

KGW5 Jan 30 – Feb 5

January 30 Su Reading 30 — Exodus 11:1-10 — Controlling Emotions

ACCOUNTABILITY REMINDER

Five more plagues were visited upon Egypt; livestock were killed, boils broke out on everyone’s skin, hail destroyed crops and locusts finished them off, and three days of darkness foreshadowed the final devastating plague.

¹ *The LORD said to Moses, “Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely.*

² *Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”* ³ *And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.*

⁴ *So Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. ⁶ There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.*

⁷ *But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’* ⁸ *And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”*

¹⁰ *Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.*

Unusual Favor — After suffering all these plagues because of the people of Israel, one would expect that the Egyptians would hate them. So, why would God instruct the Hebrews to ask their Egyptian neighbors for their silver and gold? He was demonstrating His power to change the hearts of people. Three examples are given of God’s working in the hearts and minds of those who might be considered enemies of Israel. 1) “*And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians*” (v. 3). This change was so great that they would give the Hebrew slaves their silver and gold. 2) “*...the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt*” (v. 3) in the eyes of the king, his servants, and all the people. 3) “*But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel*” (v. 7). God even changed the natural response of dogs toward strangers or threatening people. God said that all of these changed hearts would be done “*that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel*” (v. 7). Have you been praying for a difficult situation at work? For a troublesome neighbor? For someone who does not know the Lord? Don’t give up! God changes hearts.

Change my heart, Oh God;
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, Oh God;
May I be like You.

You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
This is what I pray

— Eddie Espinosa (1982)

Change My Heart Oh God - YouTube

ACCOUNTABILITY REMINDER—If you are up to date in your reading for this month but did not report it yesterday, please let me know at accbibleread@gmail.com.

ACCOUNTABILITY DEADLINE

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.^[fn]

⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸ In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴ You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ²⁵ And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!”

³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” ³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. ³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

ESV Footnote

(12:6) Hebrew *between the two evenings*

A Memorial Day — The Passover, with its accompanying Feast of Unleavened Bread, was instituted by God to formally establish this multitude of Israelite slaves as the people of God. It was “a *memorial day*” (v. 14) that was marked by forming a new calendar so that this celebration would be held on the first month of the year. Passover was also instituted to honor God for His power and love. Twice, God called it “*the LORD’s Passover*” (vv. 11, 27). Israel would need a reminder of the identity and power of God. Every year this “*feast to the LORD*” was to be kept “*throughout your generations, as a statute forever*” (v. 14). We need reminders, too. In the Lord’s Supper (also called Communion or Eucharist), God gave us a reminder of what He had done for us in the death of His Son. When Jesus began this celebration, He said, “*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes*” (1 Cor. 11:26). The next time you partake of communion, remembering the death of the Passover Lamb, remember also the Passover in Egypt. Both were merciful acts of God to redeem people He loved.

ACCOUNTABILITY DEADLINE—If have not yet reported your reading status for this month, please do it today at accbibleread@gmail.com.

February 1 Tu Reading 32 — Exodus 13:17-22 — The God Who Leads

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸ But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph^[m] had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here.” ²⁰ And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

ESV Footnotes

(13:19) Samaritan, Septuagint; Hebrew *he*

Not an Easy Road — God was obviously leading the people of Israel as they left Egypt. Everyone could see that a pillar of cloud guided them during the day and a pillar of fire directed them during the night. The interesting problem was that God did not lead them to the Promised Land along the shortest, most obvious way. There was almost a freeway running between the land of the Philistines and Egypt. Everybody went that way. But “*God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near*” (v. 17). Instead, He would lead them into a trap at the shore of the Red Sea. Why? One reason was stated: “*Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt*” (v. 17). The greater reason was that God was going to perform a mighty miracle in parting the Red Sea to show His power and to finish His judgment on Egypt by destroying Pharaoh’s army. God’s leading is not always along the easy path. He sometimes leads us through difficult situations in order to demonstrate His love and power and to test our faith and help it to grow.

He Leadeth Me - YouTube

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be
Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes ’mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
By waters still, o’er troubled sea,
Still ’tis His hand that leadeth me.

— Joseph Gilmore (1862)

February 2 W Reading 33 — Exodus 14:1-31 — Parting the Red Sea

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, ² “Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ ⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” ⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ⁷ and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. ⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom

you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night^[fn] without one coming near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging^[fn] their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw^[fn] the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

ESV Footnotes

(14:20) Septuagint and the night passed

(14:25) Or *binding* (compare Samaritan, Septuagint, Syriac); Hebrew *removing*

(14:27) Hebrew *shook off*

Getting the Glory — Three times in this chapter, it is said that God would get the glory over Pharaoh and the Egyptians (vv. 4, 17, 18). At the beginning and the end of those statements, that glory would come this way: “*the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD*” (vv. 4, 18). That is exactly what happened because, with their chariots bogged down in the now muddy ground, “*the Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians’*” (v. 25). The dying Egyptians were not the only ones recognizing God’s greatness at that time. When “*Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians ... the people feared the LORD and they believed in the LORD...*” (v. 31). Glory comes to God when people recognize His powerful hand in the circumstances of life. These kinds of things happen often to us as well. I call them “minor miracles.” I had one of them happen to me yesterday in an unmistakable answer to prayer. Look for one to happen to you. Then, give God the glory. Like the Israelites, fear Him and believe in Him.

Meditation: In the long story of God's dealing with Pharaoh through the plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea, nine times the text says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart; three times it indicates that Pharaoh hardened his own heart, and seven times it states passively that Pharaoh's heart "was hardened." This Egyptian king was eternally lost by his own attitudes and action. Perhaps he considered himself to be immune to the rebuke of any god. He had hardened his own heart. Then, God stepped in to use this eternally doomed man to accomplish His purposes for Israel; God increased the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

February 3 Th Reading 34 — Exodus 15:1-18 — The Song of Moses

¹ *Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,*

*"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider^[fn] he has thrown into the sea.*

² *The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

³ *The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is his name.*

⁴ *"Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea,
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.*

⁵ *The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.*

⁶ *Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.*

⁷ *In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries;
you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.*

⁸ *At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.*

⁹ *The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'*

¹⁰ *You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.*

¹¹ *"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"*

¹² *You stretched out your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.*

¹³ *"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.*

¹⁴ *The peoples have heard; they tremble;
pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.*

¹⁵ *Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed;
trembling seizes the leaders of Moab;*

- all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.*
- 16 *Terror and dread fall upon them;
because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone,
till your people, O LORD, pass by,
till the people pass by whom you have purchased.*
- 17 *You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,
the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.*
- 18 *The LORD will reign forever and ever.”*

ESV Footnote

(15:1) Or *its chariot*

Praise Him! — We could spend a whole week concentrating on this song of Moses. It is filled with praise to God, not only in what He did in destroying the Egyptian army in judgment, but also in who He is. What did He do? He *“triumphed gloriously”* (v. 1); *“he cast into the sea”* Pharaoh’s army (v. 4); He *“blew with ... wind”* to part the waters (v. 10); He is *“awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders”* (v. 11); He *“redeemed”* and *“guided”* Israel (v. 13). These acts were demonstrations of His power, justice, and love. What does this passage say about who He is? Again, He is identified by His name: *“the LORD is his name”* (v. 3); He is praised for *“the greatness of your majesty”* (v. 7); He is *“majestic in holiness”* (v. 11); He acts out of His *“steadfast love”* (v. 13); He is eternal (*“The LORD will reign forever and ever”*—v. 18). So, now that we are reminded of all this about God, what should we do? We should do just what Moses and the people of Israel did—praise Him. *“I will sing to the LORD...”* (v. 1), *“I will praise him ... and I will exalt him”* (v. 2). Take a minute right now to praise the Lord for things you know about who He is and His goodness and power that He has shown to you!

Praise The Savior, Ye who Know Him - YouTube

Praise the Savior, ye who know Him!
Who can tell how much we owe Him?
Gladly let us render to Him
all we are and have.

— Thomas Kelly (1806)

February 4 F Reading 35 — Exodus 16:1-35 — Bread from Heaven

¹ *They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.* ² *And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,* ³ *and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

⁴ *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."* ⁵ *On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."* ⁶ *So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,"* ⁷ *and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that*

you grumble against us?"⁸ And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him--what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" ¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?"^[fn] For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer,^[fn] according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" ¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. ¹⁹ And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." ²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹ Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

²² On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, ²³ he said to them, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.'" ²⁴ So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded them, and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it. ²⁵ Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. ²⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? ²⁹ See! The LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day." ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. ³² Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" ³³ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations." ³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. ³⁵ The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

ESV Footnotes

(16:15) Or "It is manna"; Hebrew *man hu*

(16:16) An omer was about 2 quarts or 2 liters

Forty-year Miracle — This chapter is filled with the miraculous acts of God. The food was provided in response to Israel's grumbling but God also gave it in order to fulfill their need and to test their obedience (v. 4). God's intended result was that the people would "*know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt*" (v. 6), and that they would "*know that I am the LORD your God*" (v. 12)—knowing who God is and that He is the Savior. Oddly, the parting of the Red Sea was apparently not enough for them to learn that lesson! Their test involved the manna: Would they gather only what was needed and not have any leftovers? Would they gather twice as much on the sixth day? (v. 19). Some of them failed both tests. There was a miracle in the daily provision of this mysterious new food source, but also in the fact that the manna that was not gathered in the morning melted harmlessly on the ground when the sun got hot (v. 21). Any leftover manna that had been gathered developed worms and a foul odor (v. 20); however, the extra manna gathered on the sixth day did not go bad on the seventh day. That was another miracle. Then, there was the miracle of the omer of manna to be kept "*throughout your generations*" (v. 32) for a witness to posterity; it never rotted. Manna miracles. We see the amazing creativity and power of God in these miracles. We also see the weakness of mankind, sometimes not being convinced by the miraculous provision of God.

February 5 Sa Reading 36 — Exodus 19:1-25 — God Appears on Mt. Sinai

¹ *On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.* ² *They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain,* ³ *while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:* ⁴ *'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.* ⁵ *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;* ⁶ *and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* *These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."*

⁷ *So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.* ⁸ *All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."* *And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.* ⁹ *And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."*

When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, ¹⁰ *the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments* ¹¹ *and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.* ¹² *And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.* ¹³ *No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot;^[fn] whether beast or man, he shall not live.'* *When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."* ¹⁴ *So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments.* ¹⁵ *And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."*

¹⁶ *On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.* ¹⁷ *Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain.* ¹⁸ *Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.* ¹⁹ *And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.* ²⁰ *The*

LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the LORD to look and many of them perish. ²² Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them." ²³ And Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.'" ²⁴ And the LORD said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest he break out against them." ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

ESV Footnote

(19:13) That is, shot with an arrow

Divine Drumroll — There was a great buildup to God's appearance at Mt. Sinai. It fulfilled the promise He made to Moses at the burning bush: "...*this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain*" (Ex. 3:12). This divine drumroll was also meant to teach Israel that God had called and spoken to Moses; God told Moses that its purpose was so that they will "*believe you forever*" (v. 9). First, the people had to be prepared by washing their clothes, abstaining from sex, and not coming close to the holy mountain (vv. 10, 12, 15). Then the drumroll began with "*thunders... lightnings... thick cloud... trumpet blast... smoke... fire*" and an earthquake (vv. 16-18). After that, the sound of God's voice would be heard by the people as He spoke to Moses (v. 9). All of this cries, "IMPORTANCE." The rest of Exodus is basically a description of the law that God gave to Moses for the people of Israel. It was of vital importance as God's rules for Israel. Today, we have the whole Bible, which gives us not only the rules that applied mostly to the descendants of Jacob but also the rules that apply to the post-Pentecost Church of Jesus Christ. It is very important!

How I Love Thy Law, O Lord - YouTube

How I love Thy law, O Lord!
Joy to me its truth afford;
In its light I wisely go,
To battle every foe.

Sweeter are Thy words to me
Than all other words can be;
Safe I walk, Thy truth my light,
Hating falsehood, loving right.

— Anonymous