

THE NEW NORMAL

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Getting ready for the new normal

20 MINS IN 2020



They will know that I am the Lord their God.
I am the one who brought them out of the
land of Egypt
so that I could live among them.
I am the Lord their God.
Exodus 29:46 NLT



Covid -19 has changed our world - there is no denying that!

But what is the new normal?
What does it look like?

We are 100% confident that life will never go back into it's nice little box again. But we are not the first generation to experience such upheaval. Nope - all the way back in 1450 B.C. God's people went through dramatic and painful change.

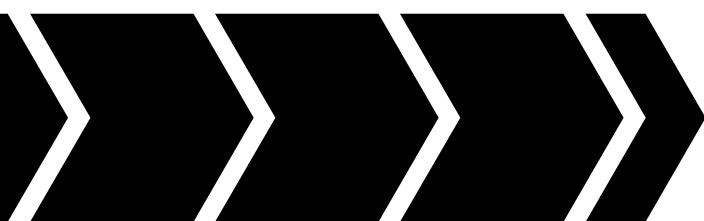
The book of Exodus provides us with some wonderful examples of people adapting to change, the good and the bad we can learn from the experience. It also shows us a God that always comes through even when we are disobedient and somewhat ungrateful.

Just as there was no turning back for the Israelites, there is no turning back for us.
We face this new normal together and need to embrace what God has for us on the other side.

We are hoping He doesn't need us to walk for 40 years to get rid of the old life.



Majors Dianne and Andrew Jarvey



Slavery

At the start of Exodus we take a journey with Moses from birth to exile. Here we also find the Israelite people in Slavery, living a hard life under the rule of Pharaoh. We take a look at the characters in the story and how we relate to them. Are we living in a modern day slavery to the things of this world? Is it time to be brave and follow Jesus all the way to freedom?

Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews.

Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God.

Exodus 2:11 & 23

The Great Escape

It wasn't as simple as gathering people and saying let's get out of here. Moses had to confront Pharaoh who's heart was hard and in the end God just bought Pharaoh to a place of surrender. The Israelite's had to fully rely on God to help them out of slavery and trust the plan even when they saw all the hardships of the plagues. It wasn't long before he changed his mind and started chasing the Israelite's down. God then makes a way from the impossible to freedom. It can be the same for us when we are enslaved to something, it is not as easy as saying let's just go. It is a continual reliance and trust in God to help us out of these patterns and not allowing them to chase us down and recapture us. So we can see God make a way in the impossible.

Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Get out!" he ordered. "Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the Lord as you have requested.

Exodus 12:31

Wilderness Wanderings

After the hype of the escape, everyday life sets in and it is hard and boring. Taking a really long walk around in the wilderness waiting to get to the promised land. The Israelite's get restless and the complaining starts. They even suggest it would have been better to keep living as slaves. Moses the leader is frustrated by them, yet God in his mercy once again provides for their every need in unexpected ways. How often do we look back after God has freed us and think maybe I should just return? Everyday life is hard and boring. Yet God in all his mercy loves us and continues to provide for us in unexpected ways. But sometime we need need to take a really long walk with God to walk out the things of the past.

Then Moses cried out to the Lord,
"What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"
Exodus 17: 4

Freedom

Finally they are free but then comes their commitment to God. A new covenant the detailed building of the tabernacle which finally sees God dwelling among them. Is it time we made a new convent with God? That may require putting in the deep detailed work so that he can dwell in us. That is the only way to really enjoy new freedom in God.

Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.
Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it,
and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Exodus 40: 34&35

24th of August 2020

Scripture: Exodus 1

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Vs 17

Reflection

Here in chapter one we find the Israelites in slavery under the reign of Pharaoh in Egypt. This was not their land or home however they were there. They did however keep their traditions and culture in this new land, and they were known for their worship practises. The Israelites started to grow in number, and this started to worry Pharaoh. So, he set a plan to kill all the boys so that they would breed out. But the midwives knew that the Israelite God was more powerful than any Pharaoh could be and so they disobeyed him. I have met midwives in my life and so I know that these wonderful women are trained to bring life into the world not take it. What Pharaoh was asking the Israelite midwives to do was against their whole calling and character. The consequences for them not obeying Pharaoh were huge, but the consequences would have been much greater for not obeying God's laws.

Questions

Is there something in your world right now that goes against your calling and character?

Is God wanting to birth something new in you but you fear the enemy wants to take it away?

What are the consequences for you if you go with God?

What are the consequences if you don't go with God?

25th of August 2020

Scripture: Exodus 2:1-10

"Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter,
"Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" V7

Reflection

Here we meet Miriam, Moses clever and quick-thinking sister. Here she is watching what will happen to her little baby brother, after her mother had bravely placed him in the river. Imagine Miriam's fear as she sees the Princess approaching her brother. She could have run and hid, but she didn't. She sees an opportunity for a mother to be reunited with her son. Imagine her mother's surprise when Miriam goes and gets her and tries to explain what is happening.

Questions

Are there moments in your life right now, where you just can't see a way through?
Do you have to surrender something in order for God to bring it back to you?
Are you taking hold of the opportunities God has placed in front of you?
What might your situation look like if you were as brave as Miriam?

26th of August 2020

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-25

Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow. V 11

Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. V23

Reflection

Here Moses sees what is going on for the Hebrews. He finds that his people are being mistreated and he does the unthinkable and kills a man. He quickly realises this act has caused him to lose integrity with his people. But even more than this he is now the enemy of the man who was his adopted grandfather - Pharaoh. So he flees and comes across some girls who need his help. But to them he looks like an Egyptian. So he stays amongst them and sees the pain, the punishments and the heavy work load they endured.

Questions

Have you ever been caught doing something you thought you got away with?

What do you see around you that is an injustice?

Is God causing you to see the world differently to prepare you for a new season?

Are you living in slavery to things that cause you to groan?

Do you feel like you are waiting on God to do something?

27th of August 2020
Scripture: Exodus 4 :1-16

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." V5

"But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" V11

"God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" V14

Reflection

This has to be one of the most well known moments in the bible. God appears as a burning bush out in the middle of nowhere. Here we find Moses the shepherd, a far cry from living in the royal palace. In Moses' time, being a shepherd was the lowest you could go, it was a sign of how far he had come from his old life. But here in the middle of nowhere, Moses, dirty from working and living in the harshness of the land, meets God. God accepts him dirt and all. All God asks is that he take off his shoes, an act of reverence. Then God tells him that he has a bigger plan for his life than being a shepherd. Moses once arrogant and powerful, now utters "who am I"? What will I say? No one is going to follow me? God says don't worry, just tell them that "I am" has sent you.

Questions

Is God calling you out of a time of wilderness?

How different is your life now than it was 5 years ago?

Is it time to take your shoes off and meet with God today, right where you are at?

Where is God sending you?

Who is he asking you to lead?

28th of August 2020
Scripture: Exodus 4 :1-16

"Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you." V14

Reflection

Moses doubted his own ability to do what God had asked him to do. Even when God reminds him in Verse 11 "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord?" Moses' doubt is bigger than his trust. God meets Moses where he is at emotionally and finds him a helper in Aaron, who just happened to be on his way already. Imagine if God had let Moses off the hook because of his excuses? Moses would still be a shepherd and the Israelites would still have been in slavery. But God always finds a way, and in this part of the story it is Aaron. Who propelled them both towards a new path and purpose?

Questions

**Is your doubt bigger than your trust?
What excuses do you give to God when he asks?
Has God already got the answer heading towards you?**

29th of August 2020

Scripture: Exodus 11& 12:1-30

"Now the Lord had told Moses earlier, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, but then I will do even more mighty miracles in the land of Egypt." 11:9

"Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died." 12:30

Reflection

Pharaoh was a mean and stubborn man, God knew this. He wasn't letting the Israelites go. Isn't it interesting that even though he stood strong through all the plagues, it wasn't until God touched his family that he caved. The death of his own son was the final straw. Pharaoh's heart was so hard that it took a piercing blow to reach it. There is a lesson in there for us - that God never gives up. He will do anything needed to free His people. We need to be careful not to hold things so close that it takes a piecing blow to reach us.

Questions

What are you holding onto that God wants you to let go of?

What are you claiming that is not yours but God's?

What will it take to get your attention?

Plagues

Day 7

30th of August 2020

Scripture: Exodus 7-11

Reflection

Use this time today to read over the plagues in Exodus 7-11.
Look at how much Pharaoh put his people through before allowing God's will.

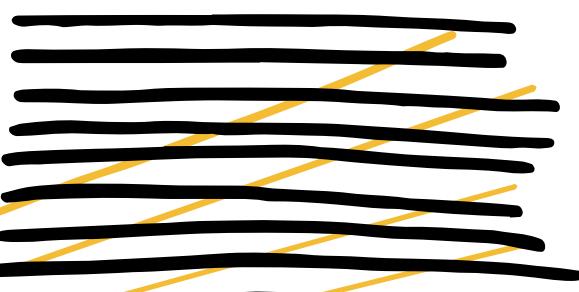
Ask these Questions

What stood out to me?

What applies to me?

What have I learnt?

What will I do now with this new revelation?



31st of August 2020
Scripture: Exodus 12: 31-51

"Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Get out!" he ordered. "Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the Lord as you have requested." v31

Reflection

Finally, they were free!!!! Finally, they could take everything and go. Imagine the chaos of this moment. I know what it is like to get out the door every morning for school and I am half organised. But here Moses is using his shepherd skills to round up his herd of 600,000 plus Israelites, oh and don't forget the animals too. They took everything and left. They must have felt confused but energised, worried but excited, rushed but at peace, all at the same time. When we are finally in God's will there is no better feeling, but it is also challenging at the same time.

Questions

What areas do you finally feel free of?

Do you sometimes feel rushed yet still in sync with God?

Is it time to let things go in your life so you can be in God's will?

Who is your herd/tribe?

1st September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 13:1-16

"So Moses said to the people,
"This is a day to remember forever—the day you left Egypt, the place of your slavery.
Today the Lord has brought you out by the power of his mighty hand." v3

Reflection

The first thing God asks of his people is their loyalty. He had been loyal to them, now he was asking them to return that loyalty. They were to dedicate their first born sons, the ones who had been obedient and had survived. We go from morning the loss of children to celebrating the survival of them. I am sure it was a very different story back in Egypt, but here in this moment God would be glorified. This would become a very important moment in the Jewish history and even today it is still celebrated. The day of freedom, is a good reminder of the victories of God in our lives. To give God praise for bringing us out of slavery. Even though the Israelites were not safe yet, they were free. We need to give God glory at every stage of our journey.

Questions

Do you need to dedicate something back to God?

Have you forgotten God's victories in your life?

Is there something you can do to acknowledge God's goodness in your life?

Which side of the story are you on here? Slavery or freedom?

Where do your loyalties lie?

2nd September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 13:17-19

"God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country,
though that was shorter.

For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." v17

Reflection

God is so wise. We see it through all of scripture as he knows us better than we know ourselves. Even though the Israelites were free they were still vulnerable. God knew that the path to complete freedom would be hard. God knew they had to take the long way to the promise land. Any little hiccup would mean a turning back from the new path that they had now embarked. How often is this true for us? We know God has bought us out of something but when it gets hard, we want to run back to the comfort of the familiar (slavery). God doesn't always work the way we think is best. The journey is just as important as the destination.

Questions

- Are you on a path right now that feels long?
- What do you think God is trying to teach you?
- Do you feel vulnerable? Why?
- Are you tempted to turn back?

3rd September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 13:17-19

"Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people." v22

Reflection

God gives these wonderful gifts of a cloud and fire. During the day a cloud would appear and at night a pillar of fire. This was so the Israelites would know that day and night God was with them. There would be no need to doubt or look back, only to look forward with God to a new future. This would be a long journey but God would be with them every step of the way. If you have ever been in the City of Melbourne when the crown flames go off, you feel the heat and see the light coming from them. This is what it would have been like for the Israelites. Everyone who came across their path would have seen this, so it also provided protection. There would be no way you could miss it and most people would think twice about approaching it. This was the depth of God's love for his people that He wanted them to know they could really trust Him. They were never alone and had the full assurance of His continual presence.

Questions

What has God given to you that gives you assurance of His presence?

In what ways has God lit your path?

In what ways can you see Gods protection?

Have you seen signs and wonders of God on your path?

4th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 14: 1-14

"So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops.

He took with him 600 of Egypt's best chariots,
along with the rest of the chariots of Egypt, each with its commander. " v7&8

Reflection

Pharaoh realises he has made a mistake. All his slave labour has gone! It is no accident that Pharaoh was prepared in advance and sets off quickly in pursuit. The devil is exactly the same, every time we get free, he starts the chase all over again. He also is well prepared and is a master tactician in knowing what to say and what to do capture us and bring us back into slavery. Often we are like the Israelites, our enemy behind us and the Red Sea in front of us. We cannot see how God is going to bring us through.

"Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? V11

But we need to have courage like Moses as he tells the people just to stay calm.

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." v14

Questions

Do you feel like someone or something is chasing you down?

Are you complaining?

Do you not see a way through?

Are you tempted to go back to the familiar?

Do you just need to stay calm and watch God fight for you?

The Great Escape

Day 13

5th September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 14:15-30

"Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land. So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!" v21-22

Reflection

The unthinkable happens ! Just when the Israelites think there is nowhere to go, a dead end, God makes away! God connects with His people through His mighty power. Moses was obedient in raising his hands in the air and giving God the glory. Just when we think there is nowhere to go and no way out, God is at work. When this happens, there is no denying it was God not something we did in our own strength. In these times we need to surrender to God, be obedient and raise our hands and let God do His thing. These are the moments we grow in trust and reliance upon God.

Questions

Where do you need God to move in your life?

Are you raising your hands to God or trying to do it in your own strength?

How are you glorifying God in this moment?

Songs of Deliverance

Day 14

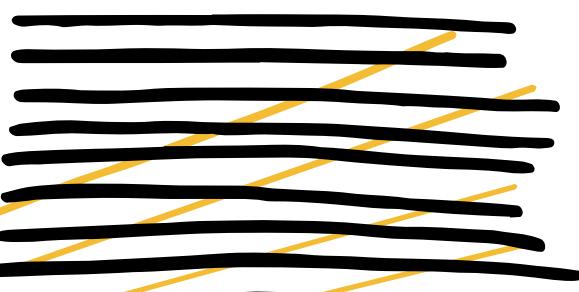
6th of September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 15:1-20

Reflection

Use this time to read Exodus 15:1-20, The Song of Deliverance.

Take some time to write your own song of Deliverance, giving God praise for all that he has done in your life.



Manna and Quail

Day 15

7th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 16

"So the people of Israel did as they were told. Some gathered a lot, some only a little. But when they measured it out, everyone had just enough.

Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed." Vs 17-18

Reflection

Have you heard of the term Hangry? This is when someone gets so hungry their personality changes and they get a little angry, hence they are "hangry". I wonder if it is not a new concept. I wonder if that was what was happening out there in the wilderness. The Israelites tummies where rumbling and they wanted food. However, God being God decided to use this as a testing ground to see how much Egypt they had walked off and how obedient they were. God sets some instructions don't stock up on the food tomorrow as there will be more. Everyone had just enough and no one went hungry. However true to form, they didn't fully trust God and some stored manna away for the following day only to find it infested with maggots. There is a lesson for us here on trusting God for our daily needs

Questions

What are some of the small steps you can take to trust God?

Do you really trust God with your everyday needs?

Have you gathered things that have started to attract maggots?

Is it time to let go of some old stale things?

"Then Moses cried out to the Lord,
"What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!" vs4

Reflection

It's funny that after yesterday's complaints about hunger, the Israelites are now thirsty. If it is not one thing it is another. You would think by now they would have learned that God does provide, especially for His people. You can hear that Moses is at his wit's end but in his frustrations, he turns to God. This is the mark of a great leader, one who turns to God in every situation. Even though he is frustrated and tired he seeks God first. He doesn't yell at the people or transfer his frustration, he just seeks God.

Questions

What do you do when you are surrounded by complaints?

Who do you turn to?

Take a moment to remember a time when someone really drove you crazy, how did you react?

What was the outcome?



9th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 18

"When Moses' father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he asked, "What are you really accomplishing here? Why are you trying to do all this alone while everyone stands around you from morning till evening?" vs14

"You're going to wear yourself out—and the people, too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself." Vs 18

Reflection

Poor Moses, still sorting out the complaining, taking the full responsibility of the tribe. Remember they are still out in the desert and Jethro who was not a part of their tribe, was just visiting. Jethro could see that Moses was overwhelmed and kept busy with small things that were diverting him from his real purpose. The devil likes to keep us busy dealing with petty things, it is a really good way of keeping us from our purpose.

Questions

What in your life is distracting you from your purpose?

Can you hand that off to someone else?

Is it time to put more structure in your spiritual life?

In what way are you like Moses?

Do you have a Jethro in your life who can speak to your heart?

"Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me." Vs 5

Reflection

If you are married you will know what it is like to be another person's "special treasure" and be in a covenant relationship with them. What is wonderful here is God is making a covenant with the Israelite people saying that they are his "special treasure". They were who God was going to reveal Himself to, so that the world would know of his greatness. All they had to do was obey his commands and laws. God promised to bless and care for them and they promised to obey him. This was the covenant they agreed to. But we know that their good intentions wore off over time. They gave into the pressures around them.

Questions

Have you made a commitment to God?

How are you going holding up your end of the covenant?

Have you given in to the pressures of life?

Did you have good intentions to start with but really you need a deeper relationship now?

11th September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-21

"And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!" "Don't be afraid," Moses answered them, "for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!" Vs19-20

Reflection

Have you ever been in a storm and been afraid? I remember one holiday to QLD we were travelling home from Noosa to Redcliffe and we saw this really black cloud approaching us. We knew we couldn't outrun it, we were going to get smashed by it. We had the boys in the back of the car and they were very little. The black cloud came then the lightning and thunder, then the rain and the wind. It got so black every car had to pull over and wait till the storm had passed by. I can imagine that is how the Israelites must have felt, just holding on for everything to be over. Can you imagine being in the presence of God, I mean really physically being there. Seeing his power and glory before you, it would be very overwhelming. Moses says remember this so that you can live a sin free life. God spoke in a way that accomplished his purpose, he wasn't trying to scare the people He was showing them His power. Power that was on their side, all they had to do was be obedient.

Questions

When have you seen God's power at work in your life?

Was it overwhelming?

Have you forgotten that this powerful God is still on your side?

Do you need to come back to being obedient with God?

12th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 20:22-26

"And the Lord said to Moses,

"Say this to the people of Israel: You saw for yourselves that I spoke to you from heaven. Remember, you must not make any idols of silver or gold to rival me." Vs 22-23

Reflection

It is important to remember that God's people didn't have bibles during this time. They had also been living in Egypt and had lost a lot of their traditions. God is teaching them again how to worship Him. The people needed some clear instructions and boundaries to keep them on the right path. God didn't want them to be swayed by other things or people. It is a lesson about how we come to God in worship. Sometimes I wonder if the things of this world have distracted us from true worship. That we have made idols out of other things that keep us from coming to God. They can be as simple as tv - work- family- food. All of which on their own are not bad but if we don't make time for God because of them, who are we really worshiping?

Questions

What is Worship to you?

Where do you spend most of your time?

Do you need to seek God for some instruction on how to come to him in worship?

Do you need some healthy boundaries?

Is it hard for you to hear from God? Why?

Be Still

Day 21

13th of September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 20:22-26

Reflection

So far, we have seen the Israelites move from slavery to freedom. From hungry to fed and from complaining to covenant. In all of this God has been consistent. Find some colour pencils and colour this in and allow yourself to be still with God. See the consistency in the patterns, feel the movement of the pencils. Just worship God for all of the seasons in your life where he has been consistent.



14th September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 35

"All whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were moved came and brought their sacred offerings to the Lord. They brought all the materials needed for the Tabernacle, for the performance of its rituals, and for the sacred garments." Vs21

Reflection

We are going to take a deep look at the building of the Tabernacle, the place where God would reside. Remember this is before Jesus and God only rested in the Holy of Holies. In essence they were building God's home. Can you imagine that building, somewhere that God would live? We read that they had everything they needed right there among them. It was up to those with willing hearts to be generous. I find that generous people are not always faithful people but that faithful people are always generous. Funny that even building the Tabernacle starts with a look at the peoples hearts!

Questions

What resources do you have that God is asking you to bring to him?

How is your heart with God?

Are you building a life where God can live?

Are you generous?

What does that look like?

15th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 35

"Then he made another curtain for the entrance to the sacred tent. He made it of finely woven linen and embroidered it with exquisite designs using blue, purple, and scarlet thread." Vs 37

Reflection

This was no ordinary Tabernacle, every detail had a symbolic meaning. I can remember a conversation while I was in college with Major David Mundy. He loved the details of the tabernacle. He told me "never put red in a church, it makes people hungry and angry, that's why fast food places are all red." His words have stuck with me ask Andrew it has lead me to paint walls lol.

Details are important, we could read this scripture and think wow those curtains have some cool detail but to the Israelite people they were a visual reminder of God.

Blue – Heaven Purple

Royalty Scarlet – Sacrifice

White Linen – Purity

The effort involved in making the cloth for these curtains was enormous. It would have taken many people a very long time to weave all of this together. To weave God's story into our community takes an enormous effort and resources too. It is not something that will happen overnight, but every colour we use represents God in some way. We should choose carefully details matter.

Questions

How are you weaving God's story into this world?

Are you thinking about the materials you are using?

Are you taking pride in your work?

Is it time to look at some of the details?



"Next Bezalel made the Ark of acacia wood—a sacred chest 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high. He overlaid it inside and outside with pure gold, and he ran a moulding of gold all around it." Vs1

Reflection

The Shittah (Acacia) tree grew in the deserts of Sinai, and the deserts around the Dead Sea. The wood is hard, very heavy, indestructible by insects, and has a fine, beautiful grain. The use of acacia wood resulted in materials that endured for a long time. The tabernacle was used for the next four hundred years and the ark eventually found a resting place within the temple in Jerusalem which was constructed during the reign of Solomon. The ark remained a crucial part of worship until the destruction of the temple by the Babylonians centuries later. Basically, it stood the test of time, it was built to last. Our faith should be built the same way. Able to weather any storm, any distance, any resistance. If it doesn't, we might need to have a look at the materials we have used to build it. The Shittah tree is just an ordinary tree with extraordinary strength.

Questions

What is your faith built on?

Has it stood the test of time?

Are you seeing God use the ordinary things of life to build extraordinary moments of faith?

17th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 39

"So the people of Israel followed all of the Lord's instructions to Moses. Then Moses inspected all their work. When he found it had been done just as the Lord had commanded him, he blessed them." Vs 42

Reflection

Look at this Moses, he seems a long way off from the Moses who was too frightened to even speak. Here we can see how much Moses has grown on his journey with God. Delegating, inspecting, commanding and still faithful through it all. This is what happens when we partner with God with our lives. We can go from a scared reluctant leader to one who is fully reliant and confident in what God has tasked us to do. Too often many of us do not do the hard work required to grow. Many of us are still stuck in the scared reluctant stage and try to hide it with false humility. "I am not good enough, I am not gifted enough, I am not worthy". This is not what God wants for us, to stay in that space is a sin. Like Moses we must do the work so that we can reach our potential in God. Not out of ego or selfishness, but to see God's glory lived out in this world.

Questions

Are you still stuck in fear?

Are you really growing in God?

Think about who you were even a year ago, is there any change?

Write down the areas of your life where you need to move from fear to freedom?

18th September 2020

Scripture: Exodus 40:1-33

"Present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the Tabernacle, and wash them with water. Dress Aaron with the sacred garments and anoint him, consecrating him to serve me as a priest. Then present his sons and dress them in their tunics. Anoint them as you did their father, so they may also serve me as priests.

With their anointing, Aaron's descendants are set apart for the priesthood forever, from generation to generation."

Vs 12-15

Reflection

Now that Moses is the leader God called him to be, what about Aaron? Aaron becomes the first high priest of Israel. However God doesn't just stop with Aaron, but sets Aarons family apart for generation after generation to be the holy priests. Have you ever considered that what you do here on this earth could also decide the future for the generations that follow you? How one life can set the path for the family for years. You only need to look at how hard it is for people to move from addiction to see the effect of those choices on their children and so on. But what if you could make a choice that would change your family line forever?

Questions

Has God chosen you for a divine purpose?

What choices are you making that will impact the next generation?

Is it time to step into God's holy calling on your life?

What does that look like?

19th September 2020
Scripture: Exodus 40:34-38

"Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle." Vs 34&35

Reflection

When the tabernacle was finished it was time for God to dwell there and the scriptures say "He filled it with his glory". What a wonderful picture, all this work and the reward was God's presence would dwell with them. This is a wonderful end to the book of Exodus. We start the book with the Israelites in slavery making bricks out of straw. We watch them move through the wilderness following a cloud and pillar of fire. Then they finished a work of wonder and beauty that would see God dwell with them. From gloom to glory. That is what it is like to walk the Christian life. We begin as slaves to sin in this world but we are redeemed by God. We take the pilgrimage with him and he walks with us through this world so that we can live with him one day.

Questions

Where are you on the journey?

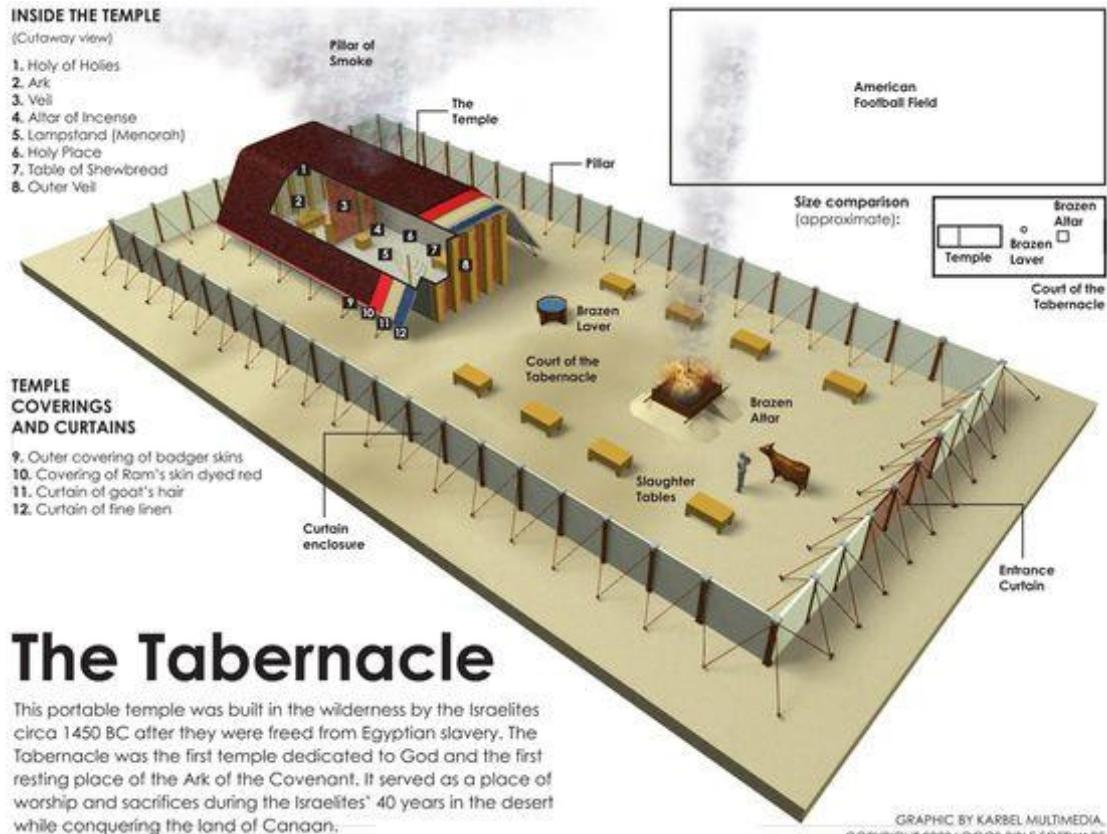
Are you still in slavery?

Are you on a pilgrimage?

Are you dwelling with God?

Are you ready to move from gloom to glory?

20th Sept 2020
Exodus



The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

Take the time to reflect on the work that went into the creation of the tabernacle. Do you put that much effort into creating a place for God to dwell in your life?