Moses October 15

A Burning Bush

Moses grew up in the king'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 he killed the Egyptian. When afraid of being accused of murder, Moses escapes 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 up on a burning bush that was not being burned up – When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer, he called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!”

He answered, “Yes, here I am.” Exodus 3:4.

God warned Moses not 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 promise land.

– But Moses said to God, "I am nobody. How can I go to the King and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 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 have and don't know that with faith anything is possible.

VERSE FOR TODAY: "Yes," said Jesus, "If you yourself can! Everything is possible for the person who has faith." Mark 9:23.

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

Moses and Aaron October 16

Before the King

Moses drug his feet about going back to Egypt, God showed Moses the miracles he would have at his fingertips.

Then Moses came up with the excuse he couldn't speak well enough – At this the Lord became angry with Moses and said, "What about your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. In fact, he is now coming to meet you and will be glad to see you…" Exodus 4:14.

Aaron did meet Moses in the desert and went first before the Israelites – They (the Israelites) believed when they heard that the Lord had come to them and had seen how they were treated cruelly, they bowed down and worshipped. Exodus 4:31.

The next move was to go before the king, the king's response was not exactly favorable – “Who is the Lord?” the king demanded. “Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord; and I will not let Israel go.” Exodus 5:2.

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

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you are going to see what I will do to the king. I will force him to let my people go. In fact, I will force him to drive them out of his land.” Exodus 6:1.

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

In Egypt October 17

The Plagues

God used plagues or disasters in an effort to get the king to let the Hebrew people go. The first to plagues, the water turning to blood and frogs hopping everywhere did not change the king'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 king!

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 king finally got sick of these annoyances so after the darkness – The Lord made the king stubborn, and he would not let them go.  He said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Don't let me ever see you again! On the day I do, you will die!”

  “You are right,” Moses answered. “You will never see me again.” Exodus 10:27-29.

Moses through God had become a quick-witted speaker; we too can rely on the Holy Spirit for our words would witness to others about him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…All of you will know that I am the Lord.” Exodus 10:2b

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

The Last Plague October 18

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 – "…Take a sprig of hyssop, dip it in the bowl containing the animals blood, and wiped the blood on the door post and beam above the door of your house. Not one of you is to leave the house until morning…" Exodus 12:22.

At midnight the Death Angel passed through Egypt and killed the firstborn son of every Egyptian, even the firstborn of the animals! – That same night the king sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "Get out, you and your Israelites! Leave my country: go and worship the Lord as you asked." Exodus 12:31.

The Lord instructed the ritual of the Passover, and was to be performed yearly for all time and when asked by children –you will answer, ‘It is the sacrifice of Passover to honour the Lord, because he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. He killed the Egyptians, but spared us.’ ” Exodus 12:27a.

Six hundred thousand men, plus women, children and animals left Egypt after 430 years of living there.

Jesus was sacrificed for our sins, a supreme sacrifice so for those who believe in Jesus, the need of Passover has been canceled.

VERSE FOR TODAY: For our Passover Festival is ready, now that Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 Corinthians 5:7c.

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

The Flight October 19

Crossing the Red Sea

When the King the realized that all the slaves were gone he sent 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 – Moses held out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind. It blew all night and turned the sea into dry land. The water was divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides. Exodus 14:21, 22.

When the last Israelite was through the sea, Moses as commanded by God once again raised his hand and – The water return and covered the chariots, the drivers, and all the Egyptian Army that had followed the Israelites into the sea; not one of them was left. Exodus 14:28.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: When the Israelites saw the great power with which the Lord had defeated the Egyptians, they stood in awe of the Lord; and they had faith in the Lord and in his servant Moses. 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.

Wanderings October 20 Food from Heaven

The Israelites were grateful for their freedom at first but life in the desert was not easy – There in the desert they all complained to Moses and Aaron and said to them, “We wish that the Lord had killed us in Egypt. There we could at least sit down and eat meat and as much other food as we wanted. But you have brought us out into this desert to starve us all to death.” Exodus 16:2, 3.

The Lord heard their complaints and sent meat in the form of quails and Manna for bread. The Manna appeared each morning – When the dew evaporated, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was delicate as frost. Exodus 16:14.

They were to gather what each family needed for that day except for 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 the bread and it would spoil, some didn't gather enough on the sixth day – Then the Lord said to Moses, “How much longer will you people refuse to obey my commands? 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 for the Ten Commandments have been lifted our only extra command is to love we find it hard to obey!

VERSE FOR TODAY: “… And now I give you a new commandment; love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.” John 13:34, 35.

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

Moses on Sinai October 21

The Golden Calf

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

Moses alone was allowed up into the cloud that covered Mount Sinai – Moses went up on the mountain into the cloud. There he stayed for forty days and nights. Exodus 24:18

Moses was gone and seem not to be coming back – they (the Israelites) gathered around Aaron and said to him, "We do not know what happened to this man Moses, who led us out of Egypt; so make of god to lead us." Exodus 32:1b. Aaron gathered gold jewelry melted it and molded a calf. The people sacrifice to the golden calf – The people sat down to a feast, which turned into an orgy of drinking and sex. Exodus 32:6b.

Moses returned to the people – When Moses came close enough to see the bull calf and to see the people dancing, he was furious. There at the foot of the mountain, he threw down the tablets he was carrying and broke them. Exodus 32:19. Moses had to return for a second writing of the tablet.

Moses gathered those on the side of the Lord, the Levites, and commanded them, as the Lord instructed, to kill those against the Lord; some three thousand men were killed. From Exodus 32:26–28.

We perhaps don't worship golden calves but we do let boats, television and money get in the way of worshiping the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Moses said to the Levites, “Today you have consecrated yourselves as priests in the service of the Lord by killing your sons and brothers, so the Lord has given you his blessing.” Exodus 32:29.

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.

Offerings October 22

The Tabernacle

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

The Israelites craftsmen were set to work constructing the Tabernacle as the Lord had instructed.

The people were asked to make an offering to the Lord for the Tabernacle – So they came both men and women; all who were of a willing heart brought brooches and ear rings, signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, gold to the Lord. Exodus 35:22 RSV.

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

The work and dedication was completed – So on the first day of the first month of the second year after they left Egypt, the Tent of the Lord's presence was set up. Exodus 40:17.

The covenant box was made and placed within the Tabernacle; it contained the tablets of stone on which the laws were written.

The cloud and the fire of the Lord stayed over the tabernacle if the cloud lifted than the Israelites broke camp and follow the cloud.

We too should be aware of the Lord's presence and try to follow his will in our lives, learn to see what he wants us to do, possibly not move but do the things that are needed to be done in his kingdom.

VERSE FOR TODAY: During all their wanderings they could see the cloud of the Lord's presence over the Tent during the day and a fire burning above it during the night. 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.