October 17

In Egypt

The Plagues

God used Plagues or disasters in an effort to get the Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go. The first two plagues, the water turning to blood and the frogs hopping everywhere did not change the Pharaoh’s attitude. When the water was restored and the frogs dead he returned to his hard line!

Gnats, flies, death of only Egyptian animals, boils on only Egyptians and hail that ruined the crops did not convince the Pharaoh!

Locust and total darkness on Egypt were the next torments. The everyday Egyptian must have been quite bewildered with the onset and disappearance of all these problems, especially when the Hebrew slaves felt and lost nothing!

The Pharaoh finally got sick of these plagues so after the darkness – Read: Exodus 10:24. Moses refused because they needed the animals to sacrifice.

The Pharaoh got angry – Read: Exodus 10:28, 29.

Moses through God had become a quick witted speaker; we too can rely on the Holy Spirit for our words when witnessing to others about Him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Exodus 10:1, 2

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you for all the things that I can see so I know that you are Lord!

October 18

The Last Plague

Passover

The next and final plague was indeed a tragedy for the Egyptians.

The Lord had the Israelites prepare for this last plague, they were to kill a perfect goat or sheep – Read: Exodus 12:22

At Midnight the Death Angel passed through Egypt and kill the first-born son of every Egyptian, even the first born of the animals! - Read Exodus 12:31.

The Lord instructed the ritual of Passover, and was to be performed yearly for all time and when asked by children – Exodus 12:27.

Six-hundred thousand men, plus women, children and animals left Egypt after four hundred and thirty years of living there.

Jesus was scarified for our sins, a supreme sacrifice so the need of Passover has been cancelled.

As the Israelites prepare in faith for the Passover, we need to faithfully prepare for His second coming.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 5:7

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your being my sacrifice forevermore. Help me prepare in faith for your return.

October 19

The Flight

Crossing the Red Sea

When the Pharaoh realized that all the slaves were gone he set his army out in hot pursuit.

The Lord had set a pillar of cloud for the Israelites to follow by day and a pillar of fire by night. The cloud kept the Egyptians in the dark so they couldn’t find the Israelites, who were proceeding to the Red Sea in the light!

When the Israelites arrived at the Red Sea – Read: Exodus 14:21, 22.

When the last Israelite was through the sea, Moses as commanded by God once again raised his hand and – Read: Exodus 14:28.

What a triumph for the Lord, the Lord has triumphs like that today in us, he will remove the sin that pursues us and lifts the burden of guilt, if we only let him into our heart and life.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Exodus 14:31

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the triumph you have had in my life, help me to lead others to a triumph in your love.

October 20

Wanderings

Food from Heaven

The Israelites were grateful for their freedom at first but in the desert life was not easy – Read: Exodus 16:2, 3.

The Lord heard their complaints and sent meat in the form of quails and manna for bread – Read Exodus 16:14, 15.

They were to gather what each family needed for that day except on the sixth day, when they were to gather enough for the Sabbath because no food would appear on the Sabbath, the day of rest. Some of the people tried to hold over bread and it would spoil, some didn’t gather enough on the sixth day – Read: Exodus 16:28.

To this day the Lord is probably wondering the same thing, when will we ever obey His commands? Although the burden of sacrifices and all the rules except the guidance of the Ten Commandments have been lifted our only extra command is to love, we find it hard to even obey that command!

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 13:34, 35

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to love others and to let your love shine through me.

October 21

Moses on Sinai

The Golden Calf

The Lord spoke the Ten Commandments to the Israelites from a cloud.

Moses alone was allowed up into the cloud that covered Mt. Sinai – Read: Exodus 24:18.

Moses was gone and seemed not to be coming back – Read: Exodus 32:1. Aaron gathered gold jewelry, melted it and molded a calf. The people sacrifice to the golden calf – Read: Exodus 32:6.

Moses returned to the people – Read: Exodus 32:19. We perhaps do not worship golden calves but we do let boats, TV and money get in the way of worshipping God.

There were consequences for their actions – Read: Exodus 32:25- 35. We too have consequences for our actions, not as direct and perhaps not as dire but there will be consequences for unconfessed sin.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Exodus 20:20

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, no matter what the price I have to pay to be on your side, even if it means death.

October 22

Offering

The Tabernacle

When Moses returned from his trip up Mt. Sinai, his face glowed with the glory of the Lord.

The Lord had instructed Moses on making a meeting place for the Israelites; the craftsmen were set to work constructing the Tabernacle. The people were asked to make an offering to the Lord for the Tabernacle – Read: Exodus 35:22.

Our offerings to the Lord’s work, if it be money, time, food or clothing should be done with a willing heart.

The work went quite quickly, the work and dedication was completed – Read: Exodus 40:17.

The cloud and the fire of the Lord stayed over the Tabernacle if the cloud lifted then the Israelites broke camp and followed the cloud. We too should be aware of the Lord’s presence and follow his will in our lives, learn to see what He wants us to do, possibly not physically move household but to do the things that are needed to be done in His kingdom.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Exodus 40:38

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the Holy Spirit, who is with me as the cloud was with the Israelites. What peace I feel with your everlasting presence.

October 23

Canaan

Altered Reports

The Israelites arrived at the edge of their promised land, Moses, as the Lord had asked, sent one leader from each tribe into Canaan to find out everything they could about the land, people and fortresses.

They returned to Moses with favorable reports and examples of lush fruits.

Caleb, one of the spies was ready to go – Read: Numbers 13:30. There was the other side of the story from others – Read: Numbers 13:31. They spread lies among the Israelites, saying the land was poor and people were giants.

The people cried and complained to Moses, the Lord was ready to kill the whole nation but Moses prayed for them and their lives were spared. The sin of their lies and all the complaining did not go unpunished. They were sentenced to wander forty years in the wilderness. As for the spies Caleb and Joshua were the only ones to live, the others were killed by a disease.

We see God’s love in daily miracles of birth, and flowers, God must be tired of our complaints and demands of him to show us he’s really there, we must trust the Lord!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Numbers 14:29, 30

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to complain and demand proof just to put my faith in you because you have proved you keep your promises.

October 24

Balaam

An Animated Lesson

Balaam, a prophet, was asked by the Moabite King, Balak, to put a curse on the Israelites. The Israelites had just moved into the plains of Moab and King Balak was afraid!

God came to Balaam on both nights that he camped with Moabite officials, the Lord refused to allow Balaam to curse the Israelites.

Balak even tried to increase the payment – Read Numbers 22:18.

The second set of leaders insisted Balaam go to Balak with them, so he went willingly, that angered the Lord. The Lord sent an angel to block Balaam’s path that only the donkey could see, three times the donkey refused to by the angel, three times Balaam beat his donkey and even threatened to kill the donkey – Read Numbers 22:30. Balaam saw the angel and was humbled, admitting he had sinned. Balaam went with the leaders and ended up blessing the Israelites three times!

We need to humble ourselves, admit our sin and turn ourselves over to the Lord, blessings will be ours too.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Numbers 23:25, 26

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for all the blessings you have given me, may I always be humble before God and man. \*\*\*\* See “assignment” below.

\*\*\*\*We tend to think – Moses went up the mountain, got the tablets, 40 days later came back down – broke the tablets because of the golden calf, went and got more tablets – pretty simple – Right? Here is a little fact finding assignment – Scour Exodus chapters19-32 – Make note of all the times Moses went up to the Lord, came back down and in general the information that Moses received.