October 9

Jacob

A Big Move

 Joseph and his brothers embraced, because of Joseph’s position in the Egyptian government, he could offer his family a place to live in Egypt – Read: Genesis 45:10.

 Joseph sent his brothers back to pack up his father, their animals, belongings, spouses and children and bring them back to Egypt.

 Jacob was totally surprised when he heard Joseph was alive and had sent wagons to move him to Egypt – Read: Genesis 45:26-28.

 God spoke to Jacob at Beersheba, where Jacob had gone to offer sacrifices, God said – Read: Genesis 46:2-4.

 This was Jacob’s reassurance that his descendants would be returned to their promised land. God has a promised place for us too, either upon Christ’s return or upon our death, if we believe.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Hebrews 10:23

PRAYER THOUGHT: Have me, O Lord, to rest upon your promises, the promise of your return and life everlasting with you in heaven.

October 10

Joseph

Jacob Dies

 Joseph and his father were reunited in an emotional meeting – Read Genesis 46:29, 30.

 The Pharaoh approved of the entire family settling in Goshen.

 Jacob lived seventeen years after arriving in Egypt. He made Joseph promise that he would take him to the field where Abraham, Isaac, their spouses and Leah were buried to be buried also and not in Egypt.

 Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, making the younger stronger.

 Jacob spoke individually with each of his twelve sons: Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin – Read: Genesis 49:28.

 Joseph and his brothers and members of the Pharaoh’s court properly mourned and buried Jacob as requested in the field of his ancestors.

 We owe obedience to both our heavenly and earthly fathers. One of the Ten Commandments is to ‘Honor your Father and Mother’.

 They all returned to Egypt after the funeral was over and Jacob was properly buried.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Peter 1:14-16

PRAYER THOUGHT: Obedience is not easy, help me, O Lord, to obey you and all those in authority over me, to do their wishes within your will.

October 11

Joseph

Sweet Revenge?

 The brothers were afraid, now that their father was dead, Joseph would take revenge on them for the evil they had don him – Read: Genesis 50:19-21.

 With these words Joseph’s remaining life was spent in peace and unity with his family in Egypt. Revenge would have lead to hate, discontent and a miserable life. A forgiving heart will always bring peace and love.

 Joseph died in Egypt at one hundred ten years of age; he saw his children and grandchildren and also asked his people to take his body out of Egypt when God saw fit to lead them out to the Promised Land.

 We have been called out of this world of sin and hate, our lives are but a journey to our promised home, heaven, our eternal home if we heed the of God and let him be our personal Savior.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 6:37

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to have a forgiving heart and help me to live in harmony with those around me.

October 12

Columbus Day

A Day of Discovery

 History has been refuted in the past several years as to who really discovered America. The Word of God also has been argued as to if the world was created or exactly how it came into existence.

 We as Christians know things just don’t happen, there is a reason for everything, which is called God’s will and God’s will will be done.

 God willed the discovery and exploration of America, with this new discovery came a refuge for people persecuted for their religious beliefs. God made a place, America, more peaceful to believe as you wished. We need to always be thankful to God for America and work to keep it free, not only for religion but for everything as we know it now.

 If we seriously look at America and what this country has become since Columbus discovered it in 1492, not only have we became a rich and powerful nation but also a corrupt and crime filled nation. Individually we need to take stock in ourselves and turn away from the desires of the flesh – Read: Romans 8:8. We can make a difference if we stand up for our beliefs and don’t support the bad in this world.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Deuteronomy 30:19

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always work on the side of right and good and work to unseat evil as a way of life in America.

October 13

Israelites

Life in Egypt

 Years passed, all the original brothers died but the tribes remained, growing constantly.

 A new Pharaoh came to power, who had never heard of Joseph and how his divine insight had saved the Egyptian people during a famine all he saw was a multitude of foreigners – Read: Exodus 1:10. The Pharaoh thought he had found a way, make slaves out of them and crush their spirits but even under adverse conditions the Israelites continued to increase.

 The Pharaoh instructed the Egyptian midwives to kill all the boy babies at birth but let the girls live. The midwives were afraid to kill the babies because they feared God so the Hebrews kept increasing – Read: Exodus 1:22.

 Oppression does not stop the increase of God’s family now either, the underground churches in non-Christian countries continues to grow. During the years of slavery here in America the oppression did not squelch the love of the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Exodus 1:18, 19

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, O Lord, even though I may be oppressed by being poor or ill may I never turn away from you but look to you for comfort and strength.

October 14

Moses

Special Baby

 Amran and Jochebed, from the tribe of Levi, were married and had Aaron and Miriam before the Pharaoh’s death sentence on all Hebrew baby boys was decreed. There was now a new baby boy and Jochebed hid him as long as possible. Then she made a basket, from reeds, tarred the bottom and set her baby afloat in the Nile. Miriam was sent to see that he was alright.

 When the Pharaoh’s daughter came to bathe, she saw the basket, had it brought to her and there was a baby boy crying. The princess felt sorry for the baby – Read: Exodus 2:7, 8.

 Jochebed, at the request of the Pharaoh’s daughter, got her baby back to nurse and even got paid for the pleasure. But there was a day that was not a happy one – Read: Exodus 2:10. That is how Moses got his start in life.

 We often make decisions that we don’t like out of necessity, but God can turn those decisions around and make them work for our advantage. We only need to put our faith and trust in Him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Hebrews 11:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to serve you always, O Lord, without fear and with steadfast faith and trust.

October 15

A Chosen Man

A Burning Bush

 Moses grew up in the Pharaoh’s palace, with all the best, but he was not unaware of the plight of his people. Moses saw an Egyptian kill a Hebrew and in turn killed the Egyptian. When afraid of being accused of murder, Moses escaped to the land of Midian where he married and had a family.

 One day while herding his father-in-law’s sheep and goats Moses came upon a burning bush that was not being burned up – Read: Exodus 3:4.

 God warned Moses not to come any closer and to remove his shoes because the ground was holy. God went on to say that he knew how His people were being treated by the Egyptians and that Moses was to lead the people out of Egypt, out of bondage into freedom and the promised land – Read: Exodus 3:11.

 Now doesn’t that sound familiar, we see a task before us that we know God would want us to do and we answer like Moses! How little faith we sometimes have and don’t know that with faith in God anything is possible.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mark 9:23

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to have the kind of faith that makes everything in you possible.

October 16

Moses and Aaron

Before Pharaoh

 Moses drug his feet about going back to Egypt, God showed Moses the miracles he would have at his fingertips. Then Moses found another excuse he couldn’t speak well enough – Read: Exodus 4:14.

 Aaron did meet Moses in the desert and went first before the Israelites – Read: Exodus 4:29-31.

 The next move was to go before Pharaoh, and his response was not exactly favorable – Read: Exodus 5:2.

 God, Moses and Aaron had their work cut out for them!

 Non-Christians are most times like the Pharaoh, they don’t know the Lord, they don’t care to find out about the Lord, at least not until we can show them the Lord through our witness and daily lives. Let them see the peace and love that can come only through knowing the Lord as our personal Savior.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Exodus 6:1

PRAYER THOGHT: Help me, especially when things go wrong, to keep heart and keep on living and witnessing to my faith in You.