

Prayer & Fasting

Journal

Giving God 40 Days

Fall 2019

October 16 to November 24



FIRST EMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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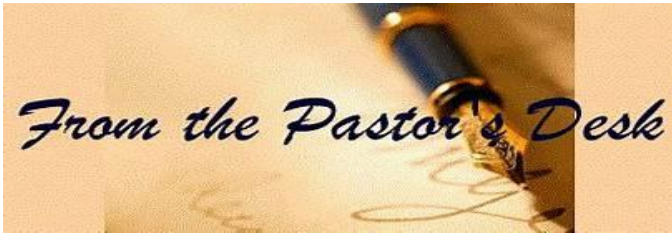
"THE CHURCH WITH A VISION AND THE FAITH TO ACT"

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A Journey In Freedom





From the Pastor's Desk

I am humbled to serve as the 7th Pastor of First Emanuel Baptist Church. *Emanuel* means *God with Us*. *God is with us* as we enter our 134th year in God's Kingdom. *God is with us* as I enter my 31st year of pastoring. *God is with us* in our call to this 40 Day corporate fast.

God desires to commune with us in a more intimate way. God desires to minister to his people. God seeks to restore his people. God's healing and deliverance is available to his people. It's time to "*Give God 40 Days.*"

Our fast this year holds a couple of significant milestones. First, this year marks the tenth year since the birth of our 40 Day corporate fast. Yes, we have been fasting and praying for a decade now! Second, 2019 marks the end of this decade. It's time to "*Give God 40 Days.*"

God is calling for consecrated time in prayer and fasting for the Church. We cannot build when one part of the body is tearing down. We cannot effectively lift when we allow the distractions of the world to overwhelm us. We cannot fulfill the Call of God until we yield our wounded and broken vessels to God for His miraculous restorative power. It's time to "*Give God 40 Days.*"

A fast is Holy and sacred before God. In Isaiah 58, God rejected the fast of the people. God found their fast was lacking in sincerity and Holiness. God resented that the people took for granted the power and authority of a fast. God revealed He honors fasts. God declared yokes of oppression and poverty are broken through fasting. (*Isaiah 58:5-7*)

I enter into this season of prayer and fasting *full of faith*, in Glory and honor of the Sovereign God, who is the author and finisher of my faith. *I enter in anticipation* of the manifestation of miracles, signs, and wonders. Finally, *I enter with all* my being, surrendering all to God, because I trust God. It's time to *Give God 40 Days. Enter this Journey of freedom with me.*

Pastor Charles J. Southall, III

prayer & fasting *Journal*

Fasting is a discipline of the mind, body and soul. Our fasting and prayer **Journal** serves as a helpmate. The **Journal** is a 40 day accountability partner. If there are days where you are struggling for direction, the journal offers guidance. The sacredness of the **Journal** is that we are on one accord reading scripture, praying, studying and fasting.

Our journal is divided into four parts:

PART I: *Ancestry of Jacob (DAYS 2-6)*

We begin with a brief history of the lineage of The Children of Israel. We start with Jacob and his son Joseph to explain their position as free people of promise.

PART II: *The Exodus (DAYS 7-12)*

Next we chronicle the last few days leading up to the Exodus from Egypt and lead you through God's children packing up and walking out of Egypt.

PART III: *My Exodus (DAYS 13-35)*

This section of the journal is where we can find ourselves. We are represented in the previous two sections of the journal because we are descendants of the promise, but in days 13 – 35 we find ourselves, relatives, church folk, and neighbors in the Children of Israel's wilderness experience.

PART IV: *Crossing Over (DAYS 36-40)*

Our final five days is a weaning out of the *Wilderness Time Zone* and transitioning into what God has in store for us from the 40th day on. We glorify, honor, and praise our sovereign God in the last few days of the journey.

Take time to scan through the journal before Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 12:00 a.m. Create your schedule for prayer and meditation. Chart

how you are going to handle this fast. Consider creating a vision board for the successful completion of this *40 Day Journey in Freedom*. **Do whatever it takes** to position yourself to welcome the presence of God on Day One.

Finally, as always we have a *scripture focus* for each day, *scripture insight* and a *daily prayer*. This year you will notice that the majority of our daily prayers are scriptures. The primary source for scripture references in the **Journal** is the King James Version of the Bible and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible.

I cannot let you begin the Journal without an explanation of our cover page. On the cover is a photograph of a Great Blue Heron. I ran across it one morning sitting lifeless on the banks of Bayou St. John. It sat so still that I had to stare at it for a moment to make sure it was not a piece of tree sticking out of the water. After a quick study, I learned that its stance is the one right before its lightning-fast strike to spear a fish. This bird does not search out the fish, it waits for a fish to come within striking distance. Our blessing is striking distance from us!

I thank God for yet another opportunity to deliver the Word to his people through the gift and ministry of writing. I pray your strength and perseverance as we enter into this journey together. **AMEN**

Min. Sandra Cabrina Jenkins, M.Div.

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DAY 1 – FREEDOM (WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: ZECHARIAH 9:11-12

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Our journey over the next 40 days is an exercise of embracing and walking in our freedom. The opposite of freedom is bondage or slavery. Bondage inhibits the ability to move freely. Bondage restricts and demands oppressive submission. Slavery is a system of control. Slavery is control of the mind. Slavery is control of the Body. The oppression of bondage and the debilitating system of slavery, however, cannot control our soul. Our soul belongs to the only true and living God.

In our scripture focus today, God declares, *because of the blood of the covenant, prisoners are free.* God refers to Israel as prisoners of hope. We can no longer allow ourselves to submit to the oppressive systems of bondage and slavery. God has elevated us from the bondage of sin. It is by the blood of the lamb that we are made free. We too are beneficiaries of the blood of the covenant.

LET US PRAY: *For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. ¹⁹The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth. Amen. (Isaiah 38:18-19)*

ANCESTRY OF JACOB

DAY 2 - FAVORITE SON (THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS GENESIS 37:23

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; ²⁴And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Over the next few days we will review the ancestry of Jacob. It is important to understand the ancestry and heritage of the captives in order to better appreciate, embrace, and understand the significance of their exodus and their journey to freedom and in freedom.

Joseph is the son of Jacob. He is the first son he had with his wife Rachael, but the 11th son he had fathered.

Joseph is the one referenced in *Zechariah 9:11* as being freed from the *waterless pit*. The spirits of envy and jealousy are the culprits that landed Jacob's 11th son in the bottom of a waterless pit. Joseph's older brothers threw Joseph in the pit and left him. He was pulled out of the pit and sold for 20 pieces of silver into slavery in Egypt. In the meantime, Joseph's brothers dipped his coat in blood to present to their father when they broke the news to him that they did not return with their little brother. Their spirit of deception worked. They did not say that Joseph was dead. Jacob concluded once he saw the blood on his favorite son's coat that he must have been ripped to pieces by a wild animal and died. Nothing could console Jacob. Jacob grieved and mourned the loss of his favorite son.

Joseph eventually ended up in Pharaoh's palace. What we want to walk away with today is that Joseph went from the pit to slavery and then imprisonment before God elevated him to positions of great power and prestige. Joseph became governor over all the land of Egypt.

LET US PRAY: *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*

Amen. (*Psalm 101:6*)

DAY 3 – I WAS SENT TO PRESERVE LIFE (FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: GENESIS 45:7-8¹

God sent me before you to preserve for you a posterity on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

This is one of the great love stories of family reconciliation and restoration. In today's scripture focus we have Joseph talking to his brothers. Joseph and his brothers have been separated for so long that they did not even recognize him. Joseph, however, knew who they were when they first entered Egypt to get their rations during the famine. Joseph made them bring his baby brother, Benjamin, back on their next journey to Egypt. It is today that he reveals his identity to his brothers. His first question to his brothers was "Is my father alive?" Joseph is so overtaken in love and emotion by being in the presence of his family that his weeping can be heard outside the palace. Finally, Joseph explains God's divine intervention in that "waterless pit" incident so many years ago. Joseph comforted

¹ God has sent me ahead of you to ensure your survival on earth, and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. So, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. (The Jewish Study Bible)

his siblings by encouraging them not to fear him because of that “Pit” incident. He told them that God sent him to Egypt to preserve life, to preserve their posterity.

We cannot leave this day without acknowledging our personal preservation through Christ Jesus. In fulfillment of his promise to the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God made Joseph lord over the house of Pharaoh and all the land. In fulfillment of the promise to redeem man back to him, God sent his Son that we may know God and gave our Lord and Savior power over all flesh in order that we may have eternal life.

LET US PRAY: *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Amen. (1 John 5:20)*

DAY 4 - EMBRACE YOUR POSITION (SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019)
TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: GENESIS 45:13-15

And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither. ¹⁴And he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon him. ¹⁵Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

Finally, Joseph’s brothers can lift their heads and embrace him. Now they can meet his wife and their nephews. Now Jacob can be reunited with a son he thought was dead.

Jacob was not the eldest child in this bunch, but God elevated him to a position of protector and provider for his family. Do not reject, resent, or rebuke the position God has placed you in for your family. It’s not the birth position that God is concerned with. God has appointed you and anointed you for this position in your family. God has fashioned you and you alone for the role he has you in now. Do not challenge other family members as to why they are not *stepping up to the plate*. Do not distance yourself from family because you deem their behavior is not worthy of relationship anymore. Instead pray, intercede, and speak life and truth about this journey of freedom God is leading your family through and to.

If you have been walking in disobedience by ignoring God’s directive to you to reconcile with a family member, repent, and seek God.

LET US PRAY: *Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments. Amen. (Psalm 119:73)*

DAY 5 - DYING DECLARATION (SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: GENESIS 50:24

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die; but God will surely come to you, and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

A seven-year famine fell upon Egypt. The Egyptian people were so destitute and hopeless that they begged Joseph to take their land. They sold themselves into slavery so that they would not die of starvation. Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh and all of the Egyptian people.

The only people that did not become enslaved and under subjection to Pharaoh was Joseph's family. Jacob, Joseph's father and Jacob's children and grandchildren were all free people. The only land that did not come under ownership of Pharaoh was the land that Pharaoh authorized Joseph to set aside for his family. Jacob and his children and their children settled in the land of Rameses.

This is why Joseph made the dying declaration to his family that God was going to fulfill the promise of his ancestors to bring the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL to their own land.

LET US PRAY: *Lord, preserve my soul; for I am Holy: O thou my God, save they servant that trusteth in thee. Amen. (Psalm 86:2)*

DAY 6 - OUR POSTERITY (MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 1:6, 8

And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation... Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

Only we can protect our heritage. It is not the responsibility of anyone else to secure our posterity. It is definitely not the desire of the enemy to preserve and protect that which God has ordained for our lives and our posterity. Once Joseph and his brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren passed, Joseph's legacy died. No longer was his seed honored and respected. Now a people with an ancestry of freedom were enslaved by the ancestors of slaves.

Joseph and his legacy may have been erased from the memory banks of the people, but what did not die and is intact and in full effect is the promise of God. Death does not extinguish the promises of God's word. The word of God is alive and applicable to our lives today.

LET US PRAY: Lord you have been calling me to obedience all my life. I desire to walk in obedience and faith. I know your word reminds us that “*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.*” Lord increase my faith. **Amen. (Hebrew 11:8)**

THE EXODUS

DAY 7 - ENTRAPMENT (TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019)

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 12:41

At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the companies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.”

The entrapment of slavery for the twelve tribes of Israel was long, 430 years. It was 430 years from the time of bondage to freedom.

The spirits of captivity, slavery, and bondage did not want to release its grips on God’s people. We will witness that in spite of their new status of freedom, the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL were tempted to reach back to their comfort zone of slavery.

We too exhibit some of the traits of the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. When we walk in fear, doubt, and anxiety, we are signaling to God that we do not trust him while simultaneously waiving a big white flag of surrender to the enemy that we are still available for bondage. Do not allow satan to entrap you any longer in any type of bondage. You are free!

LET US PRAY: Father, I thank you for my freedom. When I find myself settling for a comfort zone satan has designed for me, quicken my spirit to walk in the freedom of my Salvation. **Amen.**

DAY 8 - IT’S A PROCESS (WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019)

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: NUMBERS 33:1

These are the stages by which the Israelites went out of the land of Egypt in military formation under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

Embracing and walking in your freedom is a process. God’s instructions to Moses in the transition of the twelve tribes of Israel from slavery to freedom is the plan that will guide us not just through this season of fasting and prayer but for the rest of our lives.

First, God gave this exodus structure. God showed them how to move, when to move, and where to go. They did not run like a herd of cattle out of Egypt. God commanded order.

Second, the vision was given to God's leaders, Aaron and Moses, on how this exodus was going to take place. With dignity they walked out of Egypt.

Finally, our scripture focus today tells us that God developed and outlined the stages of the exodus. This is a divine process therefore obedience, discipline, and sacrifice are automatically a part of the equation. What makes it a challenge is that "flesh" is a part of the equation too.

Over the next 32 days, we will experience the challenges, sets-back, victories and the greatest love story of God restoring his people. Tomorrow we will fast forward to the final plague that caused Pharaoh to finally let God's people go. Remember the enemy has its limitations and will back off, if only for a moment. BUT GOD, is a relentless God when it comes to performing the truth of His Word and honoring and protecting his people.

LET US PRAY: Father I seek your wisdom and discernment that I may recognize your voice. I want to give myself permission to release me from what you have already granted me *freedom from* and *freedom to*. In the blessed name of Jesus, I pray. **Amen**

DAY 9 - RISE UP (THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 12:31

"...Rise up, go away from my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord, as you said."

You would not believe who is speaking in this passage of scripture today, the enemy - Pharaoh. Pharaoh is talking to Moses and Aaron. He called for them in the middle of the night to deliver this message. That 10th plague, did Pharaoh in. We will flush out a little more the significance of the 10th plague on **Day 13**.

What a shift; the captor telling the captives to rise up! Pharaoh recognizes that he has no control over God or God's people. The enemy is forced to acknowledge the power of God. He commands that they RISE UP and GO WORSHIP their God.

It is the enemy's goal to manipulate our mind so that we forget the authority that is within us to rise above the oppression of the enemy. The enemy acknowledges the power and authority of God, yet disrespects the God in us.

LET US PRAY: *O God, you are more awesome than your holy places. The God of Israel is he who gives strength and power to his people. Blessed be God! Amen. (Psalm 68:35)*

DAY 10 - RELEASED (FRIDAY OCTOBER 25, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: LUKE 10:19

“Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any mean hurt you.

The imps of satan have no authority to orchestrate our deliverance or worship. In our meditation yesterday, Pharaoh, with bold deception, commanded deliverance from his bondage. The enemy deceptively released Israel. It was deception, because God never relinquished his power to the enemy to have any authority over us. Today we rebuke and reject that spirit of deceit. In our scripture focus today, Our Lord and Savior has already declared our power and authority over the enemy. We are already released into our freedom.

LET US PRAY: Lord, *“Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.” Amen. (Psalm 27:3)*

DAY 11 - BE GONE (SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 12:32

Take your flocks and your herds, as you said, and be gone. And bring a blessing on me too!

The audacity of the enemy to ask for a blessing. How is Pharaoh going to dismiss the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL and then ask Aaron and Moses to ask God to bless him after the generational hell and trauma he has caused in their lives?

Proverbs 25:21 admonishes us that *“If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat; and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink; for you will heap coals of fire on their heads, and the Lord will reward you.”* Pharaoh did not say he was hungry or thirsty, he requested a blessing. So what happens when your Pharaoh requests a blessing?

LET US PRAY: Father, your son instructs us to *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.* Lord increase my obedience. **Amen. (Matthew 5:44)**

DAY 12 - PACK-UP...LET'S GO (SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 12:34

“So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders.”

Imagine this. You are preparing a great holiday feast. Everything is prepped and ready to pop in the oven. The only thing that is left is the baking. All of a sudden, you hear that familiar warning on your TV. “This is a Test of the emergency broadcast system, this is only a test”. This time you hear “**THIS IS NOT A TEST.**” **YOU HAVE 3 HOURS TO EXIT THE CITY.**”

In their haste to get out of Egypt, priority packing for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL included the necessities to honor their heritage in baking, eating and worship of God. They packed their dough and measuring cups and spoons and mixing bowls. Why? If we flip back to the beginning of Chapter 12, we find the institution of the First Passover. The Passover is as sacred and Holy as our Lord's Supper. It is a perpetual ordinance to the Jewish faith just as Holy Communion is to the Christian faith.

The Passover commemorates when Israel put the blood of the lamb on their door post as a sign that God's child was in that household and therefore the death angel would pass over that house. God wanted generation to generation to remember when God passed over Egypt and spared their lives.

LET US PRAY: Father I thank you that we *were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, ...¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot.* **Amen.** (1 Peter 1:18-19)

MY EXODUS

DAY 13 – WHEN GOD SEES ME (MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 12:13-15

“...when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses...”

When God sees us, he sees the Blood. God identifies his people by Blood. God is not looking for Blood Type (O negative, B positive or A negative). God is looking for a particular blood. God wants to see blood of perfection. This blood had to be

from a lamb without blemish. God sees us because we are covered by the blood of the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world.

The tenth and final plague is what finally pushed Pharaoh over the edge to let God's people go. God struck down every first born in the land of Egypt. First born included people and animals. Pharaoh was devastated that even his first born was not spared. Egypt could not bear the grief of the death of their loved ones. This move of God was so historic that God required that they celebrate each year to remember when God passed over Egypt to secure their freedom.

LET US PRAY: *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9) Amen.*

DAY 14 - IDENTITY THEFT (TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: GENESIS 27:18-19

¹⁸So he went in to his father, and said, "my father"; and he said, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" ¹⁹Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn..."

God is truly a gentle God. The first location he placed on the itinerary for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL to stop after their abrupt exodus from Egypt (Rameses) is Succoth. Succoth, is a familiar place to Israel. It is the place where Jacob settled after he repented and sought forgiveness and reconciliation with his brother Esau. It is place where he built a house and booths for his cattle and animals. It is also a place where Jacob is finally at peace with his family situation.

In today's scripture focus, we see Jacob lying. He lies about his identity. He tells his aging blind father that he is his brother. He only does it to steal a blessing.

Sometimes in the middle of all that is going on, God stops us in our tracks to reflect. Jacob, had been gone from his brother for more than two decades. He initially fled to escape the wrath of his brother Esau for stealing his birthright. Now Jacob himself is on the run, but this time, he is fleeing the oppressive situation with his father-in-law.

God deposited this scripture in our lives today because we need to reconcile and restore relationships with family. There are things that we have to fix in order that we do not block the journey that God has set for us. Where there is disobedience in God's word, there is sin. Disobedience is not reconciling with your family. You cannot move forward. Sin blocks progression.

No matter how raggedy a situation is in your life, God can restore it. Take time today to talk to God about issues and situations with family members. Like Jacob, wrestle with it until God says it is well.

LET US PRAY: Lord your word says: *“When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2)*

Father, I am tired of bringing shame on you. I know that when I sin, it is against you. I sin when I refuse to go to my own blood brother or sister. I want to fix this Lord. I want to reconcile and restore a right relationship with family. Forgive me Lord for my transgression. Have mercy on me. **Amen.**

DAY 15 - Wrestle Mania (WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019)

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: GENESIS 32:26-27

²⁶Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.”

Yesterday, we learned why Jacob was apprehensive about returning home. Because Jacob left home raggedy, he feared the reception from his brother. He did not know if Esau still wanted to kill him.

Prior to Jacob, resolving issues with his brother and settling in Succoth, there was a transformation. Jacob lost that spirit of trickery and deceitful behavior of stealing a blessing. It was in Jacob’s sleep and slumber that this transformation occurred.

In today’s scripture focus, we witness Jacob wrestle for a blessing. When Jacob was asked to acknowledge and identify who he was, Jacob openly and freely acknowledged and embraced his identify. Jacob does not lie about his identity. Jacob finally owns who he is.

What are you wrestling with right now? What has you on edge or fearful? Have you figured out yet why your spirit is vexed? What is it about you that you have not released, acknowledged or embraced? Seek God today, to resolve this wrestling match.

LET US PRAY: Father, deliver me. **Amen**

DAY 16 - ON THE EDGE (THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: NUMBERS 33:6

They departed from Succoth and camped at Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness.

After leaving Succoth, the next stop on the itinerary is Etham, which is on *the edge of the wilderness*. What does the edge of wilderness look like? Do you have to jump a ditch and you are in the wilderness? Can you see it afar off and you have to hike a few miles? How stressful to know that you are on the edge of wilderness! If you are on the edge, then you know you are going in? Or will you?

The CHILDREN OF ISRAEL are about to shift from the familiarity of their heritage in Succoth, and cross-over into the wilderness. The wilderness houses the unknown. The wilderness presents severe challenges. BUT GOD, has set these captives free and promised to be with them on this journey.

LET US PRAY: *Yea, thought I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Amen (Psalm 23:4)

Day 17 - ON THE EDGE BUT PROTECTED (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 13:21-22

²¹*The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.* ²²*Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.*

The edge of the wilderness should hold hope for the promises of the Father. Every day, all day, every night, all night, who is with us on this journey? God. He promised. Look at the hedge of protection. God is in front leading. God covers and fuels our needs day and night. God does not allow darkness to consume us at any time?

This journey is a true test of our trust and faith in God.

LET US PRAY: Father, I thank you for leading me when I am on the edge of a wilderness. Strengthen my heart and mind so that I do not panic when you warn me and let me see that a wilderness is coming. Have mercy on me. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. **Amen.**

DAY 18 - NO, NOT NOW (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 13:17-18

¹⁷“When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, “If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle.”

Our God is such a compassionate God! God knew a short-cut to get to a pivotal point in the journey, the Red Sea. God chose not to allow their path to be the shortest distance to the destination. God knew the people were not strong enough emotionally to handle a war with the Philistines as soon as they were freed from Egypt. Notice, however, God acknowledges that the Israelites left Egypt ready for battle. God just said, **NOT NOW**.

Do you believe that God says, no, not now in our lives? Isn't it awesome that God contemplates every move in our lives? Can you hear God telling you, I have equipped you to overcome this battle and enter into your victory, but I am not going to allow you, my daughter, to go through that right now. Or, I refuse to subject you, my son, to face this right now, even though I have equipped you to conquer this, no, not now. That is the compassionate God we serve.

LET US PRAY: Lord, I thank you for leading me along paths of righteousness. I surrender to you Lord. I thank you for sheltering me in my times of weakness. Increase my faith as I continue my journey with you. **Amen.**

DAY 19- U-TURN (SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 14:1

Then the Lord said to Moses: Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-Hahiroth, ... you shall camp opposite it, by the sea.

The itinerary today calls for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL is to make a U-turn. God's direction is to go back toward the border of Egypt to a place called Pi-hahiroth. The Hebrew translation for Pi-hahiroth is “the entrance of the camps.” It is believed that this entrance of the camps was located along the Egyptian military road called the Ways of Horus. God wants us to set up house outside the enemy's door? Lord have mercy!

Have you ever been confused by God's instructions? Know this, God is never confused about his instructions for your life. God is never wrong in his instructions for your life. Instead of immediately dismissing God's instruction when you are in a state of confusion, seek God for clarity and wisdom.

LET US PRAY: God let me know when it is your voice speaking to me. Humble my thoughts dear Lord. Teach me to surrender and not second guess your plan for my life. Have mercy on my Soul. In Jesus name I pray, **Amen.**

DAY 20 - FOR HIS GLORY (MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019)

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 14: 3-4

³Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, "They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has closed in on them." ⁴I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, so that I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord. And they did so.

God witnessed Pharaoh order the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL out in the middle of the night as if it was he plan to release them. Pharaoh is so simple in his thinking and predictable that God knew his pride would not allow him to let the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL go without a fight. After Plaque #10, the striking dead of Egypt's first born, one would think that Pharaoh would submit and leave God and God's people alone.

The scripture focus today tells us it is for his Glory. God wanted Pharaoh to believe that Israel was wondering aimlessly without direction and without their God. God wanted Pharaoh to attempt a sneak attack on the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. God is the supreme military strategist. The enemy will never out strategize God.

Do you trust God enough to follow his direction to turn back and position yourself closer to the enemy? Not only has God allowed you to see that you are about to step into a wilderness, now God is forcing you back in the direction you just came from. God places you within shotgun range of Egypt's military camps. How will you handle that?

LET US PRAY: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. **Amen. (Psalm 79:9)**

DAY 21 - REARVIEW REFLECTIONS (TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 14:10, 13-14

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back...¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

You are sitting at a red light. You peep up at your rearview mirror and you see an 18 wheeler speeding uncontrollably behind you. Your heart starts racing. The light is still red and the traffic is too heavy for you to run the light to get out of the way. There is nothing you can do. You hear the truck's horn blowing to warn you that you are about to be smashed to smithereens. You pop up in your bed and thank God it is only a dream.

This is not a dream for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. This is a nightmare. All of a sudden they begin to hear rumblings; look back and see the chariots. The Red sea is in front of them, the enemy border on one side and the edge of Wilderness on the other side. Where are they going to go? They are devastated, frightened and pretty much out of their minds. They are screaming at Moses. They tell Moses it would have been better to stay in bondage under the torture of the Egyptians than to die out there.

Has it ever been so bad that you wanted to return to your terrorist? Sometimes the thought of stepping out on faith triggers anxiety attacks. The fear of something new and the unknown can be crippling. There are going to be "*rearview reflection*" moments in your life. A *rearview reflection* moment is one where the temptation to look back and rationalize that "it really wasn't that bad, at least I know everybody, where I am going now is foreign to me."

When the new territory God is leading you to seems unattainable, and anxiety begins to creep in, use your rearview reflections to glorify and praise God for what he has brought you through and GO FORWARD.

LET US PRAY: Lord please put my heart back in my chest. I am so fearful of that which I cannot control. I thank you for your word today that reminds me that you will fight for me. Help me Lord to learn how to stand still and trust you for all things. **Amen.**

DAY 22 - GO FORWARD (WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 14:15, 19

¹⁵ "...Tell the Israelites to go forward..."¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them...

It's 2:30 am. You have calmed down from your bad dream. You doze back off.

You fall right back into your dream. You are back in your car at the red light with the 18 wheeler a few car lengths away. You hear a voice tell you to GO FORWARD! You quickly pull off and are able to maneuver into the next traffic lane. This time when you wake up, you find yourself in prayer and eventually praise.

God is walking the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL step by step through this stage of the journey. God is calling out very specific instructions and moving very strategically on behalf of the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL to protect them from the enemy.

God is calling out commands in our lives today. We just have to be able to hear when God gives the command to go forward. In football, when linemen misread or fail to hear the quarterback and jump off-side, that's a five-yard penalty. That penalty could be detrimental to the game or it may not. We only have one life. We can't afford to keep jumping offside, being penalized, and then trying to regain our position. Stand still. Understand the plan. Study the strategies that God has set before you, and GO FORWARD!

LET US PRAY: Lord, grant me the wisdom to understand when you want me to GO FORWARD. I seek the spirit of humility and meekness. I want to decrease in self and to increase in my faith. I thank you Lord. **Amen.**

DAY 23 - IN HOT PURSUIT (THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 14:22-23

²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them...

We are at a pivotal stage in the journey. The CHILDREN OF ISRAEL have finally left the edge of wilderness and the enemy's border. They are now in the middle of the Red Sea, however, on dry land.

It is interesting how the enemy wants to take advantage of the provision God has made for you. The enemy is utilizing the same path that God has laid for you to escape. We cannot worry about that. Just like God was meticulous with his instructions to Moses and Aaron on each stage of their journey, God has a personalized plan for your journey. Let the enemy think that it has the upper-hand. Do not get distracted with the enemy's hot pursuit of you. **KEEP MOVING FORWARD.**

LET US PRAY: Father your word declares that you have redeemed me from the hand of the enemy. Thank you for sheltering me during the time of the enemy's hot pursuit. **Amen. (Psalm 106:10)**

DAY 24 - TSUNAMI LOVE (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS (EXODUS 14:28-29, 31)

²⁸“*The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.* ²⁹*But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea...* ³¹*Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.*”

It took a tsunami for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL to believe. A tidal wave of love ran through the Red Sea protecting the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL from the enemy. A tsunami causes catastrophic destruction and annihilation of all life in its path. God's love, keeps us on the dry side of a tsunami. Sometimes it takes a tsunami and other calamities for us to finally get it. Our position at this stage of the journey is the dry side of a tsunami.

Today, pause, and sincerely search your heart for any desire to inflict eruptive or volcanic chaos upon self or others. We do not want to be that volcanic energy that erupts or the underwater explosion that stirs up the tidal waves that wreak havoc in other people's lives or our own lives. God commanded the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL; “*You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*” (**Exodus 22: 20**)

LET US PRAY: Dear Lord, I do not necessarily need to experience a Tsunami to fear you and to believe. I thank you for keeping me on the dry side of a Tsunami. Please forgive me Lord if I have ever allowed myself to be the negative energy that has caused confusion and pain in other people's lives. **Amen**

DAY 25 - STEP INTO WILDERNESS (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: NUMBERS 33:8

They set out from Pi-hahiroth, passed through the sea into the wilderness, went a three day's journey in the wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah.

The CHILDREN OF ISRAEL have gone from being at the edge of wilderness to stepping into their wilderness. What is more interesting is that geographically, Etham is on the border of Egypt. They have traveled three days in Etham. Finally, they can set up their camp, but in the wilderness.

LET US PRAY: *O God, you are my God, I seek you, my Soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Amen.*
(Psalm 63:1)

DAY 26 - BITTER WATER (SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 15:23-24

When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter. That is why it was called Marah. ²⁴And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

Can you just imagine the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL's grumblings? What!!!? *After walking for three days you have us camped out in the place called "bitter water." A place where we cannot quench our thirst?*

Immediately, the people blame the man of God for something he has no control over. Moses is just following God's itinerary. God instructed Moses that Marah was the next destination after Etham. In obedience to God, Moses led the people to Marah.

When we rebuke and second guess the vision that God has given to our spiritual leader (Pastor), we are rebuking God. We are quick to get upset or disappointed when we think things are not going the way they should go. Do you really think God would direct our spiritual leader to lead us to a place of destruction or harm?

LET US PRAY: Lord in your word you declare *"I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."* Thank you for supplying us with Pastor's that feed us with knowledge and understanding. Increase my faith Lord! **Amen.**

DAY 27 - GOD OPEN MY EYES (MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 15:25

²⁵ *“He cried out to the Lord; and the Lord showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet... there the Lord put them to the test.*

This three-day journey is bitter sweet. Finally, they have arrived at the destination and can finally set up camp, but their water supply is polluted.

Moses intercedes on behalf of the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. God heard Moses' cry and answered his prayer. God transformed the water from bitter to sweet. God healed their source of water.

There are many instances in our lives where we are in great anticipation of change for the better. In obedience, we sacrifice and follow the voice of God. We keep trudging ahead but experience little to no change. Disappointment begins to creep in. THEN GOD OPENS OUR EYES. Just like God showed Moses the cleansing capacity of the piece of wood, God shows us his transformative power in our lives. God is constantly transforming our bitter to sweet and our darkness into light.

LET US PRAY: *Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed, save me, and I shall be saved: for thou are my praise. Amen. (Jeremiah 17:14)*

DAY 28 - ULTIMATE HEALER (TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS EXODUS 15:26

²⁶ *He said: “If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, and give heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you.*

God used this “bitter sweet moment” as a teachable moment. God declares that he is a healing God. God instructs his people on the benefits of Obedience to the word and to his voice. God is very specific about how to avoid illnesses. God is very clear in this passage of scripture that if they listen to his voice and are obedient to his Word, then they will not suffer the diseases he inflicted upon the Egyptians.

This is a teachable moment for us. God tells us throughout his word that we are Holy. God expects us to nurture and protect our Holy vessels. A part of that nurturing and protection involves discipline in what we deposit in our bodies and how active we are.

Some illnesses (not all) are self-inflicted. We subject ourselves to self-inflicted illnesses when we are not good stewards of our bodies. Think about how many times you have heard the doctor say you can control this disease with diet and exercise. If it is within our control based on our discipline to eat properly and exercise, then failure to do so is self-inflicted destruction of the body. Take heed and follow the Health plan of God. OBEDIENCE is the prescription. Take care of your body; it belongs to God!!!

LET US PRAY: *Yet, O Lord you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Amen. (Isaiah 6:48)*

DAY 29 - SPA IN A DRY LAND (WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: NUMBERS 33:9

They set out from Marah and came to Elim; at Elim there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there.

Our God is a gracious God. The CHILDREN OF ISRAEL are in the desert. The desert is dry. It is difficult to sustain life in the desert, yet God leads them to a tropical spa in the midst of scorching temperatures and burning sand.

Thank God that God is the travel agent for the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. Their next destination had to be one free of trauma. Yes, God turned that situation around with the bitter water, but now God shows compassion by spoiling the children with a little piece of paradise in the most unlikely place, the Wilderness!

God always gives us a reprieve from difficult challenges in life. Just when we think we cannot take another set-back, God showers down the blessings as a reminder he still sees us, he still hears us, and he is always our provider.

LET US PRAY: Father thank you for sustaining me when I am in my desert. When everything seems to be closing in and it feels like all the life in me is about to be sucked right out of me, you always come to my rescue. Thank you for shielding and protecting me. In the blessed name of Jesus, I pray; **Amen.**

DAY 30 - WILDERNESS OF SIN (WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 16:4

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

The CHILDREN OF ISRAEL have packed up and left "Elim Spa." It's a little over a month now since God released them from Egypt. The next destination on the itinerary is The Wilderness of Sin. The wilderness of sin is their seventh stop.

This portion of scripture reveals that God is testing whether the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL will follow instruction. You will be amazed what the instruction is! It's about the proper food portions per day. Yes, God is teaching food portions. God **is not** rationing food, because our God is a God of plenty. God is raining bread from heaven. God simply says each day take only what you need to eat for that day.

God is saying to us, each day, *I provide all that you need. Do not hoard, do not be a glutton, trust me to shower you with your daily bread.* Do you trust God to perform his word in your life?

LET US PRAY: *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassions, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Amen. (Psalm 86:15)*

DAY 31 - OUR FATHER (THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 16:19-20

And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over until morning." But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them.

Disobedience is the sin of choice for this wilderness experience.

Just that fast, the food from the day before spoiled and grew maggots. Disgusting to the core! Israel was disobedient. They did not trust God. If they trusted God, they would have followed instructions and only taken what they and their household could eat. There was no need to save left overs for the next day when God was daily showering provisions from Heaven.

LET US PRAY: *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our*

*daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.** (Matthew 6:9-13)*

DAY 32 - TRUST GOD (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 30:9

“thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, ... and in the fruit of thy land, for good...”

Do you doubt God at times? At some point in life, all of us fall (or will fall) into a state of self-sufficiency and forget that God is enough. We are taught to persevere and not depend on others to do what we can do for ourselves. As disciplined disciples of Christ, God leads us to and through the plan he has set forth for our lives. It is not necessary for us to orchestrate and attempt to create the perfect scenario to achieve the desires of our heart. We have to yield to God and take self-out of the equation. Do not fall into panic and fear because you believe that God has forgotten the desires of your heart. God's time is not our time. It is of no moment that several days, weeks, months, years, or even decades have passed and you have not seen the manifestation of your desire(s). Trust God.

LET US PRAY: Lord, *“Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Save me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.” **Amen.** Psalm 143:8-10*

DAY 33 - WILDERNESS OF SINAI (SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 19:2-3

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ...

Moses is in position to hear from God. God called Moses from the mountain. You are in position to hear the voice of God. God is calling you. Respond...

LET US PRAY: *⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty...⁸The voice of the Lord, shakes the wilderness. Lord, I will respond to your voice. **Amen.** (Psalm 29:4, 8)*

DAY 34, GOD COME GET ME (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 19:4

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself.

A quick study on “wing-ology” is in order; not chicken wings, or buffalo wings, but the “wing-ology” of an Eagle’s wing. We are only interested in the eagle’s wing span for purposes of our meditation today. The wing span for an eagle can measure between 4 to 8.2 feet. The eagle with the greatest wing span is the Stellar sea eagle. God’s wing span, however, surpasses all the wings of eagles on earth.

In this portion of scripture God is speaking to Moses. God wants Moses to remind the people of the power of his wings.

The Strength of God's Wings

God said, Moses remind them that I “*bore them on my wings.*” God personally swooped in and carried six hundred thousand military forces and men on his wings. God could not trust an airlift by Boeing. God did not need to deploy the Navy Seal to go in the dark of night to free his people; God had to personally go and bring his people back to him.

The Power of God's Wings

God’s wings provide refuge and shelter. There is healing in God’s wings. (***Malachi 4:2***). We can rejoice in the shadow of God’s wings (***Psalms 63:7***). We can trust in the protection of God’s wings.

Yesterday, you were reminded that you are in position to hear the voice of God and that God was calling you. Your position is under the shadow of God’s wings. Now that you know your position, what is your response to God’s call? What is your request to God? You are just as important to God as the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL were. God has already redeemed us. It’s okay to cry out to God “*God come get me.*” It’s okay to acknowledge “*God I need you to bring me back to you...*”

LET US PRAY: *Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. Amen. (Psalm 57:1)*

DAY 35 - GOD'S TREASURE (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: EXODUS 19:3, 5-6

Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites...⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation..."

Yesterday we considered the power and strength of God's wings. Today we want to continue exploring the move of God. Do you know why God had to personalize this rescue mission? God is in covenant with his people. God made a commitment to the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These of the descendants of the promise. God could not allow the beneficiaries of the promise to remain in captivity.

As we know, flesh (CHILDREN OF ISRAEL), could not keep the law. We too however, are God's covenant people. We are not under the law, but grace. *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* (John 1:17)

LET US PRAY: Father, your word says *Christ entered into heaven to appear in the presence of God on our behalf and that he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.* For this dear Lord, I am eternally grateful. **Amen.** (Hebrews 9:24, 26)

CROSSING OVER

DAY 36 –COMMISSIONED (TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019)
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS (Joshua 1:1)

Now After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses minister saying...

We have been following God's itinerary of exodus and freedom for the last 33 days. According to the *WILDERNESS TIME-ZONE*, we have 39 years and 329 days left before manifestation of the promise land.

We have five more days together on this journey. We are out of time for this season of fasting and prayer to chronicle the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL's next 39 years and 329 days in the wilderness. We have to begin preparing to come out of the *WILDERNESS TIME-ZONE* and enter anew and refreshed into our lives.

God began preparing for the transition of Moses while Moses was still in the wilderness with God's people. In Exodus 24:13 it is Joshua who is allowed to approach the Mountain of God with Moses: *And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.* God prepared and positioned Joshua to continue leading God's people to the promise.

It is time to begin your process of transitioning to the next level. In five weeks and three days we will be on the eve of entering a new decade, 2020. In the scripture focus today we see that God gave rest to his leader Moses and immediately called on the vessel that he chose to continue leading God's people. God as the Chief Military strategist commissions Joshua as his top General to complete the journey. God has commissioned you to embrace your position **(DAY 4)** and to go forward **(DAY 22)**.

LET US PRAY: Father I thank you that “*we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.*” **Amen. (Romans 7:6)**

DAY 37 – PREPARE TO CROSS (WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: JOSHUA 1:2

My servant Moses is dead. Prepare to cross the Jordan, together with all this people, in the land that I am giving to the Israelites.

God gives honor to Moses by calling him servant. God trust Joshua to continue the journey. God told Joshua to *PREPARE TO CROSS* the Jordan. God did not give specifics on how all those people were going to cross the Jordan river, he just told Joshua to prepare. Do you think Joshua took a headcount to see how many pairs of hip boots he needed for the people? **NO**. Do you think he checked on the depth of the river to determine what was the best part to enter? **NO**. Or, did Joshua check with the farmers of the land to find out when the river would crest? **NO**.

God is calling us to prepare to cross. God has blessed us to see the ending of a decade. What are the desires of your heart before the end of this decade? What are the desires of your heart for this new decade? What is God commanding that you leave behind? Are you willing to make preparations to cross without any further instructions at this time?

LET US PRAY: *Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he uttered by Moses his servant.* **Amen. (1 Kings 8:56)**

DAY 38 – EVERY STEP (THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019)**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Joshua 1:3**

Every spot on which your foot treads I give to you, as I promised Moses.

In today’s scripture, God is making it easier to prepare to cross. God affirms in his Word what he has already promised to Moses on behalf of the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. God said every piece of ground they placed their feet upon is considered their land. This is why obedience to the plan of God is so important. It is imperative that they did not deviate from the itinerary of God. Their land is on the other side of the Jordan.

As we prepare to close out 2019, seek God for wisdom. Seek God for guidance so that you do not mistakenly deviate from the plan. Do not run ahead of God. Do not allow yourself to be captivated by whispers of *vain nothingness*. Please do not get tired and stop. Keep preparing to cross so that you may step into your inheritance from God. Finally, do not discount the final days of 2019. Do not assume that you have to wait until 2020 to reap what God has already promised to you. Continue to prepare to cross over while maintaining your hope of the immediate manifestation of God’s promises.

LET US PRAY: Lord your word says *if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise... But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe*. For this dear Lord, I am eternally grateful. I thank you Lord.

Amen. (*Galatians 3:18, 22*)

DAY 39 – GOD GOES FIRST (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019)**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: JOSHUA 3:11**

The Ark of the Covenant of the Sovereign of all the earth is advancing before you into the Jordan.

Between Chapters 1 and 3 there was a whole lot of preparation going on to position the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL to cross over the Jordan. Today’s scripture focus reveals the plan of how they are going to cross over. It’s simple; GOD GOES FIRST. In spite of the spring floods at the banks of the Jordan, GOD GOES FIRST. Because of the enemy camps that are in route to the promise, GOD GOES FIRST.

GOD GOES FIRST, today, until the end of this decade and for decades and generations to come. GOD GOES FIRST...

LET US PRAY: *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to him be glory for ever and ever.*

Amen. (*Hebrews 13:20-21*)

DAY 40 – WE WILL CROSS OVER SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Joshua 3:17

While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Because the people were going to be in the presence of God while crossing the Jordan River they had to set themselves apart. There were several instances during their freedom journey where God instructed Moses to consecrate the people. God instructed the people to wash their clothes and to remain pure. God made these special request because he planned to come into the presence of his people.

God gave the same instructions to the Children of Israel before they crossed the Jordan. Joshua explained to God’s people that when they saw the Ark of the Covenant being carried by the Levitical priests, they were to follow it. He told them that they had to follow it because they had never been where they are going before. Finally, Joshua said “*Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.*” (**Joshua 3:5**)

First Emanuel and family sanctify yourselves, God will do wonders among you. First Emanuel and family sanctify yourselves, God wants to lead us where we have never been before.

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU: *May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.*

Amen. (*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*)



New Orleans Worship Services are at 7:30 am & 10 am

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