

## The Exodus

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for your learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

“God has chosen us out of the world that we might be a peculiar and holy people.”—The Review and Herald, November 10, 1885.

Suggested Readings: Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 259, 260, 290–298; 377–383.

Psalm 78.

### Sunday December 28 1. MOVING OUT

- a. After many years of peace and prosperity, why did God’s people become slaves in Egypt?

Exodus 1:5–14. [Exo 1:5-14](#)

[5] And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt *already*.

[6] And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

[7] And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

[8] Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

[9] And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we:

[10] Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and *so* get them up out of the land.

[11] Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

[12] But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

[13] And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

[14] And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, *was* with rigour.

“Those who were true to God understood that [their bondage] was because of Israel’s departure from Him—because of their disposition to marry with heathen nations, thus being led into idolatry— that the Lord had permitted them to become bondmen.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 260.

b. Why did the people want to leave Egypt? Exodus 2:23. “In their distress [the Israelites] cried unto the Lord for deliverance from the Egyptian yoke, that they might be freed from the corrupting influence of idolatry.”— Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 259.

c. What was God’s purpose in taking them to Canaan? Exodus 8:1. [Exo 8:1](#)  
[1] And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

“God brought the Israelites from Egypt, that He might establish them in the land of Canaan, a pure, holy, and happy people. In the accomplishment of this object He subjected them to a course of discipline, both for their own good and for the good of their posterity.”— Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 378.

Monday December 29

## 2. WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

a. What is God’s purpose for His people today and how does it compare with His purpose for Israel so many years ago? 1 Peter 2:9.

[1Pe 2:9](#)

[9] But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

“It was [the Lord’s] purpose to make of this nation of slaves a people who would reveal His character to the idolatrous nations of the world.”— Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 505.

“[Likewise today, it] is God’s purpose to manifest through His people the principles of His kingdom. That in life and character they may reveal these

principles, He desires to separate them from the customs, habits, and practices of the world.”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 321.

- a. Was Israel prepared for the deliverance of God when they first asked for help? Exodus 6:6–9.

**Exo 6:6-9**

- [6] Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I *am* the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:
- [7] And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
- [8] And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I *am* the LORD.
- [9] And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.

“The Hebrews had expected to obtain their freedom without any special trial of their faith or any real suffering or hardship. But they were not yet prepared for deliverance. They had little faith in God, and were unwilling patiently to endure their afflictions until He should see fit to work for them. Many were content to remain in bondage rather than meet the difficulties attending removal to a strange land; and the habits of some had become so much like those of the Egyptians that they preferred to dwell in Egypt.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 260.

- c. How do many respond to God’s call today? Proverbs 1:24–33.

**Pro 1:24-33**

- [24] Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;
- [25] But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:
- [26] I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

[27] When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

[28] Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

[29] For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

[30] They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

[31] Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

[32] For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

[33] But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

“May the Lord forbid that the history of the children of Israel in departing from God, in refusing to walk in the light, in refusing to confess their sins of unbelief and rejection of His messages, should be the experience of the people claiming to believe the truth for this time. For if they do as did the children of Israel in the face of warnings and admonitions, the same result will follow in these last days as came upon the children of Israel.”—The Review and Herald, October 21, 1890.

d. What should characterize our attitude instead? 1 Samuel 3:10; Isaiah 25:1.

1Sa 3:10

[10] And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

Isa 25:1

[1] O LORD, thou *art* my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful *things*; *thy* counsels of old *are* faithfulness *and* truth.

Tuesday December 30

### 3. NO MURMURING ALLOWED

a. What was a great deterrent for God’s professed people in their journeying to the Promised Land? Exodus 16:8; Hebrews 3:12.

Exo 16:8

[8] And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what *are* we? your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the LORD.

Heb 3:12

[12] Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

“The children of Israel seemed to possess an evil heart of unbelief. They were unwilling to endure hardships in the wilderness. When they met with difficulties in the way, they would regard them as impossibilities. Their confidence in God would fail, and they could see nothing before them but death.”—The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 221.

b. What had God proven to the Israelites with the pillar of cloud and fire? Exodus 13:21; 33:14.

Exo 13:21

[21] And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Exo 33:14

[14] And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest.

c. What has God promised us as we follow Him in all things? Matthew 28:20. Even with these promises, too often how do we respond to God’s desire to lead in our life?

Mat 28:20

[20] **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

“The unbelief and murmurings of the children of Israel illustrate the people of God now upon the earth. Many look back to them, and marvel at their unbelief and continual murmurings, after the Lord had done so much for them, in giving them repeated evidences of His love and care for them. They think that they should not have proved ungrateful. But some who thus think, murmur and repine at things of less consequence. They do not know

themselves. God frequently proves them, and tries their faith in small things; and they do not endure the trial any better than did ancient Israel.

“Many have their present wants supplied; yet they will not trust the Lord for the future. They manifest unbelief and sink into despondency and gloom at anticipated want. Some are in continual trouble lest they shall come to want and their children suffer. When difficulties arise or when they are brought into strait places—when their faith and their love to God are tested—they shrink from the trial and murmur at the process.”—The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 223.

Wednesday December 31 4. HE PROVED HIMSELF

a. In providing manna, what was the lesson that God taught? Exodus 16:15; Psalm 78:24; Isaiah 33:16.

Exo 16:15

[15] And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, It *is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, This *is* the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

Psa 78:24

[24] And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

Isa 33:16

[16] He shall dwell on high: his place of defence *shall be* the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters *shall be* sure.

b. What were the people to learn from the miracle of water? Psalm 105:41; Isaiah 41:17.

Psa 105:37

[37] He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and *there was* not one feeble *person* among their tribes.

Isa 41:17

[17] *When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there is* none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

c. What other aspects of God’s character can we learn from His care for Israel in the wilderness? Psalm 105:37; Matthew 6:25–34.

Psa 105:37

[37] He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and *there was* not one feeble *person* among their tribes.

Mat 6:25-34

- [25] Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
- [26] Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
- [27] Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
- [28] And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:
- [29] And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
- [30] Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?
- [31] Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
- [32] (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- [33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- [34] Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

“Moses told the people that God had hitherto preserved them, that they had not been harmed by the serpents, which was a token of His care for them. He told them it was because of their needless murmurings, complaining of the hardships in their journey, that God had permitted them to be bitten of serpents. This was to show them that God had preserved them from many and great evils, which if He had permitted to come upon them, they would have suffered that which they could call hardships. But God had prepared the way before them. There was no sickness among them. Their feet had not swollen in all their journeys, neither had their clothes waxed old. God had given them angels’ food, and purest water out of the flinty rock. And with all these tokens of His love, if they complained, He would send His judgments

upon them for their ingratitude, and make them to realize His past merciful care for them, of which they had been unmindful.”—The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 315.

“He who cares for the birds and the flowers will care for the beings formed in His own image.”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 266.

d. Where does God wish to lead His people now? Psalm 23:2, 3.

**Psa 23:2-3**

[2] He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

[3] He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

“God alone can guide us safely in paths which lead to the better country.”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 373.

“[During His time on earth,] when [the great Teacher] could, He would lead [His eager listeners] away from the crowded cities, to the quiet of the country. Here He would pray with them and talk to them of eternal truths.”—Evangelism, pp. 53, 54.

Thursday January 1

## 5. HIS WAY IS BEST

a. What do we know about our Creator? 1 John 4:8; Malachi 3:6.

**1Jn 4:8**

[8] He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

**Mal 3:8**

[8] Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

b. What do we know about all of His ways? Deuteronomy 32:4; Hosea 14:9; Revelation 15:3.

**Deu 32:4**

[4] *He is* the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.

**Hos 14:9**

[9] Who *is* wise, and he shall understand these *things*? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD *are* right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

c. What is the Lord’s desire for our life today? Joshua 1:7; 1 Kings 2:3; 3 John 2.

Jos 1:7

[7] Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

1Ki 2:3

[3] And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

3Jn 1:2

[2] Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

“Are not the tokens of God’s love sufficient to fill our hearts with thanksgiving and praise? Jesus desires us to trust in Him, bearing patiently the delays we can not help. He remembers every word He has spoken to lead His children to trust in Him. He is ever mindful of His covenant. His word will never fail. May the Lord increase our faith in our Intercessor.”—The Watchman, March 13, 1902.

“Make God your entire trust. Pray, pray, pray, pray in faith. Trust then the keeping of your soul to God. He will keep that which is committed to Him against that day. . . . Walk humbly with God. The Lord sees every sorrow, every grief, every trial that besets the human soul, and He knows how to apply the balm.”—That I May Know Him, p. 268.