Mount Sinai and therefore it is only for the Jews to keep. But if you notice, the manna miracle began before the Children of Israel even got to Mount Sinai.

What was this Sabbath miracle? Well, for 5 days a week the people gathered the manna for one day; and if they tried to gather more, it would spoil. BUT on the 6<sup>th</sup> day they were told to gather enough for 2 days, and when they did this, it did NOT spoil. And then on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there was no manna to gather.

Some people went out to look for it; “And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day. Ex 16:28-30

Now if there had never been any Law of God before Mount Sinai, how could God say they were refusing to keep His laws?

**Thought** – Also remember that God expects us to be as careful about keeping His Sabbath day, as the people back then were

to be. All unnecessary work should be avoided. Many carelessly put off till the beginning of the Sabbath little things that might have been done on the day of preparation. This should not be. Work that is neglected until the beginning of the Sabbath should remain undone until it is past.

### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 16:31** **“And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt. And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.”**

Now this is what the Manna was like, sounds very nice. If we are faithful we will get to taste it in heaven. Who knows, maybe in the last days when God’s people will have no way to survive except as He cares for them, maybe He will send some Manna again?

“And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.” Ex 17:1. Now they had the bread falling from the sky each day and again they were brought to a test. The place where they were led by the cloud to camp had no water.

Would they remember now to pray to God and ask Him for help? Would they remember the mighty miracles and have faith in Him? Would they refuse to grumble and doubt? Would they remember they were being led by God and not by a human?

Sad to say, they did not.

“And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.” Ex 17:3,4.

Here after all that God had done for them, and also all that Moses had done for them under God’s direction, they started saying that they thought he was planning to let them all die so he could get rich by taking all their belongings. What a cruel lie to tell about one who was trying so hard to help them!

In their thirst the people tempted God, saying, “Is the Lord among us, or not?”—“If God has brought us here, why does He not give us water as well as bread?” This unbelief was wicked of them, and Moses feared that the judgments of God would come upon them. And he called the name of the place Massah, “temptation,” and Meribah, “chiding,” as a memorial of their sin.

**Thought** – Later, God told Moses and Aaron to take a pot of that Manna and put it into the Ark with the stones of the Ten Commandments. Do you know what else got put in there? It was Aaron’s rod, but we will learn about that later.

### Friday

**Text: Exodus 17:5,6** **“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.”**

Now God gave another lesson for the people. He told Moses to take his rod and go

and smite the rock and water would come out. So he did and the water gushed out. Remember that this had to be not just a trickle of water, but a whole river of water, enough for all those people and their animals to drink, and enough to water the area so grass could grow for the animals to eat.

This smiting the rock was an object lesson that pointed to Jesus, the Rock, Who would be smitten for us to provide the 'water of salvation'. Jesus was the 'bread from heaven'; and Jesus was the Rock that gave the water.

Then came another lesson from God, to try and teach the people that it was God who was leading them and Moses was speaking the words of God to them and they should help him instead of making trouble for him every time things got hard.

A new danger now threatened them. Because of their murmuring against Him, the Lord suffered them to be attacked by their enemies. The Amalekites, a fierce, warlike tribe inhabiting that region, came out against them and smote those who, faint and weary, had fallen into the rear.

Soldiers were chosen and Joshua was to

lead them to fight against the Amalakites. Moses and Aaron and a man named Hur, were watching and praying on a nearby mountain overlooking the battle.

Soon it became clear that if Moses help up his hands to heaven, Israel began to win, but if he put them down, Amalek began to win. But Moses' arms got tired, so Aaron and Hur took a rock and sat Moses on it and then they helped him hold up his arms until the Amalakites were beaten and ran away.

So God showed the people that they were to help Moses in his work, not hinder him.

**Thought** – It is something to think about in your family life, do you help your Mom and Dad by being obedient and cheerful and quick to find ways to help them? Or are you just always demanding attention for yourself and grumbling if you don't have your own way? The Bible says this; "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind:" Proverbs 11:29. It is a warning that children and teens should help to build up their family, not tear it down by selfishness and disobedience. 'Holding up the hands' of Mom and Dad is a wise thing to do. = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #7: "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:" Exodus 19:5**

#### Sunday

**Text: Exodus 18:5,5 "And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her."**

The Children of Israel were now camping near to where he had lived with Jethro and now Moses heart was made very glad by the

kindness of his father-in-law. Jethro heard that Moses was there near Sinai, not far from where he lived, so he took Moses' wife and two boys and brought them to Moses.

What a happy time they had together and what a comfort it was for Moses to have his family back with him. They talked about all the wonderful things that God had been doing for His people. They had a wonderful prayer and praise session together.

But as Jethro stayed for a while in the camp, he saw that Moses was just swamped with work. The people brought every little

problem that they had, and every little question, all to Moses to answer. Poor Moses just sat there all day long and answered questions and solved problems.

Jethro, who also knew the Lord very well, got a good idea. He told Moses to choose some godly people to be assistants and set up a system. The way it worked was this. Every ten families would have one man who would be the helper. If these people had a question, a problem, or needed some help, they would come to him.

But if he did not know the answer, there would be a man that was over ten groups, and they could take the problem to him. Then if it was too hard for him, there would be a man over ten groups of a hundred, and they could go to him with the problem. If that man couldn't help, then the problem would come to Moses.

So you see, this way most of the little troubles and problems could be solved, and only a few things would have to come to Moses, for him to ask special counsel from God about.

**Thought** – Now some people try to tell us that this was a 'hierarchy' like the Church of Rome has and the people of the world use. A hierarchy has one man at top, he tells the other people under him what to do and they tell the people under them and the poor guy at the bottom is just a slave. This is Satan's way.

This was not at all what Moses set up. It was opposite. These rulers were set up to assist the people, and to help them with problems and teach them the ways of God, not to boss them around. Moses and his assistants did not make up the 'rules' and command the people, they only used the Word of God to guide the people. In this plan the 'leaders' are servants, not kings. This is God's way.

## Monday

**Text: Exodus 14: 19:3-6 "And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto**

**him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."**

The Children of Israel were now camping near to Sinai, which was also called the Mountain of the Lord. God had told Moses when he appeared in the burning bush that after the people came out of Egypt they were to come and camp near this mountain. Now they were camped there and Moses was given a special message for the people.

Our text tells us the deal or 'covenant' God wanted to make with them. He was going to teach them, and bless them and take care of them forever, if they would agree to listen to Him and obey Him. He was promising them wonderful blessings but He was not going to force Himself on them. They were to choose if they wanted to be His people or not.

This is the same deal that God makes with us today, only people who agree to this 'Covenant' deal will be saved and go to heaven when Jesus returns. Many people are all mixed up about this idea of the 'Covenant', some think that the 'Old' covenant meant that the people had to keep God's Law, and the 'New' covenant means they don't have to keep the Law any more, but just 'believe' in Jesus. But really, the people back then were saved just the same way as we are to be saved today, by the Blood and intercession of Jesus our Savior.

The 'Old Covenant' was perfect obedience to God's Law, like Adam and Eve were to do in the beginning, and then they would al-

ways be in harmony with God and never die. But they broke that covenant, they broke God's Law and the Law had no way to forgive the sinner. So this is where God 'provided Himself a Lamb'. Jesus chose to become our Saviour. This 'New Covenant' provides the power of Jesus' perfect life and victory over sin to be made available to anyone and everyone who chooses to have it. It also has the Blood of Jesus to wash away the sinner's sins when he repents and chooses to forsake them. This was the 'deal' God wanted to make with Israel.

Where before they fell, Adam and Eve had a sinless character, and they could choose to obey God's Law and had the power to do it; when they disobeyed, all they could pass to their children was the natural tendency to sin. In our own strength we turn to sinning just like water runs down-hill.

**Thought** – The Children of Israel made a mistake in their covenant; they thought they could in their own strength keep God's Law, and that this was something they were going to do for God. They said, "All that the LORD hath spoken **we** will do." But the only way fallen man can obey God, is for Jesus to live His obedient life in us, when we choose to have Him do it. It is something God does for us, through the sacrifice Jesus made. It is impossible for us to do it for God.

## Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 16: 19:10-12 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death."**

Now God told Moses to tell the Children of Israel how to get ready for a special visit He was going to make to them in three days time. They were to wash their bodies and their clothes and have everything clean and neat.

They were also to search their hearts and put away all sin and be ready to hear what God was going to say to them. It was important that they should realize how HOLY God really is and how important are His laws.

Here Israel was to see the most wonderful revelation ever made by God to men. Here the Lord had gathered His people that He might show them the sacredness of His requirements by declaring with His own voice His holy law. Great changes needed to be created in them; for the bad behaviors they had gotten into as slaves and learned from their association with idolatry had affected their habits and character. God was working to lift them to a higher moral level by giving them knowledge of Himself. This is just how He wants to help us to get ready for heaven too.

A special fence was put around the base of the mountain and no body, not even an animal was to be allowed to go onto the mountain. After sin came into this world, it was impossible for man to be able to come close to the holy God without dying. Sin is a very serious thing; it is a death sentence to all who have it. That is why Jesus came as a man so He can be the 'bridge' that allows us through the power of the plan of salvation, to put away sin and one day, come close to God again.

During these waiting days, all were to occupy the time in solemn preparation to appear before God. Their bodies and their clothing must be free from dirt. And as Moses should point out their sins, they were to humble their hearts with fasting and prayer to put away all sin.

**Thought** – Think about how we should get ready for the Sabbath each week, because it is a time when God wants to come close and visit His people. Also think about

how clean and neat we should be when we go to worship God, and not just our bodies, but our hearts need to be prepared too. Then think about how we need to work with Jesus day by day, to get our hearts and characters ready for when Jesus comes; because then we are going to see Him face to face!

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 19:18 “And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.” Exodus 20:18 ‘And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.’**

The third day came and early in the morning the people saw dense, dark clouds gather on the top of the mountain, which grew more black and dense, sweeping downward until the entire mountain was wrapped in darkness and awful mystery. Lightning flashed and thunder rolled, and then came the loud sound of a trumpet calling the people to come to the foot of the mountain and hear what God wanted to say to them.

Moses led them out to the foot of the mountain, staying away from the fence that was around the foot of the mountain.

The glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain. (see Ex 24:17) in the sight of the people. And the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder. So terrible were the signs of God’s presence that the people shook with fear, and fell upon their faces before the Lord. Even Moses exclaimed, “I exceedingly fear and quake.” Hebrews 12:21.

And now the thunders stopped; the trumpet was no longer heard; the earth was still. There was a period of solemn silence, and then the voice of God was heard. Speaking out of the thick darkness that enshrouded

Him, as He stood upon the mount, surrounded by a retinue of angels, the Lord made known His law.

But now He told them first about His love for them; “I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” Exodus 20:2. He whom they had already known as their Guide and Deliverer, who had brought them forth from Egypt, making a way for them through the sea, and overthrowing Pharaoh and his hosts, who had thus shown Himself to be above all the gods of Egypt—He it was who now spoke His law.

**Thought** – Always remember that what God wants us to do, is not so He can be bossy, it is because of His love for us. He wants us to live and be happy and knows the only way we can do that is to obey His Laws.

### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 20:3 FIRST- “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

**4 SECOND - Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:**

**5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;**

**6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**

**7 THIRD - Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**

**8 FOURTH - Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

**9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:**

**10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:**

**11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**

**12 FIFTH - Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**

**13 SIXTH - Thou shalt not kill.**

**14 SEVENTH - Thou shalt not commit adultery.**

**15 EIGHTH - Thou shalt not steal.**

**16 NINTH - Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.**

**17 TENTH - Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."**

It is a very good idea to memorize these wonderful commandments! Learn them one by one and soon you will be able to say them all.

**Thought** – King David told us how good it is for us to think about God's Holy Law. "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Psalms 119:97. Always remember that God promises to give us the power to obey His commandments if we choose to do so.

**Friday**

**Text – Exodus 17: 20:18-21 "And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and**

**the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was."**

Now God was not doing all this only for the Children of Israel, oh no! He was giving them His Law and they were to teach it to all the people in the world. God's plan was that if Israel would obey Him, they would be such a blessed and happy people and so very wise, that all the other people in the whole world would want to come and learn about the Great God in Heaven, so they could be happy serving Him too.

Sadly however, we see the people did not want to come close to God and learn from Him, they just wanted Moses to do that for them. This is what happens in these days also. People want to pay a minister or a priest, and that man is supposed to talk to God for them, so they don't have to come close to God.

Although it is part of God's plan for ministers and teachers to help the people to learn about God, it is not His plan that this is the only way they learn about Him. Everyone needs to have a special one-to-one relation with God for his or her self, through Jesus our Savior. Each one of us is to be in the 'School of Jesus' and learn from Him through the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy writings. He also uses the things that happen each day, to help us to learn more about Him, and trust Him more and more.

Sadly also, the Children of Israel more often wanted to follow the ways of the heathen, and refused to do what God had tried to teach them, so His special plan to bless them and help everybody in the world, did not come true in the way He wanted it to

happen. God does not force people to obey Him.

**Thought** – When God led out the Advent people from the other churches; He gave us very special information through the writings of Ellen White, who was a special messenger for us in these last days. If we would have listened to these special directions and

obeyed them, we would have been the happiest, healthiest and wisest people in the whole world. All the other people would have wanted to learn from us. But sadly, we have done what Israel of old did; we have more often chosen to follow the ways of the world. Choose today to follow God’s ways, and learn about Him, and He will bless you! = ^ .. ^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #8: “A BROKEN PROMISE”

**MEMORY VERSE: “And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.” Exodus 23:25**

#### Sunday

**Text: Exodus 24:1-13 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.”**

Remember last week we learned that when the Children of Israel heard the Ten Commandments told to them by God, that they all said they would obey them?

After speaking the Ten Commandments in such an amazing scene there on Mount Sinai, God also told many civil laws to Moses and told him to write them down in books for the Children of Israel. They really were the Ten Commandments in detail. This was to be their nation’s system of justice for the courts and for guidance in everyday life. The people also promised to obey all these laws too.

Then God called Moses to come up into the mountain and He would give him the Ten Commandment law carved into two stone tablets. The Stone was to tell the people that this law was forever and would never change or be done away with. The Stone tablets stand for Jesus, the Rock, and the laws written there, are His character.

The elders and leaders of the people had

come partway up the mountain and they remained camping there for a while. At one point they also saw the form of the Lord from a distance: “And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.” Ex 24:10

What a wonderful experience this was!

Now Moses was to wait until God signaled him to come up to the mountain and receive the tables of stone.

**Thought** – When people try to tell you that the Ten Commandments are done away with; remember that God wrote them on stone so we’d know they were forever!

#### Monday

**Text: Exodus 24:15-18 “And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.”**

Moses went up to the place where he was

to wait until God called him. For 6 days he waited and then God called him up into the fiery cloud on the top of the mountain.

Now I want you to think about what all the people of Israel had seen at Mount Sinai. They had seen the fire and clouds and lightning. They had heard the thunder and also the voice of God speaking His Ten Commandment Law. The leaders and elders had also seen the form of God from a distance. And now for all these days, cloud and fire had rested on the mountaintop.

God had wanted the people to spend this time thinking about what HE had told them and searching their hearts in prayer to get ready to learn what else He wanted to teach them.

While Moses was there in the cloud on the mountain, God was giving him all the plans for the special sanctuary tent that was to be built to help the people to learn about the promised Messiah. He told Moses how it was to be built and who was to build it. He told him who were to be the priests, and also all the details about the services and ceremonies that would be done at the sanctuary, each one of them to teach lessons about the plan of Salvation.

For forty days and nights Moses was there with God. He didn't eat or drink but he didn't need to, because when we are with God, we are with the very source of all energy and life.

**Thought** – Do you remember who else fasted for forty days and nights? It was Jesus, when He went into the wilderness to prepare for His ministry. After this He was hungry and weak though, but God sustained Moses. Jesus bore more than He ever asks His people to bear.

### Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 14: 32:1** “And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said

**unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.”**

Now this is really just amazing, and it shows how very blind and stupid people can be, when they want to do as they please and not obey God. Remember all the things they had seen and heard? And now they could still see the cloud on the top of the mountain- and yet they decided they wanted to make an idol god so they would have something they could SEE!

Actually the problem was they wanted a god that they could control. An idol god is good in this way; they could carry it and do what they wanted with it. They always had to wait until the pillar of cloud moved before they could journey, and wait for it to stop so they could camp, but with an idol god, THEY would be the ones who decided whether to go or stop.

Again they were looking to Moses as their leader, ‘that MAN who brought us out of Egypt’, and forgetting all the evidence they had seen about the great God of Heaven who was really their leader. It sure makes you wonder how they could do this while they could still actually see the cloud on the mountain!

Now they had the idea that they would go back to Egypt and carry this idol before them and so they would be welcomed back by the Egyptians as being the same religion as them.

**Thought** – We need to take a good look at our own lives too; I have seen young people who just can't wait for Sabbath to end so they can turn on the TV or go to some worldly entertainment. If we are only worshipping Jesus on Sabbath, we don't really worship Him at all!

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 32:3-5** “And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto

**Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."**

Now here is an even stranger thing. Aaron had been at the camp part way up the mountain. He had been one of the leaders who actually saw the form of God in the distance. But now when the people were all so excited about making themselves an idol god, he just went right along with it.

The people were angrily demanding their own way, and he was afraid to stand for right. Some people tried to point out, that to make an idol god like this was wicked and wrong, and these faithful ones were beaten up. Some were even killed by the angry crowd. People get angry when they are told they are wrong, when they really know it, but are determined to have their own way.

Aaron feared for his own safety; and instead of nobly standing up for God, he gave in to the people. His first act was to direct that the golden earrings be collected from all the people and brought to him, hoping that pride would make them change their minds.

But they happily brought the ornaments; and from these he made a molten calf, like the gods of Egypt. The people proclaimed, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Now you remember how in the ten plagues that God had sent on Egypt, He had shown that every one of the Egyptian gods was worthless and powerless. But here were the Children of Israel giving credit to a calf for leading them out of Egypt!

Aaron did nothing about this insult to the Lord. He did even more. Seeing how happy the people were with their shiny new idol god, he built an altar before it, and said,

"Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord." The announcement was heralded by trumpeters from company to company throughout the camp.

**Thought** – If Aaron would have stood for the right, the people would not have gone as far in evil as they did. Always remember to stand for the right and truth, never follow a crowd to do wrong.

### **Thursday**

**Text: Exodus 32:6 "And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play."**

As the next day dawned the people were up early and offered sacrifices to the calf. Then they made a feast and ate and drank, and then they danced and celebrated. They acted just like the heathen idol worshippers. But they excused it saying they were worshipping the Lord.

Only a few days had passed since the people had made a solemn promise to God to obey His voice. They had stood trembling with terror before the mount, listening to the words of the Lord, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." The glory of God still hovered above Sinai where they could see it. But they turned away, and asked for other gods. "They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molten image. Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox." Psalm 106:19, 20.

How could they have made a worse insult to Jesus, who had revealed Himself to them as a tender father and an all-powerful king? Now they were calling a model animal their god!

God never wants His people to behave in such a degrading and foolish way as people do at these heathen feasts. If something is wrong, it is always wrong. We can't say something that is wrong is OK, just because it is a holiday.

God does not want us to eat unhealthy food and to overeat and drink harmful drinks. It is still wrong no matter what day it is. God does not want us to act foolishly or waste our time and money. We cannot use holidays, as excuses to do things we know are not right and not healthy. If we do, we are just like those idol worshipping Israelites!

**Thought** – We are very close at this time a year to another heathen feast that people hold, while they claim to be honoring Jesus and celebrating His birthday. People spend money foolishly, even going into debt. They eat and drink unhealthily and they do things they would ordinarily never do. But because they call it by the name of the Lord, they think it is just fine, and people who refuse to go along with the false ideas are treated with scorn, even hatred.

### Friday

**Text: Exodus 32:7 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”**

Now I want you to notice the words God spoke to Moses when He told Him about what the Children of Israel were doing. He said they were Moses’ people and Moses had brought them out of Egypt! He even said that Moses should let God destroy the people and He would make a great nation out of Moses.

Of course, if Jesus had really intending to destroy the people, Moses could not possibly stop Him! I think he was testing Moses, but what did Moses say? “And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy

people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?” Ex 32:11

Moses quickly answered, that these were God’s people and it was the Lord who had brought them out of Egypt. He did not for a minute take credit for what God had done. He also was not interested in having honor for himself, but he wanted only the honor of God and help for the people.

He knew that if God were to destroy these rebellious people, then the people of the nations around would say He was not a good God. The heathen would dishonor His name. Nobody would think about the wicked things the Israelites had done, but instead would just blame God for destroying them.

Now Moses began to plead for God to spare the people and God agreed to do this. Of course it was really God’s choice to spare the people, He is a God of amazing patience and mercy.

Now Moses took the two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments written by God’s own finger, and started down the mountain. Soon he joined Joshua who was waiting and they came down together.

It wasn’t long before Moses saw and heard what the people were doing. He was horrified and in grief and righteous anger at the insult to God, he threw the tables of stone down on the rocks and they broke. It was a good lesson to the people, because they had broken the promise they had made to God.

**Thought** – We need to be careful that we live in a way that God can bless us, so that people seeing our lives will see the blessings of God, and His name will be honored. Nothing so much dishonors Jesus as a person who claims to be a Christian and yet is mean, selfish and wicked, living for pleasure and appetite, just like the people of the world.  
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**Weekly Bible Lesson #9: "A BROKEN PROMISE" 2**

**MEMORY VERSE: "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." Exodus 34:6,7a**

**Sunday**

**Text: Exodus 32:19 "And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it."**

Last week we saw Moses come down from the mountaintop only to find the Children of Israel all dancing and celebrating and worshipping a golden calf that Aaron made for them at their demand. He had been talking with God for 40 days and God had given him three gifts for the people.

The first was two tables of stone where God had written His Ten Commandment law for the people to have and keep forever. The second was a set of guidelines that the nation could use for their courts of justice. This was to be Israel's civil law.

The third was something very wonderful also. It was instructions and a plan to build a special sanctuary and a set of ceremonies to help the people learn about God. This was the ceremonial law and was to be Israel's lesson book.

But now as Moses saw with grief and horror the people behaving like the heathen idolaters and dancing, laughing and feasting in a disgusting and degrading way, he cast the stone tables from his hands and they were broken, just like Israel had broken the Law of God.

Then he strode into the camp through

the dancing crowd and grabbed the idol. Throwing it into the fire he melted it down. Then he took the gold and ground it to powder like flour. He threw the powder into the stream of water and ordered all the people to drink it. He did this to show them that this silly idol had no power at all and was no god.

*Thought* – The only power in idol worship is the power of devils and devils have no power over God's true people.

**Monday**

**Text: Exodus 32:21-24 "And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf."**

Moses now called his guilty brother and demanded why he went along with this terrible act. There are a lot of lessons here for us as we see how Aaron answered. First he blamed the people. He said that Moses knew already how bad the people were, so he should not blame him for giving in to them. You can never blame others for your own sin!

We are told, that if Aaron had refused to go along with it and would have reminded

the people of what they had just seen and promised, they would not have gone so far in wickedness. He also could have told them about the wonderful glory he saw up in the mountain. But instead, he didn't even say anything when the people said, "These are your gods that brought you out of Egypt." His going along with them made them even more bold to sin against God.

Next Aaron told an outright lie to Moses. He said that he had thrown the earrings and jewelry into the fire and the calf just came out by a miracle!! I guess he wanted to get Moses into idol worship as well, get him to admit it wasn't really so bad.

The people had thought that Aaron was a much nicer leader than that stuffy old Moses. Aaron understood how they felt and allowed them to do their own thing. He didn't keep preaching the law to them all the time. He knew they had to have some fun. But in reality it was Aaron who was wicked and Moses who was doing right.

"The Lord was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him." Deuteronomy 9:20. But in answer to the pleading prayers of Moses, his life was spared. He also deeply repented of his terrible sin and God forgave him. If he had not truly repented, he would have perished. God will forgive all sin if we truly repent and turn away from it.

**Thought** – How many times do people say, "Well it must be OK for me to do this, the Pastor does it." The Pastor is not our example, Jesus is!!

## Tuesday

**Text: Exodus 32:26-28** "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man

**his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men."**

The terrible sin of the people had to be punished severely. All the nations had heard how God had led out His people from Egypt and they were watching to see what would happen. If this terrible sin had not been punished, it would have left a very bad example. Moses called for those who were on the Lord's side to come and stand with him. It was found that the only tribe that had not entered into the heathen worship was the tribe of Levi.

Now the command was given that they were to put on their sword and go through the camp and all those who refused to repent of the wickedness, were to be killed. This was an order from God. The people were to put away the sin from them completely. All who were sorry and repented were spared. The ones who were killed were those who still refused to admit, that what they had done, was wrong. Three thousand died rather than repent.

Gradually the people began to see how terrible was their sin. With weeping they buried the dead and now Moses went to see if God would spare the people.

Moses actually asked that if God could not forgive these people, that his own name be taken out of the Book of Life and he would die for the people. His love was that great; but where did this great love come from? It came from God Himself. The day was coming when Jesus, the great Creator would leave His throne and die for mankind's sin. A human's death could never pay the price to save man.

Now a plague of sickness broke out in the camp. God told Moses to tell the people to take off all their jewelry and humble their hearts before Him in repentance. The tent that they used as a place of worship was removed out of the camp. God said Moses

could lead the people into the land, but He would not any more travel with them.

Now Moses went to the tabernacle outside of the camp to make atonement for the people, and the cloudy pillar came to the tent and the Lord spoke with him. Moses kept pleading until God agreed He would return and lead the people. He agreed to continue with His plans for Israel and they were to build the sanctuary where He would dwell among them.

Moses' work in interceding with God represents the work Jesus is doing right now for us. It is the final judgment to decide who is to be kept in the Book of Life and who will not be saved out of God's professed people. Just like the Children of Israel humbled their hearts and took off their ornaments, so should we dress and live simply and plainly and be searching our hearts and putting away sin.

**Thought** – God's love and mercy is so great, but we must never think that because He loves us so much, sin does not matter.

### Wednesday

**Text: Exodus 33:18, 19** “**And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.**”

Moses had come very close to God while he was pleading for the people, because in doing this, he was showing a bit of the character of God. Now he felt that he wanted to come even closer to Him. “Please, Show me Thy glory”, he pleaded. And God explained he could not look on Him and live, but He promised to show Moses as much as he could bear.

“And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft

of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.” Ex 33:21-23

Did you ever sing that hymn, ‘He Hideth my soul in the cleft of the Rock’? Well this is what it means. And when God passed by, and remember, this was Jesus that Moses was talking to, He told him the words of our memory verse.

What is God's glory? Is it His might and power? Is it the fact He owns everything? Is it that He knows everything? No, God's great glory is His character of love and mercy. But notice, He always reminds us that He can't save the guilty ones who will not repent and obey Him.

God had told Moses to make 2 new tables of stone, like the ones he had broken and bring them with him. God would again write his law on them.

Moses had already spent 40 days and nights with God, and this whole time had no food or water. Now he went up again for 40 more days and nights and still he had no food or water. This was not possible for humans to survive, but God kept him and he was just fine.

**Thought** – What is impossible with man is possible with God.

### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 34:33** “**And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.**”

As Moses came back from his time with the Lord this second forty days, his face

shown with heavenly light. Indeed it was so bright that the people, who still had the guilt of their terrible sin on their minds, were afraid to come close to listen to him.

God had caused Moses' face to shine to give the people a sense of the importance of what Moses was going to pass on to them. But the people were afraid and so Moses put a veil, like a little curtain over his face, while he talked to the people.

God had given much instruction about what they were to do about the idol worshippers they would come in contact with. They were to always destroy any idol gods and throw away the gold that they were made out of. They were never to go to visit and see what the heathen did at their worships and feasts.

They were not even supposed to learn about it. They were not to read heathen writings. They were never to marry a heathen idol worshipper. They were not to copy their ways in anything. Although God wanted them to be kind to others and help and teach any who wished to learn about the God of Heaven, they were not to chum around with non-believers as their close friends.

**Thought** – There are many today who think it is important to study other religions and learn what they believe. This is not what God commanded us. We should study the true religion and then when we run into other false ideas, we will easily recognize them.

### Friday

**Text: Exodus 25:8 “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”**

Now God told Moses to tell the people to bring an offering of materials to be used to build the sanctuary, Because they had repented and turned from their wickedness in following another religion and insulting God, He had forgiven them and continued on with

His plans to bless them by having His presence among them. What a merciful God we serve!

The sanctuary plans were designed so that every item had a special meaning and taught lessons about Jesus and the plan of salvation. Then the priests and their special clothes also taught lessons and the sacrifices and ceremonies all pointed to Jesus and His work to save man from his sin and restore him to favor with God.

The people felt great joy that God had forgiven them and would continue with His plans to save and bless them. So when Moses called for an offering of all the things needed to build the sanctuary according to the plans God had given him, the people eagerly set to work bringing things and making the cloth for the project.

God would only accept what the people wanted to bring, He did not want anyone to be forced to bring, or even to be talked in to bringing, only what they wanted to bring of their own free will could He accept.

It is the same today, it is wrong of any church leader to tell people, that unless they bring their tithes and offerings to the church, the person can't be a member. Of course preachers and teachers are to teach the people about what God says about tithes and offerings, but they are not to threaten or force them in any way. It is up to the person what he does for the Lord.

There are so many lessons for us in these stories of Israel. Here is another one: both Moses, who veiled his face so the Children of Israel could talk with Him and the sanctuary and its services were pointing to what Jesus would do when He came to earth.

**Thought** –“Moses was a type of Christ. As Israel's intercessor veiled his countenance, because the people could not endure to look upon its glory, so Christ, the divine Mediator, veiled His divinity with humanity when He came to earth. Had He come clothed with

the brightness of heaven, he could not have found access to men in their sinful state. They could not have endured the glory of His presence. Therefore He humbled Him-

self, and was made "in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3), that He might reach the fallen race, and lift them up." PP.330  
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### Weekly Bible Lesson #10: "OBEY= JOY, DISOBEY= SORROW"

**MEMORY VERSE: "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." Isaiah 44:22**

#### Sunday

**Text: Exodus 24: 36:5-7 "And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much."**

The people, who had repented of the great evil that they had done, were so happy that God had forgiven them. When once again God told Moses to go ahead with the plans to build the wonderful sanctuary, an offering of materials was called for. The people eagerly brought all that was needed and the women got busy at their spindles and looms and made cloth of different and beautiful kinds and brought it as an offering.

Finally there was as much as was needed and more besides, so Moses announced that the people were to stop making and bringing and now the building could begin. There was enough and more than enough.

This sanctuary, just like the offering of the lambs, was not something they were doing for God, it was something God was doing for them. In His kindness He was doing it through them, but it was He that gave the plans, it was He that gave them special skill to be able to make this most wonderful por-

table building that ever was on earth.

It was also God that had impressed the Egyptians to give the precious things to the people when they left Egypt. Now God gave a special gift of skill and wisdom to a man named Bezaleel of the tribe of Judah and Aholiab of the tribe of Dan. They were to lead out in the work and do the most complicated things. No one in the world would have known how to make that amazing sanctuary if God had not done this.

This was a most wonderful and loving thing that God was doing for them; His very presence was to be there in that sanctuary and go everywhere with them. This building was made fairly small and easy to take apart and put together again. It was to show that we are to have the very presence of God wherever we go.

Some people believe that you have to go to just some certain place, like a holy river or a sacred mountain, or only in a great fancy church building, and then you might be able to come close to God and talk with Him. But when we fully give our whole self to Jesus, He will live with us, and in us, through the Holy Spirit, and we are always to have His presence. No matter how old you are or how young and tiny you are, Jesus will be with you if you want Him to and ask Him to come into your heart.

**Thought** – When people really give their whole heart and lives and self over to Jesus, they have great love for Him, because they realize how kind He has been to them. They are eager to give offerings to Him and to take part in His work on earth.

**Monday**

**Text: Exodus 40:12-14** “And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water. And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office. And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats.”

Because the tribe of Levi was the only tribe that did not go along with the worship of the idol calf, they were given the job of working in the tabernacle and taking care of it. No other tribe was to do this job. Also each family was given a certain part of the work and that family was to do that job always.

One family was to care for the furniture, another was to care for the curtains, Others were to carry it when it was moved and so on. It was very orderly and carefully planned.

The most amazing thing to me is that even after Aaron had lead out in the idol worship and even made the calf for the people; because he truly repented of his sin, God forgave him. It was Aaron who was chosen by God as the high priest, who would do the very special services and actually go in before the presence of God once a year.

God’s ways are not our ways, we would have said to Aaron, “Well, I know you are sorry, but I just can’t trust you after a trick like that!” But instead he was trusted with the job of the High Priest and his sons were to train for that office too. Each priest was given special garments and the high priests garments were very special and beautiful. Each part had meaning.

It took a year to build this tabernacle and when the day came around that they had come out of Egypt on, it was ready to be dedicated. Moses took special holy oil and anointed every piece of furniture and every part of the building. This meant it was to be only for God’s service.

Then the Priests and Levites were all spe-

cially dedicated and anointed. Each of them had to study carefully, to know how they were to do their jobs. Especially the High Priest and his sons were to know each rule and how to do it just as God had said.

There was a special thing that Moses did with the priests, he some of the blood of a lamb on their right toe, their right thumb and their right ear. This meant they were only to go where God wanted them to go. They were only to do what God wanted them to do. And they were always to hear God’s counsel and obey it. We need to be like this also.

**Thought** – We are to be only for God’s service too. We cannot be part of the time Jesus’ boys and girls and the rest of the time just doing what WE feel like. If we are not all for Jesus, we are not really His at all.

**Tuesday**

**Text: Exodus 40:34-38** “Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”

When it was all finished, Moses put it all together then anointed everything. After the dedication of the tabernacle, the priests, and Aaron and his sons, were consecrated to their sacred office. These ceremonies took seven days. Then a special dedication was made and at the end of all the services. On the eight day they started their work as priests. Assisted by his sons, Aaron offered

the sacrifices that God required, and he lifted up his hands and blessed the people.

All had been done as God commanded, and He accepted the sacrifice, and revealed His glory in a wonderful way; fire came from the Lord and burned up the offering upon the altar. The people saw this and were thrilled. They saw in it a token of God's glory and favor, and together they raised a shout of praise and adoration and fell on their faces as if they were right in the presence of God. The pillar of cloud came to the sanctuary and God's glory filled the sanctuary so powerfully that not even Moses or Aaron could go into it.

This was how God showed them that He had accepted their work, done according to His own rules, and now He would dwell with them in their very camp. Moses had been very careful to have everything done exactly as God had told him in the plans for the sanctuary.

Not even in one tiny detail did he or the people say, "Oh, it really doesn't matter. I don't think God is so fussy as all that. He won't mind if we do it the way we think it would be good. I want to do my own thing for God." Oh, no! If that had happened, God would not have accepted it.

**Thought** – Always remember, anything that God says, God means. He never says something he doesn't mean, or says something and then changes His mind.

### Wednesday

**Text: Leviticus 10:1 "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not."**

It wasn't very long after this wonderful occasion of the beginning of the sanctuary services in the new tabernacle, that a terrible event occurred. Aaron and his four sons were chosen for the special work of the High Priest. His sons were to help him and later

they would become High Priest after his death.

His sons, Nadab and Abihu, were the oldest and next in authority to Moses and Aaron. They had been allowed to go up into the mountain and see the glory of God. This was a very special honor, and they were to be very careful to obey God exactly in all things. But sadly, they began to think they were 'someone special' and could do what they liked, and did not have to obey all these little details that God had given.

After the fire came down from heaven to burn the first offering, that same fire was kept burning all the time on the altar. It was called 'Sacred Fire' because it came from God. The priests were to only use this fire from the altar, when they burned incense before God.

One evening, Nadab and Abihu were to burn the incense before God, but instead of taking the 'Sacred Fire', they didn't bother. They just took the fire from somewhere else and started to take their censer into the sanctuary. They thought that it didn't matter whether they obeyed God or not, in such a little thing as that.

But suddenly, right in front of the people, fire came out from God and these two disobedient men died.

Aaron had often let these boys have their own way when they were children. He did not teach them how important it was to always obey and respect their parents and also to obey God. They didn't pay much attention now as Aaron had carefully taught them all the details of the services. They decided to do things their own way.

**Thought** – If men choose any other path than that of strict obedience, they will find that "the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12.

### Thursday

**Text: Leviticus 10:9-16 "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of**

**the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.”**

There are many lessons for us in this sad story. God told Aaron and his two sons, Eleazer and Ithamar, that they were not to mourn or cry for the two brothers. That seemed a hard thing, but the lesson was to be impressed on the priest and the people for always, that God meant what He said, and they must not disobey Him and do whatever they felt like doing.

One of the reasons that Nadab and Abihu had been disobedient, was they had been drinking alcoholic wine. This caused them to forget how important it was to obey God and become careless and foolish.

God then told Aaron that priests were never to drink alcoholic drinks. Alcohol makes the brain dull and careless, and takes away the ability to understand holy things.

This is important to us today because we need to have alert brains and be able to understand God’s truths. Satan watches for every chance to get us to be careless and disobedient. “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people. 1 Peter 2:9.

Why didn’t everyone that did wrong get struck down by the Lord? God chose to give one severe lesson and then He expects all others to learn from that lesson.

**Thought** – People may seem to ‘get away’ with all kinds of disobedience, but in the final judgment, they will be lost just like Nadab and Abihu.

### Friday

**Text: Deuteronomy 6:17 “Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.”**

Just after this Aaron and his two remaining sons also disobeyed God. There was a special offering and they were to each eat some of the meat of that offering. It was to show in this way, that the sins of the people were to be transferred to the priest, and later to the sanctuary.

But Aaron and his two sons did not feel like eating the offering, as they were still feeling bad about the death of the two brothers. So they just burned the offering all up.

Moses was angry with them, as this was again disobeying God’s instructions, and they must always set the example of obedience to the people. If the priest did not bother to be careful to obey God, the people would not bother either.

This often happens today, as people see their pastor, teacher or elder doing wrong, and then they think it must be OK for them to do wrong too. This must never fool us. Jesus is our example, and the Bible is our rulebook. No matter what other people do or say, we need to obey Jesus.

We are living in sad bad times here in the end of time. Many leaders in the church are doing what they feel like and not paying attention to what the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy books tell us to do.

They are thinking they are ‘somebody special’ and they can just do their own ways and God will still bless them. This is a big mistake! They may not get burned up in front of the church right now, but they will be lost if they don’t repent. And all the people who follow ministers, and disobey what God says- will be lost with them.

**Thought** – There are many things that seem to be good to us and when we read in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy that it is wrong, it seems strange to us. But if we pray to God for strength to obey His Word anyway, often we understand it clearly later. Even if we don’t understand why, we need to know that God only orders what is best for us.  
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**Weekly Bible Lesson #11: "ON TO CANAAN"**

**MEMORY VERSE: "For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee." Deuteronomy 23:14**

**Sunday**

**Text: Numbers 2:1-2 "And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch."**

The Children of Israel had been camped at Sinai for about a year now. They had begun to feel at home there. They had settled into a pattern of life. In the morning they gathered the Manna and now there were also the morning services of the sanctuary.

The working days of the week saw the people busy in different tasks in their tents and in the camp. There was always housework and cooking and washing up to do. There were vast flocks of sheep and goats and herds of cattle to care for. Also there was the task of keeping the camp neat, clean and in order.

Under God's direction they had everything in perfect order. It was a simple arrangement, but very good. Each tribe camped in a certain part of the area and each family camped in a certain part of that tribe's area. They had standards, (flags) with the tribal symbol on them to mark their areas.

This simple order prevented a lot of unhappiness that would have happened if the people just rushed into a new camp and fought over who was going to put their tents in the best places, and it was all messy and untidy so if you came home after being out with the sheep, you would not know where to find your family tent to get your supper.

Neatness, cleanliness and order are always good for us. Our sinful, selfish hearts

often think it is better to just do things however we feel like, but God knows that this always leads to great unhappiness. Can you imagine how nasty and smelly it would get with more than a million people out there and no bathrooms? YUK! That is why God taught them how to be clean and keep everything nice and fresh in their camps.

**Thought** – As our memory verse says, God likes us to have our areas clean and neat. Being messy seems to be more popular these days and that just shows how far people are going away from God. Start today and keep your area clean and neat.

**Monday**

**Text: Numbers 1:1,2 "And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls."**

There was another job that God had Moses do for the people at Sinai. The people were all counted according to their tribes and families. Where they were camped it was only about eleven days journey to come to the borders of Canaan, the land God had promised to give them. So they needed to know how many people there were so the land could be divided up fairly when they got there.

At Sinai also, Moses had set up a system of helpers and rulers of the people so they could help with keeping things happy and

orderly. If someone had a problem with someone else, they could go and lay the problem before the family or tribes rulers.

The laws, that were to be used to decide what was right and what was not right, were only the laws that God had given them. If there was something they were not sure about, either the High Priest or Moses, who was a prophet, would pray and ask God how to solve it, and they would do as God directed. Nobody was there making up rules just so they could be bossy.

God's laws are always for the best and for the happiness of His creatures. We can also live with God's wisdom to guide us. We can read and obey the Bible with the power that Jesus gives to us, if we ask for it. We can also read and learn from the wonderful Spirit of Prophecy books that God has given to be our special help in these days when the world is going into more and more wickedness.

After all this counting and order was all put in place, the camp of Israel was a wonderful place to live. Right in the center was the beautiful sanctuary tent with the cloudy pillar over it in the day and at night it was a fire to light the camp enough so people did not have to stumble around in the dark.

Nobody camped close to the sanctuary, all the tents were well back and it stood in a large clear place, so all could see it. Moses and the priests camped next to the sanctuary, then the Levites, divided into the 3 families of Levi's 3 sons. Then the other tribes had their places, so the camp was a huge hollow square. All the tents were in rows, with paths between, and it looked like a lovely tent city.

**Thought** – We should also make all our decisions based on what God's Word says and His laws. If we do that, we will be ever so much happier than if we just do what we feel like!

**Tuesday**

**Text: Numbers 9:18-20 "At the commandment of the LORD the children of**

**Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not. And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed."**

The cloud had not moved for over a year and now the cloud arose and the Israelites knew they were to journey on. They were excited about this, as they hoped they would soon reach the Promised Land and have real homes and gardens again. But they also felt a little sad to leave the Mountain where they had got to know God better and received so many blessings.

When they had come out of Egypt they were a lawless bunch of slaves, now because of what God had given them, they were an organized nation, with wise laws and a God guided government.

At the signal they quickly got ready to travel. And because everybody knew just what their job was and did it, this was done without any fighting or confusion. Always remember that disorder is the mark of Satan's government. He always tries to fool us into believing the lie that good things come by accident, or by everybody 'doing their own thing'.

Now that they were all ready to march they watched the cloud to see which way it was going to go. They felt worried and sad when they saw that it turned east towards some gloomy mountains. They started out bravely, but after three days of struggling over rough ground and desert area, some complaints began to be heard.

It was interesting that there was with the Children of Israel a large group called the 'mixed multitude'. These were people who

were not Israelites, neither did most of them even worship God. They were heathens and Egyptians, who had come along out of curiosity or who hoped to get rich.

God did not tell them they could not come; He never refuses anyone who wants to be with His people. But they were not allowed to camp in the main part of the camp, they had their place on the outside edges. If they did decide to serve God fully, their grandchildren would be part of Israel.

It was always in this group that trouble started. And now sure enough, they began to complain and they started to cry for flesh meat to eat. They said they were tired of this Manna everyday. Now it was a wonder that God didn't say, "Alright, then do without!" But God is so very patient!

**Thought** – The diet mostly of Manna that God gave the people was so good for them that nobody got sick! The vegetarian diet God gave us will keep us healthy too, if we follow it wisely and faithfully.

### Wednesday

**Text: Psalm 78:18-21** **“They tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Behold, He smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can He give bread also? can He provide flesh for His people? Therefore the Lord heard this, and was wroth.”**

Soon others started joining into the complaining started by the mixed multitude and before you knew it many were grumbling and criticizing Moses for taking them that way, even though they knew the Cloud was leading them.

All of a sudden, fire from the Lord began to hit the camp. It burned up some of the mixed multitude, who were the worse complainers. They people were afraid and called for Moses to save them. They all knew they were wrong and had guilty hearts, so they

thought they were about to be all burned up. Moses prayed to God and the fire stopped.

Now you would think they would learn from this, but no, before long the rest of the mixed multitude started complaining again and crying that they wanted meat to eat.

Numbers 11:4-6 “And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.”

Soon they were all standing in the doors of their tents crying like a bunch of spoilt children! God was displeased and Moses was so sad. He feared that the whole camp would be destroyed.

It was a terribly wrong thing that they were doing. Here God was sending them food by a miracle to feed them every day, and they were all grumbling that it wasn't good enough. Angel's food wasn't good enough for them!

Satan knew that if he could get the people grumbling and wanting to eat meat, that he could get them into other sins easily.

**Thought** – We must ask Jesus to help us not to want to eat things that are not good for us. To keep on eating the foods that God has told us are not good for us will cause millions to lose out on going to heaven!

### Thursday

**Text: Numbers 11:18-20** **“And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But**

**even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?"**

Even Moses began to halfway complain to the Lord. Not because he wanted meat, but because he was trying to please the people and instead of casting all his worries on the Lord, he was trying to solve the problem himself. If he would not have wavered at all in his trust in the Lord, God would have given him all the strength he needed for his work.

But God is so patient with us, and now he gave Moses permission to have 70 elders who God would choose, and they would help him to keep the people in order. This helped for the emergency at the time, but it was not the best idea and later on, it resulted in trouble and rebellion.

God had wanted that there would be just the one 'leader', Moses, and he would get his power and instruction direct from God. But God sometimes lets us have our own ideas, even if He sees they are not as good. This is one of the ways He helps us to learn that His ways are ALWAYS best.

Now Moses was wondering how God was going to give them enough meat to last for a whole month like He had said. And God rebuked Moses and told him; "Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not." Numbers 11:23. It was not right for Moses to doubt God!

Now the 70 elders were called before the Tabernacle and God put a special gift of the Holy Spirit on them. Two of them had felt they were not worthy to be chosen and they did not come, but they received the gift anyway and they prophesied.

Someone came to Moses and was worried that these people should not be allowed to prophecy. But Moses was not at all jealous. He said, "Are you jealous for me? I wish

that all the people were prophets and God would put His Spirit on them!"

The people were given some time to repent of their wicked complaining and some did, but many did not. That evening a wind came up and blew, and many thousands of small chicken-like birds called quails, were blown into the camp.

**Thought** – Moses was not at all jealous of others; jealousy and envy are terrible sins that cause unhappiness and trouble wherever they are found!

### Friday

**Text: Numbers 11:31,32 "And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp."**

All that day and night and the next day they killed and gathered these birds. Some they cooked to eat right away and most they prepared to dry so they would keep. It was truly enough for a whole month.

But God was not pleased with their lustful appetites. They were acting more like beasts than God's children! Some of the worse complainers died while the meat was still in their mouths, before they could even swallow it.

Many others just cooked up piles of birds and ate and ate like pigs. These ones ended up getting sick from a plague and many died. God let them have what they had clamored for, but it was far from good for them.

If the people ate just a reasonable amount

of quail and kept some for later, they were OK and did not die of the plague. But everyone who feasted like a glutton got sick and died. Probably the smell of all that dead meat drying in the sun, all over the camp, was sickening as well.

In our day also, eating flesh meat is just not wise or safe. There is so much disease among the poor animals because the greed of man is causing horrible cruelty to them. Those who really love Jesus and want to

serve Him will not want to eat pieces of poor dead animals.

They gave that place a big name – Kibroth-hattaavah; this means “Where we buried those who lusted for flesh”.

**Thought** – We will never know real, lasting happiness, until we come to learn that what God says is ALWAYS right and best for us. Only in humbly obeying God will we have the best life here and eternal life to come.  
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### Weekly Bible Lesson #12: “THE 12 SPIES”

**MEMORY VERSE: “Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.” Deuteronomy 14:9**

#### Sunday

**Text: Numbers 12:1-3 “And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)”**

At the next camp, a still more bitter trial awaited Moses. Aaron and Miriam had a position of high honor and leadership in Israel. Both had the prophetic gift, and both had been guided by God to help Moses in the deliverance of the Israelites.

After the Lord had allowed Moses to have the 70 chosen elders to help him in the work of directing the Children of Israel, and the grumbling in the camp had died down, all at once Aaron and Miriam started to grumble against Moses! Now that really hurt, when his own brother and sister, who were to help and support him, began to complain and criticize him.

Miriam started to make fun of Moses’ wife, calling her a ‘Cushite woman’ because her

skin was a little darker than the Israelites. Zipporah was a Midianite, also a descendant of Abraham, and her father was also a worshipper and priest of the true God of Heaven.

The real problem was that Moses had not asked their permission when the Lord chose the 70 elders. They were jealous; they were afraid someone else would have a more important job, closer to Moses than they did.

Moses really felt the task of leading the people, much more strongly than Aaron and Miriam ever did, and yet they began to act as if they had the same authority as Moses, and he was not honoring them as he should. Miriam blamed Moses’ wife and came grumbling to Aaron, and he, instead of telling her she was wrong to talk like that, joined in her grumbling. Their complaint was wicked jealousy, but Moses, who was very meek and humble, just kept quiet and said nothing back to them.

Then God spoke and ordered Aaron and Miriam to come and stand before the sanctuary. He told them He was displeased with their words. He also told them a very important truth. He said that while they might be prophets, and He would speak to them in visions or dreams, that Moses was more than a prophet.

“Why weren’t you afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” He asked. Then the cloud rose up and went away, and the presence of the Lord was gone from the camp. When Miriam looked down she saw her whole body was white with leprosy!

**Thought** – This was a very good lesson, jealousy and envy and wanting to be honored more than others, is a disease of the mind that will eat up the person just like leprosy eats up the body!

### Monday

**Text: Numbers 12:13-15 “And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.”**

Miriam saw just how terrible her words and actions had been to the Lord. She knew she was wrong and repented of her sin. Aaron wasn’t struck, but he felt just as bad as he saw what happened to his sister. Aaron repented and said to Moses, “Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned,” and cried to Moses to plead with God to heal Miriam.

Moses prayed to God that she be forgiven and healed, and God healed her, but said she had to go out of the camp for seven days, as a sign of God’s displeasure, and only then would the presence of the Lord come back and the cloud return to the sanctuary.

I want you to notice that God told Aaron and Miriam that, yes, they were prophets, but Moses was more than a prophet. There are two other people that we have been given the message that they were ‘More than a Prophet’. One was John the Baptist whom

Jesus Himself said was ‘More than a Prophet’.

The other person that we have information that they were ‘More than a prophet’ was Ellen White. When asked if she was a prophet, she said that her work, that she was to do, was more than the work of a prophet. Think about that when you hear people criticizing her books!

You will find that such people are rejecting her because they do not want to believe and obey what Jesus has told us in her writings, and they are jealous and want the people to believe them instead.

**Thought** – It is important to remember that the sin of jealousy and envy are terrible in the sight of Jesus. He cannot bless those who have this kind of attitude. If you ever find yourself angry because someone got something that you think you should have, or someone gets more attention than you, remember the leprosy of Miriam. This sin will eat you up and ruin you for this life and eternity.

### Tuesday

**Text: Numbers 13:17-20 “And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first-ripe grapes.”**

In just eleven days, the Children of Israel were camped at Kadesh, right on the border of the Promised Land. Rather than just fol-

low the directions of the Lord and go into the land, the people wanted to send some spies to have a look and see if the land was good or not and how strong the people were that were in the land.

This again showed that they did not trust God to give them what he had promised them to give. They had to see for themselves if it was a good land or not. Moses prayed to the Lord and He gave them permission to do this.

They chose 12 men, one from each of the tribes, and sent them to go through the land and see what it was like and bring back a report. They had the Word of God and His promise to them, but instead of believing it, they set up a committee to bring them a report about if it was true or not.

They went off into the land and were gone for 40 days, while the people anxiously waited for them to return with the report. Finally the shout went through the camp that the spies had returned and the people excitedly gathered to hear the news about the land, if it was good or not.

**Thought** – We should never ‘set up a committee’ to study something that the Word of God tells us plainly in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy. We should never discuss whether it is true or not. We should obey it!

### Wednesday

**Text: Numbers 13:27,28 “And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.”**

When the spies returned they had all kinds of lovely fresh fruit with them. They brought a bunch of grapes that was so large it took two men to carry it! They told the people that it was a wonderful land, full of good things, well watered and beautiful.

But then something happened. They

started to tell the people that the people that lived in the land were very powerful warriors. They had strong cities with walls around them and there were even giants there! Then they told the people that it was no use to try, they could never have that country for themselves.

Now Caleb spoke up with courage and said, “Let us go up and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it.”

Now the ten spies started to say even worse things about the land. They said the giants were so big that they were only like grasshoppers along side of them. They said that the Children of Israel could not conquer this land. Then they said something really stupid. They said the land was so bad that it ‘ate up’ the people who lived in it!

Now they had just brought the lovely fruit, they had just said the people were strong and even giants, so how could this happen if the land were as bad as all that? You see, once they had started to bring a gloomy report, they were determined to keep on, even if they had to lie and make stuff up. They were not going to admit they were wrong.

After this a terrible thing happened. The people all began to cry and wail and say they wished they had stayed in Egypt or died in the wilderness. They howled and cried all night long!

**Thought** – If you ever have problems that make you feel that you are just a ‘Grasshopper’; remember Jesus promises to be with us and help us. May we always trust what He tells us!

### Thursday

**Text: Numbers 14:2-4 “And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives**

**and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.”**

The next day they went even further in their complaining and doubting the Lord. They accused God of lying to them. They accused Moses and Aaron of bringing them there just so they would all get killed.

As they chose to reject God’s Word that He had already given them the land, Satan got full control of their minds. He put more and more wicked thoughts in there and made everything look so dark and gloomy. They decided they had better choose a leader and go back to Egypt.

Now Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before God, and Caleb and Joshua tore their clothes to show how bad they felt at what the people were saying. They ran into the crowd and they said that the land was a good land and that God would give it to them, if they would believe His promises. They said the words of our memory verse and urged the people not to rebel against God, because that was exactly what they were doing!

They told the people not to be afraid of the giants, “ they are bread for us”, they said. In other words, we will eat them up, because God’s blessing is gone from them. The Canaanites were wicked people and God intended for them to be driven out and destroyed.

But the people only got worse and accused the two faithful spies and Moses and Aaron of wanting to get them all killed and their wives and children made into slaves. The more Joshua and Caleb tried to show them the truth, the madder they got until they picked up stones and were going to kill the two faithful men who told them what God said was true.

These angry people forgot that God was listening to their wicked words and saw what they were planning to do. All of a sudden a dazzling light shown around the sanctuary and the people stopped in their tracks. The

stones fell out of their hands and they were very afraid. The 10 lying spies, who wanted the people to kill the faithful ones, crouched down and slunk away to hide in their tents.

**Thought** – When we doubt the Word of God, we are sitting ducks for Satan to control us.

### Friday

**Text: Numbers 14:11-13 “And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)”**

Again God offers Moses the chance to be the father of a new chosen people, and again Moses pleads for the wicked Israelites. But notice, he does not say to God, “Oh forgive them, God, they didn’t really mean it.” No, Moses is concerned for the influence on the rest of the world that this would have, and how the heathen would despise the Name of God.

He does not ask God to spare the people because they are basically good people and only got a bit carried away in wrong. He does not ask God to ignore sin. But instead he is concerned for God’s own honor. The nations would say God was not strong enough to bring the people to the land, they would claim their idol gods were stronger than the God of heaven.

Moses pleaded that God would forgive because of His great mercy. And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. Numbers 14:20,21.

But their wicked unbelief was to have ter-

rible results. Because the people had cried in God's ears and said, "We wish we had died in Egypt or we wish we had died in the wilderness", God was going to give them their wish. Now he told them that they were to go back into the wilderness and wander there for forty years, one year for each day the spies had gone through the land.

The people that had refused to go into the land, and had said it was a bad land, would never get to see it. They were to die in the wilderness, and their children, who they said would 'be a prey' of the giants, they would get to have the good land. And Caleb and Joshua would get to go into the land.

When the people heard this they changed from being ready to kill Caleb and Joshua into mourning. The ten unfaithful spies that

brought the lying report got the plague and the people saw them die before their eyes. They knew the sentence God gave, was what they deserved.

Now they were sorry, but it was not that they were truly sorry for the wrong they had done, they were just sorry for the results. They hoped to get God to change His mind.

We need to be careful of what we say, God is listening and He just might give us what we ask for!

**Thought** – It is especially true, that when people who claim to belong to God, do wicked and wrong things, they dishonor God's name and cause unbelievers to say, "Well if that's what Christians are like, we don't want to be like them!" = ^..^ =

### Weekly Bible Lesson #13: "TURNING BACK TO THE WILDERNESS"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day." Deuteronomy 27:10**

#### Sunday

**Text: Numbers 14:30, 31, 34**  
**"Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. ... After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."**

Because of their wicked unbelief and rebellion against God, the people were now told that they had to go back into the wilderness for forty years. It was a terrible blow to them, but their own refusing to obey God was what caused it.

God could not bring into the land a nation of people who were almost as wicked as the Canaanites He was driving out! Time af-

ter time God had been patient with these people, and had shown them more and more of His mighty power and love.

But time after time they just rebelled and complained again. Now on the very border of the Promised Land, they had been ready to kill God's faithful ones and choose another leader than Moses and head back to Egypt.

What more could God do with them? So the sentence fell that the adults would not get to go into the land, except for Caleb and Joshua. They would get the wish they had cried into the ears of God; "Would God we had died in the wilderness."

It may seem like a hard thing that God was doing, but actually He did it out of love. He could not use His mighty power to help the people to take the land, while they were rebelling against Him. So rather than they go and all get killed by the Canaanites, He sent them back where they would be safe and live out their lives. He also was going to have to provide Manna and water for them

in the wilderness for forty years!

**Thought** – Moses, Aaron and Caleb and Joshua were also very disappointed, but they did not complain or murmur against God. In this world, the works of the wicked affect even the obedient, but if they are patient, God will bless them.

### Monday

**Text: Numbers 14:39, 40** “**And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly. And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.**”

First when God had promised to give them the land, they didn't believe Him, and sent the spies rather than go ahead into the land. And when the spies came back, they believed the lying report rather than the faithful ones who told them to believe God. We are told that if only two spies had brought a bad report and ten a good report, they still would have listened to the bad.

They cried and wept and rebelled until God said, “OK, you go back into the wilderness”. The night was spent crying, but in the morning came a hope. They were going to get the land. Maybe God would accept their works and change His mind.

Now they were rebelling the other way, and they said they were obeying God. They were not at all obeying God. They were still disobeying Him.

They were doing an even more foolish thing! Now that God had said they could not go into the land, and were going to go back and live and die in the wilderness, they decided they would now ‘obey God’, and go and try and capture the land.

Satan had won by stopping them from entering Canaan; and now he urged them on to do the very thing they had refused to do when God told them to. So Satan won again,

by getting them to disobey God the second time.

They had not trusted the power of God to give them the land and now they decided they could do it without His help. “We have sinned against the Lord,” they cried; “we will go up and fight, according to all that the Lord our God commanded us.” Deuteronomy 1:41.

So terribly blinded had they become, the Lord had never commanded them to “go up and fight.” It was not His purpose that they should gain the land by fighting, but by obeying Him.

**Thought** – The people had admitted they had sinned, but their hearts were not changed. They were still refusing to obey the Lord. They were only sorry for the trouble they brought to themselves, not for their wicked sin against a loving God.

### Tuesday

**Text: Numbers 14:41-43** “**And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper. Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.**”

When Moses saw what they were planning to do, he had a trumpet blown to warn the camp and gather them to listen to him. “Don't do this!” he warned them, “you will not win because God is not with you. You will get killed by the enemy!”

But the people didn't listen to him and the army they had gathered together headed out to attack the city. They had no proper leader and the blessing of God was not with them. Moses stayed in the camp and the Ark of the Lord stayed in the sanctuary.

The Canaanites had heard of the mysterious power that seemed to be guarding this people and of the wonders wrought in their

behalf. They had been afraid to attack the Israelites, but now they were ready to fight for their lives.

They were up on a high place where the Israelites had to climb up to attack them. Great rocks were thrown down on them as they tried to climb the steep path. When some managed to get to the top, they were out of breath and tired and the Canaanites attacked them and killed many. The rest were forced to flee for their lives down the rugged way and back to the camp.

“And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies. So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill. And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.” De 1:42-44

**Thought** – Nothing good ever comes from not obeying God.

### Wednesday

**Text: Deuteronomy 1:45 “And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.”**

The survivors “returned, and wept before the Lord;” but “the Lord would not hearken” to their voice. Now the enemies of Israel, who had been afraid of the Israelites, decided that the stories they had heard about the great power of Israel’s God were just a bunch of lies and they decided to attack them and destroy them.

God now ordered the people back into the wilderness back toward the Red Sea, because He knew that now the enemy wasn’t afraid any more, they would attack the camp.

Israel had to fall back from the face of their enemies into the wilderness, knowing that here must be the grave of a whole gen-

eration. All because they refused to trust and obey God.

This was a very sad thing, because people, who were starting to believe that there really was a Mighty Creator God in Heaven, now decided that it was just a made up story.

**Thought** – There is a lovely hymn that says: Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus – but to trust and obey!

### Thursday

**Text: Exodus 23:27-30 “I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.”**

God’s plan for Israel was a wonderful plan. If they had only trusted Him, He was going to gradually drive out the people from the Promised Land by using things like hornets. Israel was not going to have to fight. They were going to be able to just march into the land, and by following the instructions that God would give them, they would win.

Now the heathen people decided that the Israelite God was not any better than their own idol gods. They also decided to make and train greater and stronger armies to defend their land. Now when God did bring Israel back to the land in forty years time, they were going to have a much harder time and they would have to fight.

The land of Canaan was in a place where people from all over the world came through on routes for trading and travel. God wanted

to have Israel set up there as a holy and happy people, who would worship Him and tell others of His goodness. In this way he hoped to bring the knowledge of His truth to the entire world and have other nations learn to love Him also.

But now His perfect plan was spoiled by the disobedience of the people, and would not work as wonderfully as He had wanted it to. But still God hoped that He might be able to use the children to become this special nation that He could bless and use to bless the entire world.

**Thought** – God’s plans are always good and bless everyone who will obey them, all the time.

### Friday

**Text: Jeremiah 35:15** “I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.”

In the time of the 1840s, God called out a people from the fallen churches. He had a special plan for them. He was going to give them a lot of special instructions by the Spirit of Prophecy.

These special instructions were a lot like what He gave to Israel through Moses. They were rules and information that if they were obeyed, would make those people to be the wisest people on earth.

It was His plan that as they practiced the wonderful directions from God in how they lived, how they trained their children, how they ran their business and churches, that He could bless them. Then all the people on earth would see the blessing, and want to learn about our wonderful Heavenly Father and His Word of truth.

But just like the Israelites, who were al-

ways saying that they wanted to go back to Egypt and enjoy the pleasures of sin, these people have wanted to have the worldly ways, and live like the world and do things like the other churches, that have not been given this special light, do.

God has not been able to bless them, and when they refused to listen and obey His messenger, he has left them to wander in the wilderness of this troubled, old world for many, many years.

Each new generation gets a chance to see if they will listen and obey, so that God can bless them and use them to bless others. So far, each generation has refused to obey.

Don’t be like them! There is wonderful happiness and blessing in obeying God’s counsel in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The world and worldly churches and heathen religions, have nothing that comes even close to how wonderful life is when you obey God. Start today and read and study your Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books faithfully, and when you learn something about what God wants you to do, do it.

**Thought** – Two of the best books for you to start with to learn about how God wants you to live, are “Thoughts from the mount of Blessing”, which is all about Jesus’ sermon on the mount, and “Christ’s Object Lessons”, which is all about the wonderful parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. Get them and read them as soon as you can!

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