

thrive! Newsletter

MARCH / APRIL 2017

*"Behold, I will do a new thing;
now it shall spring forth;
shall ye not know it?
I will even make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert."*

Isaiah 43:19



Upcoming Events

March

- 1 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 3 - *thrive!* Friday Bible Study 10:00 am
- 6 - Grief Share Begins 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Every Monday Until May 1)
- 9 - White Rose Bible Study 10:00 am
- 8 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 13 - Grace Missions 10:00 am
- 14 - Grace Ladies Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 15 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 17 - *thrive!* Friday Bible Study 10:00 am
- 21 - Ladies Craft Night 6:00 pm
- 22 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 29 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 31 - *thrive!* Friday Bible Study 10:00 am

April

- 1 - **Awaken Bible Study 10:00 am**
- 1 - Missions Gala 6:00 pm
- 3 - Grief Share Begins 6:00 - 8:00 pm
(Every Monday Until May 1)
- 5 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 10 - Grace Missions 10:00 am
- 11 - Grace Ladies Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 12 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 14 - *thrive!* Friday Bible Study 10:00 am
- 15 - Community Easter Celebration 11:00 am
- 17 - *thrive!* Friday Bible Study 10:00 am
- 22 - Engage Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 20 - White Rose Trip (Barn Theater)
- 25 - Grace Ladies Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 pm

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March

- 1- Exodus 33
- 2- Exodus 34
- 3- Exodus 35
- 4- Exodus 36
- 5- Exodus 37
- 6- Exodus 38
- 7- Exodus 39
- 8- Exodus 40
- 9- Jer. 1
- 10- Jer. 2
- 11- Jer. 3
- 12- Jer. 4
- 13- Jer. 5
- 14- Jer. 6
- 15- Jer. 7
- 16- Jer. 8
- 17- Jer. 9
- 18- Jer. 10
- 19- Jer. 11
- 20- Jer. 12
- 21- Jer. 13
- 22- Jer. 14
- 23- Jer. 15
- 24- Jer. 16
- 25- Jer. 17
- 26- Jer. 18
- 27- Jer. 19
- 28- Jer. 20
- 29- Jer. 21
- 30- Jer. 22
- 31- Jer. 23

April

- 1- Jer. 24
- 2- Jer. 25
- 3- Jer. 26
- 4- Jer. 27
- 5- Jer. 28
- 6- Jer. 29
- 7- Jer. 30
- 8- Jer. 31
- 9- Jer. 32
- 10- Jer. 33
- 11- Jer. 34
- 12- Jer. 35
- 13- Jer. 36
- 14- Jer. 37
- 15- Jer. 38
- 16- Jer. 39
- 17- Jer. 40
- 18- Jer. 41
- 19- Jer. 42
- 20- Jer. 43
- 21- Jer. 44
- 22- Jer. 45
- 23- Jer. 46
- 24- Jer. 47
- 25- Jer. 48
- 26- Jer. 49
- 27- Jer. 50
- 28- Jer. 51
- 29- Jer. 52
- 30- Jude



'Be still.' 'Stand still.' These commands are said by parents everywhere. When children hear these words they usually feel they are being punished. Is that truly our motive? If not, then why do we say it? Normally we want our children to "be still" in order to listen attentively, stand quietly or show respect.

What about us as Christians? We constantly busy ourselves talking, texting, or scrolling and all the while God is saying, "Be still." He says it to us for the same reasons we say it to our children. He wants us to be respectful and quietly pay attention... to Him.

How I fail at this command! I use the excuse of being too busy but when I stand before God, the words "too busy" will be shamefully inexcusable. God did not create us to be so busy that we fail to communicate and spend time with Him.

Obviously this word *still* is important. It means *not moving, deep silence, calm, to make quieter*. It is used twenty-six times in the Bible and even more importantly, it is a word strategically spoken by Jesus during the raging storm (Matthew 8:23-27). This passage reveals the disciples' fear and their frantic efforts to save themselves. These disciples, the same men who had daily followed Jesus and witnessed His miracles, were paying attention to the storm, not Him.

How true that is for us today? Are we so caught up in our own 'storms' that we fail to pay attention to the only One who can calm them? All He wants for us is to BE STILL. Jesus rebuked the waves and commanded them to be still but I think there was more to it. The disciples needed to be still as well and fix their eyes on Him. The Lord wanted their complete attention and quiet spirit... the same things He wants from us today.

This past year I learned firsthand the consequences of not obeying the Lord's command to "be still" and found myself in a place where all I could do was be still. So, I encourage you to still yourself so God won't have to. The Lord wants the absolute best for us and stands ready to meet with us in the stillness and reveal that He is God. Will you take Him up on the offer?

When God Moves...

by: Jessica Harless



Friends, I want to tell you a story of how God made a big move to change my family forever. In the spring of 2014 Josh and I decided to put our house up for sale. You see, our dream together has always been to have some land - a place where our children can learn to live off of what God has created and naturally given to us. We took all the necessary steps and listed with a realtor. So, once the house was on the market, we began looking at some houses that were for sale. We looked at houses with five acres all the way up to twenty acres; big two story houses, farm houses and ranch style houses. However, in order to purchase, we had to sell our house first. One afternoon we found a house and decided to ask our realtor to get us in for a showing. We drove down this long tree lined driveway that opened up to a huge lot with a two story farmhouse on six acres of land. I fell in love!! We went inside and it had everything we "thought" we were looking for in our forever home. I kept

telling Josh, jokingly, "I am so sure this is the place that I'm going to bring a box of clothes over and store it in the closet". Well, God had different plans. Someone put an offer in on that house the very next day and purchased it before we could. I thought, "But God...I knew this was it! Wasn't it?"

After a year on the market, we had only had about three showings on our house, of which none were able to close the deal. We were disappointed to say the least but both agreed maybe it just wasn't God's timing. So, we decided to take the house off the market and wait patiently for God to tell us what to do next. And boy, oh boy, did He ever speak loudly!!!

Last summer, Josh's parents called us and asked us to come over as they had some news for us. We had no idea what to expect. They sat us down and told us that the neighbors, best friends of theirs, who had lived there for nineteen years were moving back to West Virginia to retire. They were going to sell the house and knew we had been looking to move. What we didn't know was that per a 19 year old agreement, Josh's parents had first right of refusal which they extended to us. So we made our way over to talk with the neighbors. Upon talking with them regarding the sale price of the house, they made the decision to sell it to us for the same price that they bought it for in 1997. I fell in love with all of the character in this old home! It was more than move-in ready with very little that needed to be renovated. Another plus was that because we were friends with the owners, they allowed us to start painting and fixing before we closed.

So, with a lot of prayer, we decided to put our house back on the market. This time we went with a different realtor, a friend of ours, who we knew would help us and be honest with us about what we needed to do to help the process along. We worked hard to declutter, clean, paint, organize, and stage the house for selling.

Two days after listing the house we received a phone call, "Josh...Jessica...are you sitting down? We have an offer!" Was this really happening? Two days? What? How? Why? I couldn't believe my ears and thought it was too good to be true. But God was moving! We ran into one major complication during the selling process and our kitchen floor had to be completely replaced due to a builder error. Nonetheless, God moved in that situation as well and we only had to pay half of the cost with insurance covering the rest. Praise the Lord! We began packing and then we received another phone call, "The buyers want to move the closing date up four days, is that ok?" Eeek! I was in panic mode but with the help of family and friends, we moved out in a week and closed soon after. But our story doesn't end there.

You know, hindsight is always 20/20 and looking back now, I realize why our house didn't sell the first time, and why the houses we looked at for ourselves didn't stay on the market for us. I realize that God was setting us up for something bigger and better than what we could ever have imagined. We never thought our forever home would be right next door to Josh's parents or that we would be living in a house that Josh frequently visited as a child, or even that our ideal home would be smaller than what we had originally been looking for. But guess what? God knew! He knew when He joined us together in marriage that we had the same dream for our family. He knew when He gave me three daughters that they would be able to be close and share a room. He knew when He gave me the push to stay at home and homeschool our children that we would take some cutbacks and He knew when the contract between two families was signed, that we would be purchasing it 19 years later. The new house is going to allow us the financial freedom to be able to save for our future and the future of our children.

We now have more land and our girls can run and play. We can have our garden, chickens and the opportunities that we have always wanted to share with our children. Since we are close to family, we can be there when they need us. God has moved so much in our lives over the past six months that I would be remiss if I didn't share our story with others. I want to tell of what God has done and what He can do when you are faithful and obedient. There is nothing He can't do!

Josh's parents offered to let us stay with them until we are able to move into the new house on April 1st. What a blessing that has been for so many reasons! So, as we approach our closing date for the new house and begin repacking our things and carrying them next door, we are patiently waiting to see what God does next. Sometimes our own plans look picture perfect but never forget that His plans are always better! When God moves...He will move you too! Our family stands in awe of what He has done in such a short amount of time and we eagerly look forward to the future because one thing we are certain of...our story isn't finished yet!



"Cultivating a heart of prayer is a sure way to experience God's presence" - Oswald Chambers

Do you desire to experience God in a deeper, more meaningful way than ever before? Dear Sister, you can! The relationship you crave is available and waiting for you... through prayer.

Let's look at some of the blessings of Prayer:

1. Prayer increases faith.

E.M. Bounds "In the ultimate issue, prayer is simply faith. When faith ceases to pray, it ceases to live." Prayer places faith on God and the Word of God. Only God can remove

mountains, but faith and prayer moves God. MATTHEW 21:22

Is our faith growing or declining as the years go by? Luke 18:8 Jesus asks, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" SO FAITH IS THE STARTING POINT, THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH WE BUILD PRAYER AND OTHER THINGS IN OUR LIVES. Faith is kept alive by prayer. Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you," when He asked the blind man, "Believe ye that I am able to do this?"

Delay in our answers is often the test and strength of faith. Our faith in Christ is the basis of all working, and of all prayer. Genuine faith must be free of doubt (Mark 11:23). Our answers are according to our faith. E. M. Bounds says, "Just as love and hope have always an objective so, also, has faith. Faith does not believe just anything; it is believing God, resting in Him, trusting His Word."

Faith gives birth to prayer. Lack of faith lies at the root of all poor praying, little praying, or unanswered praying. Doubt and fear are the enemies of faith. Doubting hinders prayer. The remedy for this is, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything give thanks and let your requests be made know unto God (1 Thess. 5:18)." Faith grows by reading and meditating on the Word of God and prayer. HEBREWS 11:6 Faith goes before prayer and initiates prayer to work. (JAMES 1:5-7) Yes, prayer increases our faith as we see God work.

2. Prayer brings greater purity. Prayer encompasses the whole man... his body, mind, and soul. The biggest results come when we are fully consecrated to God. Paul said, 'I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23)."

"Tis not enough to bend the knee, and words of prayer to say;

The heart must with the lips agree, or else we do not pray."

Elizabeth George

3. **Prayer brings confidence in making decisions.** In many aspects prayer is dependent upon the Word of God. Jesus says, "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)." God has committed Himself and His promise to prayer. His word becomes the basis for our prayer. Therefore we should not make any decision without prayer. If we have prayed about it and it is in God's Word, we will have confidence. I like the motto, "MAKE NO DECISIONS WITHOUT PRAYER".

4. **Prayer improves relationships.** As we pray for others, we lose our own self-centeredness and shift our focus to others. JOY=Jesus, Others, Self.

5. **Prayer brings contentment.** Prayer is based on faith and God's promises. Without the promises of God our prayer would be baseless. Peter tells us, that God has given us exceeding great and precious promises. Promises are God's incorruptible seed, to be sown and tilled by prayer." Although promises are great and precious, they are clear and personal...Promises are given to us in God's Word and nothing is more sure than the fact that the Word of God is THE foundation of prayer. We pray just as we believe God's Word. Therefore we can be content as we pray, knowing God's promise that all things will work together for our good and His glory! Our contentment depends on our faith. How much do we believe God's Word?

6. **Prayer brings God-confidence.** Notice God-confidence, not self-confidence. This speaks to humility and humility does not have its eyes on self, but on God and others. It is poor in spirit, meek in behavior, and lowly in heart. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:1- 2, "Walk worthy with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." This is the description of a humble person! This grants access to God when other qualities fail. God hates the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humility is the requisite of true prayer and gives us God-confidence and a devotion of prayer. Doing work for God without taking time to talk to God about His work is the highway to backsliding.

7. **Prayer is a ministry.** The secret of the saint's power is prayer. All the saints that we read about had an active, dynamic prayer life. In Acts chapter 6, it is translated, "Give ourselves continually to prayer." This is constancy, courageous, and unfainting perseverance. Do we believe that? Do we believe God can make a difference in the lives of people we pray for? It is said that men prayed under the altar as Billy Sunday preached and many soul were saved. Prayer changes situations and prayer changes us!!

How can we cultivate a heart of prayer?

Ask the Lord to give you a heart committed to prayer and watch how He transforms your relationship with Him into a blessing for you and others.

Help us Lord to have a heart committed to Prayer!

Spring Cleaning Checklist

A ROOM-BY-ROOM BREAKDOWN FOR SEASONAL CLEANING. YOU CAN DO AS MUCH - OR AS LITTLE - AS TIME PERMITS.

	<h2>Every Room</h2>		<h2>Bathroom</h2>
	<input type="checkbox"/> DUST CEILING FANS, ARTWORK, KNICK KNACKS, AND VENTS.		<input type="checkbox"/> MAIN SCRUB TOILETS, SINKS AND SHOWER. WIPE DOWN ALL FIXTURES. (BABY OIL WORKS WELL ON CHROME!)
	<input type="checkbox"/> WINDOWS & WINDOW SCREENS CLEAN WINDOW TREATMENTS ACCORDING TO TYPE & MANUFACTURER INSTRUCTIONS.		<input type="checkbox"/> CABINETS DUST CABINETS; GO THROUGH DRAWERS & MEDICINE CABINETS TO DEJUNK AND REORGANIZE.
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLEAN BASEBOARDS USE WARM, SOAPY WATER. (YOU MAY NEED TO VACUUM THEM FIRST.) WIPE DOWN WALLS TO REMOVE DIRT AND FINGERPRINTS.		<input type="checkbox"/> MIRRORS CLEAN MIRRORS. (I LIKE TO USE A VINEGAR-BASED CLEANSER AND NEWSPAPERS.)
	<input type="checkbox"/> FURNITURE DUST, & POLISH W/ APPROPRIATE POLISHING AGENT. VACUUM UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE AND LAUNDRER CUSHIONS IF NECESSARY. CAREFULLY SPOT CLEAN LEATHER FURNITURE WITH A DAMP WASHCLOTH IF NEEDED.		<input type="checkbox"/> TRASH EMPTY AND CLEAN TRASH CANS.
	<input type="checkbox"/> RUGS & CARPETS VACUUM, SHAMPOO RUGS & CARPET. SWEEP & MOP FLOORS WITH CLEANSER APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR SPECIFIC TYPE OF FLOORING.		<input type="checkbox"/> SHOWER INSPECT SHOWER LINER AND REPLACE IF NECESSARY.
	<h2>Kitchen</h2>		<h2>Bedroom</h2>
	<input type="checkbox"/> OVEN CLEAN OVEN ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.		<input type="checkbox"/> BED REMOVE AND LAUNDRER BEDDING. VACUUM AND FLIP MATTRESS, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER INSTRUCTIONS.
	<input type="checkbox"/> REFRIGERATOR UNPLUG REFRIGERATOR AND DUST THE COILS. REMOVE CONTENTS OF REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER. DISCARD ANY ROTTEN OR UNUSABLE FOOD. WIPE DOWN AND CLEAN ALL SHELVING.		<input type="checkbox"/> CLOSET SWITCH OUT COLD-WEATHER CLOTHING FOR WARM-WEATHER CLOTHING. DONATE ANY UNWANTED ITEMS TO A THRIFT STORE.
	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIANCES CLEAN MICROWAVE. WIPE DOWN SMALL APPLIANCES SUCH AS TOASTER, BLENDER AND SLOW COOKER.		<h2>Office</h2>
	<input type="checkbox"/> DISHWASHER RUN DISHWASHER EMPTY, W/ A DISHWASHER-SPECIFIC CLEANER SUCH AS FINISH.		<input type="checkbox"/> DESK ORGANIZE PAPERS AND DE-CLUTTER DRAWERS.
	<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTERTOPS & CABINETS WIPE DOWN COUNTERTOPS AND CABINETS WITH DAMP WASHCLOTH. CLEAN INSIDE DRAWERS. SCRUB SINK.		<input type="checkbox"/> BOOKS DUST BOOKS ON BOOKSHELVES.
	<input type="checkbox"/> PANTRY ORGANIZE FOOD IN PANTRY, DISCARDING OUTDATED ITEMS, AND WIPE OFF SHELVING.		<input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTER DUST COMPUTER KEYBOARD AND SCREEN WITH A MICROFIBER CLOTH.



War Room

by: Gail Beck

"Prayer is not to get an answer from God but to know the God of the answer." Quote by David and Jason Benham.

Matthew 6:9-13

What a statement to shake us to reality concerning prayer. How awesome is our God to hear and answer our prayer according to His will- even if we do not understand His answer. Yet, more awesome for us is that prayer draws us closer in love, worship and thankful praise to God.

Has there been a time God answered your prayer and you failed to thank Him? I must admit there are times I have forgotten to give him thanks after He has been so gracious to answer. I have found it helps me to thank God before my "Amen" regardless of His answer to the prayer.

God reminded me through the Benham brother's quote that through the powerful privilege to pray I can anticipate God's answer but much more that, prayer takes me to God's very presence and fellowship. God help each of us to use our privilege to pray and opportunity to fellowship with Him every day. He is Awesome! Thanking Him In Jesus name. Amen

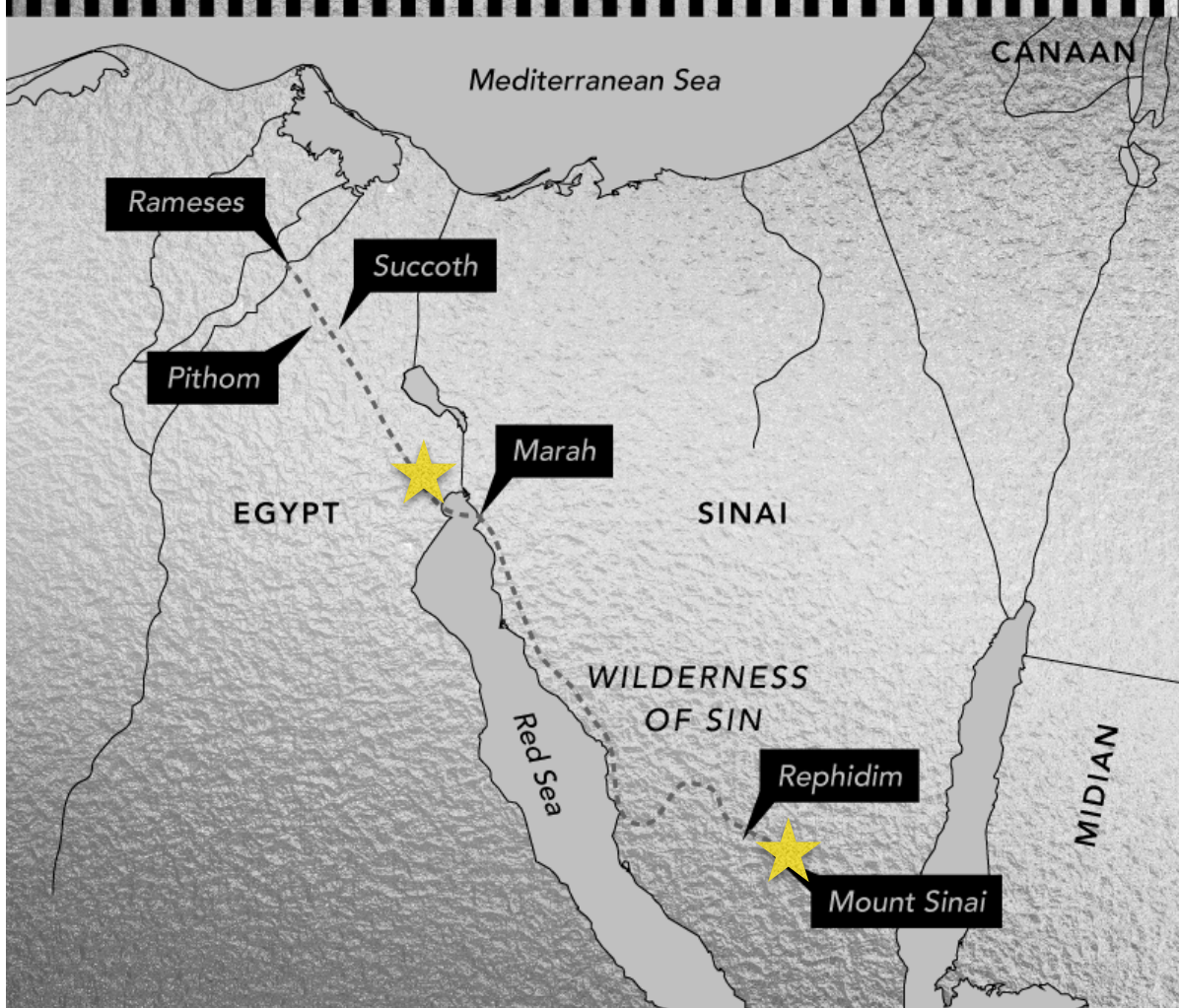
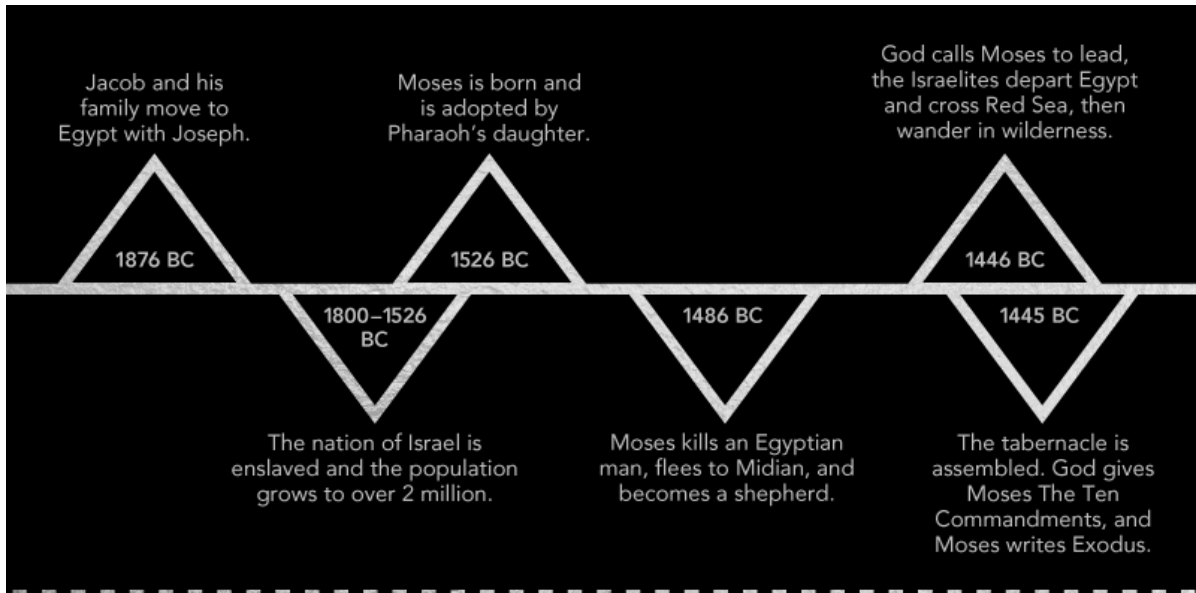
He
has made
everything
beautiful
in its
time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11



Journey Through Exodus

Graphic by : NewSpring Church





Probably one of my favorite Old Testament books is the book of Exodus and one of my favorite people from scripture is Moses. Too often today the Old Testament is viewed as “unimportant” or “irrelevant” to many people. But, there is so much truth and imagery of Jesus strategically placed in every chapter and every event. As we have been reading through Exodus with the 2017 Daily Reading Plan, several major themes have emerged woven throughout the story of God's people and their deliverance from bondage.

Delivered From Bondage

Having “walked” with the nation of Israel through the Exodus out of Egypt, there are so

many valuable lessons we can draw from Moses and the Israelites. The most important one being that God alone delivered them out of Pharaoh's hands. Similarly, Christ alone delivers and redeems us from our bondage to Satan.

Delivered in an Unlikely Way

God led His children out of Egypt and the bondage of slavery using unexpected and nontraditional methods. From plagues of insects to firstborn deaths, God uniquely manifested Himself as Yahweh to the Egyptians and the Israelites. When Pharaoh finally agreed to release them, God moved them out on the road through the wilderness. Wilderness that was often dark and uncertain. The Israelites did not know that at the end of this wilderness road was a vast sea with no where for them to go. God so often teaches us of His great power in the deepest wilderness places before bringing us to a big moment when we see Him make His move.

Delivered By Cloud & Fire

God led them through the wilderness to an impossible place - a sea so foreboding with no escape from the imposing army coming after them. The wilderness left them feeling that God had abandoned them to destruction. But just like God, where He leads He provides a road for us, a way out. God didn't take them on the Red Sea Road without continuing to lead them. He guided their every step. He led them with a pillar of fire by night and pillar of cloud by day. God won't let us walk through darkness without His great Light. Day or night, dark valley or highest mountain-God will lead us.

Delivered from Danger

In our own desperate wilderness places, just like the Israelites, we sometimes fear and begin to lose sight of our hope. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians bearing down on them, they panicked! Little did they know they had not even begun to see God move and work! Moses responded to their cries of fear and desperation, “God will provide, stand firm, don't fear...He will fight for you, just be quiet.” These words, a promise true to us as well, reminds us that the Lord will fight for us-we need only be quiet and still. In the wilderness places when the battle is raging around on us, the Lord will fight for us and He will lead us to safety. He will personally provide us with a way of escape-our own Red Sea Road.

{Creamy Asparagus Pasta Salad}

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound uncooked pasta, such as penne or rotini
- 1 pound asparagus
- 1 cup grape or cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 1/2 large red onion, thinly sliced

for the dressing


- 10 ounces greek yogurt
- 4-5 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper
- zest from 1 lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt

DIRECTIONS:

- 1 Place all the ingredients for the dressing in a jar and screw on lid. Shake jar vigorously until ingredients are well combined. Taste and adjust quantities as desired. Set the dressing aside.

To Make Pasta Salad:

- 1 Remove the tough stems of the asparagus then cut each spear into 2-inch pieces.
- 2 Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook for 11 minutes, then add the asparagus to the boiling water and cook with pasta for another 2 minutes. Drain the pasta and asparagus then rinse it with cold water until cooled; allow drain well.
- 3 Transfer pasta and asparagus to a large bowl, gently stir in tomatoes and onions. Toss with dressing, cover and refrigerate a few hours or over night.



Awaken Women's Bible Study

Building community through
the study of God's Word

April 1, 2017
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
***Childcare provided**