



BIBLEPATHWAY MINISTRIES

THRU THE BIBLE IN A YEAR READING 15 MINUTES A DAY

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean
heart, O God; and
renew a right spirit
within me.

NEW LOOK
US

**01
14**

WHO HAS THE ANSWERS?

JANUARY 2014 – VOLUME 1

All of the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation – is profitable for a Christian's spiritual well-being.

BOOK MARK

Check as you read each day

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable . . . that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works – fully equipped and prepared to enjoy life and to fulfill the will of God (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Special Features of Bible Pathway

- Daily reading guide in every issue
- Cross-references to Christ in the Old Testament and how Christ is revealed in every day's Bible Reading
- Prayer requests for the President, his cabinet, Senators, and Representatives on their birthdays
- National and international prayer needs
- Religious status of countries around the world
- Daily Scripture reference on prayer
- Certificate suitable for framing at completion of one-year's reading

Date	Day	Reading	
1	1	Genesis 1 - 3	
2	2	Genesis 4 - 6	
3	3	Genesis 7 - 9	
4	4	Genesis 10 - 12	
5	5	Genesis 13 - 15	
6	6	Genesis 16 - 18	
7	7	Genesis 19 - 21	
8	8	Genesis 22 - 24	
9	9	Genesis 25 - 27	
10	10	Genesis 28 - 30	
11	11	Genesis 31 - 32	



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MINUTES A DAY WILL TAKE
YOU THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN ONE YEAR AND PROVIDE
A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR
YOUR FUTURE.**

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Memory Scriptures for January

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matt:25:34-40).

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light: and there was light (Gen. 1:1-3).

The wondrous beauty that is the creation story should always have a place of honor in our minds and hearts. Sometimes, for various reasons, this Scripture gets downplayed in our minds. Perhaps, because we have heard many Sunday School lessons and sermons on it, we just take it for granted as "just another bible story." However, even when we hear the same thing over and over, it is important to remember that God does not waste any space. Everything that transpires in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, is important.

This, of course, includes the story of creation. It may be hard to understand how this story, as amazing as it is, could be life applicable, but the Word of God is meant to be read and studied. God is speaking to us today, but it is very hard to hear His will if we rush through our daily study time and read much of His Word as if they were children's stories. It is important to study the entire Bible from the beginning until the end, not just once, but continually throughout our entire lives. The verses that spoke to us in the past may give way for new verses to speak to us today. ***But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*** (Matt. 4:4).

The creation verses serve as a great testimony to the infinite and awesome power of God. He reveals much about His nature as He tells us of the creation of all that exists. God spoke our entire existence into being. Every single thing that is known to be a part of the reality that we live in was spoken into being by God through Christ. ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was***

not any thing made that was made (John 1:1-3).

We know that the God we serve spoke and brought all reality into existence, so what is there that He cannot do? Is there any problem we can face that He cannot guide us through? The answers to these questions are obvious. There is nothing that God is incapable of doing. Every time the account of creation is read, the believer should feel encouraged and uplifted. The very same hands that formed planets and placed stars in the heavens touches our hearts. The God of all creation is the same God that hears the prayers of those individuals who call upon His name. God is so big that He created universes, but He is so personal that even the smallest prayer will turn His ear. We truly serve the most wonderful and awesome God.

And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen (Luke 19:37).

Thought for Today: We know that God provided the Bible to be a guide for our lives, so why do so many of us only open one within a church building?

Christ Revealed: As Creator (Gen. 1:1; comp. John 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3). As the Seed of woman (Gen. 3:15; Is. 7:14; 9:6-7). **God sent forth His Son, made of a woman** (Gal. 4:4).

Word Studies: 1:29 **meat** = food in general; 2:10 **heads** = branches, rivers; 2:14 **Hiddekel** = Tigris; 2:24 **cleave** = cling; 3:1 **subtil** = shrewd, crafty, sly; 3:13 **beguiled** = deceived, seduced, led astray; 3:15 **it** = her Seed (Jesus Christ); **bruise** = wound.

Pray For: Our Military Worldwide • **Staff:** Bible Pathway Staff • **Radio:** Sponsored by Mrs. Virginia Schifferns • **Government Officials:** Rep. Terri A. Sewell (AL), Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ) • **Country:** Afghanistan (31.1 million) in central Asia • Major languages: Dari, Pashto, Uzbek, Turkmen, Arabic, Urdu, 30 minor languages • Hostile to Christian evangelization. For a Muslim to convert to Christianity is automatic execution • 99% Muslim; 1% other (Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Baha'i, other); 1 Jewish citizen • **Prayer Suggestion:** As you read through His Word, ask God to reveal what is missing in your life (Prov. 3:5-6).

Optional Reading: Matthew 1.

NOTE: We list the President, Vice President, Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Members, Senators, Representatives, and Governors on their birthdays. Because we publish in advance, our list may not reflect the results of the

most recent elections and/or appointments.

January 2

Read Genesis 4-6

And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from Thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him (Gen. 4:13-15).

It only takes one generation turning their backs on God to steer an entire nation in an ungodly direction. When a conscious choice is made to deny God, the die is cast. Each generation passes on their beliefs to their children, and, although some reject their parents beliefs, most at least partially adopt their convictions.

This reasoning is reflected in the lives of the two sons of Adam and Eve. It would appear, from the fact that Abel brought an acceptable sacrifice before God, that Adam had taught his sons the importance of the proper sacrifice. However, Cain's offering was deemed unfit by God. We are not specifically told why Cain's offering was not acceptable. Whether it was the offering itself, Cain's spirit in bringing the offering or a combination of both, it does not really matter. The fact is that the respect and honor that is due God was not being given. Which son was following their parents example? In reality, both were. Abel followed his father's teachings, but the spirit of disobedience that caused their parents to take from the tree of knowledge of good and evil was at work in Cain. **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience** (Eph. 2:2).

Cain refused to accept the correction from God. He allowed anger and rage to take hold of him, and, in an act of vengeance, he killed his brother Abel. The world's first murder was also one of its most senseless. If it was Cain's desire to please God, then what did he hope to accomplish by killing his brother? His sin in that act was so great that he destroyed his relationship with God! **So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God** (Rom. 8:8).

We must choose our mentors well and be careful never to follow in any footsteps that will lead us into sin. In addition, we must also be mindful of the influence we have on those following us. Of course, the following of another person can never be used as an excuse for sinning. Each of us makes our own decisions. If we make the decision to sin, we must be prepared to deal with its consequences. Though God spared Cain from being murdered by another, Cain still had to pay the price for his sin against his own blood and God.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (II Cor. 5:10).

Thought for Today: Parents, maintain your focus on God. Children learn to follow Him by first following you.

Christ Revealed: Through Abel's blood sacrifice (Gen. 4:4-7). Christ is ***the Lamb of God***, sacrificed for man's sin (John 1:29; Heb. 9:22; 11:4). Man's best achievements can never take the place of Christ's atonement made through His own sinless blood.

Word Studies: 4:4 **had respect** = approved; 4:5 **wroth** = exceedingly angry; 4:22 **artificer** = craftsman in metal; 5:3 **begat** = fathered; 5:24 **was not** = was translated to (disappeared into) heaven; 6:6 **repented the LORD** = grieved the Lord; 6:9 **perfect** = blameless.

Pray for Staff: Jennifer Palafox • **Radio:** Sponsored by James and Ila Drost • **Country:** Albania (2.8 million) in southeastern Europe • Major languages: Albanian, Greek • Newly opened to evangelism • 56.7% Muslim; 10.03% Roman Catholic; 6.75% Albanian Orthodox; 2.09% Bektashi; 0.14% Evangelists; 0.07% Other Christian; 5.49% Non-Denominational Believers; 2.5% Atheist; 0.02% Other; 13.79% No Answer; 2.43% Not stated • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray that God will use you to shine His light to all those around you (Matt. 5:16).

Optional Reading: Matthew 2.

January 3

Read Genesis 7-9

And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent (Gen. 9:20-21).

The events of Noah's life in the years that preceded this event were very tumultuous, to say the least. The world had become a wicked place. ***And GOD saw that the wickedness***

of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (6:5).

It was so bad that God made the decision to send a great flood to bring the evil to an end (see 6:6-7). Noah alone had found favor in the eyes of God. ***But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God*** (Gen. 6:8-9). God commanded Noah to build an ark in which he, his family and all the animals that God had created could be preserved (see 6:19-20). Noah proved himself to be a man of faith in God by wholeheartedly trusting in the Lord's Words. He built the ark, and he, his family and the animals were saved when the floods came upon the earth.

After the floodwaters receded, Noah and his family set about the task of reestablishing a society on the earth. Life began to settle down, and Noah took up farming. The Word of God records here that he had even planted a vineyard. This brings us to today's verse. Evidently, Noah was making wine from his vineyard, because the Bible tells us that Noah had partaken of too much wine and had become intoxicated. The Word of God is very clear as to whether or not drunkenness is sin. ***And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit*** (Eph. 5:18).

How could this righteous man, who had been given a place of honor by God, have fallen so far? We must first understand that Noah had most definitely sinned. No one can argue otherwise. We must be cautious, however, in assuming that Noah had fallen away from God. Yes, Noah slipped and sinned, but we never see it recorded that Noah made a lifestyle of drunkenness. Noah is still grouped with righteous men in spite of this incident. ***Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the LORD GOD*** (Ezek. 14:14).

Just as Noah did, any of us could fall into one of the enemy's traps, and sin. Even with the best of intentions, we do sometimes make mistakes. The key in doing this is to learn from those mistakes and not allow ourselves to fall into the same traps again. We must repent and press forward serving Christ. We cannot allow the enemy or others to keep us pushed down because of past failures. When Jesus forgives, our sins are erased forever.

And from Jesus Christ, who is the Faithful Witness, and

the First Begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood (Rev. 1:5).

Thought for Today: Even the godliest of men can fall, but by God's grace we can always return to Him.

Christ Revealed: Through the ark (Gen. 7:1,7; Acts 4:12; I Pet. 3:12,20). Christ is our ark of safety. ***Jesus . . . delivered us from the wrath to come*** (I Thess. 1:10).

Word Studies: 7:3 **keep seed alive** = preserve the species; 7:18 **face** = surface; 8:1 **asswaged** = subsided; 8:3 **abated** = diminished; 9:19 **overspread** = populated.

Pray for Staff: Ben Wallace • **Country:** Algeria (37 million) in North Africa • Major languages: Arabic, Darja, Berber, French • Opposition to the Gospel is intense • 99% Muslim; 1% Christian and Jewish • **Prayer Suggestion:** Seek God's guidance to steer you away from Satan's sinful traps (1 Cor. 10:13).

Optional Reading: Matthew 3.

January 4

Read Genesis 10-12

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing (Gen. 12:1-2).

Abram, or Abraham, as he will eventually be called, was hand selected by God for a great purpose. He became a great patriarch of the Old Testament and a father figure to the entire nation of Israel. However, every great story has a beginning and a crucial turning point where one decision could change everything. For Abram, both his beginning and turning point came at the same time.

God gave Abram a command that most of us would have found hard to follow. God told Abram to move to a place he had never seen and knew almost nothing about. He had no opportunity to ask neighbors about it, and, without our modern resources, he could not pull up information from the internet about it either. Abram had to put his complete trust in God. He had to trust the fact that God would not lead him anywhere that would harm him or his family. ***But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead*** (II Cor. 1:9).

We must remember though that God did more than command Abram to go; He also gave him a great promise. God promised Abram that his descendants would be too numerous to count. This promise must have overwhelmed the childless Abram and filled him with many questions. There is no doubt that this promise was a blessing, but believing the promise would once again take full reliance on God. ***Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you*** (1 Pet. 5:7).

Abram showed immense trust in God. Would we be able to do the same? How hard would it be to leave behind home, family and friends to go to a place we knew nothing about? Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have followed the Lord throughout the years doing just that. They, like Abram, answered the call to God's purpose for their lives. God has a purpose in life for all of us. We may be called to serve in our own neighborhood, at a local mission, half way around the world, or even in our own home. No matter where it is, we need to place our trust in the fact that there is no one who has a better plan for us than God does. Be willing to go wherever He sends.

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

Thought for Today: Trust in God to carry you through, even when the outcome is uncertain.

Christ Revealed: As the Promised Seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:3,7; comp. Matt. 1:1; Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:16). Through Abraham, who leads the way to a far better promised land (John 14:2-4,6; Heb. 11:8-10). **He took on Him the seed** (offspring) **of Abraham** (Heb. 2:16).

Word Studies: 10:25 **earth divided** = people became separated; 11:3 **Go to** = Come; 12:7 **seed** = descendants; 12:10 **sojourn** = live temporarily; 12:16 **had** = gave him.

Pray for Staff: Ilene Wallace • **Radio:** Sponsored by Carl Miller • Country: American Samoa (55 thousand) in South Pacific • Major languages: Samoan, English, Tongan • Religious Freedom • 50% Christian Congregationalist; 20% Roman Catholic; 30% other (agnostic, Chinese Universalist, Buddhist, Baha'i) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray that God will guide you towards His perfect plan for your life (Prov. 16:9).

Optional Reading: Matthew 4.

January 5

Read Genesis 13-15

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 (Gen. 15:13-14).

We truly serve an all knowing God. God knew that He was going to choose Abram, and He knew that Abram would prove himself to be faithful on more than one occasion. God knew Abram would make mistakes and that there would be times that his decisions would not be in line with the will of God. Even so, He knew there were few that could be found whose faith could match that of Abram. God promised him that he would be remembered throughout time. **By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went** (Heb. 11:8).

The promise was given to Abram that God would bless his family for many generations to come. Abram and his wife Sarai were now of an old age, and they had doubts as to the fulfillment of the promise. They had no children and Sarai was beyond her childbearing years, so it is not surprising that even a man with the faith of Abram questioned as to how the Lord could keep this promise.

God does not owe us any explanations for what He is doing. It may seem difficult to face the unknown, but it should be a blessing just to know that God is working in our lives. When God does reveal a part of His plan to us, we should react with gratitude and thanksgiving. **That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him** (Eph. 1:17).

The things that God revealed to Abram would be frightening to a person who was not placing their trust in God. Abram knew that the future that God was informing him of was a future that was in God's control. We must remember that in God's plan for our lives there are often times of trials and tribulations. We have all heard the phrase "the valleys in our life mold us more than the mountains do." There is a great deal of truth to it. Difficult times are as responsible for making us who we are as the good times.

Some claim that believers will not experience hard times unless there are problems in their relationship with God. Scripture

proves this to be false. There are times that believers will endure trials, but it is the end result that matters. Just like with Abram's descendants, we are promised that we will come out of the trial blessed. The Lord says, ***afterward shall they come out with great substance.*** At the end of life on this world, the believer will receive the greatest of substance, eternal life with God.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you (Matt. 5:12).

Thought for Today: God will never take you through a trial that you cannot endure. Trust in Him, and your faith will come out stronger in the end.

Christ Revealed: By the high priest, Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 4:15-16; 5:5-10; 7:1-4). Today Christ is our High Priest who is interceding in prayer for us and who alone is deserving of our gifts and service to Him.

Word Studies: 13:6 **bear** = support; 13:12 **toward** = near; 14:11 **virtuals** = provisions, food; 14:13 **confederate** = allies; 14:17 **dale** = valley; 15:4 **shall come forth out of thine own bowels** = is your own flesh and blood.

Pray for Staff: Judy McCrary • **Government Official:** Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY) • **Country:** Andorra (85,000) in the eastern Pyrenees between France and Spain • **Major languages:** Catalan, Spanish, Portuguese, French, English • **Official freedom of religion** • 90% Roman Catholic; 10% other (Christian, Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Anglicans, Baha'is, Mormons, Jehovah's Witness) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Don't pray for God to remove the trials from your life, ask him instead to provide you with the peace and strength necessary to learn from them (John 16:33).

Optional Reading: Matthew 5.

January 6

Read Genesis 16-18

***N*ow Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai** (Gen. 16:1-2).

Abram had been on the receiving end of a wonderful promise from God. The Lord had promised that Abram would be the father of a mighty nation. He was told of a great future for his descendants. Ever since that time, Abram had been awaiting the birth of the child that would carry on towards seeing this

promise from God come to fruition. As days turned to weeks and weeks to years, there continued to be no child.

In desperation, Sarai conceived a plan. She was certain that it was their responsibility to see that a child was born so that God's promise could come to pass. She believed the Lord had not allowed her to give birth to the child, so she decided this meant she should find another woman to bear Abram's child for them to raise as their own. We must stop right here to emphasize a most important point. When God has a plan, He does not need our help in working out the details. To begin with, what is there that we could possibly do to help God? This is God, who spoke the universe into existence. How can anyone conceive that there is anything He can't accomplish? This does not mean that He does not use us in His plans. The Lord certainly has a purpose for us. However, He uses us to allow us the blessing of serving Him, not because He can't do it alone. It is hard to understand what Sarai's thinking was. For whatever reason, she felt they had to help God fulfill His promise. Like many today, they did not completely understand the all-powerful God that had made that promise. ***And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God*** (Mark 12:24)?

Doubting God usually leads us to sin, and sin usually comes at a great cost. Abram followed the lead of Sarai and laid with her handmaid Hagar. Sarai was right in the fact that this would bring about a child. Ishmael was born to Hagar, but he was not the son of promise. In God's time, Isaac would be born to the then named Abraham and Sarah. ***And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him*** (Gen. 17:19).

This should serve as a great lesson to us all. When God is speaking something over our lives, it is His plan, and we need not interfere. We only need to follow as the Holy Spirit draws us. It is only in obedience to God's will that His plan will be made manifest in our lives as it should.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Pet. 1:21).

Thought for Today: How much better would our life be if we only took the time to listen to God's plan?

Christ Revealed: As the Seed of Isaac (Gen. 17:19). Christ was a descendant of Isaac. ***Jesus . . . Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac*** (Luke 3:23-34; Heb. 11:18).

Word Studies: 16:6 **dealt hardly** = treated harshly; 17:1 **perfect** = blameless, being faithful, having integrity; 18:7 **dress it** = prepare it; 18:12 **waxed** = grown; 18:28 **Peradventure** = Suppose.

Pray for Staff: Chris Robison • **Radio:** Sponsored by Dorothy W. Ralston • **Government Official:** Rep. Frank D. Lucas (OK) • **Country:** Angola (18.5 million) in west-central Africa • **Major languages:** Portuguese, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo • 55% Roman Catholic; 25% combine Christian and traditional beliefs; 10% Protestant; 5% Brazilian evangelical; 5% animism or indigenous beliefs • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for God to grant you patience as He works his will in your life (Phil. 4:6).

Optional Reading: Matthew 6.

January 7

Read Genesis 19-21

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt Thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt Thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from Thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from Thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes (Gen. 18:23-26).

Today's reading contains one of the most significant events in the Old Testament, if not in the entire Word of God. The narrative of what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah shows that God will not let sin go on forever without judgment. As has often been stated, we, in today's society, should use what happened to these two ill-fated cities as a wake-up call. The sins of Sodom and Gomorrah are certainly in line with many of the things you see and hear about in our society today. If that is the case, why has God not set in motion the events that will coincide with our last days? Some argue that to some degree He has. While that may be true, we only need to look at the

Scripture that precedes the events in Sodom and Gomorrah to understand better how God deals with those in sin.

Abraham had learned much in his years of following the Lord. He knew that God was as much a God of love and mercy as He was a God of justice. This is the reason he began the dialogue recorded here asking if God would spare the cities if there were any righteous in them. In doing this, Abraham exposed a truth about God that should be clear to every believer in Christ. The Lord will always send a chance for mercy before He sends judgment. God does not desire to be separated from His creation. ***The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*** (II Pet. 3:9).

The Lord has clearly illustrated this throughout time. When man originally sinned, God did not destroy him completely. He instituted the operation of the sacrifice so that man could have a chance to obtain forgiveness, of a fashion, for his sins. Then at the appropriate time, Jesus came to the earth to pay man's sin debt once and for all. Thereby, God gave man mercy in two separate ways during two separate times to enable him to escape judgment. God is truly merciful to us.

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us (Luke 1:78).

Thought for Today: We know what the Lord thought of Sodom and Gomorrah; what do you think His opinion is of America?

Christ Revealed: By Isaac, the promised son of the Covenant of God (Gen. 21:12). Faith in Christ sets us free from the bondage of the Law because God made a new Covenant through Christ (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; I Cor. 11:25; also Heb. 12:24).

Word Studies: 19:3 **pressed upon** = urged them; 19:5 **know** = rape and abuse; 19:8 **shadow** = protection; 19:13 **is waxen** = has become; 20:6 **suffered** = allowed; 20:16 **a covering of the eyes** = compensation; 21:18 **hold him in thine hand** = take care of him.

Pray for Staff: Kevin Jennings • **Government Officials:** Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA), Rep. Jeff D. Duncan (SC), Sen. Rand Paul (KY), Sen. John Thune (SD) • **Country:** Anguilla (13,600) in Caribbean • Major languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Anguillian • 84.1% Christianity; 5.7% Roman Catholic; 0.7% Jehovah's Witness; 0.7% Rastafarian; 0.4% Hindu; 0.3% Muslim; 0.1% Jewish; 4.0% none; 3.5% other; 0.3% not stated • **Prayer**

Suggestion: Pray for our nation to turn its heart back to God (2 Chr. 7:14).

Optional Reading: Matthew 7.

January 8

Read Genesis 22-24

Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken. And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth (Gen. 24:50-52).

Abraham knew the importance of his son, Isaac, finding the right mate for his life. This is why he took the matter so seriously. As Abraham commissioned his most trusted servant to the task, he made him swear an oath before the Lord that he would do exactly as he commanded him in the search for Isaac's future wife. Abraham knew that Isaac's wife had to be from their homeland because this would give him the best opportunity to find a wife that knew of, and maybe even served, God. This kind of woman would not be found among those in the land of Canaan, as they served other gods.

The servant did as he was entrusted to do by Abraham. He journeyed to the land that Abraham came from. As he arrived there, he put his utter dependence in God, just as his master Abraham had done. The servant began to pray to God for a sign to let him know when he had found the right wife for Isaac. Abraham's servant asked the Lord to let the woman give him to drink and also offer to water his camels. As he raised his prayer for help, it was obvious that the servant believed in the power of God. The Lord answered the prayer of this man by giving the necessary confirmation to know that Rebekah was the right wife for Isaac. ***Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*** (James 5:16).

Rebekah did just as the servant had prayed that she would do. Beyond that, she welcomed this stranger to come and stay in her parents' home. When it was discovered that he was Abraham's servant and on a mission for his master, the family welcomed him. Although some argue that it was hearing of

how rich and powerful Isaac was to be that encouraged her family to surrender so easily to her being his wife, the words of Rebekah's family should be trusted. ***The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.*** We have to believe the providence of God was at work in this situation from the beginning.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Thought for Today: God's love for us is unfailing. Shouldn't we offer Him the same in return?

Christ Revealed: Through Isaac's submission to his father and his willingness to be offered (Gen. 22:7-10). Jesus willingly offered His life. ***I lay down*** (give up) ***My life. . . . No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself*** (John 10:11-18).

Word Studies: 22:1 **tempt** = test, prove; 22:3 **clave** = split; 22:12 **fearest** = do reverence, are unconditionally surrendered to; 22:14 **Jehovah-jireh** = the Lord will provide; 23:17 **were made sure** = were deeded; 24:60 **seed possess the gate** = descendants overcome and be victorious over.

Pray for Staff: Angie Stone • **Government Officials:** Rep. Kevin W. Yoder (KS) • **Country:** Antigua and Barbuda (82,000) in the Leeward Islands of the eastern Caribbean • **Major languages:** English, Antiguan Creole • **Religious freedom** • 76.4% Protestant; 10.4% Roman Catholic; 5.4% Other Christian; 2% Other (Rastafari, Islam, Judaism, Baha'i); 5.8% None/Unspecified • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for God to soften the hearts of loved ones who are lost (1 John 1:9).

Optional Reading: Matthew 8.

January 9

Read Genesis 25-27

And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger (Gen. 25:21-23).

The story of Esau and Jacob is possibly the most famous

account of sibling rivalry that has ever been known to mankind. As is recorded in the text, the contention that existed between these twin brothers was there even before birth. From the very beginning, it was apparent that these two were destined to be at odds.

The fact that there would be trouble between Esau and Jacob was clear from the moment that Rebekah questioned the Lord regarding the contention between the babies within her. God had said, ***the elder shall serve the younger***. This alone was cause enough for problems to develop. In those times, it was customary for the firstborn to become the chief heir to the family's inheritance. Although they should have accepted what God had spoken without any conflict on the matter, this did not happen. ***Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men*** (Acts 5:29).

Because they did not listen to God, we find a situation that not only divided a family, but also later divided the nations of their descendants. As a father of his time would, Isaac favored the first-born Esau, while Rebekah favored the second son, Jacob. Many criticize Rebekah for her role in deceiving Isaac when the time came in Genesis chapter 27 for him to give his blessing to one of his sons. Although it is true that the deception should never have happened, the fact is that God intended for the blessing to be given to Jacob. Remember, God pointed out when they were still in the womb that ***the elder shall serve the younger***. This does explain to some degree why Rebekah helped in this deception. Of course, this is not meant to imply that she and Jacob were right taking what was meant for another. There is no cause good enough to justify sin. ***Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God*** (Rom. 6:13).

There is a compelling lesson to learn here about obeying what God says. There are times when God's plan will not line up with the plan of mankind. It is always in our best interest to follow the plan of God instead of man. We could easily repeat the words of Christ as He prayed in Gethsemane.

Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done (Luke 22:42).

Thought for Today: Our plans may end in failure, but God's

plans are flawless.

Christ Revealed: As the spiritual Seed that would bless *all the nations of the earth* (Gen. 26:4). *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. . . . as of one . . . which is Christ* (Gal. 3:16).

Word Studies: 26:8 **sporting with** = caressing, expressing love; 26:14 **great store** = a great number; 26:21 **Sitnah** = enmity, anger; 26:31 **betimes** = early; 27:36 **supplanted me** = taken my place; 27:42 **as touching thee** = concerning you.

Pray for Radio: In Honor of Joyce & Bruce Rutherford • **Government Official:** Rep. Michael E. Capuano (MA) • **Country:** Argentina (42.6 million) in southern South America • Major languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese, Italian, German, Arabic, multiple others • Religious freedom • 92.1% Christian (mostly Roman Catholic); 3.1% Agnostic; 1.9% Muslim; 1.3% Jewish; 0.9 Atheist; 1.7% Buddhist or Other • **Prayer Suggestion:** As you approach crossroads in your life, ask God to direct you to the right path (Matt. 7:13-14).

Optional Reading: Matthew 9.

January 10

Read Genesis 28-30

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept (Gen. 29:10-11).

Just as Abraham had chosen for his son Isaac, Isaac desired that Jacob take a wife from their own people. Jacob was sent back to their homeland to the house of his uncle, Laban, who was the brother of his mother Rebekah. Again, the reasoning for this was that they did not want their children to take wives from among the women of Canaan, which was the land in which they lived. The people of Canaan served false gods. Their only knowledge of the one true God was through their relationship with this family which descended from Abraham. It would not have been good for Jacob to take a wife who did not even know of God. The same is true for us today. The Word of God clearly states that we should not even consider marriage to an unbeliever. ***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness*** (II Cor. 6:14)?

There are many today who have made this mistake based on what they considered sound reasoning at the time. This reasoning often included a sincere belief that the believer might help lead the unbeliever to Christ. Might is the key word in that statement. What happens if that never transpires? Suddenly the believer is faced with spending their life with a person whose outlook and goals are totally different than their own. They have to raise their children without the united front necessary to foster a strong godly foundation. ***And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*** (Eph. 6:4).

People often do not realize how important it is to choose the right husband or wife. It is quite possibly one of the two most important choices in life, second only to the acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Savior. If you have already chosen a spouse and you are unequally yoked, the road may be tougher. However, do not be discouraged! With God, there is always hope!

Jacob started out on the right foot by looking for a woman that knew his God. He followed that up by spending the necessary time to know that it was love. He also proved his own worth by laboring 14 years to win her. He even continued 7 years after his plan went wrong. Jacob loved Rachel as a man is ordained by God to love a woman.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25).

Thought for Today: Follow God with your entire being: mind, body and soul. Place your trust in Him and everything else will fall into place.

Christ Revealed: By Joseph who was born (Gen. 30:23-24) in order to save and preserve his people (50:20). Jesus was born in order to offer salvation to all mankind. ***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*** (John 3:16).

Word Studies: 28:11 **lighted upon** = came to; 28:17 **dreadful . . . place** = awesome holy place; 28:19 **Bethel** = House of God; 29:25 **beguiled** = deceived; 29:31 **hated** = unloved, loved less; 30:37 **pilled** = peeled; **strakes** = stripes.

Pray for Staff: Cheryl Walker • **Government Officials:** Rep. Lois Capps (CA), Rep. Chris Van Hollen Jr. (MD), Rep. Greg Walden (OR), Rep. Bill Shuster (PA), Sen. Mark L. Pryor (AR), Sen. Roy D. Blunt (MO) • **Country:** Armenia (3.26 million) southwest Transcaucasia between Europe and

Asia • Major languages: Armenian, Russian • Religious freedom • 94.7% Armenian Apostolic Church; 4% Other Christian; 1.3% Yezidi (monotheist with elements of nature worship) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Turn your troubled thoughts over to God and ask Him to cleanse your mind.

Optional Reading: Matthew 10.

January 11

Read Genesis 31-33

And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed (Gen. 32:26-28).

Jacobs early years had been spent in a struggle for family position with his twin brother, Esau. Once on his own, his life didn't get any easier. He spent 20 years away from home in a land that was strange to him after having been tricked by His uncle and father-in-law, Laban, into serving him the entire time. Laban first used the lure of his daughter Rachel, whom Jacob loved, to coax him into giving him 7 years of service. When Jacob had completed that 7 years, Laban deceived Jacob on his wedding night and gave him Leah as his wife instead of Rachel. Laban later explained to Jacob that tradition dictated that the older daughter must marry first. Out of love for Rachel, Jacob agreed to work for seven more years to pay her bride price as well. He served faithfully and was a very hard worker. Laban did not want him to leave because God blessed all that Jacob touched. Despite everything that had happened in Jacob's life, God still had an amazing plan for him. Little did Jacob know, but the path he was traveling on was being directed by God. ***For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps*** (1 Pet. 2:21).

Jacob had come to a point in his life where he feared he was about to lose everything. He was afraid that his brother Esau would be waiting to kill him and his entire family as they returned home. As he tried to plan a way to make peace with Esau, he did not understand the level at which God was already at work. The encounter that Jacob had with this angelic being changed his life. Just as his father before him had God's stamp

placed on him as the child of promise, Jacob too was chosen by God. It would be through the descendants of Jacob that the covenant God made with Abraham would be carried through to the end. This was a promise that could not be broken. ***For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself*** (Heb. 6:13).

We have all been in situations where we have felt trapped with no means of escape. Just as with Jacob, God was already at work in our situation, even though we didn't know it yet. He had already gone on before us making the way passable. The help He gave Jacob, and the help he has given us before, is the same help He will send the next time we are in need. God takes care of His children.

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread (Ps. 37:25).

Thought for Today: God still works miracles; we just have to be open to receiving them.

Christ Revealed: As ***the Angel*** (Messenger) ***of God*** who guides (Gen. 31:11-13). The Angel speaks not merely in the Name of God but as God, leaving no doubt that He is the Lord Jesus in His preincarnate state. ***I and My Father are One*** (John 10:30).

Word Studies: 31:1 **glory** = wealth; 31:19 **images** = family idols; 31:30 **sore longedst after** = greatly longed to return home; 31:36 **chode** = argued; 32:2 **host** = army encampment; 32:16 **drove** = herd; 32:25 **hollow** = hip socket; 32:28 **hast prevailed** = have overcame; 32:31 **halted** = limped; 33:2 **hindermost** = last; 33:14 **softly** = slowly; 33:17 **booths** = temporary shelters (tabernacles) (Lev. 23:42-43).

Pray for Government Official: Rep. Michael R. Turner (OH) • **Country:** Australia (23 million) an island continent between the Indian and Pacific Oceans • **Major languages:** English, native languages • **Religious freedom** • 61.1% Christian (25.3% Roman Catholic; 17.1 Anglican); 22.3% no religion, 2.5% Buddhist, 2.2% Islam, 1.3% Hinduism, 0.5% Judaism, 0.7% Other, 9.4% No Answer • **Prayer Suggestion:** Focus your eyes on God, and pray for the wisdom to understand His Word (Prov. 3:5-6).

Optional Reading: Matthew 11.

January 12

Read Genesis 34-36

Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you,

and be clean, and change your garments (Gen. 35:2).

How often do we hold onto things that keep us from our God? How often do we cling to our own understanding instead of seeking divine discernment? Our strange gods may be money, possessions, or even ideas that we allow to overtake and control us. The enemy uses these things to separate us from our heavenly Father. If we do not stay close to God and remain vigilant, the devil will attempt to snare us at every bad day, every weak moment, and every cross word. He knows our weaknesses and is sneaky in getting what he wants.

It is easy to fall into complacency and out of the will of God. Day to day life often fills up quickly, leaving little to no time for prayer and devotional reading. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit within us tugs at our hearts and minds, reminding us of what is lacking. God has a plan for the life of His children, but He will not make us follow this plan. It is up to us if we want our lives cleansed and clothed in righteousness. It is up to us if we want to accept Jesus as our Savior and focus on Him. ***Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you*** (Matt. 7:7). All we have to do is ask. All we have to do is seek, and the Lord will guide us into His plan. He created us. Lovingly and tenderly, He knit us in our mother's womb. With great care and precision, He makes us and molds us throughout life without us even realizing it. Even through trials and temptations, He cares for us if we turn to Him. Yet what we do with who He has created us to be is our choice. He loves us so much that He wants us to desire what He has for us. He does not want us to be puppets on a string. That would not be love.

We often forget that God is with us and waiting for us to turn to Him for every need. No matter how small or how big the issue is, He is here for us. Going through life leaning on our own understanding often runs us in circles. Trial after trial, we miss the mark.

When we lean on our Savior, we find that we are strong. And, as children of the King, we do not need the vices that once took control of our lives. Do not be obsessed with money when God promises us that He will provide our needs. ***But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*** (Phil. 4:19). Do not cling to material possessions for they will all burn up and be gone. Cling to the One who is everlasting. Cling to your Creator. Do not be trapped in your

own mind, but seek the counsel of the One who will guide you with wisdom and discernment.

For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity (Ps. 125:3).

Thought for Today: Don't allow the pursuit of material things to take God's place in your life.

Christ Revealed: As **God Almighty**, El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One (Gen. 35:11). Jesus is **the Lord . . . which is . . . the Almighty** (Rev. 1:8).

Word Studies: 34:2 **defiled** = raped; 34:3 **clave** = clung to, was passionately attracted to; 34:7 **wrought folly** = brought disgrace; 34:27 **spoiled** = plundered; 34:30 **troubled** = made trouble for; 35:11 **come out of thy loins** = be among your descendants.

Pray for Radio: Sponsored by Carl Miller • **Government Official:** Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX) • **Country:** Austria (8.2 million) in central Europe • **Major language:** German • **Religious freedom** • 64.1% Roman Catholic; 7% Muslim; 6% Orthodox Christian; 3.8% Lutheran; 19.1% Other (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jews, other) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for your full devotion to be set upon God (Rev. 3:15-16).

Optional Reading: Matthew 12.

January 13

Read Genesis 37-39

But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper (Gen. 39:21-23).

There are likely those who have experienced a worse chain of events in their lives than Joseph did. However, we would have to look long and hard to find someone who had experienced such things and, while still in the midst of the crisis, held fast to the future that God had showed him in better times. Although their actions were cruel and sinful, it is possible to see a reason why Joseph's brothers did what they did to him. After all, who wants to hear their younger brother talk day after day about how he is

going to be the ruler over your whole family. They probably felt he was having delusions of grandeur. However, their feelings of aggravation and jealousy could never condone what they did to their own brother. First, they planned his murder. It was only at the urging of Reuben that they changed their minds and ended up throwing him into a pit until they sold him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. From that point, he was taken into Egypt and was sold to Potiphar, whose wife attempted to seduce him. When Joseph refused her, she accused him of attempting to rape her. This led to Joseph being thrown in prison.

Joseph had certainly suffered through a rough couple of years, but Joseph had not been disobedient to God. He had been zealous about the things God had showed him. There is no sin in being excited about what God is doing, but we must be careful to give proper credit. If there is any bragging done about something great that God is doing in our lives, then that bragging should be about God and no other. At times, it is easy to fall in the trap of saying, "look what I have done for God." If at any time we notice a preponderance of I's in our conversation, then we have most likely become prideful. This can be a very dangerous action. Pride can be extremely destructive if allowed to work in a person's heart.

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man (Mark 7:21-23).

Thought for Today: When you feel that everything is wrong, trust that God knows what is right.

Christ Revealed: By Joseph, who was rejected by his own brothers, sold for 20 pieces of silver to Gentiles, and unjustly imprisoned, but who eventually became their savior and a world ruler (Gen. 37:28; 41:39-40). Jesus **came unto His own** (people), **and His own received Him not** (John 1:11). He was sold for 30 pieces of silver, imprisoned, and crucified; and He became our Savior who soon will return to rule the world (Rev. 19:11-16; 22:3).

Word Studies: 37:9 **made obeisance to** = bowed or prostrated before; 37:22 **rid** = rescue; 38:2 **took** = married; 38:18 **signet** = ring of authority; 38:28 **travailed** = gave birth; 39:8 **wotteth not** = does not know.

Pray for Staff: Rita Guerra • **Country:** Azerbaijan (9.5 million) southern Transcaucasia between Europe and Asia • Major languages: Azeri and

Russian • Religious freedom • 93.4% Muslim; 2.5% Russian Orthodox; 2.3% Armenian Orthodox; 1.8% Other (Hindu, Christian, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Baha'i, Hare Krishna, Jehovah's Witness, others) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Turn your pain and anger over to God, and ask for His help in loving those that have wronged you (Eph.4:32).

Optional Reading: Matthew 13.

January 14

Read Genesis 40-42

Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt (Gen. 42:1-3).

Everything that had happened to Joseph was ordained by God. For some, this is not easy to believe. There is a popular message being taught today that is referred to as the “health and wealth” gospel. It states that if anything is going wrong then we must be outside the will of God. Any health issue or financial problems are a sign of sin in our life. Of course, this message is not supported by the Word of God. There will be times that even the most faithful of believers will endure hardships. This is just part of life. ***That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust (Matt. 5:45).***

The things Joseph had endured brought him to exactly where the Lord wanted him to be. In his position of Egyptian leadership, he was the one that was able to save his entire family from starvation and death due to the famine that gripped both Egypt and Canaan. Joseph was now governor in the land of Egypt, and it was his job to sell and disperse the food that they had saved up. It was to Joseph that his brothers must go to try to buy food. These are the same brothers that wanted him dead and sold him as a slave because they were tired of hearing how God was going to raise him to a prominent position. How ironic is it that it was because they sold him into slavery that he ended up being placed in that very position? ***But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world***

to confound the things which are mighty (I Cor. 1:27).

Of course, irony is not the correct word to be used in this situation. The correct word would be providence. The providence of God was unmistakably at work in the life of Joseph. Each event in his life had contributed to him being there. The visions God had shown him led to his brothers' jealousy, which led them to sell him as a slave, which caused him to end up at Potiphar's, who then falsely sent him to prison where he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's servants, who ended up referring him to interpret Pharaoh's dream, who then made him governor.

Just as God worked in Joseph, His providence is at work in our lives as well. We may wonder at times why we are in this position or that position. It may be that God has moved us into that place so we will be where we need to be to get to the next stop in our lives. Sometimes the trials of life can be difficult. However, remember, if Joseph had not been in prison, he would not have ended up as governor of Egypt. God turns life's trials into triumphs.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (I Pet. 1:7).

Thought for Today: Always listen to God's direction and allow His providence to work in your life.

Christ Revealed: By the wisdom of Joseph (Gen. 41:39). ***Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*** (Col. 2:2-3).

Word Studies: 40:3 **in ward** = in custody; 41:2 **kine** = cows; 41:56 **waxed sore** = became severe; 42:7 **strange** = as a stranger; 42:9 **nakedness of the land** = weak points of our defense; 42:27 **espied** = saw; 42:34 **traffick** = do business; 42:38 **mischieff** = harm.

Pray for Staff: Becca Luccio • **Radio:** Sponsored by Leon and Ann Hataway • **Government Official:** Rep. Michael T. McCaul (TX) • **Country:** Bahamas (354,000) in the northern portion of the West Indies • Major languages: English, some Creole • Religious freedom • 69.5% Christian; 12% Other Protestant; 13.5% Roman Catholic; 3% None/Unknown; 2% Other (Jews, Muslims, Baha'i, Hindu, Rastafarians, Obeah [folk magic, sorcery]) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for the strength to overcome any obstacle that Satan sets in your path (2 Cor. 12:8-10).

Optional Reading: Matthew 14.

January 15

Read Genesis 43-45

Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence (Gen. 45:1-3).

Years had passed since that now infamous day when Joseph's brothers let their jealousy take control of them, and they allowed themselves to act upon the malicious plan they had hatched. God had blessed Joseph in many abundant ways since that day. However, there was still grief in his heart that had been brought on by the long separation from his family. He longed to be a true part of their family again. It is hard to understand how he could have felt that way. After all, his brothers would have murdered him if not for the intervention of his brother Reuben. The fact is, there was a Christ-like spirit of forgiveness that was in Joseph's heart. In forgiving his brothers, he was following both the instruction and example that many years in the future would be given by Jesus. **And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses** (Mark 11:25-26). **Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots** (Luke 23:34).

Joseph knew that if he did not forgive his brothers for what they had done, then he would never be able to truly renew his relationship with his family. The rift would not remain just between him and his brothers. His father would be forced to choose between his sons, and it would tear the entire family apart at its seams. In his heart, he wanted the love of his family more than he wanted justice or vengeance.

Many families today find themselves in similar situations. After an initial falling out between one or two family members, others are forced to take sides. Before long the entire family is at odds. Forgiveness is needed in these situations. Many of us have been greatly wronged by others in our lives, and we

must come to terms with the fact of what Christ teaches about forgiveness. We do not need to forgive just to try to heal the relationship. Our hearts need healing as well. As long as that unforgiving feeling is within our hearts, we can never totally have the peace with God that we so need. Therefore, let us forgive those who have done wrong to us and ask forgiveness for the times we have wronged others.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven (Luke 6:37).

Thought for Today: We are all born into sin; only with God can we overcome it.

Christ Revealed: Through Joseph's dealings with his brothers. Christ deals with us in such a way as to bring about our confession of sin and a recognition of His forgiving love. In a similar way, He reveals His sovereignty over the affairs of life (Gen. 45:5-8,15; comp. Rom. 5:8; Eph. 1:17, 20-22).

Word Studies: 43:7 **straitly** = specifically; **tenor** = had to answer him; 43:25 **against Joseph came** = for Joseph's arrival; 43:30 **bowels** = heart; 44:12 **left at** = finished with; 45:16 **fame** = news; 45:24 **fall not out by the way** = have no argument on your way.

Pray for Staff: Amber Allen • **Country:** Bahrain (1.23 million) 11 islands in the Persian Gulf near Saudi Arabia • Major languages: Arabic, English, Persian, Urdu, Malayalam, Hindi • No evangelical work is permitted • 99.8% Muslim; 0.2% Other (Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Baha'i) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Ask God to guard you from the temptations of the world (James. 4:7).

Optional Reading: Matthew 15.

January 16

Read Genesis 46-48

And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn (Gen. 48:13-14).

From all we have studied, Joseph had earned his place among the Old Testament patriarchs. Even though he was one of twelve sons, his life stands out as an example of one who followed God and was a leader of God's people. If not for the way God used Joseph's life, the descendants of Abraham would

have died because of the drought and famine that had covered the land of Canaan. As always, God had set aside a remnant that would be the preserving factor for His people. This time that remnant consisted of one man. That man was Joseph. The Lord has His hand of protection on all who are living to fulfill His purpose. ***And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen*** (II Tim. 4:18).

Jacob recognized the importance of the life of his son Joseph, and for that reason he chose to treat the sons of Joseph as his own. This ensured that each of them would gain an equal share of all that had belonged to Jacob. Upon Jacob's death, they would not simply be heirs to Joseph's inheritance, but they would each have their own share.

In today's reading, Joseph brings the boys to be blessed by Jacob. Scripture records that Jacob's eyesight had all but gone. Joseph positions his sons so that Manasseh, who is the older son, is in front of Jacob's right hand, and Ephraim is in front of Jacob's left hand. Joseph does this purposely, as the right hand is seen as the hand of power. This would mean the older son would have the place of honor and be blessed by Jacob's right hand. An interesting thing happens as Jacob, who is blind, crosses his hands and touches Ephraim with his right hand and Manasseh with his left. This meant he was honoring Ephraim over Manasseh. Jacob himself was the younger brother of Esau, but he was the chosen son. Joseph had ten older brothers, but he was without question the most honored. God chooses whom He chooses, irrespective of human customs, for whatever reason He wishes. ***For there is no respect of persons with God*** (Rom. 2:11).

This is still true today. We cannot be good enough or skilled enough to be selected by God. The truth is He has selected us all to one service or another. There is no small job in the kingdom of God. All contribute to its growth.

And when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples: and of them He chose twelve, whom also He named apostles (Luke 6:13).

Thought for Today: God doesn't always call the equipped;

however He does equip the called.

Christ Revealed: By Joseph, who was placed second only to Pharaoh (Gen. 41:39-40) to sustain life and give provision (47:15-17). Jesus said: ***The Bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world*** (John 6:33).

Word Studies: 46:4 **put his hand upon thine eyes** = be with you when you die; 46:31 **Pharaoh** was a title given to the monarchs of Egypt; 47:4 **sore** = severe; 47:6 **activity** = ability, competence; 48:6 **thy issue** = your offspring; 48:14 **wittingly** = knowingly.

Pray for Government Official: Rep. Diane L. Black (TN) • **Country:** Bangladesh (150 million) in southern Asia • Major languages: Bengali, English, Urdu • Religious freedom • 89% Muslim; 8% Hindu; 1% Buddhist; .5% Christian; 1.5% animist • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for the future of your family (James 5:16).

Optional Reading: Matthew 16.

January 17

Read Genesis 49-50 & Exodus 1

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 (Ex. 1:8-10).

We really don't know to what degree the Pharaoh in the days of Joseph followed the Lord. However, we do know that he recognized the existence of God and had respect for God and His people. While there is no proof that he had turned away from the Egyptian gods, there is at least some evidence of God working in his life as witnessed by his treatment of Joseph and his family.

Time passes. Rulers change. Men of God die. We don't know the exact length of time it took, but bit by bit the descendants of Abraham lost their place of honor in the nation of Egypt. It seemed destined to happen. Was it because of the new Pharaoh? To some extent, it was. Was it because Joseph had died and no great man rose in his place? This could also be a factor.

The main reason that this happened is God. Many years ago, God had commanded Abraham to leave his home and go to a land he knew nothing about. Abraham did this because God told him it was the land of promise where God would

raise up a great nation. The land then known as Canaan was to be home to the nation of Israel. ***By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise*** (Heb. 11:9).

The only reason the people of Israel ended up in Egypt was to be preserved during the great famine. They were never meant to stay past it. However, if things had remained as they were, the people of God would have stayed in Egypt. Why wouldn't they? They were greatly honored there. All of this changed with the new Pharaoh. Enslaved and mistreated, God's chosen were much more open to the idea of going home.

At first glance, it may appear that God Himself is a hard taskmaster. This could not be further from the truth. The fact is, He loves us so much that He has to allow a controlled level of punishment to come our way to keep us from getting into situations that would be even worse. We do the same for our own children. It is never a joy to punish a child, but it is necessary. The lessons they learn could save their life one day. The lives of the people of Israel were saved when God directed them to Egypt, and now the day is about to come when He will direct them out. They must be prepared to leave and return to the place that God has set aside as their own land. They were not destined to serve another. They were destined to be their own nation. When trials come and we feel we have to move, God may be the one moving us to something great.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him (Matt. 7:11)?

Thought for Today: God our Heavenly Father loves us enough to never overlook our sins.

Christ Revealed: As the Messiah who would come through the tribe of Judah. ***The sceptre shall not depart from Judah . . . until Shiloh*** (Peacemaker) ***come*** (Gen. 49:10). ***Jesus . . . the son*** (descendant) ***of . . . Judah*** (Luke 3:23-33).

Word Studies: Gen. 49:10 **gathering** = obedience; 49:20 **fat** = rich; 49:21 **hind** = deer; 50:15 **requite us** = pay us back in full; Ex. 1:10 **when there falleth out any** = in the event of; 1:13 **serve with rigour** = work as slaves under cruel circumstances.

Pray for Bible PathwayPrinter: Ambrose Printing Staff, Nashville TN • **Country:** Barbados (274,000) on the island farthest east in the West Indies • **Major language:**

English, Bajan • Religious freedom • 63.8% Christian; 6.6% Other Christian; 4.2% Roman Catholic; 1.7% Other (Hinduism, Islam, Jewish, Baha'i, Mormon, Other Non Christian); 2% Jehovah's Witness; 1.1% Rastafarian; 17.3% None; 3.3% No response • **Prayer Suggestion:** Offer praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord your God, for He alone is worthy.(1 Chr. 16:34)

Optional Reading: Matthew 17.

January 18

Read Exodus 2-4

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? what shall I say unto them? And 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 (Ex. 3:13-14).

The life of Moses had already taken quite a few interesting turns. His life had been full of danger and turmoil since infancy. In the days of Moses, any male Hebrew born was in imminent danger. Pharaoh had worried that the people of Israel would grow to such a great number that they might overthrow Egypt. To prevent this, they had begun to kill many of the male children at birth (Ex. 1:8-22). The mother of Moses did all she could to save his life. First, she hid him for three months. When she could no longer do that, she decided to give him the chance to live even if she lost him to Pharaoh's house. Amazingly, it worked! As we have seen in our reading, she was still able to play a great part in his life.

Adversity continued to follow Moses into adulthood. In anger, he murdered an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew man. Instead of being grateful however, the Hebrew people were afraid of him and turned him in to Pharaoh. Moses fled to Midian, where he took a wife and had a child.

Moses had probably resigned himself to the fact that he would never see his family or his people again. Little did he know, God had chosen him for a great purpose. ***Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you*** (John 15:16).

Moses felt much fear and uncertainty when he was approached by God. He had not been raised with his own

people, and they knew nothing of him except for the fact that he was a murderer. Even that fact was uncertain since he had been gone from them for so long. Those were all legitimate thoughts, but they had no bearing on Moses' fitness for the task. All those thoughts were about his inadequacies, which were not relevant since God, who was the One sending him, had absolutely no inadequacies. ***And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the LORD God omnipotent reigneth*** (Rev.19:6).

God is all knowing, all powerful, and is always with His children. When Moses got down to the root of the issue, what he needed was the reassurance of who was sending him. The talents, skills and abilities of the person being sent are of little consequence to God. The only ability that God truly deems necessary from those who are to serve Him is availability. Any person who will offer himself as a servant to God will be used to grow His kingdom here on earth. Our God will equip us for the service He calls us to perform for Him.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Thought for Today: Don't ever doubt your worth in God's eyes. He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Christ Revealed: As the ***I AM THAT I AM*** who commissioned Moses (Ex. 3:13-14; comp. Heb. 13:8). ***Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily*** (Truly, truly), ***I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am*** (John 8:58).

Word Studies: 2:13 **strove** = were quarreling; 2:16 **of Midian** = of the descendants of Abraham through his second wife Keturah (Gen. 25:1-4); 2:23 **sighed by reason of** = groaned because of; 2:25 **had respect unto** = was concerned about; 3:22 **spoil** = take the wealth of.

Pray for Staff: Chris Robison • **Government Officials:** Gov. Martin O'Malley (MD), Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (MD), Rep. Kay Granger (TX), Rep. Michael H. Michaud (ME) • **Country:** Belarus (9.5 million) in northeastern Europe • Major languages: Belarussian, Russian • Religious freedom • 48.3% Orthodox; 7.1% Roman Catholic; 3.5% Other (Christians, Muslims, Jews, Uniates, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krishnas, Baha'is, Mormons, Messianic and Reform, other); 41.1% Irreligion • **Prayer Suggestion:** Seek to see yourself through the eyes of God, so that you may understand your worth and the purpose for your life (Ps. 139:13-15).

Optional Reading: Matthew 18.

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 (Ex. 5:22-23).

Pharaoh had not hearkened to the words of Moses and Aaron concerning the freeing of the people of Israel. As a matter of fact, it seemed that their attempts at getting their people freed had totally backfired. The only thing they had accomplished was to incite Pharaoh to make things much harder on God's chosen people. The people themselves were feeling that the only thing that Moses and Aaron were doing was making life much more difficult than it already was. Therefore, they were dealing with opposition from both sides, Pharaoh and the people of Israel.

One would think that the people of Israel would have stood with Moses and Aaron in hopes of acquiring their freedom. The people had lived for hundreds of years as slaves in the nation of Egypt. The message that Moses and Aaron were bringing was clear. God was preparing to set His chosen people free. Yet, instead of supporting these men that God had sent to deliver them, they only saw the bad that was happening. Although Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph could have explained to them clearly from their own experiences that the people who follow God will suffer persecution at times in order to fulfill the will of the Lord, the people of Israel were long separated from the ways and thoughts of their fathers. **Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake** (Matt. 24:9).

Moses had to have been feeling that this was all a lost cause. From his words in Exodus chapter five, he was wondering if the Lord was ever going to deliver the people of Israel from their bondage in the nation of Egypt. Just like all of us, Moses needed to understand one thing, and that is that God works in His own time. Everything He does is done for a particular reason, just as there is NO wasted space in the Word of God. God has a purpose for all that He says and does. We may look at what God is doing and think, or even pray, "there is surely a

better way to do this!" Once said though, do we really believe that we have a better plan of doing things than God does? Of course not! We must simply step out of the way and let God work through our lives without any interference. God will use those who allow themselves to be used in His way. Just as they were commanded, Moses and Aaron continued to carry the message from God to Pharaoh until the people of Israel were freed.

Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done (Matt. 21:21).

Thought for Today: If you are being persecuted for God, then you must be doing something right.

Christ Revealed: As the Redeemer from the bondage of sin. ***I will bring you out . . . I will redeem you (Ex. 6:6). Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . But with the precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).***

Word Studies: 5:8 **tale** = quota; 5:9 **vain words** = worthless promises of Moses; 5:11 **not ought** = none; 5:13 **hasted** = kept driving; 5:19 **minish** = make fewer in number; 5:21 **made our savour to be abhorred** = made us offensive; 7:15 **against he come** = waiting to meet him.

Pray for Radio: Sponsored by Carl Miller • **Country:** Belgium (11 million) in northwestern Europe • **Major languages:** Dutch, French, German • **Religious freedom** • 75% Catholic; 25% Other (Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindus, Sikhs, Hare Krishnas, Scientologist, Non religious, Not stated) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for God's blessings on those who persecute you, for they only make you stronger(1 Pet. 4:12-14).

Optional Reading: Matthew 19.

January 20

Read Exodus 8-10

We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as He shall command us. And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me (Ex. 8:27-28).

Moses had come before the throne of Pharaoh to request of him that the people of Israel be allowed to serve the Lord their God. Of course, this did not sit well with Pharaoh. As the most

powerful ruler in the world, he felt that all the people should serve him and only him. Pharaoh did consent for the children of Israel to go and sacrifice. However, he set the terms under which it was to be done. Moses countered him by informing him that they could not perform a proper sacrifice in Egypt with Egyptian items. Pharaoh allowed them to go into the wilderness as Moses had asked, but he told him to speak to God on his behalf as well. This request was in response to the plague of flies that was upon Egypt. Pharaoh was most concerned with his own self-preservation and maintaining the level of control he held over his people, which he felt included Israel.

Pharaoh was, to the people of Israel in this time, what the devil is to the believer today. Just as the enemy does with us today, Pharaoh's greatest desire was to keep the people of Israel in bondage. Like Pharaoh, the devil will try to draw us into not completely fulfilling the Word of God. The majority of the time the devil will not use elaborate lies that no one would believe. He will instead choose to be more cunning in His deception. God had instructed Moses on where to go to have their time of sacrifice, but Pharaoh played the part of one who was willing to compromise. Instead of wanting them to move as God ordered, Pharaoh tells them to just stay in Egypt and offer their sacrifice. This is one of the best devices of the enemy. The devil does not always simply say don't do what God tells you. He is much more subtle than that. He will try to get us to hold off on doing as God commanded. After all, what can a little time hurt? Another tactic is much like Pharaoh's in that he tries to get us to not do exactly as God says. He used these same tactics to cause man to sin in the beginning. ***Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*** (Rom. 5:12).

Let us be conscious of what the enemy is trying to do in our life. We do not have to believe his lies. If God is directing us to act, then we should do what He says when He says to do it. We must ensure that we are listening for the correct voice.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world (I John 4:1).

Thought for Today: The Bible is the Word of God, and every

verse, chapter and book is vital to our understanding.

Christ Revealed: As the Light to His people. *There was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt . . . but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings* (Ex. 10:22-23). Jesus said: *I am The Light of the World: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness* (John 8:12). *The LORD will lighten my darkness* (II Sam. 22:29; also Is. 42:6-7).

Word Studies: 8:15 **respite** = relief, an interval of delay; 8:22 **sever** = set apart; separate; 8:23 **put a division** = make a distinction; 9:3 **grievous murrain** = severe pestilence or disease; 9:31 **in the ear** = ripening; **bolled** = in the bud; 10:7 **be a snare unto us** = endanger our welfare.

Pray for Radio: In Honor of Joshua Belisle • **Government Officials:** Gov. Nimrata Randhawa Haley (SC), Rep. Bill L. Owens (NY) • **Country:** Belize (334,000) on the eastern coast of Central America • Major languages: Spanish, Creole • Religious freedom • 39.3% Roman Catholic; 30.9% Protestant; 11.5% Other (Jehovah's Witness, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormon, Baha'i); 3.1% Unknown; 15.2% None • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for God's wisdom as you read through the Bible, and ask Him to lead you in the direction He wants you to go (Rom. 12:2).

Optional Reading: Matthew 20.

January 21

Read Exodus 11-13

Y*our lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats* (Ex. 12:50.)

The Word of God leaves no doubt that our God, who is Holy, will never disregard sin. All humans are sinners by nature, and of course this included all the people of both Israel and Egypt. God always has and always will judge sin. In today's reading, the way that God judged sin was for death to come to all of the firstborn within the borders of the nation of Egypt. Human or animal, Egyptian or Israelite, God's judgment was rendered on all. However, long ago, God had made a covenant with Abraham regarding his life and his descendants, the Israelites. In honoring this covenant, God offered his chosen people a way of escape from this judgment of death. God instituted a plan that could meet the requirement for death and still preserve His people. A replacement offering in the form of a **lamb** that **shall be without blemish** was to be slain and its blood placed over the doorpost of the homes of the people of Israel. If this was done exactly as God directed, then the firstborn of that household would be spared. We will find in life that anything but

exact obedience to the commands of God can be dangerous to not only our mortal lives but also to our eternal ones. ***Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness*** (Rom. 6:16)?

There may have been some among the Hebrews who thought that they had no need for this covering. They might have felt that they had been obedient to the Law of God and therefore might have believed that they were already protected. As was said before, this would have been very dangerous thinking. If they held to those beliefs, great sorrow would have come to their homes. God had made a way of escape, and it was not a complicated one. To be truthful, it was quite simple. Death was required, and death would have to be paid.

The love that God had for His people encouraged Him to offer this plan that would allow for their atonement. Many years later, he would once again do the same. God would allow for a way of atonement that could permanently wash away the sins of man. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would die to pay the sin debt of every human being. ***That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord*** (Rom. 5:21).

As believers in Christ, we should still regard the Passover as the most important day in our lives. We should not just think about it for only one day or week a year, but instead we should remember it on a daily basis. Our personal Passover occurred the moment that we surrendered our lives to Christ. His blood was placed over the door of our hearts. On that day, the curse of death was removed from our lives.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (John 5:24).

Thought for Today: "Are you washed in the blood, in the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?"

Christ Revealed: Through the sacrifice of lambs without blemish. Not one of the lambs' bones was to be broken (Ex. 12:5,46). We were redeemed ***with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*** (I Pet. 1:19). It was foretold of Christ: ***He keepeth all His bones: not***

one of them is broken (Ps. 34:20; John 19:36).

Word Studies: 11:2 **borrow** = ask, accept; 12:9 **sodden** = boiled; **purtenance thereof** = inner organs of an animal; 12:11 **loins girded** = dressed for a journey; 13:2 **Sanctify** = Dedicate, Set apart; 13:12 **matrix** = womb; 13:18 **harnessed** = armed, equipped.

Pray for Staff: Angie Stone • **Government Officials:** Secy. Gary F. Locke (Dept. of Commerce), Atty. General Eric H. Holder (Dept. of Justice) • **Country:** Benin (9.9 million) in western Africa • Major languages: French, Fon, Yoruba, tribal languages • Some hostility toward Christians • 27.1% Roman Catholic; 24.4% Muslim; 17.3% Vodoun; 10.4% Protestant; 5.3% Other Christian; 15.5% Other • **Prayer Suggestion:** Praise God for sending His Son so that we might live (Ps. 150:6).

Optional Reading: Matthew 21.

January 22

Read Exodus 14-16

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 (Ex. 14:12).

Pharaoh had finally consented, after the great demonstration of the power of God during the Passover, to allow the people of Israel to leave. God had directed Moses in the way to go upon leaving Egypt. There was a shorter path than the one the Lord had selected, but it was through the land of the Philistines. God knew how little faith His people had at that time. He knew at the first sign of a battle that the people might turn and go back to Egypt and become Pharaoh's slaves once again. Therefore, God led them a different way. They were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. By these miracles, they knew God was leading them. ***To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out*** (John 10:3).

They had barely gotten away from their Egyptian homes when Pharaoh's army set out in pursuit of them. Pharaoh was determined to recapture them to return them to their place as slaves in Egypt. In a state of panic, the people of Israel called on the Lord, but not because they believed He would save them. They wanted to know why He had troubled them

with this journey only to let them die. They blamed Moses for their situation, and they had no faith in the fact that God would preserve and protect them by stopping the Egyptian army.

The people of Israel had seen all that God had done to set them free from Egypt, yet they still decided that placing their faith in God would be misdirected. Instead, they decided to cower in fear and complain that they should never have left Egypt in the first place. They had no idea that God would once again demonstrate His power in such a way that would truly show them how protected they were. ***For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*** (Rom. 8:38-39).

Just as God had shown Himself to the people of Israel, He has done the same for us, His people of today. Just as God had a covenant with them, He also has a covenant with the believer today. Fear can be a powerful thing that, in the lives of some, is allowed to defeat their faith. Let us allow our faith to overcome any fear that might come upon us. The Lord moved on the behalf of His people in times past, and He will move on behalf of His people today. The choice is up to us whether we decide to live a life of fear and defeat, or we choose to place our trust in God and live a life of faith and victory. It doesn't take a lot of faith when your faith is in the Lord.

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you (Matt. 17:20).

Thought for Today: Why do we cry out to God with our sorrows, yet forget to praise Him for our blessings?

Christ Revealed: Through the ***bread*** (manna) ***from heaven*** (Ex. 16:4,15). Jesus said: ***I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven*** (John 6:51; also 6:32-48).

Word Studies: 14:8 **with an high hand** = triumphantly; 14:17 **get me honour upon** = assert my authority; 14:27 **to his strength** = to its normal depth; 15:14 **Palestina** = Philistia, land of the Philistines; 15:23 **Marah** = bitterness; 16:4 **prove** = test; 16:18 **mete** = measure.

Pray for Radio: Sponsored by Lt. Col. & Mrs. Walter Swanson • **Government Officials:** Rep. Steve J. Chabot (OH), Rep. Rick A. Crawford (AR) • **Country:** Bermuda (69,500) in the North Atlantic Ocean • Major language: English, Portuguese • Religious Freedom; 49.2% Protestant; 14.5% Roman Catholic; 12.4% Other; 6.2% Unspecified; 17.7% None • **Prayer Suggestion:** Approach God with an attitude of praise and worship (Col. 3:4-17)!

Optional Reading: Matthew 22.

January 23

Read Exodus 17-19

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).

It is quite understandable that there would be some uncertainty in the minds of the children of Israel as they found themselves in an area where there was no water to drink. However, it would have made sense for their thoughts to have turned back to how much the Lord had already done for them. They had experienced this exact same situation in Marah. At that time, the Lord had guided Moses to a tree to throw into the water to make it fit for consumption. Therefore, if God had provided water to drink then, why would He not provide water now? At this point, we are left wondering if the people of Israel really understood whom it was that they were serving. One of the great character traits of God is the fact that He is unchanging. ***Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*** (Heb. 13:8).

The Israelites already had overwhelming proof that God had His hands upon them. They did not even have to look to their history and see how God had helped Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and so many others. All they had to do was look at their own set of circumstances. They had been enslaved in Egypt by Pharaoh, and God had used great displays of His power to deliver them out of their bondage. As they had made their escape, the Red Sea blocked their path. God stood this great body of water up on its ends, and they passed on dry land. As the armies of Egypt pursued them, God brought the waters of the Red Sea down upon their enemy, destroying this great military power and once again saving His people. One

would think it should have been clear to them by that point that the God they served, who is the only true God, is all powerful. This has been said before and will continue being said until all understand this great truth. Is there an enemy that should strike fear in the hearts of God's people? No! This has nothing to do with the ones serving, but it has everything to do with the one whom is being served. ***Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world*** (I John 4:4).

We are not really so different from the children of Israel. Time and time again we, as "the church", fall into the same traps and patterns that they did so very many years ago. Why is this? Our enemy the devil is, to a great extent, still using the same devices to deceive God's people. One of these devices is doubt. Even though we have seen God work in our lives, we still allow doubt to enter our hearts when we find ourselves in dire circumstances. Hindsight will forever be 20/20. It is easy to fault the children of Israel, but the problem is that so often we follow their lead. We need to repent of our doubt and trust in the fact that God never breaks a promise.

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the Law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all (Rom. 4:16).

Thought for Today: God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Just as he provided for the Israelites, so too will he meet our needs today.

Christ Revealed: As the Rock and the Water that came forth from it (Ex. 17:6). ***They drank of that spiritual Rock (Petras in Greek) that followed*** (accompanied) ***them: and that Rock was Christ*** (I Cor. 10:4; comp John 7:38).

Word Studies: 17:2 **chide** = find fault; 17:13 **discomfited** = defeated; 17:15 **Jehovah-nissi** = The Lord is my standard or banner; 19:5 **peculiar treasure** = special possession.

Pray for Staff: Judy McCrary • **Government Official:** Sen. Thomas R. Carper (DE) • **Country:** Bhutan (725,000) in the eastern Himalayas of central Asia • Major languages: Sharchhopka, Dzongkha, Lhotshamkha, Other • Public worship, evangelism, and proselytization are illegal • 75% Buddhist; 25% Hindu • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for internal peace while you wait upon God (Lam. 3:25).

January 24

Read Exodus 20-22

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. And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven (Ex. 20:20-22).

God handed down the Ten Commandments to His people many years ago, but how seriously do we take them today? There are many who would claim that they follow them to the letter, while others question if it is even possible to do so. It brings to mind a situation that Jesus shared about a rich young ruler who thought he had followed the Law in its entirety. **And he said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto Him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto Him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet (Matt. 19:17-20)?** The Lord quickly discerned the heart of this young man that came wanting to be His disciple. The Lord knew that this man lacked the love for God and others that would be necessary in order to offer his life in complete surrender to God. In essence, he faltered at the very first commandment, **Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Ex. 20:3).** He had allowed his wealth to become a god in his life that he was not willing to part with. He may have had love for God and man, but it paled in comparison to his love of his wealth.

This Scripture, in which the Lord commands the rich young ruler to give away all that he has, has been questioned by those that say that God does not ask this of all of us. They wonder why it was so important with this one man. The truth is that God does ask this of all of us. He requires that all we have and all we

are be dedicated to Him. Though He might not always ask us to follow through with giving it all away, our willingness of heart must be that we would do so. The Bible says; ***Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not*** (II Cor. 8:11-12).

One might think that this is a hard statement to make. Is it correct in saying that if there is an unwillingness in our hearts to give away our possessions if asked of by God, then we do not take His commandments seriously? If asked this way, the question should answer itself. God spoke these commandments to man. Four of the commands were tied to our love for Him. Six were related to how we were to love each other. There is another commandment that some may feel is quoted too often. Yet in looking at its words how could that be possible?

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30).

Thought for Today: All that God has given us is required to be used for His glory, yet many of us claim to be unable even to tithe.

Christ Revealed: The perfection of Christ is revealed through the Ten Commandments, for He kept all of them (Ex. 20:1-17). He was perfect and ***without sin*** (Heb. 4:15). He also gave us a ***new Commandment . . . That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another*** (John 13:34).

Word Studies: 20:13 **kill** = murder; 21:14 **come presumptuously upon** = willfully attacks; 21:16 **stealeth** = kidnaps; 21:19 **be quit** = go unpunished; 21:22 **her fruit depart from her** = she miscarries; 21:29 **were wont** = has tried before; 22:2 **breaking up** = breaking in.

Pray for Staff: Jennifer Palafox • **Government Officials:** Rep. Mike C. Thompson (CA), Rep. John Garamendi (CA) • **Country:** Bolivia (10.4 million) in South America • **Major languages:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara • **Religious freedom** • 95% Roman Catholic; 5% Protestant • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for God's guidance as he opens your heart to the joys of giving(2 Cor. 9:7).

Optional Reading: Matthew 24.

January 25

Read Exodus 23-25

And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it (Ex. 25:8-9).

The Lord provided evidence of the covenant that He had made with the nation of Israel as He commanded them, ***Ye shall serve the Lord your God*** (Ex. 23:25). After handing down His Laws, God gave Moses very specific blueprints for the construction of the Tabernacle. It is for God that the Tabernacle was built. It was to be His place where He would ordain the manner in which worship was given. The Tabernacle was to be built in the form of a tent so that it could be easily transported during the time Israel would spend in the wilderness. Each person was asked to contribute materials towards the building of the Tabernacle. God still uses His people in similar ways today. He asks for tithes and offerings from the faithful to help plant and construct churches worldwide. From the Old Testament, through the New Testament and still on into today, the spirit in which we give is more important than the monetary value of the gift itself. ***But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*** (II Cor. 9:6-7).

Many of the aspects of the Tabernacle point into the future to the time when Jesus Christ will come to earth to atone for the sins of mankind. The Tabernacle was built for three main purposes. First, it gave Israel a place in which to seek reconciliation in their relationship with God. It also provided a place where they could be of service to God. Finally, it was in the Tabernacle that God would dwell among them; it was a place from which to make contact with man. When Jesus came, He fulfilled all three of these purposes.

The Tabernacle had a white cloth that formed a wall that enabled there to be separation from the presence of God for the priests that would be serving. This wall was meant to serve as a reminder that God is holy. We are all separated from God because of His righteousness and our unrighteousness. The only way for us to get to God is for someone who is righteous to intercede on our behalf. Christ is this person for all who receive His free gift of

redemption. ***My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*** (1 John 2:1).

The Word of God is clear that there is only one way that we as sinful humans can obtain access to a holy God. We must go through Jesus by way of the cross. It is only through Him that we are able to go to our heavenly Father in prayer. It will only be by His wonderful grace that we will be able to spend all eternity with the Lord in His amazing kingdom called heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me (John 14:6).

Thought for Today: Forgiving others opens the door for God's healing and restoration in our own lives.

Christ Revealed: As the Ark of the Covenant (Testimony). The wood demonstrates His humanity; the gold overlay represented His deity. Only through His blood sprinkled on the Ark could one receive forgiveness. God dwelt above the Mercy Seat (Ex. 25:10-22). ***Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us*** (Heb. 9:12).

Word Studies: 23:2 **decline after many** = yield to the evil majority; 23:8 **gift** = bribe; 23:13 **be circumspect** = take heed, be cautious; 23:31 **sea of the Philistines** = Mediterranean Sea; 25:10 **cubit** = about 18 inches; 25:37 **over against it** = on the opposite wall.

Pray for Staff: Kevin Jennings • **Government Officials:** Rep. Andy P. Harris (MD), Rep. Richard L. Hanna (NY) • **Country:** Bosnia and Hercegovina (4 million) on the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe • Major language: Serbo-Croatian • Little evangelism being done • 40% Muslim; 31% Serbian Orthodox; 15% Roman Catholic; 14% Other (including Jews) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for a revival of your church and for the Lord to continue to move (Is. 57:15).

Optional Reading: Matthew 25.

January 26

Read Exodus 26-28

And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass (Ex. 27:1-2).

The altar has been a place of great importance throughout the Word of God. We find that Noah built an altar soon after the

floods receded and they had left the ark. Abraham is recorded as to having made several altars before the Lord. The altar has forever been a place where God and man could meet. Here in the Book of Exodus, God lays out specific plans for an altar that would play yet another role of historical significance in the relationship between God and man.

This altar would give man the opportunity to repent, declaring that entry into the presence of God must be preceded by sacrificial atonement for sin. It was crafted of shittim wood, which is also known as acacia wood, overlayed in brass and placed in front of the entrance to the Tabernacle. This is the altar of burnt offering and is called the Brazen Altar.

It should be noted here that brass is symbolic of the judgment of God. It is recorded at a later time in the Word of God where Moses would lift up the brass serpent during their journey to the promised land. Serpents were sent by God in an act of judgment upon the people of Israel for their murmuring and complaining. Those who still trusted in God only had to look to the brass serpent that Moses was holding, and they would be spared. In a similar way today, we look to Christ for our salvation. ***And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*** (John 3:14-16).

Man was to make offering for his sins. The offerings were made on the Brazen Altar by the priests who were chosen by God. This whole process of forgiveness in the Old Testament points to the New Testament and Christ. Our altar is where we go to meet Christ. It may be an altar in church, a chair in our living room, our desk at work, our prayer closet, or a tree stump in a field that is used for prayer time to communicate with God. The altar is where we connect with God. ***We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle*** (Heb. 13:10).

Jesus is now both our High Priest and our Sacrificial Lamb. For those who will place their trust in Him, He will take away their sins, and their sins will be eradicated. Furthermore, every time we sin and repent, Christ will be found interceding on our

behalf. The plan of God, which began with the sacrifice on the altar in the Old Testament, is fulfilled today when heartfelt tears fall as a person makes an eternal connection with Christ their Lord and Savior.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:10).

Thought for Today: Go to wherever your altar is. God will meet you there. Cast all your cares and worries upon him.

Christ Revealed: Through the Brazen Altar, upon which the Sin Offering was burned (Ex. 27:1-8; Lev. 4:1-35). Jesus' offering of Himself as the final sacrifice was the fulfillment of all Old Testament altars as well as all sacrificial offerings. ***Jesus Christ. . . In whom we have redemption through His blood*** (Eph. 1:5-7; John 1:29,36; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12).

Word Studies: 26:6 **taches** = devices for fastening two parts together; 26:19 **tenons** = projections that fit into one another; 27:6 **staves** = poles for carrying; 27:21 **order it** = keep it burning; 28:8 **curious girdle** = skillfully made belt; 28:32 **hole of an habergeon** = neck in a jacket or protective armor.

Pray for Staff: Amber Allen • **Government Officials:** Gov. Mark Dayton (MS), Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA), Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA), Rep. Albio Sires (NJ) • **Country:** Botswana (2.1 million) in Southern Africa • Major languages: English, Setswana • 71.6% Christian; 6 % Badimo; 1.4% Other; 0.4% Unspecified; 20.6% None • **Prayer Suggestion:** Give thanks to God for all the trials that He has carried you through (2 Thess. 5:18).

Optional Reading: Matthew 26.

January 27

Read Exodus 29-31

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily My sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death (Ex. 31:13-15).

As we discovered with our study of the entire substance and text of the Ten Commandments, quite a few of us today have taken a laid back approach to following the Word of God. God's Commandment to His people regarding the keeping of the sabbath has been forgotten by many. Similar to other choices in

life that are tied to the way God commands us to live, there are an abundance of excuses offered as to why there is no honor or respect shown towards this Commandment of God. There are those that will say that they honor the sabbath by attending church, regardless of what happens the rest of the day. Others will contend that the lives of people were not as busy in the time the Bible was written as they are now. They argue that God understands because, after all, He wants us to provide for our families and to spend time with them. The Word of God will even be used to support this thought. ***And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day*** (Luke 14:5)? The problem with this defense is that many of these people caused their ox to be in the pit in the first place.

Jesus understood the fact that things could come up that would require our immediate attention even on the Lord's day. For example, if a pipe burst in your home, this cannot wait. The water will have to be shut off and you might even need to call an emergency plumber. However, the excursion to the golf course and the mowing of our lawn could easily wait for another day. The main question we must ask ourselves about our activities on our day of worship is "how does this build my relationship with God?" Drawing closer to God is the entire point of the sabbath. Jesus set forth the example: ***And when the sabbath day was come, He began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing Him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto Him, that even such mighty works are wrought by His hands*** (Mark 6:2)?

There is much controversy among believers today about something that should be easy to understand. We as human beings are given 6 days a week. That is 144 hours to accomplish what we feel we need to get done. God set aside 24 hours, one day, that man should put aside all worldly pursuits and spend with God. He created this, not for Himself, but for us as a day of rest and refreshment for the body, mind and spirit. We absolutely need to take advantage of it.

And He said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath (Mark 2:27-28).

Thought for Today: God set aside the Sabbath so that we might have time to renew and strengthen our relationship with Him. Are you using it to its full potential?

Christ Revealed: Through the Laver, Christ is revealed as both the container and the dispenser of **Living Water** (Ex. 30:18; John 4:10). **Jesus . . . cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. . . . ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you** (John 7:37, 15:3; comp. I Cor. 10:4).

Word Studies: 29:22 **caul** = fatty appendage on the liver; 29:24 **wave them** = present them with a waving motion; 29:39 **even** = twilight; 30:25 **apothecary** = perfumer.

Pray for Staff: Becca Lucio • **Radio:** Sponsored by Carl Miller • **Government Officials:** Rep. John L. Mica (FL), Rep. Bill J. Pascrell, Jr. (NJ) • **Country:** Brazil (201 million) in South America on the Atlantic Ocean • **Major language:** Portuguese • **Religious Freedom** • 73.6% Roman Catholic; 15.4% Protestant; 1.3% Spiritualist; 0.3% Bantu/voodoo; 1.8% Other; 0.2% Unspecified; 7.4% None • **Prayer Suggestion:** Ask God to be with your pastor as he delivers the Word that God wants the church to hear (1 Thess. 4:2).

Optional Reading: Matthew 27.

January 28

Read Exodus 32-34

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 (Ex. 32:2-4).

Moses had been on the mountain for forty days hearing from the Lord (24:18). The focus of His message had been on the construction of the Tabernacle, as well as presenting His Law (the Ten Commandments) to Moses. We have clearly seen how so much that was related to the Tabernacle, its altars, and the methods of sacrifice and worship, were foreshadows of the awesome work that Christ was to do many generations later. While all this was transpiring, the people of Israel were in the process of turning away from all that God was doing in their lives. When Moses returned, it was to find that the people had created a false god to worship. It had only been a short time

before that they had committed themselves to following God (24:3). How was it possible for a people who seemed to be so dedicated to have backslidden so fast? Jesus would experience the exact same thing. Upon His arrival to Jerusalem, the crowd praised him. ***And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest*** (Luke 19:37-38). It would be many of these same voices that, only a short time later, would be screaming for Barabbas to be freed and Jesus to be crucified. ***The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let Him be crucified*** (Matt. 27:21-22).

These two situations are all too similar. Both show evidence of how quickly a group of people can be led astray from what they once believed was the truth. It would seem that there would have been some that would not go along with the crowd. However, all too often in our society the majority is deemed correct. If those holding minority opinion speak up, they are deemed intolerant of the situation. It would be easy for us to sit in judgment over the children of Israel for their rebellion in the forming of the graven image of the calf. We might even want to be quick to condemn the ones who were called disciples who would not speak up for Jesus. Not much has changed over thousands of years. We make bold statements as to how we are going to serve God no matter the cost. We say there is nothing that could sway us. When we do all we can to get our priorities straight and wholeheartedly focus on God, Satan is threatened. When Satan is threatened, he attacks. How will our faith hold up as these things begin to happen? In these times, let us remember to whom we are dedicated. We serve a mighty God!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

Thought for Today: Too often it is those who are rich in this world's goods that rule the Church instead of those of this world rich in faith.

Christ Revealed: As the One who is ever-present. ***My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest*** (peace) (Ex. 33:14). ***He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*** (Heb. 13:5; compare Matt. 11:28; John 14:27).

Word Studies: 32:12 **mischief** = evil intent; 32:20 **strawed** = scattered; 32:25 **made them naked** = let them get out of control; 34:10 **terrible** = marvelous, awesome.

Pray for Staff: Ilene Wallace • **Government Officials:** Rep. Linda T. Sanchez (CA), Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (MS), Rep. Lou Barletta (PA), Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH) • **Country:** Brunei (415,717) on the northern coast of Borneo • Major languages: Malay, English, Chinese • Limited religious freedom • 67% Muslim; 13% Buddhist; 10% Christian; 10% Other (includes indigenous beliefs) • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray for the courage to follow God even when all those around you falter(1 Cor. 9:24-27).

Optional Reading: Matthew 28.

January 29

Read Exodus 35-37

And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all His service, and for the holy garments. And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered an offering of gold unto the LORD (Ex. 35:21-22).

For the Tabernacle to be completed, it was necessary for all the supplies to be gathered. God had given specific instructions on how, and with what, every part of the Tabernacle was to be built. Though their environment around them would provide some of the materials, many things could not be found in nature, especially those things of great value like precious stones and metals. These materials would have to come from the possessions of the children of Israel themselves. Of course, God could have sent the materials to them if He so desired, but that is not the way in which He wanted this Tabernacle built. God knew all that was needed to complete the Tabernacle. After all, He Himself had drawn up the plans. It is important to

remember that God provides all our needs. However, the way He provides is according to His will. ***Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him*** (Matt. 6:8).

The Lord knew that every single item that was needed to do this work was in the possession of the children of Israel. Therefore, He called upon them to give of their own abundance to finish the place where He would dwell. God had greatly blessed them time and again. From the very beginnings of this nation, the hand of God had been upon them. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his sons had seen all they had multiplied many times. This family had become very wealthy under the guidance of God. Even in this time in Exodus, God's people had seen their crops and cattle blessed. The hand of God is always upon those who belong to Him. ***For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD*** (Rom. 8:38-39).

Those God had blessed were now being called into service. Just as He was using the children of Israel in that day, the Lord uses us in a very similar matter today. He will call upon us to use our skills and abilities to work for Him. Those skills and abilities are given to us by God; therefore, they belong to Him anyway. It is the same with our finances. We should never hold back what God is requiring of us. Just as with the work we are to do for Him, every cent we have belongs to Him. We should be honored that the Lord allows us to be a part of building God's kingdom here on earth.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver (II Cor. 9:7).

Thought for Today: Just because God can do anything does not mean that He does not want His children to work for His Will.

Christ Revealed: Through ***the Candlestick*** (Ex. 35:14). Christ is ***The Light of the World*** (John 1:6-9; 8:12; 9:5; comp. Luke 1:78-79).

Word Studies: 35:10 **wise hearted** = skillful, expert craftsman; 35:11 **his** = its; 35:32 **curious** = artistic, skillful.

Pray for Staff: Rita Guerra • **Government Officials:** Rep. Paul D. Ryan

(WI), Rep. Lee Terry (NE) • **Country:** Bulgaria (7 million) in southeastern Europe • Major languages: Bulgarian, ethnic languages • Newly opened to evangelism • 59.4% Eastern Orthodox; 7.4% Muslim Sunni; 0.4% Shi'a Muslim; 1.7% (Catholic, Protestant, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox and Judaism); 27.4% Other (unknown); 3.7% None • **Prayer Suggestion:** Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit.

Optional Reading: Mark 1.

January 30

Read Exodus 38-39

According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work. And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them (Ex. 39:42-43).

The Lord had given specific instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle and all that was to be a part of it. Nearly half the Book of Exodus is devoted to these design plans for this very special place that would serve as the Lord's house throughout the time of their journeys. The children of Israel had to follow great detail in the building of all the items that would be used as part of this house of worship. Just looking at the extensive list in verses 33 through 41 of what they had to make, we catch a glimpse of the intricate detail of the specifics of what God desired. The fact that it takes nine verses just to list its parts should convey to some degree the level of work they had just completed.

We have discussed in detail about a number of the parts of this Tabernacle which point toward the future when Christ will come and become the ultimate and final sacrifice that will take away the sins of mankind. The operation of the sacrifices here in the Old Testament gives us a glimpse of what was to come when Jesus willingly gave Himself in order that all who place their trust in Him will have eternal life. ***And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved (Acts 2:21).***

It took great diligence on the part of the children of Israel to follow the Lord's detailed blueprints for the construction of all the instruments of worship that were to be part of the Tabernacle. We as believers seem to primarily focus on what the Israelites did wrong. However, this is undeniably one situation where they

acted in total obedience to what God was instructing them to do. We have read that it was necessary for them to give of their own possessions in order to complete the Tabernacle. Their act of true obedience was rewarded with the completion of a place where God and man could commune together. It was essential to keep this place undefiled, which is why God designed the Tabernacle and man did not. ***And He taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves*** (Mark 11:17).

Just as the Tabernacle, and later, the Temple were once places that God dwelt, He now dwells in the hearts of the believer. When Christ was revealed in the act of the sacrifice, the Lord also revealed how He will deal with us as His Tabernacle. He gives us detailed plans as to how we, as a follower of Christ, should be constructed. It will take work, obedience and giving of who we are and what we have in order for us to reach the master plan of who God desires us to be, but the end result will be worth it. We will be a vessel of honor in which the Holy Spirit dwells.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own (I Cor. 6:19)?

Thought for Today: As children of God, the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Treat this temple with respect.

Christ Revealed: Through *the Golden Altar* and its *incense*—representing prayers going up to heaven (Ex. 39:38; also Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4). Christ prayed for us: ***Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word*** (John 17:20).

Word Studies: 38:17 **chapters of silver** = tops of silver; 38:18 **answerable** = corresponding to; 39:2 **ephod** = high priest's outer garment; 39:3 **wires** = fine strings, threads; 39:13 **ouches** = settings for a brooch worn as jewelry; 39:15 **wreathen** = twisted, braided.

Pray for Staff: Ben Wallace • **Government Official:** Rep. Frank R. Wolf (VA) • **Country:** Burkina Faso (17.8 million) in western Africa • **Major languages:** French, Sudanic tribal languages • **Religious freedom** • 60.5% Muslim; 15.3% Animist; 19% Roman Catholic; 4.2% Protestant; 0.6% Other; 0.4% None • **Prayer Suggestion:** Ask according to the will of God and you will receive.

Optional Reading: Mark 2.

January 31

Read Exodus 40

And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark: And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the vail of the covering, and covered the ark of the testimony; as the LORD commanded Moses (Ex. 40:20-21).

The Ark of the Testimony, or the Ark of the Covenant as it is better known, is an intricate part of the furnishings of the Tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant was very distinctive. It was a wooden box about the size of a chest we might have in our homes. The wood was acacia, just like in the Brazen Alter, and it was covered with gold on the outside and the inside. The top of the Ark, referred to as the Mercy Seat, was made entirely of gold.

The Ark of the Covenant was placed behind the veil in the Most Holy place. The Ark was an important part of the process of the sacrifice that was required on the day of Atonement. The blood of the sacrifice would be sprinkled by the high priest onto the Mercy Seat seven times.

There were several items kept inside of the Ark that were placed there to stand as an example of how the Lord had been with the children of Israel and had taken care of them through difficult times. It contained the pieces of the tablets of the Law that God had given to Moses on the mountain that were broken by him when he came down and found the Israelites had made an idol to worship. It also contained the second set of the Law, which God wrote to replace the broken ones. There was a pot made of gold that contained some of the manna that had fallen from heaven to feed them when there was nothing to eat. Finally, the Ark contained Aaron's staff, which budded.

Each of these items is symbolic in its own way. The broken tablets show that all mankind will break God's Law. The manna demonstrates that God provides all we need in life. Aaron's staff shows God's authority over all other things, as his was the only one to bloom (see Num. 16,17). The Ark in itself directs us towards Christ, who would be the final fulfillment of the covenant of God. ***This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the***

holiest by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:16-19).

Just as the Ark of the Covenant was once the evidence of God's communing with man, the changed life of the believer is now the evidence. Jesus forgives the sins of man and creates in him a new and clean heart. His blood is applied to our lives just as the sacrificial blood was applied the Mercy Seat. Therefore, our hearts of flesh are covered with His blood much like the wood was covered with gold. Today, the believer demonstrates God's love and provision to mankind.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (II Cor. 5:17).

Thought for Today: When the present seems unbearable, remember the obstacles that God has brought you safely through in the past.

Christ Revealed: By Aaron as the high priest (Ex. 40:13). ***Christ being come an High Priest. . . . to appear in the presence of God for us*** (Heb. 9:7-24).

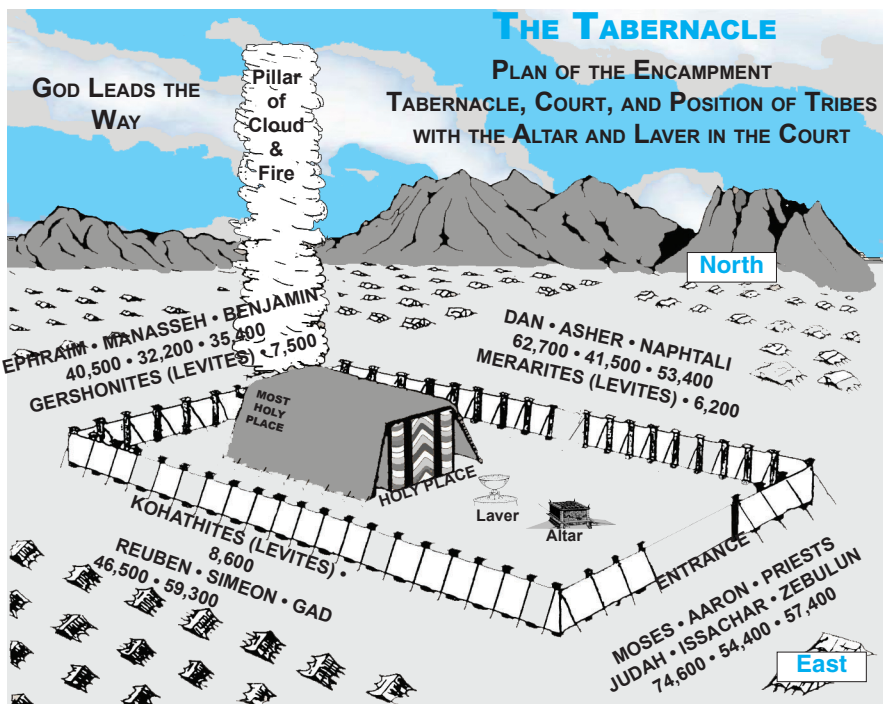
Word Studies: 40:3 **cover the Ark** = install the veil as a partition; 40:7 **Laver** = large basin or bowl used for washing the hands and feet; 40:8 **hanging** = curtains; 40:9 **hallow** = set apart, consecrate, dedicate; 40:10 **sanctify** = set apart for God; 40:11 **his foot** = its stand, base.

Pray for Staff: Cheryl Walker • **Government Officials:** Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger (MD), Rep. Bill P. Huizenga (MI) • **Country:** Burundi (10.5 million) in east-central Africa • Major languages: Kirundi, French • 61.4% Roman Catholic; 21.4% Protestant; 2.5% Muslim; 2.3 Adventist; 6.5% Other; 5.9% Unknown • **Prayer Suggestion:** Pray that Christians would be united as Christ and God are one.

Optional Reading: Mark 3.

PRAYERS/CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD [Partial List]

First mention of prayer in the BibleGen. 4:26
Abram – for a son Gen. 15:1-6
Abraham – for SodomGen. 18:23-32
Abraham's servant – for a wife for Isaac ...Gen 24:12-14
Isaac – for Rebekah to have a child.....Gen. 25:21
Jacob – making a vowGen. 28:20-22
Jacob – for deliverance from Esau ...Gen. 32:9-12
Moses – appeal for the IsraelitesEx. 5:22-23
Moses – for the people of IsraelEx. 32:11-13,31-32
Moses – for the presence of God ...Ex. 33:12-18



*Look that thou make them after their pattern,
which was shewed thee in the mount (Exodus 25:40).*

*Shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God . . .
make all things according to the pattern (Hebrews 8:5).*

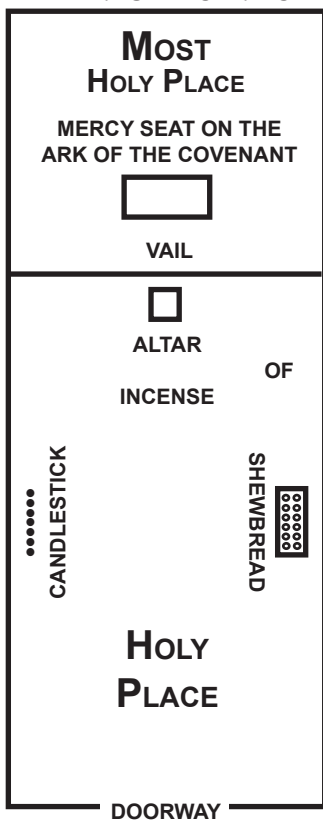
THE TABERNACLE

The Tabernacle was a rectangular structure, about 45 feet long and 15 feet wide, and was set up in the center of the encampment of the 12 tribes. It was protected by an outer court that was about 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. All items were based on a pattern the Lord had shown Moses. Nothing was left to human opinion.

Sixty posts, 7½ feet high, were equally spaced around the Tabernacle. This wall separated the unbeliever from the worshiper and was symbolic of the righteousness of God that bars the sinner from His presence.

There was only one door through which sinful man could approach God (Exodus 26:36). It was symbolic of Christ, who said:
I am The Door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture (John 10:9).

ARRANGEMENT OF TABERNACLE FURNITURE



PILLAR OF CLOUD & FIRE GOD LEADS THE WAY

MOSES, AARON, PRIESTS
JUDAH, ISSACHAR, ZEBULUN

GERSHONITES
WITH TWO WAGONS CARRYING
THE TABERNACLE, CURTAINS, COV-
ERS,
HANGINGS, GATE, DOOR AND
CORDS

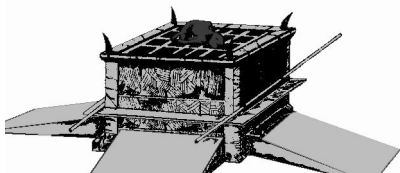
MERARITES
WITH FOUR WAGONS CARRYING
THE BOARDS, BARS, PILLARS,
SOCKETS, COURT PILLARS,
COURT SOCKETS,
PINS, AND CORDS
REUBEN, SIMEON, GAD

KOHATHITES
BEARING THE
ARK – GOD IN THE MIDST
TABLE OF SHEWBREAD
CANDLESTICK OF PURE GOLD
BRASEN ALTAR
ALTAR OF INCENSE
VESSELS
LAVER OF BRASS

EPHRAIM, MANASSEH, BENJAMIN,

THE BRASEN ALTAR (Exodus 38:1-7)

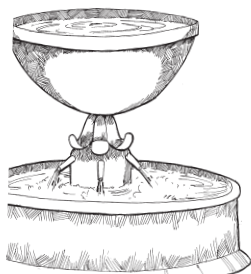
After passing through the gate into the fenced court, the worshiper was confronted with the Brasen Altar (Altar of Burnt Offering). This altar of sacrifice was the only God-ordained means to atone for sin. Sin had to be punished by the



death of the sinner or an acceptable substitute of an unblemished animal so its death would allow God to forgive the sinner. All the sacrifices, the Altar, and the Officiating Priest illustrated the Sinless Savior Jesus Christ who died for our sins. The sacrifice represented the sinner who had to enter *The Door* (John 10:9), present his sacrifice, and, by faith, believe that God had forgiven his sin. The sacrifice symbolized the end of the old life and the beginning of the new life. *Old things are passed away; behold, all things*

Our Lord was both *the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1:29; Ephesians 2:13; I Peter 2:24), and also our High Priest. *We have such an High Priest . . . on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens* (Hebrews 8:1; 9:11-14).

THE LAVER of BRASS

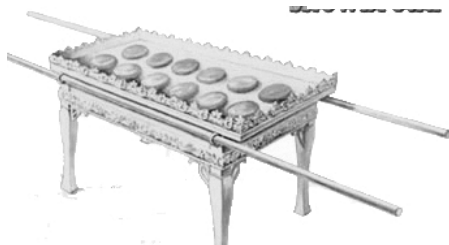


(Exodus 29:4; 30:18-21; 38:8)

Before a priest officiated in the Tabernacle, he approached the Laver of Brass that contained water to cleanse his hands and feet (Exodus 30:18-20). The Laver was symbolic of the Word of God that both reveals our sins and is the cleansing power in our lives (John 15:3; Titus 3:5; James 1:23-25).

THE TABLE of SHEWBREAD

(Exodus 25:23-30; 37:10-16)



After the priest washed his hands and feet at the Laver of Brass, he proceeded toward the Tabernacle, passing through the linen vail, the only door to the Holy Place. Inside the Holy Place on the right was the Table of Shewbread, made of shittim (acacia) wood and overlaid with pure gold. It measured 3 feet by 1½ feet by 2 1/4 feet. Twelve loaves of unleavened bread sprinkled with incense were placed in two rows of six upon the Table. They were eaten only by the priests *in the Court of the Tabernacle* (Leviticus 6:16). Its name "Bread of the Presence" meant more than physical nourishment; it indicated gaining spiritual insight that was not obtainable in any other way. The Holy Spirit is able to do something beyond our ability to explain. He enlightens, empowers, and then transforms the lives of those who prayerfully continue to read the Word of God with a desire to do His will. Jesus said: *I am the living Bread which*



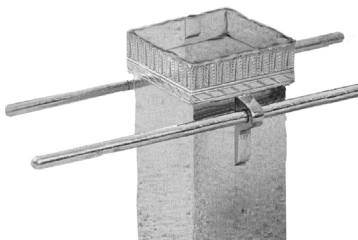
came down from heaven: if any man eat of this Bread, he shall live for ever (John 6:51; also 6:29-38; 12:24-33).

THE CANDLESTICK of PURE GOLD

(Exodus 37:17-24)

THE ALTAR of INCENSE

(Exodus 30:1-10; 37:25-28;
40:5; Leviticus 16:12-13)



Just in front of the veil leading to the Holy of Holies was a Golden Altar called the Altar of Incense (1 Kings 6:22; Hebrews 9:4). This Altar was about 3 feet high, 1½ feet wide, and 1½ feet deep, made

of shittim (acacia) wood overlaid with pure gold.

The Altar of Incense was used exclusively to burn incense morning and evening. A coal of fire from the Brasen Altar was placed on this Altar each morning and incense put on it. Only the high priest was permitted to offer incense, a type of intercessory prayer that ascended toward heaven day and night.

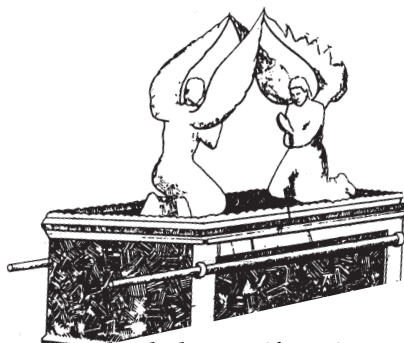
The Altar of Incense was the smallest piece of furniture in the Tabernacle and, as such, may seem insignificant. But it was symbolic of Christ as our Intercessor (John 17:1-26; Hebrews 7:25). It is through Him that the praise as well as the prayers of undeserving people

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT with THE MERCY SEAT

(Exodus 37:1-9; Numbers 10:33)

The Ark of the Covenant measured 3 ¾ feet by 2 ¼ feet by 2 ¼ feet and it was made of shittim (acacia) wood covered within and without with pure gold. The Ark contained Aaron's rod that budded, a golden pot of manna, and the two tables of stone on which were written the Ten Commandments (Exodus 16:33; 31:18; 34:1, 29; Numbers 17:10; Deuteronomy 10:5; Hebrews 9:4).

The Mercy Seat, or lid of the Ark, was made of pure gold and measured 3 ¾ feet by 2 ¼ feet. On its top were two golden cherubim with outstretched wings, facing each other, but looking down on the Mercy Seat. Between the



cherubim dwelt the manifestation of the presence of God, which lighted the Holy of Holies.

Only one man, the high priest, symbol

bolic of Christ, could enter the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) once each year. On the Day of Atonement, he sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed animal on the Mercy Seat and then before it seven times, symbolic of the



1. Ur of Chaldees (150 miles south of Babylon) **To Haran** (Genesis 11:27-31)

Distance: 600 miles

Reason for leaving Ur: Called of God (Acts 7:2-4; Hebrews 11:8)

Death of Abram's father (Gen. 11:32)

2. Haran to Shechem (12:1-7) (crossing Jordan)

Distance: about 400 miles; Age: 75
First altar built; Abram worships God

3. Shechem to near Bethel (12:8)

Distance: 20 miles

Second altar built; prayer offered; famine in Canaan

4. Bethel to Egypt (12:9-20)

Distance: about 225 miles south

Abram denies that Sarai is his wife;
She was taken into Pharaoh's house

5. Egypt to Bethel (13:1-4)

Abram called on the Name of the Lord

Lot's selfish decision and separation
from Abram (13:5-13)

6. Bethel to Mamre (Hebron) (13:14-18)

Distance: 35 miles

Third altar built

Abram promised the whole land by God

7. Hebron to Hobah (North of Damascus) (14:1-17)

Distance: 160 miles

Battle of the Canaanite Kings

Lot taken captive (14:1-12)

Abram rescues Lot

8. Hobah to Mamre (Hebron) (14:18-20)

Abram gives tithes to Melchizedek and
is blessed by Him

Promise of a son renewed (15:1-5)

Covenant renewed (15:6-18)

Ishmael born

Abram 86 years old (16:15-16)

Everlasting covenant and sign of circumcision

at age 99 (17:1-27)

Abram and Sarai names changed to Abraham

and Sarah (17:5-15)

Isaac, the heir to the Covenant promised (18:1-19)

Intercession for Sodom (18:20-32)

Sodom destroyed, Lot rescued (19:1-38)

9. Hebron to Gerar (20:1)

Distance: 40 miles

Isaac born when Abraham was 100

(21:1-8; Hebrews 11:11)

Hagar and Ishmael cast out (21:9-21)

10. Gerar to Beersheba (21:27-34)

Covenant with Abimelech

Abraham called on the name of the Lord

11. Beersheba to Mount Moriah (Jerusalem) (22:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-19)

Distance: about 54 miles

Abraham built altar

Isaac prepared to be offered as a sacrifice –
a type of God offering Jesus, His only Son,
on same site 2,000 years later

God renews covenant (22:15-18)

12. Mount Moriah to Beersheba (22:19)

Death of Sarah (23:1-20)

Abraham sends servant to Mesopotamia

to get wife for Isaac (24:1-67)

13. Beersheba to Hebron (25:1-4)

THE JEWISH CALENDAR

Civil Calendar - Official calendar of kings, childbirth, and contracts

Sacred Calendar - Used to compute festivals

Month SACRED/CIVIL	Days in Month	Pre- Exile Name	Post Exile Name	Present-day Equivalent	Biblical References	Season	Day	Festivals
1/7	30	Abib	Nisan	March/April	Exodus 12:2, 13:4; 23:15, 34:18; Deut.	Spring		14 th Feast of Passover (Exodus 12:18; Lev.
23:5)						Latter rains		15-21 st Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev.
23:6-8)					16-1; Nehemiah 2:1	Barley harvest		Feast of Firstfruits (Lev. 23:10-14)
2/8	29	Zif (Ziv)	Iyar	April/May	1 Kings 6:1, 37	Dry season begins		Feast of Weeks/Harvest (Pentecost)
3/9	30	Sivan	Sivan	May/June	Esther 8:9	Wheat harvest		Feast of Weeks/Harvest (Pentecost)
						Early figs ripen		(Lev. 23:15-21)
4/10	29		Tammuz	June/July		Hot season; Grape harvest		
5/11	30		Av (Av)	July/August		Olive harvest		9 th Fast, Destruction of Temple
6/12	29		Elul	August/September	Nehemiah 6:15	Dates & Summer figs		
7/1	30	Ethanim	Tishri	September/October	1 Kings 8:2	Early (former)		1 st Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24; Num.
29:1)						rains, plowing time		10 th Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27-28)
								15-21 st Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34)
								22 nd Solemn Assembly (Lev. 23:36)
8/2	29	Bul	Cheshvan or Machshevan	October/November	1 Kings 6:38	Wheat & Barley sown		
						Winter figs		
9/3	30		Chisleu (Chislew or Kislew)	November/December	Nehemiah 1:1	Winter rains; sowing		25 th 8-Day Feast of Dedication (John
10:22)					Zeeharah 7:1			added in between Old & New Testa-
ments								
10/4	29		Tebeth (Tevet)	December/January	Esther 2:16	Winter rains		
11/5	30		Sebat	January/February	Zechariah 1:7	Almond trees blossom		

The Jewish calendar is a lunar one established by God at creation:
And the evening and the morning were the first day (Genesis 1:5).
Feasts or holy days began *at even* (Leviticus 23:5). The Hebrew year
has 354 days based on a lunar cycle. Months are alternately 30 and
29 days long. An extra 29-day month, Vadar, is added between Adar
and Nisan about every 3 years.

The Jewish day was from sunset to sunset, in 8 equal parts:

FIRST WATCH FIRST HOUR
SUNSET TO 9 P.M. SUNRISE TO 9 A.M.,
SECOND WATCH THIRD HOUR
9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT 9 A.M. TO NOON

[3 watches in Old Testament (Exodus 14:24; Judges 7:19)
4 watches in New Testament (Matthew 25:6; Acts 20:7)]

THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God (Phil. 4:6).

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint (give up) (Luke 18:1).

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2).

Pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17).

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God (Luke 6:12).

Pray for them which despitefully use you (Luke 6:28).

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me (II Cor. 12:8-9).

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Eph. 6:18).

If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you (John 15:7).

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His Commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (I John 3:21-22).

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father . . . which is in heaven may forgive . . . your trespasses (Mark 11:25).

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory (Eph. 3:20-21).

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination (Prov. 28:9).

Bible Pathway Ministries

Yeah!! – We Made it – We're still here!
The Summer Slump is past – The Recession is over –
The Government shut down was only temporary –
The World didn't end –
And God is on the move!!

PEOPLE NEED THE LORD (See Rev. 14:6)

Will you help us touch them with the Love of Jesus?

HELP OUR YOUTH FIND HOPE #1 – Every day in America approx. 60,500 youth are confined in some type of juvenile detention.

There's a great need for life-relevant materials to guide these young people through the Word of God.

We have *God's Power Source – GPS* (For ages 14 – 24), through-the-Bible studies.

Our prayer and objective is to introduce them to Jesus, and to help set the course of their lives in a new direction.

The GPS meets that need. You can help us get this easy-to-understand message from God, not only into the centers, but also into the hands of individuals, parents, and church groups.

America's young people are searching for meaning to life. Your gifts will help supply the answer. Join us in bringing the next generation to Christ.

HELP US SEND **100,000**
BIBLES & BIBLE PATHWAYS
TO THOSE HUNGERING
FOR **HIS WORD!!**

2014
THE YEAR
OF THE
BIBLE

PSALM
126:6



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SEND US
YOUR
SLIGHTLY
USED
BIBLES

SEND FUNDS
TO COVER
COST OF
SHIPPING

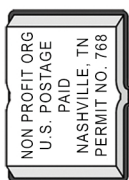
PRAY

YES I WANT TO HELP SEND 100,000
BIBLES AND BIBLE PATHWAYS TO THOSE WHO
ARE HUNGERING FOR A WORD FROM GOD.
ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF

☐ \$40 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ OTHER

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things
through Christ which
strengtheneth me.



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