



DAILY BIBLE READING

ENTRANCE INTO EXODUS - PART 1

Tim Blagg

Read. Ask. Live. Love

Daily Bible Reading

What?

Sometimes we find it hard to read the Bible, don't we? At church we hear it all the time: "*read the Bible more.*" But how? Some of the devotionals on offer seem to have less Bible than story. Some of the Bible reading plans seem too big to take on all at once; what should I think about? How can I possibly know what questions to ask as I read through God's word?

It's in light of these questions that these daily bible readings have come into existence! The aim is to help you read God's word for yourself and ask some of the questions to comprehend what God is saying to you today through his living and active word, with the hope asking these sorts of questions for yourself as you read through the Bible in bigger doses that this has to offer. It's a tool, and hence it's only as valuable as our use of it.

My prayer for you as you use these - whether by yourself or with your family around the dinner table - is that God will work through his word to grow you into the fullness of Christ and bring you joy as you come to know him through his word.

How?

The way to approach it every day (as recommended) is:

- 1) Pray to God; it is his word we're reading, so ask him to help you understand it.
- 2) Read the passage once or twice.
- 3) Go through each question, looking back at the bible to think through them.
- 4) Pray about what you have learned, and live out the applications for today.

Want more?

If you want more studies like these ones, check out our online database at www.trinitycity.church/youth - just follow the links. Alternatively, if you're looking for more in depth bible reading plans, many can be found in study bibles or online. Chat to your bible study group leader or pastor for more information.

In Christ,

Tim

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WEEK 1 - Exodus 1-2

Day 1

- Read Exodus 1:1-7

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who were the sons of Jacob?
2. What happens to the people of Israel after the death of Jacob's children?
3. Why does this matter? (Hint: read some of God's promises to Jacob/Israel about his family in Genesis 15:5; 22:17; 26:4).

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Exodus isn't a book that comes out of nowhere. It's the ongoing story about God's promises to Abraham and his family. God doesn't just make big promises. He makes big promises that he keeps. God is always trustworthy; he keeps his big promises to Abraham after so many years (nearly 360 years by the end of Exodus 1:7). Take some time today to think about promises God has made, and thank God that he keeps his promises and is trustworthy.

Day 2

- Read Exodus 1:8-14

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why does it matter that the new king of Egypt didn't know Joseph? Who was Joseph? (Hint: look back at Genesis 41:37-45).
2. Why is Pharaoh afraid of the people of Israel? How does he treat them?
3. What are God's plans for Israel (from yesterday)? How do Pharaoh's plans compare?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- In verse 12, we read the words "...the more (*Israel*) was oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread..." God's purposes can't be defeated; he will always succeed, even when things look bad. And this is one key example in Exodus: even though Pharaoh is throwing everything he can at Israel, God's purposes prevail. Israel continues to expand. God's promises to Abraham's family continue to be fulfilled. And today, thousands of years later, God's promises to us continue to be fulfilled. How does the world today try to oppose God's purposes? Spend some time thanking God that he overcomes all opposition.

Day 3

- Read Exodus 1:15-21

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does Pharaoh try to oppose God's plans this time? (There were more than 2 midwives in Egypt by the way! These two were most likely the chief midwives)
2. How do the midwives respond to Pharaoh's command? How do they respond to God's purposes?
3. How does God treat the midwives?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Did you wonder "Hang on a minute. The midwives lied to Pharaoh! Does this God approves of lying?" God isn't necessarily rewarding lying. They have shown courage in resisting a murderous king who opposes God, and they have chosen to protect God's people rather than go along with killing them. Maybe they have even chosen to be counted as God's people rather than as Egyptians. Check out Acts 4:19-20. What is the most important thing for Christians to do? If you were asked to do something against God's laws, how would you respond? Think about this and ask God today to help you be prepared for when that day comes.

Day 4

- Read Exodus 1:22-2:10

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does Pharaoh try to oppose God's plans this time? How does this threaten God's promises to Abraham's family?
2. How does Moses end up in Pharaoh's house?
3. Who is given responsibility for bringing Moses up?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- There is an interesting irony; Pharaoh has ordered that every Hebrew male be killed, and yet his own daughter saves a Hebrew boy! Not only that, she pays Moses' mother to raise him. What a deal! Take some time now to think through the previous three days' studies as we've thought about all the different opposition that Pharaoh has shown to God's plans. How has God thwarted him at every turn? Thank God today for his sense of humour and his faithfulness to his people.

Day 5

- Read Exodus 2:11-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does Moses view himself - as Egyptian or as an Israelite? How can you tell?
2. Why does Moses flee to Midian?
3. What happens to Moses while he's in Midian?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Later in the Bible, we read more about Moses. Check out Hebrews 11:24-27. Moses didn't just leave Egypt by accident; he chose to be part of God's people and to suffer with them instead of enjoying the things Egypt had to offer. Every follower of God has a similar choice to make: will we be with God's people, even if it means suffering or being picked on by others? Or will we choose to enjoy the comforts of the world around us? If you are suffering as one of God's people, you are in very good company! Spend some time reflecting today about suffering for being God's person. Ask God to help you see things the way he sees them.

Day 6

- Read Exodus 2:23-25

- Think through the following questions:

1. What's happening to Israel while Moses is in Midian?
2. Is God interested in Israel, or far away and not involved? How do you know?
3. In v24 we read that God remembered his covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. What did God say in these covenants about Israel being enslaved? Check out Genesis 15:13-14; 46:3-4; 50:24.

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- When we read that "God remembered" his people, it's not like he just forgot them or they slipped his mind. God remembering means God choosing to act on promises he has made to his people before. While prayer doesn't guarantee that God will give us what we ask for, in the case of the people of Israel, they finally call out to God for help here - something they hadn't done as yet. It's this personal cry to God that is the change in their situation. What about us? How much do we talk to God about our situations? About the stuff we want to see changed? How much do we pray? As we enter Exodus, it would be a great plan to dedicate a solid space of time to prayer. If you don't do it at all, try spending five minutes praying a day for the next week. If you already have a prayer time, why not increase it? Speaking to God is so important and God loves to answer prayers that line up with his promises, like Israel's here.

Day 7

- Church Service - Passage Covered: _____

- What was the talk about?: _____

- What do I need to change? _____

WEEK 2 - Exodus 3-4

Day 8

- Read Exodus 3:1-10

- Think through the following questions:

1. What caused Moses to turn aside when he was near Horeb/Sinai?
2. Why did God instruct Moses not to come near to him?
3. Look back at Exodus 2:23-25, and then at 3:7-10. What similarities are there between these two sections? How do we see God take his next step in remembering his people?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- How will God save Israel? According to v8, God has come down to deliver Israel from the hands of the Egyptians. Yet according to v10, God will send Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt. So who is saving Israel? It's a funny question to ask, because the Bible hasn't set it up as if Moses saving Israel means God doesn't! *Both* are true. How does God save people today? Is it through Jesus' death on the cross? Is it through teaching people about Jesus' death on the cross? It's both. Which means we need to pray to God, knowing he is responsible for saving people. And it also means we share the good news about Jesus with people, knowing it is only through hearing this good news that people will be saved. Who do you want to see saved?

Day 9

- Read Exodus 3:11-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is Moses' first objection to God asking him to go to Pharaoh? How does God respond?
2. What is Moses' concern about God asking him to go to the people of Israel?
3. What do we learn about God? What promises does he make to Moses and Israel?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- What kind of God do you worship? This isn't meant to be a bizarre question. When God introduces himself in v14, he doesn't say "I AM WHO AUSSIES SAY I AM." or "I AM WHO CHRISTIAN AUTHORS SAY I AM." He says, "I AM WHO I AM." Which means that we don't define who God is: God is God. God tells us who he is. God makes himself known to us. The only way we can come to know God better is through reading the Bible and asking him to reveal himself to us better. Take time to ask God today to help you know him better and to correct the mistaken views we have of who he is as we read his word.

Day 10

- Read Exodus 4:1-9

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is Moses' second concern with going to the Israelites?
2. What three signs does God empower Moses to do?
3. Why does God empower Moses to do these signs? (v5)

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- There's a funny thing about signs: they signify something. When you're driving down the road, you don't sit under a sign and say you've arrived at your destination. You see the sign as pointing you somewhere! In the same way, Moses wasn't given signs to have people go, "Cool! What a powerful guy!" These signs were there to prove that Moses was God's chosen agent with an important message. God authenticates his messengers at key times in history with special signs, not to make the messenger look impressive, but to prove that God is working through them. To think about today: if someone rocked up at church this week doing signs like Moses and claimed to be God's messenger, how would you know if you could trust them? Do signs prove that someone is from God?

Day 11

- Read Exodus 4:10-17

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is Moses' second major objection to being God's servant? How does God respond?
2. What is Moses' real objection behind all the other concerns and objections?
3. How does God say he will achieve his purposes here?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- How do you feel when you read the words God says in v11 - that he made our mouth - that he makes us mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? If you can see and hear and speak today - it is all because of God! You are only alive and breathing right now because God is in control. Take a moment out to give thanks to God, who makes all things and by his will keeps all things working.

Day 12

- Read Exodus 4:18-23

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why does Moses feel prepared to go back to Egypt in v20?
2. Why does God say Pharaoh won't listen to him and let Israel go?

3. How does God think of Israel in v23?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Who is God's son? (Keep in mind that this is a special child: the son was the one who would inherit everything in the days of the Bible. Whether you're male or female, being called God's son is still really special; it says you inherit everything God has to give). In Exodus 4 and Hosea 11:1, we can see that somehow, Abraham's family - Israel - is God's son. But they aren't God's son biologically. In 2 Samuel 7:14, God promises King David that one of David's descendants will be as a son to him. Now it's not just the nation of Israel that's God's son; it's a specific member of Israel: the king who is descended from David. Who is this descendant? It's only in the New Testament we see this perfectly fulfilled: it's Jesus (Luke 3:21-22). Jesus isn't just God's son symbolically as a king or as the representative of Israel; he is God's *begotten* Son (Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). Not only that. For Christians, we too are called sons of God - adopted, not begotten (Romans 8:14-17). If you've accepted Jesus, you are God's son. How do you feel when you think about that? Talk to God about it.

Day 13

- Read Exodus 4:24-31

- Think through the following questions:

1. v24-26 are very tricky to understand on their own! What has God commanded his people to do with their children to show they belong to God and honour him? (Check Genesis 17:12-14) Has Moses done this as yet with his son? What does this say about how Moses honours God at the moment? Is he trying to live as one of God's covenant people?
2. What does God seeking to put Moses to death say about how seriously God takes his holiness?
3. How did the people of Israel respond to the signs of Moses and the words of God spoken through Moses delivered by Aaron?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- There's no two ways about it: vv24-26 are some of the strangest in the Bible! It doesn't read naturally to us. But it makes something very clear: God is Holy. He is so holy that we can't just assume that him working through us means he accepts rebellion and sinfulness in our lives. As we go through Exodus, it will become more and more clear: God saves us to live holy lives, worshipping him. We aren't Moses and circumcision isn't important to show our allegiance to God. But our obedience to God's commands says a lot about how holy we believe he is and how seriously we take God's desire to be honoured as holy. Are there any sins or areas of

rebellion in your life you haven't dealt with because you're saved by God and he is gracious? Today take a good hard look and ask God to help you be holy, because he is holy (Leviticus 11:44), knowing that you are already loved by him and saved by him through Jesus. Take practical steps to deal with this sin, confessing it, asking for God's forgiveness, and putting it to death with the help of other Christians.

Day 14

- Church Service - Passage Covered: _____

- What was the talk about?: _____

- What do I need to change? _____

WEEK 3 - Exodus 5-7:13

Day 15

- Read Exodus 5:1-9

- Think through the following questions:

1. What do Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to do?
2. What does Pharaoh think of God at this stage?
3. How does Pharaoh treat Israel? How do you think Israel will respond to this?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- When it comes to talking about God today, how do you think most people respond? Pharaoh has a lot in common with the average Aussie in how he thinks about God; "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice...?" The truth is that people won't obey a God they don't know. In our case, we're probably never going to ask the leader of an empire to free our people from slavery to worship God. But we have many opportunities to invite others to come to know the God that we worship already. To invite them to come to know him through Jesus and what Jesus has achieved on the cross. People need to know who God is very clearly before they can respond to him. So, how do you reckon you're going at introducing people to the God of the Bible? Who do you hope comes to know exactly who the Lord is? Spend some time talking to God about this today.

Day 16

- Read Exodus 5:10-21

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is the result of Pharaoh's command? What happens to the Israelites?
2. How do the Israelites respond to Pharaoh?
3. How do the Israelites respond to Moses and Aaron?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Moses and Aaron were not popular men with Israel by the end of this encounter! Pharaoh's harsher burden on Israel was badly received by the Israelites and they directly blamed Moses and Aaron, not recognising that Moses and Aaron were being used by God to achieve his plan of saving Israel from Egypt to worship him. This wasn't the last time God's appointed leader was attacked by the very people he sent him to save, with Jesus being the ultimate example of this. There is going to be backlash from God's saving people as all who are opposed to God's plans get upset at his salvation. Whether it's Pharaoh in Egypt, or the Jewish leaders in Palestine, or the non-Christian teacher at school or colleague at work, chances are you will be opposed if you share the message of God's salvation. Are you

ready for this opposition? Spend some time asking God to strengthen you so you can stand in the face of opposition, knowing that God has promised it will come.

Day 17

- Read Exodus 5:22-6:13

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does Moses feel after he and Aaron have been rejected by Israel?
2. What does God promise to Moses and Israel?
3. In v6, God promises to *redeem* the people of Israel. What does God mean by redeem?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Moses' concerns all come from focussing on himself - how weak or unimpressive he seems - or how others view him - the people of Israel being miserable with him and Aaron - or even how impressive Pharaoh seems to him. Every single one of Moses' concerns and objections to God using him to save Israel has come from one of these mistakes. Ultimately, God doesn't say to Moses "There there, you're great. You're fantastic. You can do this!" God instead tells Moses more about who he is as God and what he will do. Moses asks for reassurance and expresses doubt, and God answers by revealing more of who he is to Moses. What about you? What could you do to keep getting to know God better and see how great he is instead of the problems we face? Do you trust that God is more mighty than all opposition to his purposes? Talk to God about this honestly today.

Day 18

- Read Exodus 6:14-27

- Think through the following questions:

1. Which family line of the sons of Israel do Moses and Aaron come from?
2. Who was Aaron's son? Who was Aaron's grandson? Is there any special stories we might know the grandson from later in the Bible? (Hint: check out Numbers 25:10-13)
3. Why do you think there's a genealogy placed right here?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- One of the challenges people sometimes like to bring up against the Bible is that the characters are made up; they may like to claim that the Bible isn't historically reliable. However, something that the authors of the scriptures are eager to do again and again is to remind us that the people and places are real! Why show what Moses and Aaron's family looked like? To remind us that these things really happened! We are also reminded that Moses and Aaron are humans; they can

only go before Pharaoh in God's strength, not their own. And the same goes for us today. How do you show that you are reliant on God?

Day 19

- Read Exodus 6:28-7:7

- Think through the following questions:

1. What instruction does the Lord give to Moses? How does Moses respond?
2. What does God say will happen as Moses and Aaron present his word?
3. How do Moses and Aaron respond?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- In 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, an early follower of Jesus - Paul - writes *"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."* Moses and Aaron are examples of this to a "t." Moses has emphasised again and again just how weak and unimpressive he is. He and Aaron are elderly. Israel has even rejected them! And yet, as we see through the remainder of Exodus through Deuteronomy, God is pleased to work through them so that it can be abundantly clear that no human being may post in the presence of God. Can you think of another saviour in the Bible who appeared weak and was rejected by others, and yet God used to achieve a great salvation?

Day 20

- Read Exodus 7:8-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. God sends Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh to confront him. What miracle does God instruct Moses and Aaron to enact as proof?
2. What did Pharaoh's magicians do in response? Is their miracle as great as God's?
3. How does Pharaoh respond when he sees this? (We'll talk more about this next week).

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- One thing that hasn't changed at all since the days of Moses is how people respond to signs. Pharaoh's magicians did real signs; they weren't fake at all! In Mark 13:21-23, Jesus warns his followers that in the last days false Christs and false prophets will perform signs and wonders, and hence Jesus' followers should be on their guards. If a sign isn't enough for us to be certain, what do we need to know in order to know whether we can trust that someone is from God?

Day 21

- Church Service - Passage Covered: _____

- What was the talk about?: _____

- What do I need to change? _____

WEEK 4 - Exodus 7:14-10

Day 22

- Read Exodus 7:14-25

- Think through the following questions:

1. What time does God tell Moses to go to Pharaoh?
2. What does the Lord command Moses and Aaron to do in front of Pharaoh next to the Nile?
3. How does Pharaoh respond to this?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- As we read through the accounts of the plagues that God has sent on Egypt, we get insights into why God is doing this; what his purpose is for the plagues. What purpose does God reveal for doing this? (Hint: check out 7:17; 8:10, 22; 9:14, 16, 29; 10:2). Why do you think this is God's purpose? Is it a reasonable purpose for God to have?

Day 23

- Read Exodus 8:1-19

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is the second plague that God sends on Egypt? Can the Egyptian magicians do the same sign?
2. How does Pharaoh respond to the sign initially? How does he respond when God takes away the frogs?
3. What is the third plague that God sends? Does he give warning to Pharaoh as he did with the previous two plagues? How do the magicians respond?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- This passage is almost the last we hear of the magicians (9:11 reveals that they cannot even stand before Moses). Here they have been forced to acknowledge the truth about what these plagues represent: they aren't just magic tricks or signs; they are from God alone. In 2 Timothy 3:8, Paul makes a passing reference to two magicians in Egypt - Jannes and Jambres - who opposed Moses as the representative of truth. And yet they are forced to acknowledge the truth eventually! God promises the same thing today: there will come a day when everyone will have to acknowledge the truth that Jesus is Lord, either willingly or unwillingly (Philippians 2:11). How do you feel about that? What is reassuring is that uncertainty will not exist forever; it will be made quite plain to people that Jesus is God and ruler. Who is one person you long to see come to know this truth about God? Pray for them, and maybe try to find time this week to catch up with them and talk about who Jesus is to you.

Day 24

- Read Exodus 8:20-9:12

- Think through the following questions:

1. What time does God tell Moses and Aaron to go and see Pharaoh for the fourth plague? How does Pharaoh respond initially to this plague? How does he change his response?
2. What is the fifth plague that God sends? How have the fourth plague and the fifth plague shown God's special care for Israel?
3. What is the sixth plague that God sends? Does God warn Pharaoh before sending this plague?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- The word of the day is "harden." Boy is it a big one in Exodus for Pharaoh and God's relationship! We see that Pharaoh has an active role in hardening his heart (Exodus 8:15, 19, 32; 9:34). Sometimes, we don't get insight into who was responsible directly for hardening Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 7:13-14, 22; 9:7, 35). In Exodus 4:21 and 7:3, God promised that he would harden Pharaoh's heart, and in today's passage we have seen God keep that promise (Exodus 9:12; see also 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17). Is God being unfair? He has commanded via Moses that Pharaoh let Israel go, or else he'll send plagues on Egypt. And then God hardens Pharaoh's heart, which means Pharaoh stops Israel from going and has plagues come on Egypt! Is God just mean? Not necessarily. Pharaoh is clearly responsible for his own heart here; he hardens it himself! God allows Pharaoh to make this choice. And at the same time, God is responsible for Pharaoh hardening his heart. God will make his name known and bring glory to himself, not in spite of Pharaoh's actions, but through them. To put it another way, it's not as if Pharaoh desperately wanted to release Israel, but God stopped him. Pharaoh wanted to destroy Israel and use them as slave labour, and God called for him to change his mind and still, sovereignly, worked through Pharaoh's stubborn heart and used it for his own purposes. Check out Romans 9:14-18 for more details about this. This is a theme of the Bible that comes up again and again, and what's important for us to realise is that God is God, and God is good. Praise God today for being sovereign, good and calling out for us to change our minds.

Day 25

- Read Exodus 9:13-35

- Think through the following questions:

1. What time does God send Moses to announce to Pharaoh about the seventh plague?
2. How does God distinguish between Israel and Egypt?
3. How does Pharaoh initially respond to this plague? How does Pharaoh react after the plague is taken away? Was Moses prepared for this?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- One of the amazing things about God's offer of mercy is that it is for all who will hear his word and obey it. The Bible talks about this as the fear of the Lord; recognising who God is and living accordingly. In v20, we see not just the Israelites trusted God's word and acted accordingly, but also Egyptians too! This is an important theme throughout Exodus and the Bible as a whole: God's offer of mercy is for anyone who will hear it and respond to it. That's why people who aren't Jewish get the gospel! That's why we have churches all over the world today! Because God is a God who offers mercy to all - including to you and me. Spend some time thanking God for the mercy he has shown to you.

Day 26

- Read Exodus 10:1-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. (From yesterday's plague) Why is there still plant life for the locusts to come and strike down after the hail?
2. How do Pharaoh's servants respond to Moses' warning of the plague? How does Pharaoh respond to the warning?
3. How does Pharaoh respond to the plague initially? How does he respond after God takes away the locusts?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- Do you think Pharaoh really "gets" that he's sinned (v17)? Back in Exodus 5:2, Pharaoh said, *"Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."* Sin isn't primarily about doing stuff God doesn't like; that's more like a symptom of sin. Sin is about rejecting God, ignoring that he is the true ruler of the world and of our very lives. This is the biggest sin; the heart of the problem called sin. Pharaoh hasn't really understood that he needs forgiveness because he doesn't recognise who God is. What about you? When you think of sin, what comes to mind? When you share the gospel about Jesus' death for us, what does it mean for you to call people to repent of their sin? Spend some time thinking about this today.

Day 27

- Read Exodus 10:21-29

- Think through the following questions:

1. Does God give a warning for this ninth plague?
2. How does God distinguish between Israel and Egypt in this plague?
3. How does Pharaoh respond to this plague?
4. Have you noticed any patterns in the nine plagues we've looked at so far?

- Today's Entrance into Exodus:

- What a change we've seen in Moses since Exodus 2! By the end of Exodus 10, he is a man who is completely confident in the Lord and is cool, calm and confident as he approaches Pharaoh. Moses has changed. He is now the man of the word of God, acting and speaking exactly what God sends him to do (Exodus 7:6). He isn't living in fear now, not because of his own impressiveness, but because of his confidence in the God whom he serves. God hasn't changed; Moses has changed and Moses' understanding of the God who he worships has changed. Is there anything in your understanding of God that needs to change? Talk to God about it now; ask him to help you trust him and hear his word and see him as he really is.

Day 28

- Church Service - Passage Covered: _____

- What was the talk about?: _____

- What do I need to change? _____
