

Opening Scripture Reading/Prayer:

Exodus 31:12-17

The Sabbath

¹² And the Lord said to Moses, ¹³ “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. . . .’ ¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”

Isaiah 58:13-14

¹³ “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Josephus (4:1-4 – “The Tower of Babel”) wrote:

Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers. Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work: and, by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than any one could expect; but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water. When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners; but he caused a uproar among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another. The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon, because of the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews mean by the word Babel, confusion ...

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimrod>

“Look upon my affliction and rescue me, for I do not forget Your law.” Psalm 119:153

The Purpose of the Message last week we learned:

When God speaks a Word, it will be done as He has said, despite how circumstances appear in the natural.

... and ...

We are delivered through faith in Jesus, the Passover Lamb, not simply to walk away and “do our own thing.” As it was for the Israelites, the purpose of our freedom is to serve the living God.

Let’s Remember what God told the People to do before they got delivered out of Egypt, which we are reminded to do prior to Christ’s 2nd Coming:

1. I Will Provide the Way Out and All the Way Into the Promise Land

Exodus 11:2 - Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”

2. Know the Times

Exodus 12:1-17 - The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

... ⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it . . .

... ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast . . .

...¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”

Word Study by Ryan Roberts of Key 2 Changes

Week 15 - Bo (Come!)
Exodus 10:1–13:16; Jeremiah 46:13–28; Revelation 9:1–21
“Come to Pharaoh!” (a Call from God)

Until the plague of lice, the Egyptian magicians and sorcerers were able to duplicate the plagues but, with this plague, they could not. Therefore, they recognized this to be the finger of God.

“Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh: ‘**This is the finger of God!**’; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken.” Exodus 8:19

Opening Story:

A Church No Longer Afraid
Story from China
The Voice of the Martyrs – March 2020

“How wonderful it would be if, because of this suffering, we might be able to give off the sweet fragrance of the gospel!”

Li Lingqiang, elder at Early Rain Covenant Church (China)

“The goal of obedience is not to change the world, but to testify about another world”

Pastor Wang Yi

Their attempt to intimidate the *Underground Church of China* and force them to close their doors were ineffective, however, because the church’s leadership had already begun to prepare the congregation for suffering.

“We will not stop our gathering in the Lord, but we are prepared to bear all possible persecutions and costs for our Lord Jesus Christ – to go to jail or be sentenced or beaten or killed. We are willing to entrust ourselves to God.”

Chinese Christians to Re-education Camps

One goal of Chinese prisons is to reform prisoners into a “new man” who fully subscribes to Communist ideology.

Hours before *his* arrest, church elder Li Yingqing wrote a letter to the congregation: “Thank the Lord!” he wrote. “Just as the year 2018 is about to end, God has given us a reward in the form of this large-scale persecution that arrived on December 9.” He instructed the church to face persecution according to **1 Peter 4:12-14** (“Rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s suffering . . .”) and concluded with a reminder of the church’s mission statement: “Christ is the Lord. Grace is the King. Bear the cross. Proclaim the gospel.”

And yet, church members continued to view these attack and interrogations as opportunities to share the gospel.

They had been taught how to react under questioning. “By the grace and help of the Lord, try to turn the Lord, try to turn the interrogation process into a process of evangelism . . . Try . . . to turn the interrogation room into a new meeting of the church.”

Wang Ye wrote in his Declaration, “to lead them through a wilderness of spiritual disillusionment and through this to make them know Jesus, if through this He continues disciplining and building up His church, then I am joyfully willing to submit to God’s plans, for His plans are always benevolent and good.”

If, however, China is entering a second period of extreme persecution such as followed the *Cultural Revolution* (China’s most violent periods to those who were considered counterrevolutionary, which include the Christian Church – 1966-1976), when pastors were jailed for decades and government sought to completely eliminate Christianity, this time the church is prepared. “Christians in China are better prepared for persecution today because more believers have their own copy of God’s Word,” . . . “and also because they have seen the fruit of their predecessor’ faithfulness in enduring persecution.”

Having already endured difficulty persecution before this most recent crackdown, many large urban churches had made plans to divide into smaller groups if necessary.

This new era of persecution may be a period of refinement for the maturing Chinese church. Although some have left the faith or chosen to stay home, many are firmly committed to following Christ despite persecution.

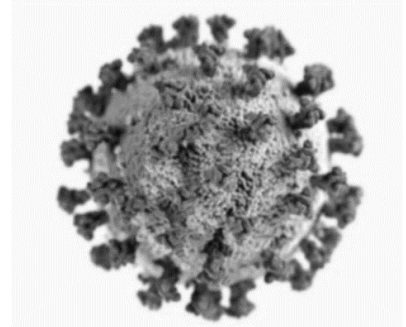
“but we rejoice that the gospel can be spread. We don’t simply believe persecution itself can make the gospel spread. God uses this way to make his people realize there is a treasure in the clay. So as the church cherishes more holding the gospel dear, so they can continue growing.”

Prophetic Picture to the Church of the Coronavirus

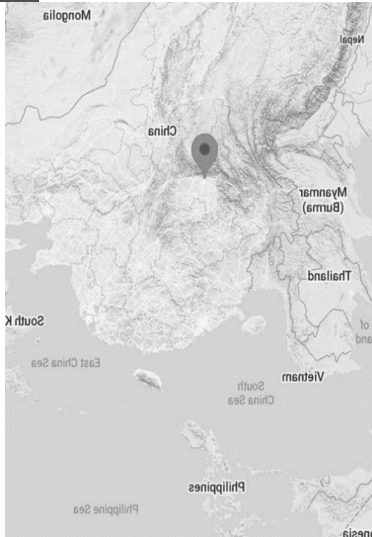
“Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the finger of God.’ But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.”

Exodus 8:19

Asking the Lord How to Pray regarding the current “Coronavirus” pandemic, in parallel to this weeks Scripture Reading ([Exodus 30:17-38](#)), He began to uncover for me the message that He is sending the World, using Wuhan, Chengdu, China, the origin of the “Coronavirus” and even more significant the origin of “a blueprint for dictators around the world” that China already plans to sell to Iran and other countries to eradicate Christianity from their country. These Christians have been living in an area of some of the most difficult persecution, with



China becoming the focus this year because of its forced Re-education camps (one goal of Chinese prisons is to reform prisoners into a “new man” who fully subscribes to Communist ideology.) and oppression that’s expected to spread and worsen. As well as the home of one of the most influential Christian House Church Movements in the World.



“But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.”

1 Corinthians 15:46

It is in this context that I believe we can understand the natural and allow the Lord to reveal to us the Spiritual message He is giving the Global Church and the World before it happens, not just China and the United States:

The purpose and the result of the “Coronavirus” is to speak first to the Global Church that Persecution is coming to you First, as is the case of the origin city of the virus, Wuhan City, where the Christian Church is seeing some of the most difficult persecution in the world, and because of the countries lack of the “Fear of the Lord” the Lord is giving

them and the World a taste of the alternative for those that do not “Fear the Lord”, “Fear” itself.

This “Fear” is in the form of a pestilence, a virus, that is named for its shape, “**a crown**”, speaking of the author of the pestilence, God himself, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

The response to the “Fear” is cleaning, washing hands, surfaces, etc. as the prevention of the virus, which is symbolic of “**Repentance**”.

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea (Church of Human Rights - The End Times Church) write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold (Spiritually Refreshing) nor hot (Spiritually Healing). Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm (Spiritually Sick), and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy (to frequent the literal “Kingdom of God” marketplace and properly buy) from me gold (God’s Word) refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments (God’s

Commandments) so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve (Understanding and Obedience) to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be **zealous and repent** (passionately stop doing life your way and passionately start doing life God’s

Way).¹⁹ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 3:14-22

The Message is to the Church first, that we are to prepare our self, **not in “Fear”**, but rather the **“Fear of the Lord”**, by submitting to our King in **“Repentance”**, simply defined as, stop doing things our way and start doing things God’s way, and His promise will be, “For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly **pestilence** (an infectious disease - anything that destroys – i.e. a plague, epidemic) . . . no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” **Psalm 91** and “And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God . . . Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out . . . **The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself**, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways, **Deuteronomy 28:29**. On the other hand, for those of the Church who **do not “Repent”**:

*“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for **whatever one sows, that will he also reap**. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”*

Galatians 6:7-9

*“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, **what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**”*

1 Peter 4:17

God is declaring in this Pandemic:

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9

But for the Church, He is declaring to set ourselves apart from the World, Fear Not and Not to be Alarmed, but rather prepare yourselves for Persecution, Not being miss lead by false prophets, endure to the end, and finally, continue the TASK which has been at hand since Jesus’ Resurrection, proclaim the gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the earth, and then the end will come:

Matthew 24:6-14 "See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

“Obeying the Law of God will Defy the Laws of Nature”

All the miracles performed by G-d in Egypt which defied all known laws of nature, were *invoked* by this **In – ef – fa – ble** (too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words) **Four-lettered Name of God**:

“I AM HAVAYAH (the God above all gods and the God above all Laws of Nature)!” Exodus 6:2

Ryan Roberts, Pastor of Springs of Living Water, March 14, 2020

How does the Church “Respond” to this “Message of Repentance”, “Stop doing it our own way, and Start doing it God’s Way”, by being “Disciplined by Jesus”, Living the Way God has Called us to Live:

Come and “Follow” Jesus

Be Disciplined

“Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. And they will say,

‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

*“Thus says the Lord God: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock. Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people.
Then they will know that I am the Lord.”
Ezekiel 36:33-38*

God has made *both Prosperity and Adversity*

*“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evil-doing. Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? It is good that you should **take hold of this and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them . . . See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”***

Ecclesiastes 7:14-18, 29

Here we find that **God has made both prosperity and adversity** (ex. Psalm 90:15, “*Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.*”), that man may not be at any certainty concerning future events, but may live in a dependence upon God and be ready for whatever happens. In fact, God instructs us here to “take hold” of each circumstance (prosperity or adversity), as well as, “withhold not your hand”, which defined is to “**take hold of**” or “**take possession of**”, like beams in a wall that hold a wall in position. In essence, **owning our prosperity and our adversity for the glory and purposes of the Lord, without doubt that God is in the Midst of those circumstances and Working them for your Good, and ultimately His Glory.** But here we are, most importantly, given the driving force to make it through both circumstances, the “**fear of God**”, which *defined* is “**awesome**”, “**awesome acts**”, “**awesome things**”, in simple, **those who stand in “AWE” of God in the midst of both prosperity and adversity, that they WILL Escape or Be Freed from all of them, in spite of their not knowing their out come; putting God’s Words above their own words and understanding.** As it is defined, Becoming Known, as we “Go” and as we “Come Out” that God is “Revealed” and “Unveiled” in and through our lives, as the Light of the World that He is calling us to Be, declaring “God’s Good Works” and not our own.

Further, in **Isaiah 51:14**, we read, “*He who is bowed down shall speedily be released . . .*”, which we understand here that the “**Exiled**” will soon be set free, or better being described as “**the Wanderer being practiced, skilled, trained, taught to be set free**”. The word “**bowed**” *defined* is “one who is stooped under a burden, tipped over for the purpose of spilling or pouring out”. Therefore, **those who submit to being practiced, skilled, trained, and taught to be set free through their circumstances, like a water pitcher, which’s purpose is to serve and bring Refreshment, will see their Freedom “Speedily”, fully equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17), in bring about the Glory of God in all the Earth.**

Together, through these two portions of Scripture, we learn from the Lord that **He alone creates Prosperity and Adversity for the purpose of demonstrating His Glory and Might in and through each one of our lives, if we would only allow Him to use us, as we were created, “Bowed” with the following purpose, “And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.** *“My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,” Isaiah 32:17-18. The net result of all things, therefore, should be “Peace”, “Quietness”, and “Trust Forever” as God’s chosen people, those who have answered the Call (“*For many are called, but few are chosen,*” *Matthew 22:14*, or “*few have actually answered the call*”), His royal priesthood, His Light in the World, without doubt or fear, and **complete and fully equipped for His “Awesome” works, that He might be “Revealed” and “Unveiled” in and through our lives, the Light of the World.***

Ryan, Pastor of Springs of Living Water

The 10 Plagues – “Havayah”^{*} Versus the Gods of Egypt

^{*}Havayah (One Name to Rule Them All – The God Above all gods and Above all laws of nature)

1. WATER TURNED TO BLOOD - Exodus 7:14-25

Egyptian God: Guardian of river’s source - Spirit of the Nile/Nile was his bloodstream.

- Duplicated by the Egyptians.

2. FROGS - Exodus 8:1-15

Egyptian God: Frog goddess to Egypt - Related to fertility.

- Duplicated by the Egyptians.

3. LICE - Exodus 8:16-19

Egyptian God: The earth god of Egypt.

- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.
- Attributed to the "finger of God."

4. Flies - Exodus 8:20-32

Egyptian God: The fly god of Egypt.

- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.
- Attributed to the "finger of God."
- God now makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.

The Meaning of Numbers: The Number 4

The number 4 derives its meaning from creation. On the fourth day of what is called 'creation week' God completed the material universe. On this day he brought into existence our sun, the moon, and all the stars (**Genesis 1:14-19**). Their purpose was not only to give off light, but also to divide the day from the night on earth, thus becoming a basic demarcation of time. They were also made to be a type of signal that would mark off the days, years and seasons (*set times in history for the Redemption of Man-Kind on the earth*).

Interestingly, the Hebrew word for 'seasons' in Genesis 1:14 is *moed* (Strong's Concordance #H4150), which literally translated is "appointed times" (divine appointments) in reference to God's festivals. This is the earliest known allusion to what would later be called the Holy (or Feast) days (periods) of worship, which are seven in number.

The 4th of the Ten Commandments is to remember and keep God's holy Sabbath day (Exodus 20:9 - 11). The Sabbath day is tied directly to the creation week. God himself made the period between Friday sunset and Saturday sunset extra special when he rested on it after bringing everything into existence the previous six days (Genesis 2:1 - 3, Exodus 20:11).

5. DISEASE ON CATTLE - Exodus 9:1-7

Egyptian God: associated bulls and cows.

- Affects property
- Death of livestock.
- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.
- God makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.

6. BOILS - Exodus 9:8-12

Egyptian God: gods of healing.

- Affects physical bodies.
- Pharaoh's magicians cannot even appear in court.
- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.
- God makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.

7. HAIL - Exodus 9:13-35

Egyptian God: sky goddess.

- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.
- God makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.

8. LOCUSTS - Exodus 10:1-20

Egyptian God: deity protector from Locusts.

- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.
- God makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.

9. DARKNESS - Exodus 10:21-29

Egyptian God: sun gods.

- Not duplicated by the Egyptians.

- God makes a separation between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- No more plagues will come upon the Israelites.

10. DEATH OF FIRSTBORN - Exodus 12:29-36

This plague was a judgment on all of Egypt's gods, including Pharaoh himself. In Exodus 1, Pharaoh had killed the sons of Israel. Now the Lord kills the firstborn sons of the Egyptians (Exodus 11-12). Pharaoh will now let Israel go. He will later lose his army to death in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:4-31)

The Meaning of Numbers: The Number 10

In the Bible, the number 10 is used 242 times. The designation "10th" is used 79 times. Ten is also viewed as a complete and perfect number, as is 3, 7 and 12. It is made up of 4, the number of the physical creation, and 6, the number of man. As such, it signifies testimony, law, responsibility and the completeness of order.

In Genesis 1 we find the phrase "God said" 10 times, which is a testimony of His creative power. God gave the 10 Commandments to man. Ten therefore represents man's responsibility to keep the commandments. A tithe is a 10th of our earnings and is a testimony of our faith in the Lord.

The Passover lamb was selected on the 10th day of the 1st month (Exodus 12:3), as was Jesus, the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world (John 12:28 - 29; 1Corinthians 5:7). The 10th day of the 7th month is the Holy Day known as the Day of Atonement. This unique day of fasting pictures the removal of Satan, the author of sin, before the Millennial reign of Jesus begins (Revelation 20:1 - 2). The last great world-ruling kingdom of man under Satan is symbolized prophetically by the 10 toes of Daniel 2 and the 10 horns of Revelation 13 and 17.

Exodus 10:1-13:16

Exodus 10:1-6

The Eighth Plague: Locusts

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them,² and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.”

³ So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.’ ⁴ For if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, ⁵ and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field,⁶ and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.’” Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

N Trillions of Brood 10 Cicadas to Emerge in U.S. After 17 Years Underground

Trillions of cicadas are set to emerge across 15 U.S. states this spring, as a colony of insects known as Brood 10 awakens from a 17-year-long hibernation.

The bugs, colloquially but incorrectly known as "locusts," are expected to appear for the first time since 2004 in Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Having spent almost two decades underground in their immature "nymph" state eating tree root sap, the bugs will crawl out in mid-May to late June when soil hits 64 degrees Fahrenheit—likely after a sprinkling of warm rain. Once above ground, the insects will set about mating, the noise of which can hit 100 decibels, and lay their eggs before dying.

The cicadas are genetically programmed to emerge every 17 years in a "massive synchronous way," Michael J. Raupp, emeritus professor of entomology at the University of Maryland and a fellow of the Entomological Society of America, told *Newsweek*.

"Densities can be as great as 1.5 million per acre. So, between Georgia and New York there will surely be trillions emerging," he said.

They are believed to appear in such huge numbers to overwhelm their predators. This "strange survival strategy" is called predatory satiation according to Raupp.

Brood 10 includes the *Magicicada septendecim* species, characterized by its broad orange stripes and patch of orange between their eye; and the *Magicicada cassini* and *Magicicada septendecula*, who both have almost entirely black abdomens.

Although the idea of swarms of insects appearing from the earth may sound "unbearable and frightening," Raupp said, "this is a wonderful opportunity for millions of people to witness and enjoy a remarkable biological phenomenon in their own backyard that happens nowhere else on the planet, truly a teachable moment."

He said the bugs will not cause lasting damage to established trees, will not invade homes or "carry away cats, dogs, or small children."

Referring to the British TV station known for its wildlife documentaries and period dramas, Raupp said the return of Brood 10 "will be filled with romance in the treetops as males woo their mates, harrowing escapes from predators, gruesome death by a fungus that becomes an STD and turns cicadas into zombies—all the elements of a BBC special."

Raupp encouraged those who are scared of cicadas to learn about the bugs that are a "fascinating and unique part of life on planet earth."

He went on: "I advise them to seek counseling to help them through this time. For some, it may be time to plan a three or four week trip to some parts of the country where there will not be cicadas. For example here in my state of Maryland, several towns along our Atlantic coast will not have cicadas this year."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/trillions-of-brood-10-cicadas-to-emerge-in-u-s-after-17-years-underground/ar-BB1cTu82?ocid=msedgntp>

Exodus 10:7-9

⁷ Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?" ⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the Lord your God. But which ones are to go?" ⁹ Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the Lord."

WE WILL GO WITH OUR YOUNG AND WITH OUR OLD, WITH OUR SONS AND WITH OUR DAUGHTERS (10:9)

Pharaoh was willing to let the menfolk go, as long as the children remain behind; for as long as the younger generation remains "in Egypt," there would be no future for the people of Israel.

Exodus 10:10

¹⁰ But he said to them, "The Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind."^[a]

AND [PHARAOH] SAID TO THEM: "...SEE, THERE IS EVIL BEFORE YOU" (10:10)

Pharaoh said to them; "By my astrological art I see the star 'evil' rising towards you in the wilderness; it is a sign of blood and slaughter."

Consequently, when Israel sinned by worshipping the Golden Calf and G-d said to slay them, Moses said in his prayer (Exodus 32:12), "Why should the Egyptians speak and say: He brought them forth in evil." The Egyptians will say: Indeed, we have already said, "See, there is evil before you." Hence, "G-d bethought Himself concerning the evil" (ibid., v. 14).

G-d then changed the blood of which this star was an emblem to the blood of the circumcision. Thus, when Joshua circumcised the people of Israel in the desert (before they entered the Holy Land), he said (Joshua 5:9): "This day have I removed from you the reproach of the Egyptians" — that which the Egyptian said to you, "We see blood impending over you in the wilderness."

(Rashi)

Exodus 10:11-11:1

¹¹ No! Go, the men among you, and serve the Lord, for that is what you are asking." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

¹² Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left." ¹³ So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. ¹⁴ The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. ¹⁵ They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. ¹⁷ Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me." ¹⁸ So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the Lord. ¹⁹ And the Lord turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. ²⁰ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go.

The Ninth Plague: Darkness

²¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. ²⁴ Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the Lord; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." ²⁵ But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. ²⁶ Our livestock also must

go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the Lord our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there.”²⁷ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, “Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die.”²⁹ Moses said, “As you say! I will not see your face again.”

A Final Plague Threatened

11 The Lord said to Moses, “Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely.

AND G-D SAID TO MOSES: “YET WILL I BRING ONE PLAGUE MORE UPON PHARAOH...” (11:1)

Ordinarily, G-d spoke with Moses only outside of the city, which was full of idols and impurities. On this occasion, however, He spoke to him in the throne-room of Pharaoh's palace. For Moses had said to Pharaoh, “You have spoken well; I will see your face again no more”; yet in the following verses, he conveys this new message from G-d to Pharaoh! This means that G-d appeared to Moses in the very epi- center of the idolatry and depravity of Egypt.

(Nachmanides)

Exodus 11:2

² Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”

AND G-D SPOKE TO MOSES... “PLEASE, SPEAK INTO THE EARS OF THE PEOPLE, THAT EVERY MAN ASK OF HIS NEIGHBOR, AND EVERY WOMAN OF HER NEIGHBOR, ARTICLES OF SILVER, AND ARTICLES OF GOLD...” (11:2)

To what is this comparable? To a man who is locked up in prison and is told: “Tomorrow you shall be freed from prison and given a lot of money.” Says he: “I beg you, free me today, and I ask for nothing more...”

[But G-d had said to Abraham at the “Covenant Between the Pieces”: “Know thee that your children shall be strangers in a foreign land, [where] they will be enslaved and afflicted ... and afterwards they will go out with great wealth” **Genesis 15:23.**]

So G-d had to plead with them: “Please! Ask the Egyptians for gold and silver, so that the Righteous One should not say: ‘They will be enslaved and afflicted’ He fulfilled, but He did not fulfill ‘and afterwards they will go out with great wealth.’”

(Talmud, Berachot 9b)

Why was it so important that the Children of Israel should carry out the wealth of Egypt, to the extent that this was foretold hundreds of years earlier to Abraham as an indispensable component of their redemption?

Every creation contains a “spark of holiness” which embodies its divine purpose. When a person utilizes an object, force and phenomenon to serve the Creator, thereby realizing its function within G-ds overall purpose for creation, he “redeems” and “elevates” the divine spark at its core.

Every soul has its own “sparks” scattered about in the world, which actually form an integral part of itself: **no soul is complete until it has redeemed those sparks which belong to its mission in life. Therein lies the purpose of galut** (exile) in all its forms: the exile of the soul from its sublime origins to the physical world, and the various exiles that nations and individuals experience in the course of their history, impelled from place to place and from occupation to occupation by seemingly random forces. All is by Divine Providence, which guides every man to those possessions and opportunities whose “spark” is intimately connected with his.

(The Chassidic Masters)

Fast Forward:

Exodus 12:13-14

¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

Page 13

Exodus 13:9-16

⁹ And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.¹⁰ You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

Page 15

Exodus 11:3

³ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

Luke 14:25-34
The Cost of Discipleship

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ **For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?** ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ **Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?** ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ **So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.**

Exodus 11:4-12:2

⁴ So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. ⁶ There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. ⁷ But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’ ⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

The Passover

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² **“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.**

THIS CHODESH (NEW MOON, MONTH) SHALL BE TO YOU THE HEAD OF MONTHS; IT SHALL BE FOR YOU THE FIRST OF THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR (12:2)

G-d showed Moses the new moon at its moment of rebirth, and said to him: “When the moon is reborn, mark the beginning of a new month.”

Gentile

(Mechilta)

Genesis 1:14

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for **signs** and for **seasons**,¹⁵ and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Luke 12:56

You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Signs - 226. oth: a sign, a witness, a pledge (*signs, tokens* of changes of **weather** & **times** Genesis 1:14 . . .).

Seasons - 4150. moed: appointed time. place, or meeting (translations used: **appointed feasts, appointed times, fixed festivals, set time, times appointed.**)

Notes. It is most probable that in Genesis 1:14 (P), where אֵת הַיָּמִים אֵלֶּיךָ, the reference is to the sacred seasons as fixed by moon's appearance; and so also יָצְאָה לָנוּ יָרֵחַ עֵשָׂה יָרֵחַ לְעֵשֶׂה *he made the moon for sacred seasons* Psalms 104:19.

Psalms 104:19

*“He made the moon to mark the **seasons** (**the appointed times** – Genesis 1:14):
 the sun knows its time for setting.”*

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Or moled {mo-ade'}; or (feminine) moweadah (2 Chronicles 8:13) {mo-aw-daw'}; from ya'ad; properly, an appointment, i.e. A fixed time or season; conventionally (regularly) a year; an assembly (as **convened for a definite purpose**); also a signal (as appointed beforehand).

Leviticus 23

Feasts of the Lord

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are **the appointed feasts of the Lord** that you shall proclaim (picture is of someone grabbing someone by the shirt collar and shaking them awake) as holy convocations (rehearsals); **they are my appointed feasts.**

2 Chronicles 8:13

¹³ as the duty of each day required, offering according to the commandment of Moses for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the **three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths.**

The first issue we need to deal with is time. We in Western cultures base our time on the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was derived from the Julian calendar developed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and modified by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 AD. The Gregorian calendar is a

solar calendar, basing its calculations on the earth’s movement around the sun, which makes a complete cycle about every 365 days. The calendar consists of twelve months: 7 of 31 days, 4 of 30 days and 1 of 28 days. An extra day is added to the 28-day month every 4th year and every 100th year to keep it accurate. The Gregorian calendar does not have a recurring cycle of dates.

The Hebrew or Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar. It is based on the movement of the moon around the earth, which makes a complete cycle about every 29-1/2 days. This calendar also consists of twelve months, but the beginning of each month is determined by visual observation of a new moon. In order to maintain accuracy with the solar year, an extra (13th) month is added seven times within a nineteen-year period. This extra month follows the twelfth month, Adar and is called Ve Adar or “second” Adar. The Hebrew or Jewish calendar has a recurring cycle of dates every nineteen years.

January 1st is New Years Day on the Gregorian calendar but the Hebrew calendar year contains two New Years Days. In Exodus 12:2, God ordained that the first month of the year for Israelites would be Abib. The name Abib means “green ears” and was used to indicate the time of year when the corn of grain first appears in the head of wheat and barley. It is from the new moon of Abib that all the Feasts of the Lord (“appointed times of Jesus Christ”) as ordained by God in Leviticus 23, are determined. The Jewish people currently call this month Nisan and it corresponds to our March/April time frame.

The Jewish people also have a civil calendar, which begins at the new moon of Ethanim, the supposed birth date of Adam. We know this date as Rosh Hashanah meaning “Head of the Year”. They use this New Year’s date to mark the beginning of the year of kings, childbirth and contracts. The name Ethanim means “permanent” and is the seventh month of the God ordained year. The Jewish people currently call this month Tishri and it corresponds to our September /October time frame.

In western cultures our day begins at 12 am or midnight. In Hebrew or Jewish culture the day begins with the appearance of three stars in the evening (about 6 pm), which is six hours earlier than ours.

The days of the week on the Gregorian calendar are named after various gods. The Hebrews simply numbered their days . . . 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. The 7th day of the week is the Sabbath (“Rest”); it begins at approximately 6 pm on Friday night and ends at approximately 6 pm on Saturday night.

In addition to the weekly Sabbath (“Rest”) there are seven other annual Sabbath (“Rest”) days located in the seven Feasts of the Lord (“appointed times of Jesus Christ”).

1. First day of Unleavened Bread – Passover (Abib 15)
2. Seventh day of Unleavened Bread (Abib 21)
3. Feast of the Seven Sevens (Weeks) – Pentecost (50th day)
4. Day of Blowing – Rosh Hashanah (Ethanim 1)
5. Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur (Ethanim 10)
6. First day of Tabernacles (Ethanim 15)
7. The Eighth day (Ethanim 22)

THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR

Civil Calendar

1. Tishrei (September/October)
2. Cheshvan (October/November)
3. Kislev (November/December)
4. Tevet (December/January)
5. Shevat (January/February)
6. Adar (February/March)
7. Nisan (Aviv) (March/April)
8. Iyar (April/May)
9. Sivan (May/June)
10. Tammuz (June/July)
11. Av (July/August)
12. Elul (August/September)

Religious Calendar

1. Nisan (Aviv) (March/April)
2. Iyar (April/May)
3. Sivan (May/June)
4. Tammuz (June/July)
5. Av (July/August)
6. Elul (August/September)
7. Tishrei (September/October)
8. Cheshvan (October/November)
9. Kislev (November/December)
10. Tevet (December/January)
11. Shevat (January/February)
12. Adar (February/March)

An Overview of the Festivals

The festivals are blueprints through which G-d revealed His overall plan of redemption for both man and the earth following the fall of man in the Garden of Eden (*Gan Eden*) as well as the role that the Messiah (*Yeshua*) would play in that redemption. The festivals are divided into two major portions, depending upon whether they occur in the spring or the fall. The spring festivals teach about the first coming of the Messiah *Yeshua* (Jesus) and the fall festivals teach about the second coming of the Messiah *Yeshua*. In Hosea (*Hoshea*) 6:3 it is written, "...His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." The "latter and former rain" in this passage is commonly interpreted and understood to be the coming of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*). This is indeed a valid interpretation and application; however, the former and latter rain also refers to the first and second coming of the Messiah (*Yeshua*).

G-d set up the festivals in an agricultural context. G-d gave the natural for us to understand the spiritual (*1 Corinthians 15:46-47*). During the course of the year, the rains come in Israel at two primary times--the spring and the fall. If we cross-reference Hosea (*Hoshea*) 6:3 with Joel (*Joel*) 2:23, we see that the former rain is the Hebrew word *moreh* which means "teacher," and the word *moderately* in Joel 2:23, is the Hebrew word *zedakah*, which means "righteousness." The teacher of righteousness was a term for the Messiah. *Yeshua* (Jesus) was the teacher of righteousness sent by G-d as can be seen in John (*Yochanan*) 3:2. *Yeshua* was sent by G-d to the earth to faithfully teach

us righteousness, just as G-d faithfully sends us the rain (Isaiah [Yeshayahu] 55:10-11). The harvest (believers in the Messiah) is the product that the rain (the Messiah) produces.

In *Leviticus* 23:2 it is written, ".....the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations...." The Hebrew term translated as convocation in *Leviticus* (*Vayikra*) 23:2,4 is *miqra*, which means "a rehearsal." From this we can see that G-d gave the festivals to be yearly "rehearsals" of the future events in the redemption. Because G-d gave the "rehearsals" to teach us about the major events in the redemption, if we want to understand the major events in the redemption, then we need to understand what G-d was teaching us by these rehearsals. The purpose of this book is to show how the "rehearsals" teach us about the real events in the redemption and the role of the Messiah (*Yeshua*) in these events.

The Goal Hidden Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge

"²My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." *Colossians* 2:2-3

Shadows

Freedom from Human Rules

"Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths which are a shadow of what is to come but the Body of the Messiah." *Colossians* 2:16-17 (KJV)

Here, he is telling us that the **Appointed Times** (Feast Days) and the **Sabbath** are a **shadow of things to come**. A shadow is of the same image as what it is portraying. So, doesn't this imply these will be observed in the future kingdom? And note the text says that these commands **ARE** a **shadow of things to come**, not "were a shadow" or "used to be a shadow" of things to come. He then says, '**let no man judge you**' (in these things: new moon; Sabbath; feasts) '**but the Body of Messiah.**' The word "is" has been added to the original text and did not appear in the Greek.

The **Body of Messiah** is to judge each other with regard to these things. A second witness to this can be found in the following verses:

"But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone called 'a brother,' if he is one who whores, or greedy of gain, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Do you not judge** (*krinō* (2919): **to distinguish** (to approve what is correct and reject what is wrong - *discern*), **to pick out** (*choose*) **by separating, to be of opinion** (*decide*), **to judge** ("bringing to trial" - expressing severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement).) **those who are inside?** But Elohim judges those who are outside. And put away the wicked one from among you!" **1 Corinthians** 5:11-13

Exodus 12:3-12

³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. **It is the Lord's Passover.** ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.

I WILL PASS THROUGH THE LAND OF EGYPT THIS NIGHT, AND WILL SMITE ALL THE FIRSTBORN IN THE LAND OF EGYPT... AND AGAINST ALL THE GODS OF EGYPT I WILL EXECUTE JUDGMENTS: I AM G-D (12:12)

"I will pass" — I, and no angel; "I will smite" — I, and no seraph; "I will execute" — I, and no messenger; "I am G-d" — I am He, and no other.

(Passover Haggadah)

"I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. **I am the LORD.**" (*Exodus* 12:12)

The plagues demonstrate God's supremacy over and judgment on all the false gods of Egypt.

When Moses first asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, he responded, "Who is YHVH, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?" (*Exodus* 5:2)

The God of Israel wants everyone to know who He is. And He wanted to make sure that Pharaoh and all of Egypt knew Him, too.

He even told Pharaoh that He was sending the powerful plague of hail, "so that you [Pharaoh] may know that there is none like Me in all the earth." (*Exodus* 9:14)

And in the end, **Pharaoh did come to realize the power of the God of Israel.**

But God was not only concerned about the beliefs of the Egyptians. **The Torah indicates that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart in order to demonstrate His power to all the nations and the powerlessness of their false gods.**

God does not want to be known only to this one nation of Israel, either. He wants His name to be proclaimed in every nation on earth:

“For this purpose I have raised you [Pharaoh] up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” (Exodus 9:16)

And God certainly did make Himself known to Pharaoh through the final three plagues.

Exodus 12:13-14

¹³ **The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.**

¹⁴ **“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast* to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.**

***Feast:** the word for feast is the Hebrew word *mo’ed*, as it is written, “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts [*mo’ed*] of the Lord...” The word *mo’ed* means **“an appointment, a fixed time or season, a cycle or year, an assembly, an appointed time, a set time or exact time.”** By understanding the Hebrew meaning of the English word feast, we can see that G-d is telling us that He is ordaining a “set time or exact time or an appointed time” when He has an appointment with humanity to fulfill certain events in the redemption. In fact, *Yeshua* (Jesus) came to earth at the exact time ordained by G-d (*Galatians 4:2,4*), and G-d has an exact time or set appointment when, in the future, He will judge the world (*Acts 17:31*).

Exodus 12:15-42

¹⁵ **Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.** ¹⁶ **On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you.** ¹⁷ **And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.** ¹⁸ **In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.** ¹⁹ For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.” ²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, **“Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.** ²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³ **For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.** ²⁴ **You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever.** ²⁵ **And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service.** ²⁶ And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. ²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn

²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!”

The Exodus

³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” ³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. ³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. ³⁷ And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. ³⁸ A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. ³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves. ⁴⁰ The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. ⁴¹ At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² It was a night of watching by the Lord, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the Lord by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

The Exodus Timeline

Discover the “True” Story behind the Story

There are several figures given for the length of the Egyptian Exile. *Genesis 15:13* mentions **400 years**, while *Exodus 12:40* puts its duration at **430 years**. *Following it is explained in some detail:*

Year 2018: God tells Abraham his descendant will be exiled in Egypt for 400 years. **This 430 years before Exile.**

Year 2048: Isaac is born. **The 400 years of exile date from his birth.**

Year 2238: Jacob’s family comes to Egypt. **This is 210 years before the Exodus.**

Year 2332: Egyptian slavery begins after the death of Levi, the last of Jacob’s sons (to be alive). **This is 116 years before the Exodus.**

Positive effect of Slavery (“⁴³Then the Lord said . . . “they will be enslaved and mistreated (not simple suffering, but the bread of affliction (“⁴³ You must not eat leavened bread with it; for seven days you are to eat with it unleavened bread, **the bread of affliction**, because you left the land of Egypt in haste – so that you may remember for the rest of your life the day you left the land of Egypt.” *Deuteronomy 16:3*), bread that allows us to actually be able to find answers to contexts, a strip down to the essential self, exposure of the deep areas of our lives where we realize strength, purpose, and meaning) for hundred years.” *Genesis 15:13*) . . . a developed sense of gratitude towards God and therefore readily acceptance of his teaching and instruction (Torah) . . . God’s Word often mentions this precept “*And you shall remember that you were once Slaves in Egypt, therefore, I command you to do these things,*” (*Exodus 13:3, Deuteronomy 5:15, 15:15, 24:18*).

Year 2362: The most intense persecution, which lasts 86 years, begins with Miriam, the sister of Moses is born. Her name means “Bitter”. **This is 86 years before the Exodus.**

Miriam, the daughter of Amram and Yocheved, and older sister of her two famous brothers, Aaron and Moses, was born in Egypt just when the Jewish people were reduced to slavery, oppression and hard labor. This was in the year 2362 (after Creation), eighty-six years before the liberation. She was born four years before Aaron and seven years before Moses. Having been born at the time when the bitter enslavement began, her parents named her “Miriam” (from the Hebrew word meaning “bitterness”).

Miriam the Prophetess died at the age of 126 (or 127) years (1400 – 1274 BCE). She was the oldest of the three. She died on the tenth day of Nissan, in the year 2487, almost exactly one year before the children of Israel entered the Promised Land.

Year 2448: The Exodus.

The people were Redeemed because of their faith (Genesis 15:6) Exodus 4:31

“And **he believed** the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” *Genesis 15:6*

“⁴³And **the people believed**; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.” *Exodus 4:31*

God Promises Deliverance Exodus 6:1-9, Exodus 12:30-32

Exodus 6:1-9

God Promises Deliverance

“⁴¹But the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”

²God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and **I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will deliver you** from slavery to them, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷**I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God**, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸**I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.**”⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.”

“³⁰And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “**Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said.** ³²Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!” *Exodus 12:30-32*

Exodus 12:43-51

Institution of the Passover

⁴³And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, ⁴⁴but every slave^[e] that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him. ⁴⁵No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it. ⁴⁶It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. ⁴⁷All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. ⁴⁸If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. ⁴⁹There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.”

⁵⁰ All the people of Israel did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.⁵¹ And on that very day the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

AND IT CAME TO PASS ON THAT VERY DAY, THAT G-D TOOK THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT (12:51)
In the Passover Haggadah we say: “If G-d had not taken our forefathers out of Egypt, we, our children, and our childrens children, would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt...”

Our sages explain that the Children of Israel had become so entrenched in the paganism and depravity of Egypt, that the Exodus came at the very last possible moment, as they approached the very brink of total indistinguishability from the Egyptians. Had they remained slaves in Egypt a moment longer, there would have been no “Children of Israel” to redeem.

Exodus 13:1-8

Consecration of the Firstborn

13 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

³ Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴ Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. ⁵ And when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this service in this month. ⁶ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord. ⁷ Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. ⁸ You shall tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’”

AND YOU SHALL RELATE TO YOUR SON ON THAT DAY, SAYING: THIS IS DONE BECAUSE OF THAT WHICH G-D DID TO ME WHEN I CAME OUT OF EGYPT (13:8)

In every generation, a person is obligated to see himself as if he himself came out of Egypt; as it is written: “... This is done because of that which G-d did to *me* when I came out of Egypt.”

(Talmud, Pesachim 116b)

Exodus 13:9-16

⁹ And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.¹⁰ You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

¹¹ “When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹² you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ¹⁶ It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

2 Peter 1:3-11

Confirm Your Calling and Election

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, **make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness. ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.** ⁸ **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.** ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.** ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Let's Remember what God told the People to do before they got delivered out of Egypt, which we are reminded to do prior to Christ's 2nd Coming:

1. I Will Provide the Way Out and All the Way Into the Promise Land

Exodus 11:2 - Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”

2. Know the Times

Exodus 12:1-17 - The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

. . . ⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat . . .

. . . ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast . . .

. . . ¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”

Next Week’s Reading:

Week 16 – Beshalach (When He Let Go)

Exodus 13:17–17:16; Judges 4:4–5:31, Ashk. (Judges 5:1–31, Seph.); 2 Peter 1