

God's Plan Prevails

As we are now into five weeks of reading through the Bible, we have completed Genesis and are well into the book of Exodus. Because Exodus forms the foundation on which the rest of the Bible is based, I am going to use this devotional to focus on some main themes that have struck me thus far, as well as point out some of the ways God teaches and cares for His children.

The first theme that struck me is God's perfection in structure, thoroughness, and urgency as He completes the work He began with creation and is continuing to do until the end of time. From beginning to end, it is His master plan and He does not deviate from it. How great is our God! Notice how quickly the population grew from the creation of Adam to the 6,000 men that comprised the Israelite nation at the time they left Egypt. Notice, too, how stories like the flood in Genesis and the Tower of Babel prove that sin was present in every form in this relatively short period of time. If there is any consolation to be found, it is the fact that no matter what, God perseveres!

Our reading series for this week begins with the eighth, ninth, and tenth plagues. One cannot help but notice that each plague is more severe than the previous one as God tries to get Pharaoh's attention. Even the locusts didn't just disappear; they struck twice as they drowned in the Red Sea. Pharaoh's heart becomes more and more hardened, but God persists. Then, after the slaying of the firstborn of all the Egyptians, Pharaoh finally calls Moses before him

and commands him to leave Egypt. Even when Pharaoh decides to send an army back after the Israelites, God responds by drowning them in the Red Sea. How mighty is our God! His plan prevails.

I am also struck by the thorough care we see as God provides for the Israelites' spiritual and physical needs. In Exodus 12, He installs the institution of Passover, giving every detail as to how it is to be carried out, and then does the same with circumcision. Every part of God's plan for these institutions are provided in precise detail. God also provides for the Israelites' physical needs as a Father provides for his children by giving them food and water. He also protects them from their enemies!

Then, sadly, our readings end with the Israelites complaining about their lot in life, yet another evidence of sin. It never escapes us and is more rampant than we would ever like to admit.

When I taught these stories to my 1st through 3rd graders, I would often begin with the words: "Our story today begins with something bad the Israelites often did. And what do you think that was?" They would quickly respond: "They would murmur and complain!" I always followed that question with: "And what do we do?" This question was always answered with much less enthusiasm: "We also murmur and complain!"

Unfortunately, this is true of all of us. However, the end of this malaise can be found in Romans 7:24-25: "O wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body of this death? Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

What can we take home from this? Here are four key ideas:

- * God created and loves us.
- * Our whole life is planned by God and will be lived by His decree, not ours.
- * We are more prone to sin than obedience to our Maker, and the only solution is to commit whole life to Him.
- * In the end, God and His children will be the victors and

wear the crown of life.

Praise God that His plan prevails!

~ *Karlene A. Holleman*

February 4th Readings

EXODUS 10:1-12:51

February 5th Readings

EXODUS 13:1-15:27

February 6th Readings

EXODUS 16:1-19:25

February 7th Readings

EXODUS 20:1-22:15

February 8th Readings

EXODUS 22:16-24:18

February 9th Readings

EXODUS 25:1-28:43

February 10th Readings

EXODUS 29:1-31:18